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978-0-521-86088-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Puritanism

Edited by John Coffey and Paul C. H. Lim

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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
PURITANISM

'Puritan' was originally a term of contempt, and 'Puritanism' has often been stereotyped by critics and admirers alike. As a distinctive and particularly intense variety of early modern Reformed Protestantism, it was a product of acute tensions within the post-Reformation Church of England. But it was never monolithic or purely oppositional, and its impact reverberated far beyond seventeenth-century England and New England. This *Companion* broadens our understanding of Puritanism, showing how students and scholars might engage with it from new angles and uncover the surprising diversity that fermented beneath its surface. The book explores issues of gender, literature, politics and popular culture in addition to addressing the Puritans' core concerns such as theology and devotional praxis. Coverage extends to Irish, Welsh, Scottish and European versions of Puritanism as well as to English and American practice. It challenges readers to re-evaluate this crucial tradition within its wider social, cultural, political and religious contexts.

John Coffey is Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Leicester. His publications include *John Goodwin and the Puritan Revolution: Religion and Intellectual Change in Seventeenth-Century England* (2006) and *Politics, Religion and the British Revolutions: The Mind of Samuel Rutherford* (1997, 2002).

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