**From Authority to Individualism**

The philosophies of Puritanism, the Great Awakening and the Enlightenment provide much of the intellectual foundation for the establishment of the United States.

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| Puritanism | Great Awakening |
| * All individuals are born with original sin; God predestined some people (the Elect) for salvation
 | * Puritan piety of the 17th century had started to erode as the Age of Reason influenced individualism - worried
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| * Strived hard to live in accordance with God’s will
 | * Americans began to promote acquisition of wealth over church worship
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| * Church membership was a prerequisite for church membership (everyone was legally required to attend)
 | * Was an emotional effort to reassert the earlier extreme piety over the rationalism of the Enlightenment
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| * “City on a Hill” – Puritan utopia
 | * Believed faith in the Divine Spirit was more important than intellectualism
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| * Had a covenant (contract) with God – if they kept the contract, God would grant them saving grace
 | * Revival preachers suggested that salvation was open to all who appealed to God
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| * Believed that government stemmed logically from voluntary agreements by all church followers
 | * Accused conservative clergymen of spiritual coldness
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| * Communal land – allotted families land based on family size, need and skills valued by the community
 | * Many Americans began to doubt whether one denomination had a monopoly over truth and grace
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| * Scripture offered solutions to problems of individual conduct
 | * The widely preached doctrine of salvation for all – of equal opportunity to share in God’s grace – encouraged the notion of equal rights to share in the good life on Earth
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| * Adherence to strict Puritan code was both a sign of salvation and a path to prosperity
 | * Many Americans had embraced modernity to the point where they no longer were receptive to Jonathan Edward’s vision of a “wrathful God”
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| * Believed strongly in a correctness of their views and were ready to use the power of the state to enforce religious uniformity
 | * Conservative ministers were upset with Great Awakening preachers for dismissing the importance of clergy in the relationship with God
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| * Puritan parents had an obligation to repress their children’s willfulness and teach them obedience to God and their parents
 | * Conservative ministers upset at the revivalists dismissal of importance of the church itself in the worship of God
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