**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 |
| * Strived hard to live in accordance with God’s will | * Americans began to promote acquisition of wealth over church worship |
| * 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 |
| * “City on a Hill” – Puritan utopia | * Believed faith in the Divine Spirit was more important than intellectualism |
| * 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 |
| * Believed that government stemmed logically from voluntary agreements by all church followers | * Accused conservative clergymen of spiritual coldness |
| * 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 |
| * 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 |
| * 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” |
| * 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 |
| * 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 |