

New England's political organization laid the groundwork for American democracy, but some aspects diverged. Puritans believed political authority rested with the community, who chose leaders. However, voting was limited to church members, and religious freedom was absent. New England town organization reflected Puritan principles. Roger Williams, a dissenting Puritan, advocated for separation of church and state, leading to the founding of Rhode Island. While Puritan influence weakened before 1700, their impact on American life remains significant.