

As colonists made their way to New England in the early seventeenth century, they hoped their efforts would stand as a “citty upon a hill.” Living the godly life preached by John Winthrop would have proved difficult even had these puritans inhabited the colonies alone, but this was not the case: this new landscape included colonists from Europe, indigenous Americans, and enslaved Africans. In *Race and Redemption in Puritan New England*, Richard A. Bailey investigates the ways that colonial New Englanders used, constructed, and reconstructed their puritanism to make sense of their new realities. As they did so, they created more than a tenuous existence together. They also constructed race out of the spiritual freedom of puritanism.

Bailey contends that, as New Englanders of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries offered spiritual redemption to their neighbors, they found it necessary to define how they differed from one another, especially from the Native Americans and Africans living in the northern British mainland colonies. *Race and Redemption in Puritan New England* explores how these proponents of the New England variant of puritanism made race out of their offers of spiritual freedom, setting the stage for similar processes when physical and social freedom became more accessible for New Englanders of color in the generations following the American Revolution.

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