

Lucy Hutchinson / Puritans / Cromwell

Post by "Cassius" of September 3, 2023 at 7:51 AM



Here's an article (unfortunately not fully readable) on Lucy Hutchinson:

[Lucy and Lucretius | History Today](#)

I am really not familiar with the Puritan period and Cromwell, but in closing out DeWitt's book I note that he focused on this time as the end or submergence of a period of interest in Epicurus.

Probably there is a lot of interest in the works of that period and if we eventually develop enough material on it maybe we should have a subforum on Epicurus vs The Puritans.

Post by "Cassius" of January 12, 2024 at 2:50 PM

My comment here isn't strictly related to the first post, but recently some things came to my attention to add to the negative side of my assessment of Cromwell and the Puritans. I recall Emily Austin and particularly Don talking in our podcast interview about this subject, but I've never pursued it. Given the considerable deference that most Americans seem to pay to the Puritans, especially around Thanksgiving, I hope over time we can develop more material on the unsavory side of Puritanism and how it would therefore relate to Epicurean views. Knowing thine enemy is generally a good thing.

Post by "Joshua" of January 12, 2024 at 6:18 PM

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3310-lucy-hutchinson-puritans-cromwell/>

[Here](#) is Lucy Hutchinson's letter to the Earl of Anglesey, denouncing her own translation of Lucretius. And [this](#) article at Smithsonian Magazine is good for dispelling America's 'creation myth'.

Quote

In the storybook version most of us learned in school, the Pilgrims came to America aboard the Mayflower in search of religious freedom in 1620. The Puritans soon followed, for the same reason. Ever since these religious dissidents arrived at their shining “city upon a hill,” as their governor John Winthrop called it, millions from around the world have done the same, coming to an America where they found a welcome melting pot in which everyone was free to practice his or her own faith.

The problem is that this tidy narrative is an American myth. The real story of religion in America’s past is an often awkward, frequently embarrassing and occasionally bloody tale that most civics books and high-school texts either paper over or shunt to the side. And much of the recent conversation about America’s ideal of religious freedom has paid lip service to this comforting tableau.

The Puritans actually left for the New World because they despised the religious toleration that was taking root there, and wanted a new country in which *only* Puritanism was tolerated. To that end, they hanged Quakers and women accused of witchcraft, banned the celebration of Christmas, and rejected a non-Puritan colonial governor appointed by the British Crown.

Lucy Hutchinson was in England, and worked on her translation during the Interregnum. Her husband, Colonel John Hutchinson, was a politician and a judge, and in that role he was one of the 59 signatories to the warrant for the execution of King Charles I. After the Stuart Restoration with the coronation of Charles II, John Hutchinson and many other co-conspirators were exempted from the general amnesty and he died in custody.

The overall impulse of the Puritan movement was similar in its aims to the previous work of a 15th century Dominican Friar named [Girolamo Savonarola](#). The religious moral panic he kicked off in Florence led to the burning of books, art, cosmetics, mirrors, elegant clothing, sculptures, and so on. In his frantic sermons, he condemned atomism by name. He was eventually excommunicated by Pope Alexander VI, charged with heresy and sedition, and hanged in the Piazza della Signoria. Anyone who was in possession of any of his writings was required to hand them over to the church for destruction, or face the same fate.

Post by “Don” of January 12, 2024 at 7:10 PM

Trivia: There is some evidence that I'm related to Mayflower passengers, but not members of the Saints but the Strangers. In fact, I'm trying to substantiate my link to the ones who Bradford called "“one of the most profane families” on the ship.

Post by “Pacatus” of January 12, 2024 at 7:14 PM

[Don](#) Lest my laughy emoji be misconstrued, I applaud your search. It's among such "strangers" that I would prefer to be. 😊