


John Calvin
 Founder of the Puritan Church
 Switzerland, 1541-1564

John Calvin was born in France. When the Protestant Reformation began.

At age 24, Calvin declared he was a **Protestant** – NOT a wise idea in Catholic France. So, at age 25, he moved to neighboring Switzerland.

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During that time, **Geneva** became the most important Protestant center in Europe. Protestants who were driven out of their countries took refuge in Geneva where they became Puritans. Also known as Calvinism, Puritans became the dominant branch of Protestantism.



Democracy in Church

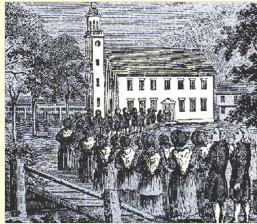
John Calvin believed in the "priesthood of all believers." That is, every individual should read the Bible and interpret it for himself. The congregation should help run the church – and **elect** its minister.

Theocracy - government run by the church.


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Puritans

In England, John Calvin's followers were known as **Puritans**. The settlers of New England (Northeast United States today) were also Puritans. The Puritans who settled in New England set up a democratic government. Their government looked much like ours today, but there were some differences back then.



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Preach the Bible!

The Puritans took the Bible literally and followed a strict moral code. Preaching – by the minister – was the center of the church service.

Predestination?

Puritans also believed in **predestination**. Predestination means that God decided who was bound for salvation at the beginning of time. The "**predestined**" people were known as the "**elect**" or "visible saints."

The Puritans tried to restrict their church membership to these "elect" or "visible saints" only.

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Attachments

John Calvin.wmv