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Unity in Diversity

English Puritans and the Puritan Reformation

1603-1689

Randall James Pederson

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*Unity in Diversity* presents a fresh appraisal of the vibrant and diverse culture of Stuart
Puritanism. This work provides a historiographical and historical survey of current issues
within Puritanism, critiques notions of *Puritanisms*, which tend to fragment the
phenomenon, and introduces *unitas* within *diversitas* in three divergent Puritans, John
Downname, Francis Rous, and Tobias Crisp. This study draws on insights from these three
figures to propose that seventeenth-century English Puritanism should be thought of both
in terms of *Familienähnlichkeit*, in which there are strong theological and social
semblances across Puritans of divergent persuasions, and in terms of the greater narrative
of the Puritan Reformation, which united Puritans in their quest to reform their church
and society.

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