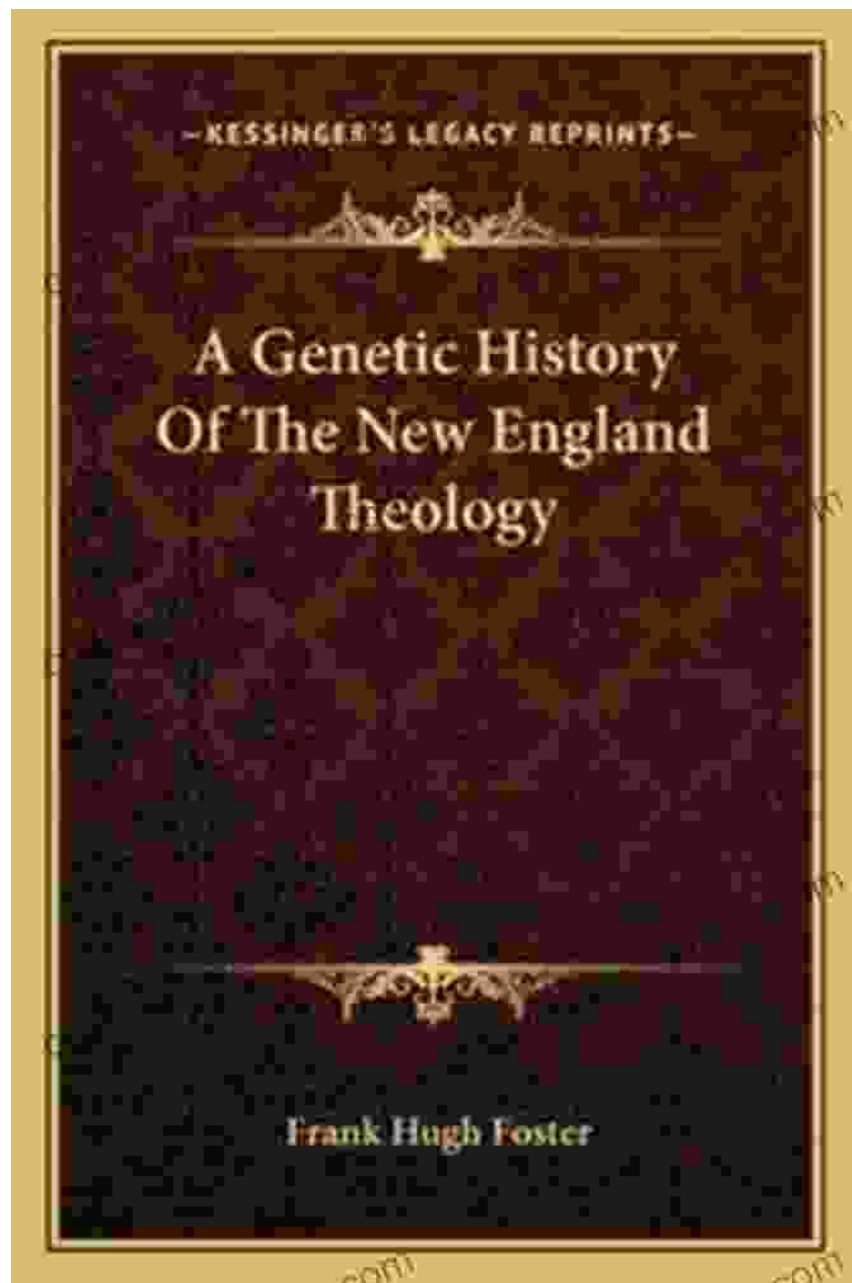
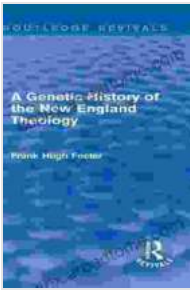


# The Genetic History of New England Theology: Unraveling the Intellectual Lineage of a Theological Movement

: Exploring the Roots of a Theological Revolution





## A Genetic History of New England Theology (Routledge Revivals) by Frank Hugh Foster

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1626 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 589 pages



Emerging in the 17th century and unfolding over two centuries, New England theology stands as a significant chapter in the annals of American religious thought. This theological movement, rooted in the Puritan tradition, shaped the religious, intellectual, and social fabric of New England.

Sidney E. Mead's seminal work, "Genetic History of New England Theology," offers a comprehensive examination of this influential movement. Originally published in 1960 and now reissued by Routledge Revivals, Mead's book provides an in-depth analysis of the origins, development, and impact of New England theology.

### Tracing the Intellectual Genealogy

Mead's approach in "Genetic History of New England Theology" is characterized by its meticulous examination of the intellectual lineages that gave rise to this theological movement. He traces the evolution of ideas

and beliefs from their Puritan roots through the Great Awakening and beyond.

Central to Mead's analysis is the concept of "genetic inheritance." He posits that theological ideas do not emerge in a vacuum but rather are transmitted from one generation to another, undergoing modifications and adaptations along the way. By exploring this genetic inheritance, Mead sheds light on the interconnectedness of theological concepts and their cumulative impact.

### **From Jonathan Edwards to Horace Bushnell: Key Figures and Doctrinal Shifts**

Mead's work delves into the contributions of key figures who shaped the trajectory of New England theology. From Jonathan Edwards, the renowned theologian and revivalist, to Horace Bushnell, a pivotal figure in the transition from orthodoxy to liberalism, Mead examines the intellectual and theological shifts that characterized the movement.

Through meticulous analysis of sermons, treatises, and other writings, Mead unveils the distinctive doctrinal emphases of each theologian. He explores the evolution of beliefs regarding sin, grace, predestination, and the nature of God.

### **The Influence of Revivalism and the Rise of Liberalism**

One of the central themes explored in "Genetic History of New England Theology" is the influence of revivalism on the development of the movement. Mead examines the impact of the Great Awakening, a period of religious fervor that swept through the American colonies, on the theological landscape of New England.

He traces the ways in which revivalism challenged traditional Calvinist doctrines and contributed to the rise of more emotional and experiential forms of religious expression. This influence played a significant role in shaping the trajectory of New England theology.

Furthermore, Mead analyzes the emergence of liberalism within New England theology. He examines the work of Horace Bushnell, who advocated for a more rational and experiential understanding of Christianity, and explores the gradual shift away from traditional orthodoxy towards a more progressive and inclusive approach.

### **Enduring Legacy: The Impact of New England Theology**

In the concluding chapters of "Genetic History of New England Theology," Mead reflects on the enduring legacy of this theological movement. He traces its influence on American religious and intellectual thought, as well as its broader impact on society.

Mead argues that New England theology played a pivotal role in shaping the American understanding of religion, morality, and the relationship between church and state. He explores the ways in which its ideas continue to resonate in contemporary religious and intellectual discourse.

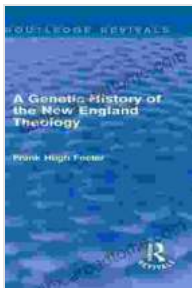
### **: A Scholarly Masterpiece Revived**

"Genetic History of New England Theology" stands as a seminal work in American religious history. Sidney E. Mead's meticulous research and insightful analysis provide a comprehensive understanding of this influential theological movement.

Through a detailed exploration of intellectual genealogies, key figures, and doctrinal shifts, Mead unravels the genetic history of New England theology, illuminating its origins, development, and enduring impact.

This Routledge Revivals edition of "Genetic History of New England Theology" brings this scholarly masterpiece to a new generation of scholars, students, and anyone interested in the history of American religion. It is a valuable resource for understanding the intellectual and theological currents that have shaped the American religious landscape.

Whether you are a seasoned scholar or a curious reader seeking to delve into the depths of American religious thought, "Genetic History of New England Theology" is an indispensable guide to one of the most significant chapters in our nation's religious history.



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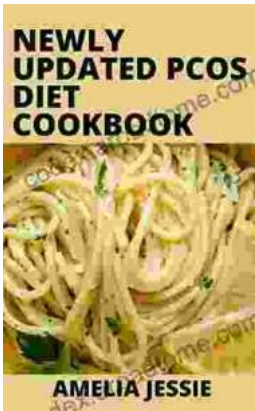
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