**Callum Brown, *The Death of Christian Britain: Understanding Secularisation, 1800-2000* (London, 2000),** p. 9:

Historians have evolved a rather pessimistic view of religion’s role in Britain between 1800 and 1963, based on 2 major hypotheses. The first of these is that the growth of industrial cities in the nineteenth century caused a decline in religiosity. The second hypothesis is that within cities (and smaller towns as well), the working classes became in broad terms alienated from organised religion and were the leading edge of secularisation.

..the book offers an alternative religious history of modern Britain in which dispute is taken with the received wisdom that in the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth century, Britain was a secularising place in which religious decline was a product of the social chasm between ‘slum’ and ‘suburb’ or between working and middle classes. In so doing, the dating of religious decline is shifted from the nineteenth to the late twentieth century.

As a result this book rebrands Britain of 1800 to 1963 as a highly religious nation, and the period as the nation’s last puritan age...This Puritanism was imposed not by the state but by the people themselves.