

HST 201: History of United States ONLINE F17 (Escobar 20886)

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Week 4 Forum

The Great Awakening

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The Great Awakening

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, October 14, 2017, 10:19 PM

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which side of the issue, YES or NO, you have chosen to support or write about. Do NOT simply leave it RE: The Great Awakening

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The Great Awakening: A key to the American Revolution?

by Katrina Alsup - Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 11:02 PM

Overall, I agree with Patricia J. Bonomi; the "Great Awakening" was a key to the American revolution because of the influence of separation due to beliefs and being more independent. A big event that she brought up was about how people started to interpret their religion differently. a lot of main churches started off big, but over time, groups of church goers started to think about what they were being taught and decided that they didn't agree with their minister. Since they disagreed with the majority, they became the minority and established their own groups. Over time, they went to expand the groups into new areas and started to grow in numbers. The rise in population influenced the revolution because the citizens were

used to certain freedoms and getting to run their own lives. The idea of freedom laid a seed in the minds of the future leaders of the revolution. There were also preachers teaching to think independently of one self and where they stood with God. Church members were learning to have faith in what they thought was right, and that influenced the later generation to take more matters into their own hands and remain independent.

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The Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution.

by Anita Spoor - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 9:32 AM

YES!

I believe that the Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution. I believe that it set the stage or tone for the war. The Great Awakening gave the people their religious power back. It showed them that they could believe in any way they chose. It gave America the preparation that it needed for its war of Independence. On page 3 of the Great Awakening Reading, it states that The Great Awakening “provided a kind of practice model which enabled the provincials to rehearse.” Before this movement people had become extremely complacent in their beliefs and lives. It was said that religion was a very large part of the people’s lives. This movement gave the people the push and knowledge they needed to become individuals and learn how to think and act on their own.

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Response

by River Sully - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 5:41 PM

I appreciate your view that the Great Awakening was what set the stage for war. The overall tone of how they were conducting the public speakings and dissolvments from churches would be something that people would look at as chaotic for the time. I'm sure many people who stuck with the church instead of the people that were pro-revival viewed the other people as rambunctious or angry. This would lead to them thinking about the possibility more-so of internal conflict within the colonies rather than external. However the mere idea that was floating around of this type of expansive thinking was probably very influential on the events that lead up to and occurred during the American Revolution.

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Jon Butler poked holes in the Great Awakening/American Revolution Connection

by Maribel Frickey - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 10:17 AM

Overall Jon Butler’s position resonated more with me. He broke down the position that “The Great Awakening” had been the foundation or precursor to the American Revolution. He basically poked holes in the position, for example, he showed that the revivals had begun to happen as early as 1690, way before the American Revolution and in some places the revivals didn’t reach significant numbers until 1750.

Butler mainly showed that there was no connection between the Great Awakening and the American Revolution. He stated, "The relationship between prerevolutionary political change and the revivals is weak everywhere except in Virginia, where the Baptist revivals indeed shattered the exclusive, century-old Anglican hold on organized religious activity and politics in the colony. But, their importance to the Revolution is weakened by the fact that so many members of Virginia's Anglican aristocracy also led the Revolution." This goes to show that the revivals had no effect on the American Revolution since the Anglicans also were part of the revolution.

Also the simple fact between when the Great Awakening Occurred and the American Resolutions. If the Great Awakening had truly been a precursor wouldn't have the American Revolution occurred right after it started? Wouldn't have the people been stirred up and wanted complete independence then? Instead, it takes from 1690 to 1775. The book, "Liberty, Equality, Power", even states that the revivals began as early as the 1960s (Murrin 132). The time between the events is too great to claim a connection.

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Re: Jon Butler poked holes in the Great Awakening/American Revolution Connection

by Anita Spoor - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 1:33 PM

I really enjoyed reading your post. I like the fact that you did not take the easy path and pick the position that was easy to defend. It was enlightening to read how the other side of this issue felt and have it broken down in a way that was easy to understand. Your post ask questions that probably should be answered in order to truly stand on the other side.

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Re: Jon Butler poked holes in the Great Awakening/American Revolution Connection

by Maribel Frickey - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 1:54 PM

Thank you I appreciate the critique; I think I will be adding more. I had thought I had answered the questions after asking them but it may not have been clear enough or simply needs a little more substance.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Jon Butler poked holes in the Great Awakening/American Revolution Connection

by Audrey Millard - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 2:18 PM

Maribel,

Your reasoning is very helpful, you make some good point that I feel everyone should consider. Whether they are the yes or no side. Thanks for your insight 😊

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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The Great Awakening was Not the Key to the Revolution

by Sarah Amoson - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 12:26 PM

I had never heard of the Great Awakening before this class. This surprised me because I have always had an interest in history, though this is my first time taking it at the college level. My dad is a huge history buff and I spent a good chunk of weeknights throughout my childhood watching the History Channel with him. My boyfriend is also getting his degree in Social Science, and is on his way to becoming a high school history teacher someday. With what I've learned about the American Revolution, and after reading this article, I agree with Professor Jon Butler, that the Great Awakening is not the key to the American Revolution. Though I found it to be a very interesting read, and I am excited to learn more. There is no evidence that I have found to support that the Great Awakening led to the American Revolution. Perhaps it could be a stepping stone in the revolution, but when in comparison to events such as The Quartering Act, the Boston Massacre, and the Boston Tea Party, it cannot be considered the "key" to the revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening was Not the Key to the Revolution

by Maribel Frickey - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 1:50 PM

I agree with your sentiment. Because I also have never heard of The Great Awakening before this class. I wouldn't say that my strength is history but hadn't heard of this event. It would just seem like the Pro Great Awakening/American Revolution connection are trying too hard to connect this with the American Revolution. It would make more sense as stepping stone maybe that helped lead towards the American Revolution but not any more significant. To end with a quote by Butler, "...though colonists unconnected to the revivals made these judgements as well." What was meant by this that even colonists that were not part of the revivals, participated in the American Revolution; had the Great American Awakening been the connection to the American Revolution, the colonists who participated would have been the only ones leading the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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First Point About Great Awakening Influencing American Revolution

by Trevor Newton - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 3:01 PM

From my first impressions of the handout I agreed with Jon Butler that the Great Awakening was not a key to the American Revolution, but upon further inspection and re-reading our textbook I would have to agree with Patricia Bonomi that the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. I would like to also say that I see where both individuals are coming from but I agree more with Bonomi. A main point that I believe Bonomi brings out is the Great Awakening was "the first major intercolonial crisis of the mind and spirit in eighteenth-century America. No previous occurrence in colonial history compared with it in scale or consequences. True, the floodtide of evangelical fervor soon subsided, but nothing could quite restore the old cultural landscape (Page 5 Great Awakening Yes or No). The reason the Great Awakening had a huge impact on many people was largely because I believe the teachings switched to a more individualistic approach. During the more communal seventeenth century, colonists had rarely conceived of themselves apart from a larger collectivity—the family, the

congregation, or the town. But the eighteenth-century revival penetrated and shattered that unitary cosmos by directing its message to the individual. In exhorting their followers to make personal decisions for God, and then to act on those decisions regardless of their effect on the larger society, the revivalists gave sanction to a new dynamic in human relationships (Page 4 Great Awakening Yes or No). I believe this last statement that was made by Bonomi had a major impact on the Revolutionary War because people believed that their rights were being infringed upon so they made a personal decision for God and then they acted on those decisions regardless on the effect on the larger society.

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Debate of The Great Awakening

by Marla Rogers - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 3:19 PM

This was a really tough one to try to fully agree or disagree with one side only. Either the authors did a great job arguing their sides, or it really *is* just that difficult to completely decide, or maybe a little of both! However, I have to say that ultimately, I would agree more with Jon Butler's argument.

The part in me that really *wants* to agree with Patricia Bonomi is the part that understands just what a massive influence religion has always had on the world. I am somewhat of an outsider looking in when it comes to it. I am not a religious person and tend to see the fanaticism of religion (or radicalism as Bonomi puts it). For that reason though, I had to take a step back and realize that I may a little biased on that matter. Which is one reason I ultimately sided with Butler's argument.

Butler mentions that the colonies were too far spread out for the revivalist movement to reach all of the colonies and to convince all of the occupants, of all the colonies to jump on board with the movement. He also explains that a lot of the information has been warped over time. It only seems to make sense to me that the historical recording of events were (and probably are no as well) not always accurate. There was not the ability to fact-check people then. So if someone wanted to record events that would make themselves or something they agree with look favorable, I would easily expect that to happen.

However, I still haven't completely formed a concrete view on this yet, so the information to come later in the week will help me solidify my decision. I look forward to receiving new information that will allow me to do so.

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2

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Re: Debate of The Great Awakening

by Audrey Millard - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 12:08 PM

Marla,

I totally agree with your first statement, both authors were very skilled in defending themselves.

I myself said I agree with the no side more, but I agree with your second paragraph a lot and I feel the same. I'm sort of on the same boat as you with your choice.

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I agree with NO

by Shelby Presley - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 7:07 PM

It is possible that my views regarding religion may cloud my judgment although after reading both arguments I agree with Jon Butler and his arguments. He is constantly arguing the exaggeration of historians, "Historians also exaggerate the cohesion of leadership in the revivals. They have accomplished this, in part, by overstressing the importance of Whitefield and Edwards." He then goes on to prove that Whitefield didn't even know Edwards until Edwards reached out to him. The facts that are proven incorrectly in Butler's argument lead me to agree with him.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: I agree with NO

by Maribel Frickey - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 1:32 PM

I felt the same way. I thought the way that Butler set up his arguments and then showed how the Great Awakening wasn't the precursor to the American Revolution. He also made a point like you said that historians do seem to over exaggerate the connection. Also how the revivals were spread out over a couple decades makes it seem like it wasn't a huge deal in regards to the American Revolution. I guess I'm just saying I agree with you.

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1



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Re: I agree with NO

by Anita Spoor - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 1:41 PM

I find it curious that you mention your own religion and how it could cloud your judgement. If you dont mind, can you go into a bit more detail on that? I too am very religious but in saying that, I do not belong to a church. I too believe that historians were very good at exaggerating the facts but do you feel like it is responsible to lean so heavily on that as opposed to looking at all of the evidence? Still today, religious groups try to strong arm their followers into believing that their way is the only way of the "word", so if we are still seeing those same traits, why do you think it was any different but on a much larger scale?

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1



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Re: I agree with NO

by Shelby Presley - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 1:08 PM

Actually I am the opposite of you. I am not religious at all and have a hard time understanding other people's point of views when it comes to religion. I believe that they are questioning the evidence provided. How true are all these facts and how much have they exaggerated. In some ways I feel that we (or at least I) believe historians blindly because I have nothing else to compare it to.

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Re: Professor Patricia U. Bonomi

by Preston Cobb - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 7:08 PM

I agreed more with historian Patricia U. Bonomi. She says that The Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution. She talks about how religion has always been considered a likely agent of radicalism and that their reason to doubt that the tremendous stir of the Great Awakening altered the social and political equilibrium of colonist lives. She also talks about how the people became the allies of the awakeners they were able to spread the message among the people. As said in the text "From the 1740s on, the separation brethren grew in number until thousands of Congregationalists throughout the North joined Presbyterian thousands in the Middle Colonies in open rebellion against the "spiritual Tyranny" of traditional church authority." Showing that many felt the religious persecution and were willing to in a way fight back.

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Response

by River Sully - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 5:45 PM

The togetherness of everyone who felt the religious persecution of the time and a willingness to fight back shows the sheer power that the seperation from churches had on so many different people. With similar events occurring through out all the colonies, it is easy to say that these underlying tensions are what built up and eventually gave people the power to start a revolution for independence. Good post, thanks for sharing.

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My first opinion on the yes or no

by Audrey Millard - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 10:20 PM

I do have to say, I feel like I need to read this article a couple more times to fully get a grip on it... After reading it twice I think I am leaning more towards the No said by Jon Butler. Had Jon describes is a lot more believable to me, I find what he says to ring more truth... Maybe after further analyzing I'll change my mind... But I don't think so.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution? No

by River Sully - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 10:36 PM

The argument that the Great Awakening being key to religious revivals in the colonies and pre-revolutionary times can be countered by stating that these revivals never brought that significant of an amount of power to the laity in the congregations. The previous show of power over the ministers by the congregation through controlling spending of the church and also by the laymen to quit attending the church services altogether allows us to suspect that the religious revivals never were able to influence the revolution as much as one might think. The control over the religious institutions was much more controlled by the entire congregation rather than the ministers. No revival at the time of pre-revolution became vital to the actual revolution itself. Pre-revolutionary colonial life was generally typical of the size of and time that the colonies were coming to be. The many religious revivals that occurred before the American Revolution were key in the local change and democratization of those townships, but there is no proof to say that these revivals were a major role in setting in motion the American revolution. As churches and religions dissolved into smaller secular religions or belief systems throughout all of the colonies, it is hard to pinpoint what revivals or acts of religious separation would have been a source to identify as a key to the American Revolution.

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Second post about how the great awakening influenced the American Revolution

by Trevor Newton - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 2:40 PM

Another reason I agree with the fact that the Great Awakening was a key factor in the American Revolution is the fact that so many people were influenced by the revivals. In 1739, Whitefield made his second trip to America, and thousands of people flocked to hear him preach. In some cities he sometimes attracted as many as 30,000 people which was twice Boston's population at the time (Liberty, Equality, Power, page 133). When this many people are influenced by a certain event there is no telling what could be done. I do not know the population of America at the time but 30,000 people anywhere is a lot of people and I am sure that heir were thousands more that were influenced.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Second post about how the great awakening influenced the American Revolution

by Marla Rogers - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 12:33 PM

Yes, an extraordinary amount of people congregated to witness Whitefield's sermons. But does that actually have much to do with The American Revolution? Do we know that all, or even half of those people played a role in the revolt against Britain? Or was it simply for their own personal enlightenment?

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Re: Reply to Marla

by Trevor Newton - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 1:51 PM

The 30,000 people was the crowd that was gathered at some of George Whitefield's meetings so if there were that many people at just one meeting there could have been hundreds of thousands of people influenced over the whole period of the Great

Awakening. As a result of these meetings and the Great awakening as a whole several new colleges were started. This is where the Great Awakening and the American Revolution meet. In 1740 North America had only 3 colleges which were Harvard, William and Mary, and Yale. In 1746, middle colony evangelicals founded the College of New Jersey (Princeton University). Unlike the older colleges it drew students from all 13 colonies and sent its graduates throughout America especially to the middle and southern colonies (Liberty, Equality, Power, page 135). So not only was a college started as a result but its graduates were sent throughout the colonies to influence others. We are still benefiting from this today. Other colleges founded were the College of Rhode Island, the College of Philadelphia, and King's College. These colleges are all still influencing us today. Thank you for your questions Marla.

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Reply to Trevor

by Desiree Mantey - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 8:23 PM

Trevor,

you made a great point about the number of people who would have been reached by Whitefield. In my opinion Jon Butler greatly down plays the amount of people that were affected by The Great Awakening in general but this point shows the stretch of George Whitefield's influence. The amount of college's that were started during this period is definitely an important fact to look at when examining this time period. And once again these institutions, all which are considered ivy league schools today, may not have been created without The Great Awakening. Another important school that was started during this time period was actually an evangelical school that catered to Native American's which was extraordinarily significant for this time period (Liberty, Equality, Power, pg 113).

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The Great Awakening: The start of the American dream

by Desiree Mantey - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 8:53 PM

I could say that both Patricia J. Bonomi and Jon Butler both had good points but that would be incorrect in my opinion. Jon Butler made arguments that didn't appear to matter. He questioned if The Great Awakening was such a big deal why wasn't there an exact start and end date (Pg 6-7 Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?). He also stated that the revivals didn't sweep all of the colonies like many historians said, but that in some places during the so called revival, people were leaving churches and others were completely indifferent towards Christianity until decades later. In addition to this he believed that historians exaggerated the cohesion of leadership in the revivals (Pg 7 Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?) These claims make me wonder what makes a revival a revival? Does the exact same thing have to occur at the exact same time everywhere for it to be significant? The Great Awakening was about colonists becoming individuals and thinking for themselves so why does it matter if the leaders worked together on a massive scale?

On the other hand Patricia J. Bonomi made many solid arguments. The point that hit me as most significant was the fact that The Great Awakening finally got the colonists thinking for themselves, which would inspire not only religious but political changes then and in the future. The revival was said to have unsettled lives of more American's and disrupted more institutions than any other single event in colonial experience up to that time (Pg 3 Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?) More importantly the revival supplied a usable model for "radical" activists in the coming years. Revivalists made novel arguments about defending minorities and finally realized that they were rebelling against parts of the church that were not only illegitimate but also tyrannical (Pg 4 Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?). People finally felt comfortable thinking for themselves and standing up for what they truly believed in. This is a big part of what America is about. It's not about being forced to follow a specific church, religion, or ideal, but about thinking for oneself and following ones dreams.

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Re: The Great Awakening: The start of the American dream

by Marla Rogers - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 12:40 PM

You make a great point about the revival being something that helped the colonists feel safe in standing up for themselves and thinking on their own. However, I cant help but wonder if that mindset was already in place when they decided to leave Britain and come to the Americas. Was that not a large motivator for them to set out for a new place to call home? Possibly it was for some, and the others that found themselves there by following family, or being indentured, were the ones the revival really spoke to.

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Re: The Great Awakening: The start of the American dream

by Desiree Mantey - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 8:30 PM

I guess I never thought of it from that point of view before but yes you are right. Many colonists came to the America's for a new life but once they arrived here were still expected to follow rules and regulations set by England. They were still either a part of this group or a part of that one. It appeared that they never had the option to not go along with any of the groups and completely think for themselves. For example, in certain parts of New England colonists were only allowed to vote if they were a part of the local church and devout members. They didn't have a choice to believe in their own God or religion even though many of them fled Britain for that very reason.

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Conclusion: The Great Awakening was not the key to the American Revolution

by Sarah Amoson - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 11:06 AM

After reading all the material, and reading about the Great Awakening in our book, I'm going to stick with my original conclusion that the Great Awakening is not the key to the American Revolution, though I do believe it is one of many stepping stones that led to the American

Revolution. The Great Awakening definitely had an effect on the colonies, and on England, and I think it was a step towards the American Revolution. Though I believe the American Revolution was much more political than it was religious.

Something that I found very interesting about the Great Awakening was how many of America's Ivy League universities were founded because of the Great Awakening. I've always known the history behind Harvard and Yale, but it was interesting to learn how the Great Awakening led to schools like Princeton, Brown, Dartmouth, Columbia, etc. getting founded.

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Re: Conclusion: The Great Awakening was not the key to the American Revolution

by Maribel Frickey - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 5:01 PM

After reading/viewing the additional materials. I have also come to the same conclusion that the Great Awakening was more of stepping stone in part of many that led to the American Revolution but that's it. So, I also stick with my original argument.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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The Great Awakening; the bigger picture

by Desiree Mantey - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 1:44 PM

Reading everyone else's posts I see that I seem to be the only one really looking at the non-religious effects of The Great Awakening. It is not necessarily just about what happened during this event but more importantly about what it inspired. I found much of the information on page 3 of "The Great Awakening The Key to the American Revolution?" interesting and informative. It stated that The Great Awakening created uniquely favorable conditions for social, political, and religious reform which would continue to affect America centuries later. Promoting church separations and urging followers to make choices with political and religious implications created permanent change in public practice and attitudes. In addition to this the "Awakeners" found allies in the people, which launched a movement against established church forms, government, and social order. To me these things that Patricia J. Bonomi said had a bigger impact than most of the religious changes put together. It may not have been as wide spread as indicated initially but over time the ideas that The Great Awakening inspired would create the country that we know today; the home of the free and land of the brave. The United States is the land of the people and this all began during The Great Awakening.

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The Great Awakening; how separate is too separate?

by Desiree Mantey - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 2:58 PM

I also found page 4 of the article "Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?" to be intriguing. Patricia J. Bonomi shared a few quotes that had been made around the time that I didn't necessarily agree with. First she shared a bible verse that the New England Separatists often quoted, 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers...wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate." However, Presbyterian and Congregational Separatists constructed a defense that stressed

the rights of minorities, individuals against the whole, and as a result thousands separated and joined them in open rebellion. "The most radical...denied all sense of commonality, asserting the "absolute necessity for every person to act singly...as if there was not another human creature upon earth." "I feel as if this was taking separatism too far. Although it was important for everyone to think for himself or herself it kind of defeated the purpose if everyone was to act as if they were the only ones on earth. Religion is supposed to be about helping the minority and those in need not ignoring others in distress.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The Great Awakening: Video

by Marla Rogers - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 5:14 PM

This video seems to help support my initial decision upon reading the first article. At that time I had come to the (difficult) decision that I don't believe The Great Awakening lead to the American Revolution. The scholars in the video simply just didn't seem to have enough concrete evidence supporting the claim that The Great Awakening lead to the American Revolution. They had vague statements, such as in the summary, the gentleman in the red tie (I watched multiple time to try to see them list his name, but could never find it) says that "religion can be seen as a kind of backdrop, or precursor to the American Revolution." To me, that just seems like it was one of the *many* things that paved the way to the American Revolution—not that it was the actual cause of it. People had been coming to the United States for many different reasons, not necessarily religious reasons. Many had hoped for a better chance at life, they had been convicts who became indentured servants, freedom from the monarchy, etc.

In our textbook, I honestly couldn't find anything that even vaguely linked The Great Awakening to The American Revolution. This makes me think that there simply isn't enough evidence to support the claim that it lead to the American Revolution. It seems to me that we may be dealing more with an argument of opinions instead of fact. It will always be difficult to ascertain specific details from the past. There will never be a way to truly know for certain if we weren't there to witness it for ourselves.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?

by River Sully - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 6:41 PM

After reading further points of view on the forum and on the Great Awakening website along with the points of view from the video, I find myself more convinced that the Great Awakening probably did influence the American Revolution a lot more than I had previously thought. With the point of view that the mere crowd sizes that gathered at George Whitefield's public speakings were in massive numbers compared to overall population of the colonies at the time, it strikes me that they probably had a deeper involvement in connecting the citizens and making colonists feel more empowered to be able to strike up their own revolution. They went from being able to break off from churches and religions to form their own patterns of thought and though it didn't happen at one specific time in every colony, the argument should still stand that these revivals did take on a major role in reforming the way the colonists viewed not only religion but the way they wanted to conduct their lives as well.

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Re: The Great Awakening website

by Preston Cobb - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 10:44 PM

It seems to me that the website favors more with the idea that The Great Awakening was a significant factor to the US colonization. It favors more with historian Patricia J. Bonomi, where they see the great awakening being a rebellious act against the authorian religious which eventually spilled into religious life. In which I still agree with my view point that the Great awakening was a very important part to American colonization.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Significance of The Great Awakening: Roots of Revolution

by Marla Rogers - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 12:26 PM

The Great Awakening website seems to actually show a little more evidence that The Great Awakening may have, in fact, been a major path leading to the American Revolution. It is the only media source so far that has actually been able to make me change my mind a little. The part that struck me most was in the last paragraph, "the colonists searched for a new Antichrist at which they could direct their attention. They found him in George III, who needed to be expelled from the colonies in order to bring forth the new age of righteousness. The religious fervor spawned by the Great Awakening provided the catalyst for political and military action necessary for fulfillment of religious expectations."

I can absolutely see how, caught up in their religious zeal, that they would turn their attention to their new "Antichrist", and do all that is possible to rid themselves of his rule. However, I still don't believe that The Great Awakening was enough to spawn The American Revolution on its own. There were many other contributing factors besides religion. A few of those things being Britain regulating trade in America and imposing taxes, disallowing the use of paper money because they feared Americans would evade debt payments, or just to generalize, they wanted to keep Britain out of their internal affairs. They wanted to be able to govern themselves.

So yes, I believe that the Great Awakening played a role in leading to The American Revolution, but it wasn't enough on its own to cause the revolt. There were many other factors that played an even bigger part.

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Re: Significance of The Great Awakening: Roots of Revolution

by Trevor Newton - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 2:01 PM

Marla, at first I was 100 percent in favor that the Great awakening was a a major key to the Revolution but after reading through all the material and watching the videos I strongly agree with your last statement that it had an influence but it was not the biggest influence. That is how I had been feeling but I could not figure out how to put it into words but after

reading your post it clicked in my head that that was exactly how I felt which is once again different then how I felt in my first post. I still believe it was a pretty big influence but not as much as I initially thought.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Significance of The Great Awakening: Roots of Revolution

by Preston Cobb - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 7:55 PM

Marla,

Your statement makes me rethink my original thoughts because yes like it said in the video religion was a backdrop to the American revolution, however if you read my latest statement, the religious power was no longer in the hands of the church of England, and which could have made the colonist make the realization that the political power was no longer in the hands of English monarchs. I do feel religion played a major part in the American revolution, but I do agree with you that there were many other factors that contributed to the revolution.

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Re Awakening Realization

by Preston Cobb - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 12:50 PM

Couldn't it also be said that awakening led the colonist to realize that religious power was in their hands instead in the hands of the church of England. Which in doubt could've led them to realize the same thing with political power, where it was in their control as well and not in England's. So in sense I still my opinion still stays the same where I believe the great awakening was crucial to the American revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Re Awakening Realization

by Shelby Presley - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 2:17 PM

Preston,

I wrote my response originally disagreeing with the fact that The Great Awakening did not lead to the revolution although I see where your thought process is leading and I agree with you. The realization of one thing could've quickly led to other eye opening realizations which in turn creates a revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The videos compared with Yes or No articles

by Audrey Millard - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 11:28 PM

First off I would like to say, the videos and audios, at least for me are a lot easier to learn from. So much easier to follow.

The First Awakening video speaks of Jonathan Edwards being one of MANY forward thinkers which I feel, the book does not really portray (the fact that he was one of many). The First Awakening video paints a bit of a larger picture than the book does on just how massive this conversion movement was. The immense life changing experience described in this video does not sound much like mainstream religion practices today. George Whitfield was someone that was once taught in my high school history class, but the book and the First Awakening video triples the knowledge I was told in high school. Religion being "cross denominational" as said in the video, is very important in the Yes argument which makes me think I am actually on the Yes side. I really believe this is what the USA is really all about, all people being one. Something that I can reflect onto today and question... Are we still being actively cross denominational?

Yes, I would 100% say after analyzing this video and re-reading both Yes and No said, I am actually on the Yes side.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Great Awakening Website

by Audrey Millard - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 11:54 PM

Stats stated in paragraph 2 of the website really give you a good picture of of the movement. One stat stating, "40% of American congregations as late as 1760, that number eventually dropped to under 2.5% by 1790" (Towards an American Identity section, paragraph 1 last sentence in <http://www.great-awakening.com/roots-of-revolution/>) But out of the whole website I found the last section titled, "Shared Goals", the most interesting. The anti-Catholicism is a very thoughtful outlook on the whole awakening. I never would have thought about this as an outcome to the huge movement. This over all attitude of dislike to the Catholic faith is almost a misplacement of aggression, the people wanting to be there own people and different from home countries, they blame the Catholic faith. The Catholic faith really is not to blame... It is mind blowing that in 2017 this same attitude towards a faith is being used, much like in the set 1700s. "Muslim faiths" and other faith hold a stigma to a lot of people... A lot like Catholic faith in The Great Awakening. Seems like Americans have a bit of a habit shunning what we think is not proper to "OUR" country. It is not the faith that is to blame... funny how history repeats itself.

Also this website is very sleek and easy to read 😊

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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◀ The Great Awakening

