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F17 (Escobar 20886)

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

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Changing Mindset
by Vivian Hernandez - Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 2:16 PM

Before reading either article, I had my own perception that the Great Awakening was just another religious revival that caused another difference between the colonies. After reading Patricia Bonomi’s article, I agree that “revival unsettled the lives of more American and disrupted more institutions than any other single event in colonial experience to that time”; whereas, every other revival has only been to a town or single colony as a whole. She put in perspective the magnitude of the swept of the country that changed their mindset. The Great Awakening even created new colleges. They became individuals with their own opinions that may have differed from their family. The colonists were being encouraged to make personal

decisions for God. "During the more communal seventh century, colonists had rarely conceived of themselves apart from a larger collectivity...". People were able to leave their status quo that was their governed church life for generations. Breaking apart from the collective can be hard, but the Great Awakening allowed them to challenge each other's views before the American Revolution. The attitude change that all the colonist went through was the key to the American Revolution.

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3

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Re: Changing Mindset

by Mason Peckels St.onge - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 4:25 PM

Vivian,

I really agree with you, and the evidence you used was great. The impact of this freedom people faced in the 18 century really opened their eyes. I think that in the NO article this was significantly underplayed. Especially with the strict rules the Puritans faced, a generation of new thinking and freedom must have been truly new and exotic. Which opened the gates to new ideas and theories about government and daily life.

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2

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Individualism

by Andrew Smith - Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 8:40 PM

I agree with Patricia Bonomi based on her final point that regarded individualism. Up until this point in time, the church had ruled the lives of most early Americans. Now people were making decisions separate from what the ministers told them to believe. Making decisions internally rather than relying on what ministers told one to think was a big change. This independence on the church for decision making aided in the formation of American thinking. The idea to challenge the status quo would forever be embedded in the thought process of future Americans. Therefore I believe that the construct of individualism heavily aided the argument of whether the great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. The American Revolution happened because these early Americans adopted a new way of thinking about the world around them and openly disagreed with what the personally felt was right and wrong.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Individualism

by Peter Brasier - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 10:41 AM

I feel that the Great Awakening was something did affect how the American revolution came into being, but to play a little on the opposite side, I must contradict. Using some lines of the deceleration of independence,"

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations,

pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. (<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/>).

This statement preceded a list of grievances against "He" the king. These list hit all topics from holding taxes, burning and raiding towns with the use of military, militia, and Indians, and the representation of law being abolished or made difficult. These grievances were then followed with the statement,"

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury.

This leads me to say that although the Great Awakening had the movement of religion and affected the movement of politics or government, the Revolution as a whole was due to repeated offenses starting from before the Great Awakening to even starting at the time that the colonies were formed.

Sincerely,

Peter Brasier

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Are they biased?

by Mason Peckels St.onge - Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 10:35 PM

When analyzing historical events, documents and accounts, it is easy to manipulate and make false connections. From your DNA to your culture, beliefs and psyche, these and more play a role in how we develop our thoughts. I think that with Reference to the Great Awakening and its effects on the American Revolution it is important to note these factors. Especially for religious backgrounds, considering the Great Awakening was centered around religious expansion in America. This being said, since religion was such a large part of every colony and its foundation, rules and liberties; it would be silly to say that a "Great Awakening" for religious beliefs did not affect America's future. I think it would be interesting to see the backgrounds of the authors to see if they have a bias on the issue. That aside, I connected more with Bonomi's theory. I have no doubt that the Great Awakening had a huge impact on the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Are they biased?

by Vivian Hernandez - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 10:38 AM

I agree that it would be interesting to learn what the religious background of the authors were, but it would not change how religion impacted all of their lives. That being said, I don't think it is silly to think that the Great Awakening did not affect America's future. Jon Butler brings up many points about history being interpreted to benefit a good narrative,

much like Christopher Columbus. I ultimately agreed with Bonomi's theory because the Great Awakening made all the colonist think about themselves and changed how they thought about each other.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Are they biased?

by Mason Peckels St.onge - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 4:18 PM

Vivian,

Thanks for the response and feedback. I read Butlers article and I see what you mean about the good narrative theory. I can see where their argument would come from. However, I also think that it was the impact of the Great Awakening that changed most peoples perceptions on themselves, the community and the world. Which eventually led to revolutionary thinking.

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Re: Are they biased?

by Ashley Davidson - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 8:46 PM

I too agree that it would be interesting to know the religious background of the authors to see if they tended to sway one way or the other because of it. I also agree with you about the fact that the great awakening did change the colonists and how they thought about themselves and each other. However there was a lot of people that moved in through 1700-1780 that weren't in communities that had religious institutions in place. Therefor I think the Great awakening plays a part in the American Revolution but I don't think it was the Key to it

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Re: Are they biased?

by Mason Peckels St.onge - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 10:43 PM

Ashley

Thanks for the reply. I'm glad you have a similar interest in the background of the authors. I think that it is important to understand the bias's that people have when sharing their opinions. Especially with topics like this, because it is hard to not bring your own beliefs into play when analyzing historical content. I also think that although the Great Awakening had many implications for early colonies and their futures; however, it is important to note that many other factors: war, politics and slavery; played a huge role in the start of the American Revolution.

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by Peter Brasier - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 1:41 PM

I have read the document like all of you and find that when the document is viewed as a whole a picture is woven, using a quote from the No professor, " Yet revivals in Virginia, the site of the most sustained such events in the southern colonies, did not emerge in significant numbers until the 1750s and did not peak until the 1760s."

I counter that professor and state that the spirit of change was necessary and allowed the American colonies of band together and begin the revolution. The Yes professor was talking about how with each movement of the church came a movement of the town and politics soon followed. This is even seen today as some religions accept gay rights like the Catholics while other religious figures reject it fully like the Later Day Saints. Back in the time frame of the 1750s to 1760 these religious rallies could have been held inside or outside of the town leading to many spectators and the travel of word by mouth. These changes could spark the talk between key people that lead to the formation of a unified American colony and eventually the Americas after the revolution. I think that the change during the great revolution was centered around religion, but like all change when one thing goes others are soon to follow, like the revolution.

Sincerely,

Peter Brasier

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1



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Indecisive

by Madelyn Ball - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 5:51 PM

I figured my decision would be more clear as I read through the material, but I found myself popping back and forth between each opinion. I was hoping, due to bias, to learn that the answer to the question, was the great awakening a key to the American revolution? Would be no. It is not that straight forward in my mind, but I have learned that I lean more towards yes. Mainly due to the fact that Patricia speaks of population growth and the connection that had to the religious outlook. I am hoping this post will open up conversation so that I can better understand booth position. As of right now I feel a bit unclear.

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1



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Re: Indecisive

by Vivian Hernandez - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 10:07 AM

I agree this is a confusing topic. I actually thought the Great Awakening did not affect the American Revolution before reading the articles and even after I was on the fence. Patricia's argument about the connection between religion really cemented the argument for me. After reading a few of our classmates post, I feel that I made the right decision.

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0



Re: Indecisive

by Andrew Smith - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 4:52 PM

I felt indecisive as well as i read the article and watched the video. I agree that the debate is not straight forward at all. The religion being preached encouraged individual thinking and the large gathering of people from different multi ethnic, gender, and social/ economic backgrounds. Even though these gatherings and promotion of individual thinking stemmed from religion, I don't believe that religion specifically had any affect on the road to revolution. I believe that these gatherings started the unification of large groups of people and led to a sense of self for the early American population. In my opinion, because no anti-British rhetoric or public protest against the Britain was displayed at these revivals, the revivals had no major affect on revolution. They were simply religious gatherings.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Gatherings

by Madelyn Ball - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 2:54 PM

I agree fully. I like the way you put that. Coming together and getting a sense of purpose, whether through religion or not, is powerful. In my opinion, religion being the motive just made them that much stronger.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: Indecisive

by Ashley Davidson - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 8:26 PM

This topic put me on the fence as well and I have to agree that even reading through all the information I was still on the fence. It took a few times goin through all the information. But I think one point that really stuck out for me is John Butler stated "The growth of the colonial population from fewer than three hundred thousand in 1700 to over two million in 1770 made the expansion of even the most modestly active denominations highly likely. This was especially true because so many new colonists did not settle in established communities but in new communities that lacked religious institution". So with that being said I really feel that yes the Great awakening played a part in the American Revolution but I don't think it was the Key to it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Joseph Maricle - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 6:53 PM

After the readings I have to agree with professor Patricia Bonomi in that the awakening played a major role in U.S. history. The religious radicals of the time overturned the majority to convert them to the aforementioned faith. Building a government and social system that, to this day

reverberate religious overtones. That being said without the religious uprising, the awakeners would not have had enough numbers to accomplish their goal of conversion and expansion. It stands to reason the U.S. would be a different place entirely.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Ashley Davidson - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 10:24 PM

I am going to have to go with Jon Butler and say no. I don't think it was key to the American Revolution. I honestly believe that life in general caused it. Yes, there was a of conflict between the different churches. Basically, it sounds like "the revivalists" were the ones that were causing all the drama, at one point in time Butler says, "revivalism never was the key to the expansion of the colonial churches". I stand behind him with that fact after him saying that after reading along and seeing there was a huge change in population from 1700-1770 which means that it wasn't just the revivalist that are making things change it's the population itself that created the growth.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening led to the American Revolution

by Liliana Valladolid Salas - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 11:39 PM

I agree with Patricia J. Bonomi because the Great Awaking was a Religious Revival that challenged the traditional authority. Bonomi described on her essay that religion has always been considered an agent of radicalism and how it altered the social and political equilibrium of the colonial life. Bonomi explained that America was able to break a tradition that had governed church life for generations. Americans were able to decide if they wanted to be part of the church or not. That helped the thirteen colonies to become together to win independence from Great Britain.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Was the great awakening the precursor to the Revolutionary War

by Connor Baker - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 11:50 PM

The video was in my opinion very obviously in support of the fact the great awakening was key to the American revolution. The closing statements of the video seems to be the most evident proof of that "...and in that deeper more cultural or social way religion can be see as a back drop or a pre cause of the American revolution." (Name of historian N/A)

But This Historian did not seem to be alone in his thinking, many if not all of the historians talk about the profound affect this period had on the people of the time. Karen Bullock at mentions the size and speed of the conversions and when doing so seems to be personally touched or impressed almost. I also couldn't help to mention that Ms. Bullock is a Associate professor at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, This makes me think that possibly she might

be partially biased. I would hope of course that like anyone she would present history truthfully and not add personal influence. That is my only concern with the video it seemed purely factual, but i believe they may be adding some personal opinion.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Was the great awakening the precursor to the Revolutionary War

by Peter Brasier - Friday, October 20, 2017, 8:47 AM

I loved the fact that the video just comes out and says that it is for the argument of Great Awakening supporting and/or causing the American revolution. I also found the website to be supporting the Great Awakening too, these made me feel like I was being lead down this path. Looking again at the book I found that there was one little war between the the Great Awakening and the Revolution. Linking this to the extra credit I feel that the French and Indian war had more of an impact on the Revolution than the Great Awakening. What is your feeling on this?

I find that the support for the French and Indian War being highly influential is found not only in the battles that they fought like the battle to claim forts but to loose them due to too many losses; and the mentality of the British when talking to the Indians and settlers of the colonies and Scott-Irish back country. If i remember correctly a few of the greavences of the deceleration of independence were directed to the treatment of colonials by the British forces.

Sincerely,

Peter Brasier

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Bringing people together

by Vivian Hernandez - Friday, October 20, 2017, 9:57 AM

The Great Awakening video supported that the Great Awakening was the key to the American Revolution, especially towards the ends of the video. It talked greatly about the colonist beginning to think of themselves as people and individuals. I think that historian Stephan Stookey influenced my decision the most. He talks about how the Great Awakening transcended "ethic barriers, racial barriers, gender barriers" and "cut across the line". It really brought together the people from all backgrounds.

The Great Awakening website definitely sided with the idea that the Great Awakening influenced the American Revolutions. Under the topic of "Towards an American Identity" it reads, "the children of revivalism later echoed this radicalism and popular self-righteousness in the American Revolution, when self-assertion turned against the tyrannical ways of George III." After reading this article and watching the video, I am convinced that the Great Awakening was the key that influenced the American Revolution.

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Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



Bringing people together?

by Connor Baker - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 3:32 PM

While I agree with the fact that the great awakening did bring people together. I think both the video and the website overplay the affect of this. The video says it itself the great awakening quickly spread through the south to form what we now know as the bible belt, but this same area still suffered from racism and sexism. This is what makes me think the statements of "ethic barriers, racial barriers, gender barriers" being broken down are simply calms made to overplay the effect of the great awakening and not fact.

I think that the great awakening was a major event in American history and was a factor in the revolutionary war, but I do not think it was as major as the video and website played it out to be.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: Bringing people together?

by Ashley Davidson - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 8:59 PM

I have to agree with you and think that this was well put. I think that the video and website made the great awakening more major then it really was. Yes it did play a play a part in the revolutionary war but I really don't think it was as big of a part as it could have been.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0



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Text vs Video: Great Awakening

by Joseph Maricle - Friday, October 20, 2017, 11:13 AM

The textbook shows the great wakening as more a struggle for power among the native populace and European settlers controlled by foreign powers. Whereas the reading and video seem to support is as a a proxy war for religious fundamentalist groups and their parent religions over seas. For example the reading focused on the puritan struggles in the Massachusetts bay colonies as they strove for independence from the protestant church of England. where the text led me to think that it was more a bloody struggle of land use with native populace over land use by encroaching settlers vying for "freedom". In the end the religious expansion used by the settlers and various governments was nothing more than sanctioned invasions by a foreign power.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: Text vs Video: Great Awakening

by Peter Brasier - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 10:45 AM

A I can say is just Wow. You put it quite poinently, the Great awakening was a form of power struggle. Every schism in the religion of Christianity (and i could say all variation of religion) are formed by power struggles. My question to you is did the religious power struggle of Old vs New; Parent vs Child, lead to the revolutionary war. Or was this event just a small cause that didn't cause any ripples in the water?

Sincerely,

Peter Brasier

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

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The Awakeners

by Mason Peckels St.onge - Friday, October 20, 2017, 10:01 PM

After watching the video it was clear to me, more than before, that the Great Awakening was fueled by a select number of speakers that really got the colonies thinking and changing. The Historians in the video really focused on two in particular. They focused on Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield. Although the Awakening was caused by a number of people, these two were very impactfull in getting the word out to mass amounts of people. Edwards converting hundreds of people in Massachusetts "over 100 in a single Sunday", and Whitfield not only being the "first American star", but also "being known by every American". This shows that the Great Awakening was apart of every Americans life, in big ways and in small. Thus giving very supportive evidence that the event changed many Americans to the point of fueling the beliefs that started the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Historians pro religion

by Andrew Smith - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 2:03 PM

In the video about the, "Great Awakening," every single historian seemed to support that religion played a major part in the path to the American Revolution. The video centers around people being converted in mass groups. It speaks about the massive impact that George Whitefield had with his large public sermons. It was said that thousands of people would gather to listen to him speak. These thousands of people were people of all background from rich to poor, men and women, and slaves alike. The historian Stephen Stookey said, "Ethnic, racial, and gender barriers were cut across the line in the awakening." Another historian, Barry Hankins, said that by bringing these people together, it put them on the path to thinking of themselves as a separate people for the first time.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Jon Butler's points

by Andrew Smith - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 2:49 PM

After re-reading the first material regarding the debate, I noticed a very strong point that Jon Butler made. He says, "The growth of the colonial population from fewer than three hundred thousand in 1700 to over two million in 1770 made the expansion of even the most modestly active denominations highly likely." That single point seems to play a huge part in making the revivals seem more important than they were. Of course a massive influx of people into areas with specific religious ties will cause an increase in the number of believers. That's called assimilation to social norms and has happened throughout history time and time again.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Jon Butler

by Vivian Hernandez - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 10:00 PM

That is a very good point Jon Butler made. Population would make the Great Awakening seem bigger than it was, but historians have a way of changing the narrative to make it more pleasing to whoever is going to read it. Jon Butler talks about that a lot and that single thought made me believe that the Great Awakening might not have affected the American Revolution. But with all the new information that was collected this week, I can confidently say that the Great Awakening was the key to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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even more confident

by Mason Peckels St.onge - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 7:24 PM

After getting farther in chapter 3 of our text, I am even more confident in my thoughts of the implications of the Great Awakening. It seems like the historians who wrote the book envy the Awakening for causing a large amount of change within the colonies. They glorified George Whitfield, Solomon Stoddard and Jonathan Edwards for being dedicated revivalist who not only set the pace for proactive thinking but also converting thousands of Americans. They make the connections of the Revivals causing many disruptions in the colonies. For example, they say that many men joined a church, but later on "were hard to convert" (pg. 134); on the other hand "the number of women church members soared" (pg. 34). They also mention that the Awakening created many new colleges, that are some of our most prosperous today like Dartmouth, Rutgers, Brown and even Princeton. Eventually Yale even "embraced the revivals". (pg. 134). I think that these factors really give some great evidence in support of the effect that the awakening had on the Revolution in America. The great speakers of the 18th century had a huge impact on the thinking and beliefs of settlers, enough to not only change the religious balance, but also the educational. Creating a new college is no joke, they produce the great minds of the future. Many of the colleges of the 18th century taught awakening concepts which forged thinking for a revolution. There is no doubt in my mind that the awakening had a huge impact on the start of a revolution.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Opinions

by Ashley Davidson - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 8:56 PM

As I re read the text and I read the posts I come to the realization that you can make whatever points that you would like about what you read and watch. Everyone comes up with valid points as to why they make the decision as to their opinion of if the Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution or not. I think one thing everyone can agree on is that it did play a part in the American Revolution. As for if it was Key it becomes everyone's opinion from what they read. Everyone is different and looks at things differently and people are goin to have different points about what stands out to them.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening video analysis.

by Liliانا Valladolid Salas - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 6:59 PM

According to the Great Awakening video, (10 sec mark), Revivalism was the key of the American Revolution. Like historians on the book, (A History of the American People, p. 111), explained that Revival was-an emotional response to God's Word that brought sudden conversations to score of people. Which makes me believe, that both historians from the book and the video took the same position.

(Video at 5:56 min mark) Explained that the first Great Awakening was the first event that started to make people thing of themselves as a separate people. The idea of individualism was the pre-cause of the American Revolution. Barry Hankins and historian, (video 6:19 min mark) made the previous claims which influenced me to think that their analysis presented the most historical truthful interpretation.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening Website

by Liliانا Valladolid Salas - Sunday, October 22, 2017, 9:21 PM

John Adams, (The Great Awakening Website), credited that the Great Awakening was the source of the Revolution. It explained that the Great Awakening was an attitude were colonist believed that the authority run from God to people to ruler. Colonist agreed to live together and be bound together under consensual government. Also when colonists shared a common understanding which was the opposition to Roman, the Great Awakening was the fulfillment of their religious expectations. I believe that the Great Awakening shaped the Constitution and Religious freedom. Colonist were able to reveal against religious authoritarians.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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[The Great Awakening ►](#)

