

HST 201: ONLINE History of U.S. F18 (Escobar Meta 20748 22964)

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Continuing the Discussion

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, November 23, 2018, 9:03 AM

Use this thread to post and comment using the NEW MATERIALS (videos and other historians links on the Forum Materials page).

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, your new sources seem to support. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Continuing the Discussion

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Do I still have the same standpoint?

by [Tehya Curley](#) - Friday, November 23, 2018, 5:29 PM

Beforehand I thought the American Revolution was far from conservative, but I'm starting to reconsider my standpoint. I still believe that the revolution influenced on why our country is the way it is today, but Gordon S. Wood made

it seem like it was all around radical. Although I still agree with him on Gordon's point that it was like no other revolution. This can be seen in quotes from John Richard Alden "The successful rebellion of the patriots profoundly affected the course of the future, not only for the Americans, but for all other peoples. The American Revolution brought the first break in the European colonial system. It inspired and continues to inspire colonials of all colors to seek freedom from European domination. It also brought into existence for the first time in modern history a republican system of government in a large nation. The example of republicanism successful over the vast territory of the United States constituted a threat to monarchism everywhere, and stimulated revolt against kings and emperors. The proclamation in the Declaration of Independence of the equality of men in the sight of the Creator continues to serve as a battle cry for social and political justice. The patriots won independence; they also made a good start on the long road toward establishing and securing 'the rights of mankind.'" (John Richard Alden) while I am starting to reconsider if what Gordon S. Wood is something I can agree with fully anymore.

In his paper about the American revolution he mentioned briefly about other races other than the white colonists. However, his main focus was the white colonists and how they were basically affected or participated in the Revolution. Although from the book and this information the events were mainly done by white people it doesn't mean other races or groups of people were not involved. Linda Grant DePauw goes into detail about this "Four groups – Negroes, servants, women, and minors together comprised approximately 80 percent of the two and a half million Americans in the year 1776. The legal doctrine applied to these classes excluded them from the category of persons who should enjoy the "inalienable rights" of which the Declaration speaks. But perhaps the most significant mark of their unfreedom was their usual lack of a right to vote, for the privilege of consenting to the laws was the essential right of a free man...A fifth group of colonial Americans, adult white males with little or no property, was also deprived of the vote in elections and so fell short of full liberty." (Linda Grant DePauw) she basically told us about the population of groups of people that were not just white colonists and how they were affected during this time.

Now I feel like Gordon S. Wood standpoint on this subject is iffy, but I still lean towards his side.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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A Lack of Solid Evidence to Dispute Gordon Wood

by [Ian Epperson](#) - Friday, November 23, 2018, 9:00 PM

Having watched both videos and reading the opinions of multiple historians, I remain in the same stance with Gordon Wood. Only one of the historians in the follow up that sided with the Revolution being conservative made a good point, which was when Linda Grant DePauw in 1973 said, "Four groups – Negroes, servants, women, and minors together

comprised approximately 80 percent of the two and a half million Americans in the year 1776. The legal doctrine applied to these classes excluded them from the category of persons who should enjoy the “inalienable rights” of which the Declaration speaks.” She unfortunately isn’t entirely wrong in saying this. The full scope of democracy had some constraints. However, it would be broadened as a result of the revolution as Gordon Wood pointed out in stating, “With the revolutionary movement, black slavery became excruciatingly conspicuous in a way that it had not been in the older monarchical society with its many calibrations and degrees of unfreedom; and Americans in 1775-76 began attacking it with a vehemence that was inconceivable earlier.” It took a long time for true democracy to reach everyone (not just the African American slaves, but women, servants, and etc.). Without that initial social spark, who would be able to guess how long that political/social change could’ve taken to arrive under the yoke of the English? The colonial’s determination to build a country for ourselves to figure things out on our own terms, created an unique opportunity that we depend on till this day to enact necessary change.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**80% of Americans were unfree**by [Evan Brewer](#) - Friday, November 23, 2018, 11:00 PM

After reading all of the other historians opinion, I am less sure of my original position about believing that the American Revolution was not a conservative movement. I originally agreed with Gordon Wood and believed that it was a radical movement because ordinary people could attain success and be self-governing. At first, this opinion seemed the truest to me until I read Document #7, written by Linda Grant DePauw. In her document, “The Revolution and the Unfree,” DePauw goes into depth about how “Negroes, servants, women, and minors” were excluded from “unalienable rights” even though they made up roughly 80% of the entire population. In my opinion, DePauw made the most persuasive argument and swayed my view of the American Revolution because she made a really good point about the citizens that weren’t white males. Many white males during 1776 had rights and could obtain wealth but excluded rights for almost everyone else. This group could not vote, attain land or wealth, and had limited rights. It would be a different story if most of America was made up of white males but this wasn’t the case and 80% of the population couldn’t “make money, pursue happiness, and be self-governing”(120). After evaluating this opinion, I am forced to reevaluate my original stance and agree more with the conservative view of DePauw because the majority of Americans were unfree.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: 80% of Americans were unfree**by [Ian Epperson](#) - Saturday, November 24, 2018, 10:47 PM

What you say is true, however the magnitude of the effect the revolution had on the idea of the pursuit of happiness and equality can be measured. It is true that white males in our country did have a hold on the democratic process despite their lower percentage of population. Although, with the radical change that just occurred, and the statements about freedom being said at the right time and place, these statements carried more weight as time went on. In a post revolution America we can see in our textbook on page 220 that in the case of African slaves, "By 1800 Philadelphia had America's largest community of free blacks with their own churches and voluntary communities." This is happening alongside of a abolitionist society chapter in the same state to protect their rights and stop the risk of being kidnapped to the south. Did that mean that they were able to participate in the vote? No it does not. Is this a micro illustration? It varies depending on which state constitution we talk about. Having said all this, this situation in Pennsylvania was never dreamed of prior to stating, "All men are created equal." This is a change no matter how radical (or slow) that will snowball into what we have today; allowing those groups that DePauw claimed never gained rights or protection.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: 80% of Americans were unfree**by [Ruth Hyde](#) - Sunday, November 25, 2018, 7:12 PM

I am interested that we are having opposite inclinations after reviewing the week's content, and from my perspective, I am enjoying the ability to look at these historical events from all angles. I, too, was struck by DePauw's breakdown of "free" verses "excluded" persons, and realize this was likely the case for groups of people all over the world in the 18th century. What I think is remarkable, and radical, is that although this was the challenge at the time, the laws created by the elite officials eventually came to serve as means for emancipation for these suppressed groups. Not only did America's independence from England propel a new style of governing, it also radically changed how power was control in a country. This change, from governance by a monarch - a birth rite hereditary power, to a governance of "The People" is unquestionably a most radical event.

The revolutionary war in America abruptly ended the jurisdiction of Kings and Queens over the colonies of America, and as John Richard Alden remarks, this "constituted a threat to monarchism everywhere" (Doc 1, Alden.) Although America was steeped in English culture, as described in the week's videos, during the period of separation from England, Americans established a truly unique social, political, and economic concept. American materialism, and the belief that anyone can improve their status in life with hard work, complied in a specifically American culture. The ideals derived from the war for independence transformed the American ethos, and remain in the hearts and minds of most Americans who believe they are the freest people in the world.

I think this period was more than a War for Independence, and now believe that this was a radical revolution in many ways.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: 80% of Americans were unfree**by [Ian Epperson](#) - Sunday, November 25, 2018, 8:14 PM

In Your second paragraph you make a good point as to how American materialism changed. Virginians around 1776 were not only against the monarchical system for governance, but from the microcosm of patronage that would control an individual's daily life. To put it into Wood's quote of John Adams himself, "Courtiers, said John Adams, were those who applied Themselves to the Passions and Prejudices, the Follies and Vices of Great Men in order to obtain their Smiles, Esteem, and Patronage and consequently their favors and Preferment's. Patriots, on the other hand, were those who not only loved their country but were free of dependent connections and influence." We have seen this in our textbook as well. Even with our previous allies the French, America is somewhat skeptical in getting involved as not to appear seeking favor in the Napoleonic wars of 1803-1815 in chapter 7 pg. 262.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**After videos, still radical**by [Daniel Urias](#) - Saturday, November 24, 2018, 6:03 PM

After watching the videos my opinion is not changed that the Revolution was a radical movement. However they did touch on an idea that I previously withheld from my original post. The idea that "[the war] was only an effect and consequence of [the Revolution]" (Video2 2:22). In this mindframe the war itself was not revolutionary, it was inevitable. All the social aspects were already in place by the time we decided to go to war over them. This makes more sense than two million people decided suddenly and simultaneously that the rules needed to be changed; if it did happen in that manner then there would be revolutions every 50 years in every country!

In this mindset the war distances itself from radical concepts and seems more conservative. It paints the image that everyone was already on a certain page and only when pushed by bloodshed (which was used as propaganda) do these enlightened individuals stand against tyranny. But to me this simplifies a complicated argument too much, and as Edward Countryman stated, "Revolutions are never simple things." (Video2 0:45) There are definitely conservative aspects to the Revolution, but overall I would say that anytime violence on a national scale takes place, despite how much by comparison of other conflicts, is a radical event that took several radical steps before arriving to.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**John Richard Alden- Revolution as a social movement**by [Hannah Cartwright](#) - Saturday, November 24, 2018, 7:37 PM

Document #1: John Richard Alden, The American Revolution, 1954, in my opinion, seemed to support the argument that the American Revolution lead a social movement in America. However, John Richard Alden also included some political changes in American as well, but I feel that he was leaning more towards the social change. As said by Alden, "The American Revolution brought the first break in the European colonial system. It inspired and continues to inspire colonials of all colors to seek freedom from European domination." I feel that with this statement, it is bringing up a big social movement and social change within America, which was bringing equal rights among all races and people of all colors to fight for their rights. However, with this, it brings up political changes as well, which was brought up by John Richard Alden, which is legally giving these rights (the proclamation in the Declaration of Independence). With this, I feel that John Richard Alden mainly helps support the argument that the American Revolution was mainly a social movement.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1


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A radical and modern society

 by [Geoffrey Cannon](#) - Sunday, November 25, 2018, 12:52 AM

After reviewing the articles from "The Revolution – Historians" and videos, I mostly have the same view, that it was not a Conservative movement. My view however, is more mixed than it was with the original arguments.

Daniel Boorstin made a great point about how the American Colonists were not seeking to fight for new rights, but "were fighting . . . as to preserve old ones." (Document #3, Boorstin) This is a point that is made by Sheila Skemp in the video "American Revolution #1" as well. Skemp states "They also were steeped in the English tradition of rights" (American Revolution #1, 2:23-2:29) reinforcing Boorstin's statement. This is what cemented my view that there were factors that were preserved after the American Revolution. It didn't however switch my view.

While I do agree with Boorstin that the rights were continued, I feel that John Richard Alden made some convincing points as well. When Alden states, "It also brought into existence for the first time in modern history a republican system of government in a large nation," (Document #1, Alden) it brings up the point that this was a new type of government for a nation that size. Jon Butler supports this in the "American Revolution #1" video by stating ". . . It was revolutionary in its politics, it was a modern society." (American Revolution #1, 3:13-3:20) I share the same view as Boorstin and Butler. I feel that this was a new society, even though previous rights were continued.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2


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Patriots were willing to risk their lives for their revolution

 by [Ruth Hyde](#) - Sunday, November 25, 2018, 4:41 PM

I am reconsidering my opinion that the American Revolution was a conservative revolution, and after reviewing the notes, and videos, I feel the event may have been more radical than I first perceived. The violent change of government that occurred over the 6 years of the Revolutionary War fits with the descriptions provided in this week's videos, *The American Revolution* parts 1 and 2. The patriots were willing to risk their lives, and although proud to be English, wanted to self-govern and believed in the ideals that ordinary people should have happiness, and freedom.

Although Linda Grant DePauw rightly points out that "Negroes, servants, women, and minors were disqualified "from the category of persons who should enjoy the "inalienable rights" of which the Declaration speaks" (Doc 7 Grant DePauw), the ideal detailed in the Declaration inevitably destroyed the prohibitions on these groups as well. Globally, even to this day, categories of people were/are denied rights, but the American laws, and ideals developed during this period of time continue to influence, and promote change. "The Revolution in effect set into motion ideological and social forces that doomed the institution of slavery in the North and led inexorably to the Civil War" (Doc 8, Wood), exemplifying that the impacts of the Declaration served as a catalyst for change within the very country that drafted it.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2


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Re: Patriots were willing to risk their lives for their revolution

by [Hannah Cartwright](#) - Sunday, November 25, 2018, 9:32 PM

Good post! I like how open-minded you are to the topic and are willing to change your initial opinion. I too believe that the Revolution was a radical movement. Though, I understand the other point of view as well, that the Revolution was a conservative moment. For me, the new provided materials just influenced me more to feeling like the Revolution was a social movement. In "Document #8: Gordon Wood, The Radicalism of the American Revolution" Wood talks about the change in slavery after the Revolution. He states how, before, colonists rarely felt the need to criticize black slavery or defend it, which to me, is so crazy to think about. At the end of this document, Wood states that "The Revolution in effect set into motion ideological and social forces that doomed the institution of slavery in the North and led inexorably to the Civil War."

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1


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Re: Continuing the Discussion;NO

by [Michelle White](#) - Sunday, November 25, 2018, 7:27 PM

My opinion still resides with Wood after reading the opinions of the Historians. The revolution not only had immediate radical changes, but the revolution was responsible for radical changes that continued in the later years as well. "The successful rebellion of the patriots not only for the Americans, but for all other peoples." "The patriots won independence; they also made a good start on the long road toward establishing and securing "the Rings of mankind." (John Richard Alden, *Then American Revolution*, 1954) The Revolution made some radical changes, changes that affect us today.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Continuing the Discussion;NO**by [Geoffrey Cannon](#) - Sunday, November 25, 2018, 11:36 PM

Excellent post Michelle. After watching the videos and reading the other historian's thoughts, I agree with you that the changes had lasting effects on American society, some are still seen in the current atmosphere. As Jon Butler states at the end of the first video, "It was revolutionary in it's social context, revolutionary in it's economy, revolutionary in it's politics; it was a modern society." (Video #1 3:08-3:20) While some policies and ideals were continued, it sparked many new changes in the relationships between Americans and their beliefs. I do wonder however, how things may have been different if there weren't the radical changes sparked from the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Mind has not been changed**by [Sarah Mackenzie](#) - Sunday, November 25, 2018, 7:56 PM

After reading the opinions of the historians, I am more sure than ever. My mind has not changed and I am still in agreeance with Wood. John Richard Alden is who I felt had the most persuasive argument, he pointed out that the American Revolution changed the world we challenged the monarchy and inspired other colonies to do the same. Alden supported my existing stance because it was a radical change the colonists broke the monarchy.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**In the end, It was a conservative movement**by [Evan Brewer](#) - Sunday, November 25, 2018, 8:20 PM

After watching the two videos, I believe that the American Revolution could be called the war for independence because the war fought between the colonies and Britain was truly for independence. Well before the war started, the colonies were looking for seperation. They wanted independence in this new land and eventually would fight for it. Even though generally people think of this war as the American Revolution, some historians in the video called it a war of independence which isn't wrong. Regardless of the name, the videos gave a quite broad overview of the revolution and seemed to have more radical ideology. Gordon Wood, the historian that was studied in the other sources, played a role in the videos. In the beginning, I sided with Gordon Wood; believing that the American Revolution was a radical movement. Progressively through the past week, I learned about other historians with different views. A historian that would skew my belief was Linda Grant DePauw. She exercised that the Revolution was more conservative because of the limited rights given to woman, negros, servants, and children. This group wouldn't be properly represented in American, even though they made up roughly 80% of the population. In the second video, Don Higginbotham says, "the social ladder was

short”(4:16). People could work hard and become successful, but there was a limited number that actually achieved this. In the beginning, women and servants wouldn’t have much economic mobility and slaves continued to be unfree for another 100 plus years. In the years following the war, upward mobility would become more acceptable but would still plunder because of limited rights of non white males such as voting. In the end, after reading all of the sources and watching the videos, I believe that the American Revolution was a conservative movement in 1776. I believe this because many ordinary people didn’t receive their “inalienable rights”. I can’t say that it was entirely conservative because white males did receive more upward mobility under this new nation but for the overall consensus, it was a conservative movement.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**The revolution is not conservative**by [Tehya Curley](#) - Sunday, November 25, 2018, 10:25 PM

Recently I have been reading over the quotes and listening to the videos after really thinking about the information I still stand with my view point, the revolution was not conservative. The revolution opened up more freedom for people whether it be small things like a limit on land “The status in which the electoral franchise was left at the end of the Revolutionary period fell far short of complete democracy. Yet during the years we are the considering, the right to suffrage (vote) was much extended. The Freeholder, or owner of real estate, was given special privileges in four of the new state constitutions, two others widened the suffrage to include all owners of either land or personal property to a certain limit, and two others conferred it upon all tax-payers.” (J. Franklin Jameson). All of these little things add up to create a big influence on our current situation now. While it also affected people in the past and led to an overall social change.

However, I found it interesting that Americans were already at that point where some was already the way they wanted it to be but they basically were trying to be cautious with their next step forward “However radical the principles of the Revolution may have seemed to the rest of the world, in the minds of the colonists they were thoroughly preservative and respectful of the past The world - at least the American corner of it - had already been made over as thoroughly as any sensible man could imagine. Americans had never known or had long since begun to abandon feudal tenures, religious intolerance, and hereditary stratification. Their goal therefore was simply to consolidate, then expand by cautious stages, the large measure of liberty and prosperity that was part of their established way of life.” (Clinton Rossiter). I thought about this more and I can see what he is saying. Although I was surprised no one else mentioned this in the other stuff I read or watch. Nevertheless, this just adds to my reasoning on why I still believe that the revolution was not conservative.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**consider to reconsider**by [Tehya Curley](#) - Sunday, November 25, 2018, 10:44 PM

After reading everyone's statements I started to see another view on whether to consider it conservative or not. There was a lot of great statements that led me to reconsider my thoughts such as the revolution was more of an independent revolution than anything. While since starting this forum I have viewed the revolution as radical but never thought of the independence. The colonists seemed more free to decide or make their own choices than they were able to back in Great Britain. Overall, the mainly free ones were the white colonists from what I had read "Four groups – Negroes, servants, women, and minors together comprised approximately 80 percent of the two and a half million Americans in the year 1776. The legal doctrine applied to these classes excluded them from the category of persons who should enjoy the "inalienable rights" of which the Declaration speaks. But perhaps the most significant mark of their unfreedom was their usual lack of a right to vote, for the privilege of consenting to the laws was the essential right of a free man...A fifth group of colonial Americans, adult white males with little or no property, was also deprived of the vote in elections and so fell short of full liberty." (Linda Grant DePauw). Which to consider the population of people at that time that were in these four groups maybe the people were not as free as we think it is. Instead this topic kind of gets hidden behind the success of the revolution. This part of the revolution makes me see the conservative side of the revolution, but without the success of the white colonist we might be a different place

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