

HST 201: History of the United States (Escobar Meta 21035 21036)

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The American Revolution



by Joe Escobar - Saturday, November 15, 2014, 11:28 AM

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. For purposes of encouraging discussion, you should break up your responses into SEPARATE posts.

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. Do NOT simply leave it RE: The American Revolution

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Agreeing with Gordon Wood



by Jordan Towe - Sunday, November 16, 2014, 10:08 AM

I agree with Professor Wood because the revolution did set the foundation for the country that we are today. He believes that if we didn't branch out from the british that we wouldn't be able to work how we want or be self governed. He says in line four of the article that "Americans were not born free and democratic in any modern sense; they became so and largely as a consequence of the American revolution." (Wood) So he is saying that without the revolution and wanting to become independent that we would be just like the United Kingdom and still have a king/queen ruling system and not be able to live the lives that we do today. i believe that is completely true knowing that without the revolution we still might be free but we will never really know how history would have happened a different way

http://media.lanecc.edu/users/escobarj/201/forum3/Forum_3.pdf

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1



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Re: Agreeing with Gordon Wood



by Jeremy Rutledge - Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 10:27 PM

I agree with you and Professor Wood the revolution was a conservative move. The Colonists had no other opportunity than to rebel against the crown. In addition, the king was taxing the colonists way more then the English that lived in Britian. The Colonist decision to rebel against the crown was made up after the French and Indian war. Lord North wouldn't let the Colonists go west and had redcoats police the cities rather then protect the colonists from Indians. The Colonists felt like the redcoats were over staying their welcome.

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Re: Agreeing with Gordon Wood



by Zachary Ehrhardt - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 6:29 PM

Very true. The American revolution was a theological revolution. The video we saw in class stated that the Americans during the revolution spotted song themselves as New Yorkers or Virginians, but as Americans.

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Re: The American Revolution/ Agreeing with professor Wood



by Brody Wasson - Sunday, November 16, 2014, 12:42 PM

I agree with professor wood on this one because the revolution has formed what we thing of as americans. I also believe that yes we are americans but we became americans by traveling here from a whole different countries. Yes the first settlers were the ones from Europe and England but how should we think about ourselves. If the British had won or even rebelled against us when they had lost we would all still be under the control of the British crown. Wood says that the revolution is the most important event in our history but looking back for myself makes me think there are some really important events that have shaped our Nation Sate for the better and the worst. Such as the bombing of the world trade center, presidential killing, and terrorism. Wood says that by 1820 the united states had become the most democratic society in the world does that imply that our newly found world was really under one mindset such as being democratic. I guess I see it as yes we were one nation one people but as other immigrants came here and brought their thoughts and beliefs thats when the united states bacame the home of democracy.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Americans where not born free



by Kathryn Kinney - Sunday, November 16, 2014, 11:20 PM

Professor Wood makes a very engaging argument. The fact that he reminds us that our founding fathers such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were

incredible gentlemen who wrote speeches not bombs. They were not always aggressive like some other revolutionaries we can remember, such as Lenin and Bonaparte.

As no reign of terror occurred with a dictator as the result, the American Revolution was unique. I specifically liked his choice of words when he said, "The **white** American Colonists were not an oppressed people." Very interesting that he made sure to make that distinction. Even though the colonists were not oppressed, being controlled and virtually taxed still gives kindling to igniting a revolution. This was one of the first things that I felt when I read Chapters 6 and 7, and I am glad to have my opinions validated.

How I would define: 'Revolution' is from a strict constructionist view, as I agree with Professor Wood that the revolution produced a significant societal change. This I would say would make my philosophical views progressive in nature.

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The most important Revolution

by Kathryn Kinney - Monday, November 17, 2014, 9:07 AM

Professor Wood's video interview helped to secure my place on his side. He seems extremely passionate about the subject, which allows his ethos to shine through. When he says, "It [The American Revolution] infused into our culture almost everything we believe." it really helped make it real for me. The fact that I barley really knew what happened to create the United States before taking this class made me realize that the liberty, equality and freedom that I beleive so much in was nearly created by the revolution. It had always existed, but had never been truly set in the colonists core beliefs.

The concept that our government, such as the presidency, the legislative and judiciary branches were all created as a result of the revolution. His ideals are very interesting to me, and I agree when he states his opinion, "It's got to be the most important event in our history."

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Gordon Wood and the American Revolution

by Jonathan Blake - Monday, November 17, 2014, 12:13 PM

I agree with Professor Wood. He states that, "Americans were not born free and democratic in any modern sense; they became so- and largely as a consequence of the American Revolution." (Wood) This stood out to me and it made me realize that the revolution really wasn't conservative at all. it was the radical result of failed conservative negotiations with England.

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Re: Gordon Wood and the American Revolution

by Kathryn Kinney - Thursday, November 20, 2014, 12:00 PM



I really liked the Quote you used from Wood. I loved that one too, and definitely helped me realize my own opinion about the Revolution.

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Definitions and Time

by Aj Glessner - Monday, November 17, 2014, 3:23 PM

I think this question has a lot to do with which definition of the word radical or conservative you use. By today's standards the American Revolution was very conservative. The founding fathers tried to limit the federal government, keeping it small and give lots of power to the states. At the time this was happening, however, these ideas were very radical. There were very few republics and many of them were unsuccessful. During that time in history the American Revolution was viewed as very radical. I prefer to think of historical questions in terms of the context they occurred in. So, I side with Gordon Wood on this that the Revolution was a very radical movement in it's time.

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Re: Definitions and Time

by Michael Leopold - Monday, November 17, 2014, 8:52 PM

I agree with this a lot. I read through both arguments with the viewpoint of today's standards. But at the time, and which I failed to express in my own post, was that some of these ideas had never been successfully implemented, which to some seemed a pretty radical endeavor. But today, as these ideals have been commonplace for 140+ years, they dont seem like that outlandish of things to assume. I still feel as though, as far as revolutions go, that ours was a pretty conservative, and dare I say "tame" one, there was a time when 'rebellling against the King' for over-taxing us was probably a pretty scary thing for a lot of people.

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Re: Definitions and Time

by Jeremy Rutledge - Thursday, November 20, 2014, 8:23 PM

I agree wiht you when you for the most part. However, I think the Revolutionary War was not radical, but conservative. In addition, the idea of a federal government having little power and the states having the majority of the power yes that is very radical because it would be the first time that the people would have majority of the power. Furthermore, it was a conservative decison all the way and then it was left to the founding fathers to craft the nation that they imagine.

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Fairly conservative in comparison & retrospect



by Michael Leopold - Monday, November 17, 2014, 8:47 PM

I tend to lean towards Carl Degler's argument in saying that the American Revolution was rather conservative when compared to other revolutions that have occurred. There indeed was very little social change that took place that wasn't either already in effect or a burgeoning ideal of American Colonial society. There were some rather radical events that occurred during this time, such as the Boston Tea Party, and the burning of Governor's houses. But I feel that these events were caused by fear & anger that the policies of a clamoring Empire to pay for itself and it's wars had no choice but to impose on it's colonies.

The main social class structures, capitalistic ideals, and family and property traditions all largely remained the same after the war. I picture colonial America to be kind of like a teenager while Britain to be like the parents. As America grew older, wiser, and more self-sufficient, Britain continued to want to maintain control of it's colonies, and the financial benefits that came with the colonies being under it's rule. America didn't fundamentally change so much in it's society, but grew out of the necessity of having Britain tell it what to do and decided it could do it on it's own (Obviously, being helped along by waves of new rules and taxes which the colonies thought to be falsely imposed on them). Degler argues that this "continuity brought a degree of social and political stability to the new nation."

Most of the same people whom held office in colonial British rule, again held office after the Revolution. These men, who truly paved the way to separating from the empire, wanted to maintain their positions in higher class society. It's pretty evident on who wanted the revolution the most if you just look at the Continental Army. It was very hard for General Washington to get men to even serve the cause for more than a year, and many never planned on reenlisting. That isn't the enthusiasm for a general population's overwhelming need for revolution, but yet a slow realization that they as Americans could maybe, just maybe, do it better than the mother country could. As taxes increased to pay for the far away debts of Britain's wars, and Britain's rules, laws, and newly tightening grip of the colonies grew old with the colonists, it finally came time for us to grow up from "meager" little colonies, into United States that would ultimately work together as our own country.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Fairly conservative in comparison & retrospect



by Michael Leopold - Monday, November 17, 2014, 9:00 PM

I forgot to mention, but I suppose that this puts me in the 'Neo-Whig' category as far as Revolution definitions go(kind of has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?). The economy, although suppressed after the war with debts that we couldn't pass along to England anymore, stayed fairly similar to before the war, only now we were free to trade without having to ship everything to England first. The merchant class was still present from before, but now didn't have to answer to Britain and it's rules. The social class structure remained intact, and many of our ideals of freedom were commonplace way before the bells of revolution ever took place.

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Radicalism of the Revolution



by Ashley Spann - Monday, November 17, 2014, 9:08 PM

I am going to have to agree with Gordon Wood on this one. I believe that at the time, this was a very radical movement. Patriots fought for political and social reform. The idea to become completely independent and embracing the creation of a republic.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Conservatives Can Be Innovators



by Kendra Helgeson - Monday, November 17, 2014, 9:58 PM

I agree with Degler in that the Revolution was a conservative movement. The first thing we read in his article is "Conservatives can be innovators" and that is exactly what they did. They set the tone for things that may have never happened if they kept going with their gut feelings. One of the big things he mentions first is religion being a "passport" or "barrier" to a man being able to be free and serve his state. That all came to a halt when George Washington stated that a man's religion shouldn't forfeit him from the protection of laws or deprive him from attaining the right to hold the highest offices of the United States. Degler went on to say that we've had Presidents of a few different types of religion in office, so what Washington said back then still holds true to today. A second example Degler gave was women's rights. Everyone knows that there are still significant problems with this around the world, but it is fairly better than it used to be. Women were reluctant to speak their mind at first in fear that they would say the wrong thing and be punished for it, but after a while they were able to ask for property settlements, and take on the household chores that men did instead of their husband having someone go to his house to take care of his duties while he was away. The last big thing that stood out to me was divorce. Hardly anyone got divorced for a long period of time, but when women were starting to become somewhat more equal to men, it wasn't as rare. Now in America, about 50% of marriages are ending in divorce which is probably what no one expected back then. But today it's our reality.

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Re: The American Revolution



by Jeremy Rutledge - Monday, November 17, 2014, 10:14 PM

It is hard to agree with just one of the historians. They have great reasons why the colonists wanted to get their independence. However, the colonists were also proud to call themselves English men. Furthermore, I see the American Revolutionary War as a conservative move for the colonists, because the colonists were doing everything by themselves. In addition, there were great opportunities for anyone (white people) in the new world, they had space and land to do whatever they wanted to do. The only thing the colonists really needed from Britain were their imports and trade with the outside world. Finally, the colonists did not want to lose their way of life and listen to a king who was

thousands miles away who wanted to change what they built. For example, Lord North passed the Tea act which made tea cheaper for the colonists. However, they did not like the new Tea act because the colonists did not agree with the principle of it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The American Revolution



by Zachary Ehrhardt - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 6:33 PM

I also had trouble choosing a side. The American feeling of unity changed, but their rules, structure and society stayed mostly the same. I feel that it was a more radical revolution than some, but not as radical as the French revolution.

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Where no Government has Succeeded Before!



by Andrew Mirman - Monday, November 17, 2014, 10:47 PM

The American Revolution led to the replacement of monarchical authority with representative government. I like when Wood says, "We cannot quite conceive of revolutionist in powdered wigs and knee breeches." I look at this as symbolic to the idea of just because the colonies enjoyed a lot of freedom being separated from British rule. They were still in their shadow, and until the revolution America didn't have the freedom to create a truly satisfactory government to meet the colonist's demands.

Once they won their freedom they were able to, after many hardships, establish a style of government (Federal Republic) that had only met with failure in the past. "They knew they were attempting something daring—the creation of a stable, enduring republic. Some European monarchies were 1,000 years old. No republic had lasted that long."(Pg.204). This government would truly put the power to the people creating a major social movement that would have influence reaching farther than could have known.

I think I look at this through of a more strict constructionist view, and probably have more of a progressive philosophical outlook.

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America Inspired by a Revolution



by Haley Anderson - Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 12:22 AM

As the article "Was the American Revolution a Conservative Movement?" stated the revolution were titled Loose Constructionists which by definition is "any resort to violence within a political order to change it's constitution, rulers, or policies." I believe this statement to be accurate because I think that the revolution didn't just encourage a war but a different ideal in the colonists minds. Like we learned in the previous forum, the Great Awakening

set the stage for the American Revolution. The Great Awakening helped people to think differently and make their own opinions rather than just going along with whoever was in power. The American Revolution was an extension of those diverse ideals on religion. As Professor Gordon Wood stated, "all original beliefs came from the revolution" such as capitalism, democracy, equality, freedom for upper class white men and soon freedom for everyone. These ideals were revolutionary and the most progressive in the world in the 1820s, which leads me to believe this was a loose constructionist movement.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: America Inspired by a Revolution



by Andrew Mirman - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 9:19 PM

I enjoyed reading Haley's post. I like how she connected this topic with The Great Awakening, it gave me a new perspective in looking at this subject. I was also fond of her use of Woods quotes to make her point. I think they made it easy to understand her argument.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Radical Revolution



by Zachary Ehrhardt - Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 12:55 AM

After watching the videos, I firmly believe that the American Revolution was a radical one. We, as Americans, became increasingly fed up with the status quo of being treated like a different nation, although we felt proud to be Englishmen. Due to this, we rebelled against the English, and sought to change our fates.

Honestly, I agree with Mr. Wood. I thought that Mr. Deglers points about slaves being freed by the state legislators to be out of place. To me, the freeing of the slaves was a radical action because it was including more people into the governmental system, which would increase the size of government, which is a radical belief.

I also agree with Wood's point that the American revolution was a social one, like the French revolution. The colonists were fighting to become their own nation, and to free themselves from the British rule. When they were fighting the war, they saw themselves as Americans, not as Englishmen.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The American Revolution, a radical movement!



by Alma Cuevas-contreras - Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 1:31 AM

I believe that the American Revolution was a radical movement. If it was intended to be a conservative one there wouldn't have been a revolution in the first place. American people at that time were obviously not happy with the ways Mother land was ruling over them. They came together and saw themselves as a different nation with just points of views

about how man (white man) are born free and equal. They knew there were more opportunities in America to have land, to have a government that the nation's people could choose and to be free to choose the religion they wanted. And although women and slaves were not yet treated equally as white man, "there were movements of foot already" (Wood/video) Like professor Gordon mentions in his video "by the standards of the time in the rest of the world the united States had become by the 1820 the most democratic society in the world."

The whole purpose of the revolution was to break free from Britain and be recognized as an independent nation, which is exactly the opposite of following the commands of another nation or kingdom.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The American Revolution, a radical movement!



by Saleena Smith - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 11:28 PM

After reading your argument, I can see how your opinion was drawn from the information presented to us this week. There are some things that I agree with and some things that I disagree with you. I believe that there can be a conservative revolution. Many things remained the same before and after the revolution. The government still imposed a tax upon its citizens and the trade with Britain continued with just a hiccup for reaction. The revolution also did not have an effect on other countries around them, except for the Indians. England continued to force their citizens to pay taxes sky high. I believe that a true revolution will happen when it affects all countries in our world.

I agree with you that American people at that time were obviously not happy with the ways their Mother land was ruling over them in the first place. I also agree with you that they knew there were more opportunities in America to have land, to have a government that the nation's people could choose and to be free to choose the religion they wanted.

In the end I think that it comes down to the overall outcome of the revolution. Taxes were still imposed, as well as trade with Britain, social classes remained unchanged, and their relationship towards one another remained unchanged. Their relationship towards their Mr. President George Washington resembled the same way people acted towards their King and Queen in England, adoration and respect. And lastly, their new form of government also resembled that of their "enemy." Their Congress still resembled England's parliament.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Personal Definition is Key



by Saleena Smith - Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 2:56 AM

In order to form a substantial debatable stance on a subject, you must first define key words with your own beliefs and previous knowledge. Two definitive terms we will be using when conversing during this week's forum are: revolution, conservative, and "Whigs." My

personal knowledge suggests that a revolution is a complete change in the way we operate our day to day lives. This includes personal relationships, government relationships, and ultimately the way life is viewed. I define conservative as using less resources to accomplish something. This includes physical resources, personal energy, and time. I had a hard time defining "Whig" on my own so I will you my favorite found definition, "The Whigs believed government should protect industry with tariffs on imports, with grants of monopolies, with construction of harbors and railroads, with a national banking system. - **geosc** College Teacher I (Level 3) Assistant Educator."

The readings this week defined conservatives a little differently. "strict constructionists perceive revolution as producing significant and deep societal change, while loose constructionists define the term as any resort to violence within a political order to change its constitution, rulers, or policies (130)." "Whig", or pro american was defined as "the interpretation that the war was won because God was on our side.(130)"

Gordon S. Wood poses points in his argument that at first seem very adequate, but after reading the negating argument by Carl N Degler I found myself agreeing more with the opposing view. I believe that the American Revolution was a conservative movement based on some of Degler's views. He points out how quickly the revolution actually happened. Less time equals more conservative. He also states: "It does not appear to resemble the revolutions of other nations in which people were killed, property was destroyed and everything was turned upside down (142)." Yes, a number of people died in the American Revolution, but nothing compared to what history has seen before have before.

My views resemble those of democrats or non whigs or a laissez faire philosophy. I do not think that the revolution changed the way that our society operates especially in regards to money. The real revolution will occur when monopolies no longer govern us more than our actual government. In the end I believe that when we see a true revolution, it will not compare to the the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Personal Definition is Key



by Darren Rolewicz - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 10:03 PM

After only reading your title, regardless of your stance, I had already agreed with you. This question comes down to a personal definition of these words in a political context. And even after they are defined, it is still a matter of opinion. Personally I agree with Gordon Wood, and while I believe there are enough events and facts to support my opinion, that's still all it is, an opinion. Now having said that, here are a few points I disagree with. First, your personal definition of conservative seems to be more environmentally oriented than politically. Though I completely understand the use of these same words under different context causes confusions in a topic like this that we could all do without. From what I've gathered, conservative in a political setting refers to being opposed to change and holding old world values in high esteem. I also don't understand your point of relating the time of the revolution to a political stance. What makes a shorter war conservative just because it was short? And I also don't believe that decision comes down to how it relates to other revolutions. The only thing I believe should account for whether this was conservative or radical is the political intentions of the colonists. And they clearly wanted change

from the old world traditions of England. All this being said I completely agree with your post, just not your stance on the question. Very well done though.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Personal Definition is Key



by Saleena Smith - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 11:00 PM

Thank you very much for your insight and your ability to recognize the importance of personal definition in our lives. I understand how you could come to your conclusions and stance on the subject at hand. I feel that your definition and my definition differ in regards to how we view life. I know that we are in history class this term but my definition stems from my past experiences and thought processes, not just what is being taught to me this term. To me, to conserve covers many aspects to save time and resources, and this is why I support Degler's views.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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I lean more towards Wood.



by Erik Fischer - Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 9:41 AM

I tend to agree more with Wood when he says " this astonishing transformation took place without the aid of any of the great forces we usually invoke to explain modernization". The revolution was the force that brought change.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Change for America



by Darren Rolewicz - Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 11:22 AM

When answering the question of if the American Revolution was conservative, we need to have a generational and contextual understanding of the term conservative. In short, the definition of conservative is to hold traditional (old world) values and be cautious about innovation or change (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/conservative>). Now with the time that has passed since the Revolution, their ideals and this movement could generally be seen as conservative, because those values and ideas have become what we know today to be conservative over time. But at this time, the motives and actions of American colonists were considered extremely radical (Issue 7 pg. 144). Almost needless to say at this point, but I agree with Gordon Wood's argument. The one word I kept continuously coming across that helped firm my position on this topic was 'change'. The Pre-Revolution video clip explained the colonists desire for a "change of government, change of society", that the "existing order needed to change [to a new political order that was] unlike the old world." The constant use of this word I think should put the idea in anyone's mind that the American Revolution was in no way a conservative movement, being that the very definition of conservative is to be cautious of change and adhere to old world, traditional values. The

Gordon Wood interview/explanation clip explains that in the time of the Revolution, it was "a world of monarchies" with "vertically organized societies." When speaking of the American Revolution or this era in general, these are the values and ideas that should be viewed as conservative; because at this time, they were. American colonists lived life in a short social ladder and enjoyed freedom and prosperity unequalled anywhere else in the world. Now while some historians may argue this is why the Revolution is conservative, because the colonists were trying to preserve these new values and ideals. Which is true, but they were still new values, making them anything but conservative. As to the question of what kind of historian I would be (Whig, Progressive, etc.), I think this question brings up a problem in how we view history. When you put a label on how you understand history, you're already starting out with an extra bias on top of the ones you already may have. I feel the facts should be taken into account for what they are and related to a certain ideal accordingly. I believe there is a truth to all these versions of historiography, that certain things can be seen as helping the inevitable progression towards prosperity and liberty, while others can be a result of social and/or class conflict. Limiting yourself to learning history with only one of these views seems very closed-minded to me, and could prevent you from fully understanding the reasons and causes for a historical event such as the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Revolutionarily American



by Evan Kossow - Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 11:40 AM

American social classes didn't change. The poor stayed poor and slavery was still alive in the south during the governmental switch. I would agree with Wood however in the respect that all free citizens were impacted by a government that was actually being designed to give the common man a voice and the promise of nobody with bigger boots messing in his business. That's revolutionary right there.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Revolutionarily American



by Michael Leopold - Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 8:25 PM

I agree that most lower class citizens stayed predominantly where they were, however the revolution did provide them with new opportunities and markets once monopolized by the British crown. Especially in trade, the days of the Staple Act and Navigation Acts were now gone. Mercantilistic ventures were now more opportune without British merchants hogging the market. The removing of the Proclamation Line opened up new opportunities to attain land and farm for profit that was not available before. And as we discussed in class, owning land equated to wealth, or at least the right to vote. So no, there was little class change directly caused by the revolution but opportunity did rise. Degler quotes Federalist Fisher Ames as saying that "all cannot be rich, but all have a right to make an attempt."

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Sum of ratings:3 (1)



Radical revolution



by Alma Cuevas-contreras - Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 8:16 PM

After reading the articles i saw clear examples of how the revolution was radical and not conservative. Like Gordon's article mentions, americans had a different revolution. They had a lot speeches, written articles, communication within themselves and tried to have communication with Britain to be recognized as a nation of its own. It was also a radical revolution by their ideals and ways of seeing things, they wanted all people to be equal, they wanted the nation to decide what was best for them and not let a king that didnt lived there decide for them. America was a land of opportunity were americans could persue their happiness. Like the article mentions, changes like these were already happening in american under britains rules and with out without a revolution american was already different than mother land. Changes, actions, equality and a different government was already being changed. It was hard and dificult for the rest of the world to see the way americans was ruling their nation. Americans didnt wanted a revolution to name another king and for them to rule as they pleased , but they wanted a revolution so that all people where equal, so that they could have the right of speech, the righ to decide their future for themselves, and the right to be happy within their own terms.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Agreeing with Wood



by Jeremy Rutledge - Thursday, November 20, 2014, 9:11 PM

Watching the video you can see the excitment and passion that Mr. Wood speaks with about the Revolutionary War. It is really easy to agree with him because he wins you over with his passion. Additionally, The Revoltionary War was cut into our history for life like so many wars. Even though, the radical idea that the colonists had about the new world was only a slight day dream. That is until the dream became reality when the colonists won their freedom from the crown in York town. Furhermore, the colonists would soon see how stressful and hard it would be to make your own country and what kind of country that they would be. Lasty, I cannot believe how unselfish our founding fathers were to build a country and not turn into tyrants.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Was the american revolution a conservative movement ?



by Brody Wasson - Thursday, November 20, 2014, 11:45 PM

A conservative movement is where people seek change, but only the smallest of changes. In this respect the movement of the American revolutionaries from British colonial citizens of an independent democratic nation might not seem conservative however some argued that the movement to democracy didn't go far enough. For instance only relative few people could vote, Women as a group could not vote until 1920. A large number of people could not such as slaves, and even after they were freed in the 1860s under the

14th and 15th Amendments many could not vote until the 1960s. Another reason was that the colonists wanted westward expansion which the British Parliament was limiting. The only way for the colonists to continue to expand would be to take the land as their own. Whether or not this was right, it demonstrates the Colonists willingness to abandon their parent country in favor of their own desires. I believe that this revolution could go either way I would side with the colonists in this one because they were fighting for something that was right. Whether as Britain was very conservative and wanted to keep the colonists colonized and take the rest of the united states for themselves.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Conservative v.s. Radical



by Kathryn Kinney - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 3:34 PM

I can see where you are coming from when you say, "A conservative movement is where people seek change, but only the smallest of changes." However, what is your opinion on how the government was established? Yes we copied a similar structure of government, but we did something that was unheard of and tried to create their own republic, without fear of it failing. The definition of Radical on google is: advocating or based on thorough or complete political or social reform; representing or supporting an extreme section of a political party. Not saying you are wrong at all, just want to spark conversation 😊

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The American Revolution a Radical Movement



by Haley Anderson - Friday, November 21, 2014, 1:55 PM

I believe that the American Revolution was both a Radical and Conservative movement. First I believe it was a Radical movement due to the fact that these Americans came to the United States for their freedom, and did not want to be ruled by a king that was an ocean away. The colonists also believed in freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of religion which completely changed the dynamic of the current United states. These citizens had such new and innovative ideals that make the American Revolution a radical movement.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The American Revolution a Radical Movement Counter Argument



by Haley Anderson - Friday, November 21, 2014, 2:01 PM

The American Revolution can also be considered a conservative movement. Though the colonist came up with incredibly innovative ideals that were incredibly new for the time, there are many things that these people also didn't come up with themselves. These things include the structure of the government as well as the documents that

were produced to rule the the country. The colonists also still believed in slavery at the time, which is a part of the older world but later changed. In conclusion the American Revolution was both a radical and conservative movement.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Radical Hearts of the American People



by Evan Kossow - Friday, November 21, 2014, 2:42 PM

The Prussian who trained the troops at valley forge commented on how Americans exclusively ask "why" when told to do something. This to me is an example of the early radical mindset in the American colonists that carried on. They ask "why" because they are related to the cause and not simply working for old mens personal profits. There was to me something alive in this American experiment that rode with the hearts and minds of everyone involved.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Radical Hearts of the American People



by Kathryn Kinney - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 3:24 PM

Really interesting that you brought this up. In my elementary mathematics class, we are told many times that we are learning multiple ways of solving equations because children want to say why. Why do you add that way? Why is this a triangle? Why is the number 5 written like an S? Why is such a huge part of our society, and it seems fitting that our country would be built upon it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Radical Hearts of the American People



by Andrew Mirman - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 7:06 PM

I like your point Evan. When Baron Von Steuben said "You say to your soldier, 'Do this' and he does it. But I am obliged to say to the American, 'This is why you ought to do this' and then he does it.". It shows with a strict construction view just how American's embodied this "radical" philosophy of questioning authority, which is evidence of the American Revolution being a radical movement.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Radical Hearts of the American People



by Jeremy Rutledge - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 10:06 PM

Evan you make a very strong point there. Before the Amercian Colonists every one around the world just followed in line because they thought they had to. However, in

America they realized they were their own king and own government. In addition, I feel that the American Revolutionary War was a conservative move for the colonists because they wanted to keep it that way of life, but the colonists way of life was a very radical way of life.

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Pursuing Happiness and Climbing Ladders.



by Kathryn Kinney - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 2:49 PM

When I watched the first documentary, it shows pictures and video of war and violence. Gordon Wood of Brown University starts the video off by stating, "Revolutions have many different interpretations. for some people, its just a change or violent change of government. For others, it's more than that, its not simply a change in government but a fundamental change in society or relationships." Even though it starts the video off with only the violence of war, he reminds us that there is definitely more to the American Revolution than just changing over the government. I remember reading that after the revolution, the American Colonies were the most modern society with the most modern and radical ideals, which the first documentary verified at the end.

The second documentary shows again Gordon Wood, (perhaps a bias from our professor is being revealed here?) describing the American Revolution again as the most important event in American history. After watching him speak multiple times and reading his article again, I am inclined very much so to agree. The concept of revolting against a corrupt government was born, as well as creating our very own republic society. Even though we copied from the British practically everything and just changed the name, it was still our own. Something we fought for, equality and liberty etc. Dave Palmer also says that we cannot possibly look back and imagine what it would be like to live in that time. This is such an amazing idea and our professor also brought this up.

Now that the week is over, I feel firm on my opinion that the American Revolution was a radical event. The social ladder was short, allowing ordinary americans climb the ladder if they worked really hard to gain money. Wealth was no longer decided by British acquisitions or parliament, and their right to self-government was born.

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Jumping to the other side with Degler



by Andrew Mirman - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 4:52 PM

Although I do agree with wood in the points, I discussed in my first post. I can easily jump to the other side just because how complex everything truly was. Degler makes a valid point talking about the true force behind the revolution in terms of the upper-middle class pushing their agendas, and trying to maintain their power. Although people did not like the idea of taxation without representation, there was never an overwhelming uprising truly by the people. Our book talks in great detail about the hardships General Washington and congress faced trying to maintain a national military.

It is true when the revolution started and moral was high; enlistment and patriotism were

rampant, but when times were tough, and the colonists lost hope for the war, it was a different story. "Britain's impressive victories demoralized Americans and encouraged them to go home, many taking their muskets with them. In September, 27,000 Americans stood fit for duty in the northern theater (including the Canadian border); by December, only 6,000 remained, most of whom intended to leave when their enlistments expired on December 31." (P.207)

Although waves of victories and losses swayed enlistment, it wasn't till Congresses response to Washington's request that things would truly change. "Congress responded by raising the number of lashes a soldier could receive from 39 to 100 and by promising a cash bonus to anyone enlisting for three years, and a land bounty to anyone serving for the duration,"(208). In these terms, it doesn't seem like a radical uprising of the people, more like coercion from the government. My neo-Whig position makes most of the events that created the revolution seem more like a conservative movement, in loose interpretation perspective.

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Stuck In Between



by Kendra Helgeson - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 11:12 PM

In the first video provided for this forum, both Jon Butler and Gordon Wood explain that while all the revolutionary changes were going on the most important ones seemed to be the social changes. After replaying the videos and re-reading the articles, I am starting to side a little more with Gordon Wood rather than Carl Degler. At the time when I first read everything, Degler's point of view made a little more sense to me. After trying to get a better understanding of both sides, I realized that I agree with both of them which is kind of making this a harder decision on who to side with more. They talk about the same things but they have different points of views on those things. What I think they seem to have a somewhat agreement on is how much the social world changed. As Jon Butler said, the revolution changed the old nature of the 17th century. Personally, one of the most eye opening aspects of the revolution is that we still have some of the same laws in effect and abide by them to this day.

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Pure Determination



by Kendra Helgeson - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 11:23 PM

My favorite part of learning about the revolution is realizing how much determination the country had when deciding to become independent. They put their lives at risk and made plenty of tricky decisions on how the nation should be run. It's hard to go from a monarchy to a republic. Some people probably had no idea what they were getting themselves into, but for the most part I believe they did it for the better of the country. Another part could be that they didn't want to be embarrassed for not being able to figure out how to run a country with out a king and queen (which I'm sure many people thought would happen). Although I'm sure the founding fathers wouldn't be too happy with the situation we're in now, at least we haven't gone back to a monarchy and still use the same laws they established so long

ago.

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A New Thought!



by Jeremy Rutledge - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 11:48 PM

I was a strong believe that the American Revolutionary War was a conservative move for the colonist. Because, they wanted to keep what was theirs, but that was not for every colonist the south had a great thing going on making money having slaves and pretty much living the life. However, when Lord North started making the colonist follow different rules/laws from the English people who lived in Great Britian he unknowingly started dividing the two countries. In addition, trust has been broken by both sides the coloniists showing violence towards the kings people who were appointed to make sure his acts were followed and the king breaking his promise about letting the people to explore west. Furthermore, the Revolutionary War was a conservative move for the colonists keeping the land they thought was rightly theirs. However, the idea of a new country where the people were a government and every citizen had rights was very much a radical idea.

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