

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

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Forum 2 ► The Great Awakening



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The Great Awakening

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, October 18, 2014, 11:37 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 Great Awakening

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Another brick in the road

by Courtney Tullock - Monday, October 20, 2014, 8:28 PM

I don't think the revivals were the "key" to the American Revolution as Patricia does but I agree with her more so than Jon. I do think the revivals set the colonists in a different mindset--one in which their self-interest was important. Two things Patricia said struck out at me. First, "by promoting church separations and urging their followers to make choices that had political as well as religious implications, the Awakeners wrought permanent changes in public practices and attitudes." Second, "Presbyterian and Congregational separatists constructed a defense that stressed the rights of minorities against majorities, and of individuals against

the whole, in matters of conscience.” When I read those two lines I thought of our last forum and I came to the conclusion that the Great Awakening was a brick in the road leading up to a sharp turn. I think the revivals were significant and they impacted the colonists in a way that would prepare them to stand up for what they believed, they as individuals, deserved.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Another brick in the road

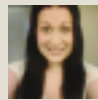


by Karla Logan - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 10:28 PM

My original opinion was that the Great Awakening wasn't the cause to the revolution the points you have made really have got me thinking. You make a very good point when you said that the revivals set the colonists in a different mindset. While the Great Awakening may not have caused it, it's very likely that it got everyone ready for what was to come.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Churches vs. Rational thinking.



by Kaitlin Silva - Monday, October 20, 2014, 9:01 PM

In my opinion, the separation from England is no doubt an outcome from the Great Awakening.

As Reverend Samuel Finley put it, "Make a party for Jesus Christ..[though the] commotion rends the church; divides congregation and families; [and] sets people at variance."

In early New England it was apparent that life revolved around the church, no matter what the consequences. People had no voice of their own, as the church spoke for them.

"The minority must also accede to the decisions agreed upon by the majority." (Bonomi)

The minority were acting in favor of God, the difference being the way they practiced; this is what the ministries did not approve of. They thought rationally, knowing they can still worship God while keeping their own morals.

"Neither ministers nor congregations should interpose themselves between the individual and his creator."
(Bonomi)

The group of individuals who rebelled against church practices had their backs up against a wall when it came to decision making. It's human nature to rebel against anything, when forced to do something against will. This is exactly what England tried to do. They looked down upon people who made choices based on religion and politics, rather than just religion. These people practiced rational thinking, choosing what's for the greater good for themselves, and their family. If rational thinking never occurred then no one would have had a reason to rebel in the first place. This is why I firmly believe that the Great Awakening had everything to do with the American revolution.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Churches vs. Rational thinking.



by Colin Roach - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 9:44 AM

Your post brings up interesting support for the Great Awakening as a direct factor in the Revolution, though I would instead argue that the Proclamation Line played at the very least an equal role. As Joe told us, the Colonists wanted the Ohio Valley, and had just fought in someone else's war to have it. To be denied their prize after winning the war would have made them furious.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Churches vs. Rational thinking.



by Ronald Howard - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 7:40 PM

"This is why I firmly believe that the Great Awakening had everything to do with the American revolution."

I think you made good points but I disagree. I think there were other problems that fueled the fire, such

as **taxation without representation**, that go above and beyond the religious and political influence that the Great awakening held on the tensions with the British.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Churches vs. Rational thinking.

by Karla Logan - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 10:41 PM

I see the points you are making and strictly on human response I agree. I am a very strong willed and hard headed individual, and I know that if I was being told how when and where to do things I know it wouldn't go well. Maybe back in that time my personality would be different, but I think its human nature to challenge authority. Now I'm not sure this lead 100% to the great Awakening but I do agree with the points you are making.

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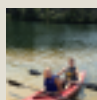
Difficult answers.

by Colin Roach - Monday, October 20, 2014, 9:55 PM

While I would agree with Patricia that the Great Awakening may have played a role in the eventual seperation from England, I am reluctant to say that it was the cause. The oratories of Tennent and Finley certainly could have played a role in leading to the independent thought that Americans are oft credited with. So could have the relative isolation that resulted from the internal affairs in England. Its not easy to know the exact causes for events, otherwise we wouldn't need to have discussions like this.

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Whitefield

by Jeremy Rutledge - Monday, October 20, 2014, 10:16 PM

There were many influential preachers and members of the church that were a part of the "The Great

Awakening". However, I believe that George Whitefield had one of the biggest impacts during the revival. Whitefield was able to spread religion by his voice alone. If individuals would crowd around him to hear him preach in inner cities he could have a crowd twice the population of Boston. Not only did his very musical voice make him exciting to hear, but Whitefield would also act during his speeches. For example, he would pretend to be Christ on the cross. These tactics proved to be very convincing to the people that witnessed him speak. Unfortunately, Whitefield did take it a little too far claiming he was Moses and trying to free slaves by parting the Savannah River. Yet before this he persuaded many minds and brought religion to so many people's lives.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The Tremendous Stir of the Great Awakening

by Kendra Helgeson - Monday, October 20, 2014, 10:44 PM

In The Study of History forum we did last week I stated that I believe that there are things that altered the history of America and that not every thing is a constant cycle. If everything that happened back then didn't happen, our country could be totally different today. With that being said, I agree with Bonomi's point of view on the Great Awakening. On page 4 of the article she says, "nor is there reason to doubt that the tremendous stir of the Great Awakening altered the social and political equilibrium of colonial life. Just as the revival marked a significant divide in popular thought and practice, so too it would supply the most pertinent and usable model for radical activists in the years that lay ahead." During the Great Awakening, people were becoming more and more interested in religion which then ended up bringing new denominations into play. If this didn't happen and people continued to not care as much about religion and worshipping a God, some religions might not have even been "discovered" or have as many people involved in the religion.

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Diversity leads to problems

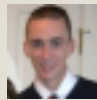
by Candice Oster - Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 6:06 AM

As I started studying for this forum I was looking through my notes from last week. I had written "Diversity leads to problems". I find this to be true in so many aspects of normal day to day life. On a very simple scale; when you have a family that all wants something different for dinner, this can bring on a few problems. In the end there will be someone who is unhappy with the results. The comfort in the home may be shaken for a bit until the next choice comes along to "happy" the unhappy person. Our textbook says, on page 139, that "a revival was—an emotional response to God's Word that brought sudden conversions to scores of people." here are many different people that held revivals in the colonies during the 1700's, each telling the people something different in order to convert them. I agree with Patricia U. Bonomi when she said, on page 111 of the article, "Religion has always been considered a likely agent of radicalism." With the Great Awakening came more diversity in the colonies with new denominations and thoughts.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Diversity leads to problems



by Daniel Leman - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 6:25 PM

Thank you for your post! I really like the way you compared the diversity factor with the potential catalyst for revolution. I am curious however, though "Religion has always been considered a likely agent of radicalism", do we automatically say it was the cause in this case. The colonies were all certainly extremely religious after this revival, but if we take into account all the other monetary motivation for the revolution, do you think we can still single out the Great Awakening (which took place mostly during the 1740's-50's (Jon Butler pg.15)) as an actual cause for the revolution? Or perhaps more a catalyst from their distant memory causing the Great Awakening to be simply a small contributing factor.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Diversity leads to problems



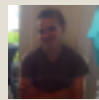
by Ronald Howard - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 7:47 PM

Really like this post! "Diversity leads to problems"

I would argue that America's diversity played a role in the increased importance of individualism showed during the Great Awakening. "This last notion captures vividly the new spirit of defiant individualism that was one of the most radical manifestations to the Awakening."

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Greed



by Samuel Black - Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 9:07 AM

I personally find myself siding more with Jon Butler's argument, than that of Patricia Bonom. This is because I don't think "The Great Awakening" would have had the effect that Patricia says it would on the American Revolution. What first caused me to sway to this side was on page 118 of *Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution* article which says "...it is obvious that revivals "swept" only some of the mainland colonies. They occurred in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia." That is six of the thirteen colonies. The article goes on to state that most of these revivals only touched select populations in those colonies, he gives the example of Pennsylvania where only the Presbyterian churches that apposed the revivals were effected, the Quakers watched in "perplexed silence" (p.118), and the Baptist didn't pay any attention until around 1760. Though I do not deny that these revivals were factors in the American Revolution, I think there is a simpler answer to the main issue, greed. Thinking back to the Thursday lecture, we talked about how the Navigation Acts were cutting the profits of the colonist by making all goods go through England first and not allowing the trade of enumerated goods to foreign countries. This particularly effected the rich trades that involved molasses. I would propose that this had a much greater effect on the sparking of the American Revolution, than "The Great Awakening" did.

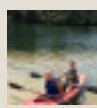
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Agreement



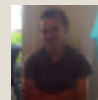
by Jeremy Rutledge - Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 8:53 PM



I agree with Samuel. I believe that "The Great Awakening" was not the cause of the American Revolution. However, I do believe it assisted in the American Revolution, because it brought so much diversity to the American colonies. For instance, the revivals shattered the unity of the New England church (stated on page 128 in our textbook). What this did was split the church apart. What used to be solely the New England church split to become the Baptist church. In later years the Baptist church would split and form the Methodist church. These splits in the church would divide the American colonies further away from the home land. I believe these were early signs for what would become the American Revolution.

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Re: Agreement

by Samuel Black - Friday, October 24, 2014, 11:12 PM

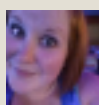
I agree with you Jeremy that the Great Awakening played role in sparking of the American Revolution, you might say it was the kindling for the fire. In class we talked about how Benjamin Franklin used his printing press to spread the ideas of the Great Awakening, he also urged for a push into the Ohio Valley. Driven by this urging, many colonist fought in the French and Indian war in hopes of acquiring this Valley for themselves. The Proclamation of 1763, which kept the colonist from moving into the Ohio Valley, would have infuriated them. This coupled with the feeling of unity that Professor John Trickle talks about in the video clip, would have laid the first stones for a revolution.

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What is the true cause

by Karla Logan - Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 10:57 AM



Its Jon Butlers argument that I am supporting. One thing that caught my attention and has been something we have been discussing in class the credibility of those in that era. On page 119 Jon points out that historians exaggerated the cohesion of leadership in the revivals. And that they have over stressed the importance of Whitefield and Edwards. As we have already experienced we can't always trust everything that was said or written, especially by those who may not have been there. While historians do have a better idea they don't know the exact dynamic. From what have seen by reading this I find it hard to believe that the great awakening had such a serious effect on the American Revolution, because as stayed in Jon's portion the revivals only interacted with some of the colonies therefor not having a widespread affect. He states on page 125 that "the relationship between prerevolutionary political change and the revivals is weak everywhere except in Virginia. He makes two additional supporting points on page 119 and 120. "Revivalism never was the key to the expansion of the colonial churches" and "the expansion of leading denominations...can be traced to many causes not just revivalism or the great awakening".

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Awakening to set the attitude



by Evan Kossow - Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 11:04 AM

I have to mostly side with Patricia and agree that the Great Awakening helped set a tone for the colonies to further develop their own separate individual culture. The head of the Church of England is king, and by separating from the church, colonists were in a sense already separating from the crown.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Awakening to set the attitude



by Jeremy Rutledge - Thursday, October 23, 2014, 7:48 PM

I agree with you Evan the Great Awakening did not start the American Revolution. I like how you

explained how England's Church was ran by the king. It gives you a clear visual that the American colonies were unknowingly seperating themselves from the crown.

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Interesting connection

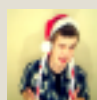


by Evan Kossow - Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 11:19 AM

The Great Awakening was a movement from the base of morality. Although it wasn't directly responsible for any changes in political policy through litigation, it was responsible for a revolutionary change in thought. A historical similarity that came to my mind when learning about the Great Awakenings role, is the story of John Brown. John Brown was an outlaw in the eyes of higher establishment but a hero and eventually a martyr to a growing number of abolitionists. He raided a federal armory sacking a town and still had great support in the north because his dying cause was to stop slavery. His revolution ended as a failure in the view of direct action, but his cause lived on and was a helpful rallying point backed some significant historical figures (Thoreau, Emerson, Fredrick Douglass, and Tubman) that helped the union gain major support during the civil war. I see the Great Awakening to have had the same sort of impact in promoting revolutionary thought.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Interesting connection



by Jesse Bowman - Friday, October 24, 2014, 1:31 PM

I enjoyed this read, Evan, you offered some great insight with good example.

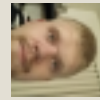
I have a question for you, do you believe that The Great Awakening was a key part to the American Revolution by promoting change of thought? Or that is was just progress of this thought that eventually led to The Great Awakening and eventually, the American revolution?

Bringing up John Brown and the fact that some interpret his "revolution" as a failure and but others

pointing the significant long lasting impact from it was a nice touch to contrast the subjects.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Interesting connection



by Evan Kossow - Friday, October 24, 2014, 4:05 PM

Thanks for reading Jesse. You bring up a very good point that i hadn't yet addressed in my own thought. I suppose this thought can be related to the prior forum about sharp breaks or natural progression in history as well. In answer to your question i would have to say that not only in the example of the Great Awakening but with John Browns revolution as well, my interpretation is that both instances were direct responses to a very indirect national feeling of a need for change already present before the events transpired. I would also say that both served as great labeled catalysts for future unified action.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Interesting connection



by Courtney Tullock - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 2:51 PM

I think it was a catalyst as well but it had a bigger impact than I previously thought. After studying the new material I only feel stronger that the Great Awakening played an important role to push the colonists in the direction of a revolution. I don't think it matters that it didn't 'sweep' the nation, the fact that it lasted for 40 years meant that it was a growing issue not one that could be put down quickly. The effects of the Great Awakening are undeniably important because it literally changed the way society thought. They were more concerned with their individualism rather than their community. The quote by William Knox from the assigned website

sums it up perfectly, "Every man being thus allowed to be his own Pope, he becomes disposed to wish to be his own King."

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Revolution w/o The Great Awakening?



by Jesse Bowman - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 7:39 PM

I absolutely agree that The Great Awakening played an important role, but I still believe that its affects did not determined the fruition of the American Revolution, however, from continued reading I believe that those prolong affects of religious mental change might have helped sway some of the colonies that were a little more adversed into joining the American Revolution in the first place.

The one thing I'm trying to connect, and maybe you can help me, is how the push for individualism rather than communalism in the colonies helped excel independence from Britain in the form of **unity** in America.

I enjoy this topic discussion!

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Overhype vs. Reality



by Jesse Bowman - Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 5:49 PM

Contrasting both of the articles to the question of whether or not The Great Awakening was key to the American revolution I find myself siding with Jon Butler's argument for "no".

I can completely concur that The Great Awakening was a series of events that took place across the colonies but I do take issue, however, with the level of impact and rapidness that many people describe it occurring. Right from the beginning of his article, Butler explains the inaccurate use of adjectives describing The Great Awakening that can cause misinterpretations in its audience, the word "Swept" or "Boomed" across the colonies implying, at least when to me when I read it, implies that it occurred everywhere in the colonies for the brief time between 1739-1745 with excessive attendance by a majority of colonists. However, this is not the case, the 'revivals' occurred through a period of 40 years and only touched certain colonies, and only even certain dominations of a very diverse culture experienced such revivals, "...In Virginia, the site of the most sustained such events in the southern colonies, did not emerge in significant numbers until the 1750's and did not peak until the 1760's" (Butler).

Another issue I have with the labeling of The Great Awakening is the interpretation of it being the crucial sign of change in the mentality of the colonists as a key ingredient to the American Revolution. I firmly believe that salutary neglect had more of an impact on the mentality of the colonists than The Great Awakening simply because it reintroduced a lifestyle of servitude that the colonists already outgrew for the past **100** years (17th & 18th century).

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Overhype vs. Reality

by Aj Glessner - Thursday, October 23, 2014, 4:20 PM

I agree with Jesse. To say that the Great Awakening caused the Revolution is going too far. As is to deny it ever happened. The Great Awakening was definitely a paradigm shift for the colonists, but not the spark of revolution.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening



by Aj Glessner - Thursday, October 23, 2014, 4:15 PM

I feel that the Colonists separated from England for many more reasons political rather than religious. The Proclamation of 1763 had a much more damning affect on the crown's hold on the Colonies than the Great Awakening. I do not deny the social impact of the Great Awakening. As Professor Trickle said, it gave people a sense of belonging, and helped to unify the colonies, but I don't feel that the Great Awakening was the turning point where the colonists were dedicating themselves to revolt against the English.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening



by Ronald Howard - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 7:13 PM

A good paragraph that supports your point: "What, then ought we say about the revivals of religion in pre evolutionary America? The most important suggestion is the most drastic. Historians should abandon the term 'the Great Awakening' because it distorts the character of eighteenth-century American religious life and misinterprets its relationship to pre-revolutionary American society and politics. In religion it is a deus ex machina that falsely homogenizes the heterogeneous; in politics it falsely unites the colonies in slick preparation for the revolution. Instead, a four-part model of the eighteenth-century colonial reveilles will highlight their common differences, under-score important differences, and help us assess their real significance."

I agree that arguing that the Great Awakening in a religious sense caused the turning point against the british is weak, but the social and political implications it had certainly pushed the colonists farther from the British.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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The Great Awakening The Domino Effect



by Jeremy Rutledge - Thursday, October 23, 2014, 8:03 PM

I think it is safe to say that majority of the class does not think the Great Awakening was the reason for the American Revolution. We all picked individuals that had an impact during the Great Awakening. Furthermore, The Great Awakening led to more colleges which led to more educated people. Now, at this time we have seperation from the crown, more people going to school, and a economic stability. After, the The seven year war is when the American colonies realized they could provide for themselves.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening The Domino Effect



by Colin Roach - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 9:12 AM

Certainly, if we were to attempt to attribute a single factor as the cause of the American Revolution, the Great Awakening would not be nearly as likely a candidate as the Proclamation Line. I agree that the Great Awakening led to more education and economic stability, and would say that through that it played a supporting role in forming the Revolution.

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Laying the path



by Samuel Black - Friday, October 24, 2014, 11:10 PM

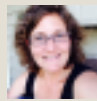
After reading and watching the additional midweek media on the Great Awakening, I still stand by my original idea that greed played a greater role than it did in relation to the cause of the American Revolution. That said, I am convinced that this event played a much larger role than I had originally speculated. Professor John Trickle, from the video clip, talks about how the Great Awakening built a sense of unity between the colonies, mainly due to Whiteman's sermons because we would say that he had just given a speech in another colony, so that the colonist here would know that they were not alone in these new ideas. I would like to make two points: The first comes from our Thursday class where Joe Escobar told us that while tens of thousands came to hear the sermons of Whiteman, George

Washington had a very difficult time getting anywhere near those numbers of soldiers for his army. Therefore, although there was a sense of unity, it was not strong enough, or closely related enough, to get those people to join the revolution. Second, is the location of these events: Boston Massacre, Boston Tea Party, Lexington and Concord, and Bunker Hill, all took place in New England. New England was suffering under the Stamp Acts and was surviving by smuggling molasses into its ports. Greed, was the bulk of our reason for rebelling against the crown, although The Great Awakening had laid down some of the pavers.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Laying the path



by Candice Oster - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 5:40 AM

Samuel,

I like that you brought up the fact from class, which tens of thousands came to hear Whiteman. That really holds true to the greed aspect. Really, it is hard to believe that these tens of thousands came out to hear Whiteman's sermons just to hear. They had to have a thought that there was much more for them to gain. Like you said about the video clip of Prof. Trickle, how he said that they developed this new social function, that it provided a sense of community that they are something special. It holds true that when someone feels they belong to something bigger than themselves it is easier to stand up and go after what they want. The colonists did that when they were able to challenge the educated leaders and political authorities with this newfound unity.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Similarities



by Kendra Helgeson - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 11:36 AM

The historian in the video provided seems to side with Bonomi's point of view of the Great Awakening. At the beginning of the video he states, "the secularism of men like Benjamin Franklin contributed to a backlash which

historians call the Great Awakening." The reason I feel like they agree is because on the first page of our reading, it has a summary for both the yes side and the no side of the question. The yes portion which Bonomi supports says, "Professor of history Patricia U. Bonomi asserts that the Great Awakening ... represented a rehearsal for the colonists' political assault on English rule that began in the 1760s." As for our textbook, I think the authors also agree that the Great Awakening was a key to the revolution. They talk about all of Franklin's inventions and how he and others changed the colonists' political and religious views. I feel they are all presenting all of their information truthfully because they are on the same page for mostly everything and there isn't any completely different views on anything.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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A Key Component



by Kendra Helgeson - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 11:49 AM

The website appears to be going along the same lines as the textbook, Bonomi and the historian from the video, but it's not completely identical. Under the first column on the website, "Significance of the Great Awakening: Roots of Revolution" they talk about how the Awakening had repercussions in cultural and political spheres, as well as customs of civility and courtesy and the governing norms of life in the colonies being set aside in favor of a more quarrelsome age. The website also stated that the charismatic personalities of Whitefield and Tennent had a big impact on the colonists'. Although they touch on some of the same things as all of our other resources, the website seems to be going about the Great Awakening being a key part to the Revolution a different way.

Personally, I still agree with the yes side of the question "Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?" From what I've read and watched, almost everything has given me more confidence in what I believe contributed to the Revolution occurring. If Whitefield and Tennent hadn't felt the need to create mass public gatherings to deliver their messages, just that alone could have changed the whole course of the Revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: A Key Component

by Kaitlin Silva - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 8:25 PM

I loved reading through Kendras point of view, as I completely agree with it. "Revivalism taught people that they can be bold when confronting religious authority." (The Great Awakening.com) When people such as Whitefield and Tennet took a different approach to religion than the norm, they created their own independence and power. Feeling empowered by the freedom, a revolution was undoubtable. Without a different point of view like the Westley brothers, or Whitefield, then a revolution would have never happened. If the Great Awakening did not happen then there would have been no problems with the Church to begin with and colonial society would have been indefinitely anglicized.

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A mini revolution

by Courtney Tullock - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 3:04 PM

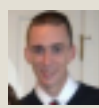
The website seems to support the Great Awakening as a key factor in the American Revolution. It emphasizes the major effects it had on the people and how those effects are connected to the Revolution. It even cites John Adams saying the Great Awakening was a source of motivation for the "Presbyterian Revolution." The website, the video, and class lectures only strengthen my opinion that the Great Awakening had a slow but meaningful impact on colonial society. Even if it didn't 'sweep' across the nation- it had enough impact to effect social thought and politics. It gave the colonists courage to stand up to authority to fight for what they believed was right- to ask their authorities to change their ways or else a split would happen, which it did. The Great Awakening was, on a much smaller scale, a revolution.

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The not so current Great Awakening

by Daniel Leman - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 6:02 PM

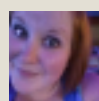


In my opinion I do not believe the Great Awakening had much of an impact, on the revolution. One of my main factors was the time frame involved. Specifically the fact that the great awakening was primarily during the 1740's, as Jon Butler put it "1/4 of a century before the revolution" (pg.15). Even now, with all the technological advances allowing us to retain, and gather information about our history, the impact of something that happened 25 years ago is almost nonexistent on what happens today. In addition the Great Awakening caused people to become more individualized. Quite the opposite of the unity required for the revolution itself. The beginnings of the Great Awakening were formed by the minority of the colonists, yet we see huge growth in churches during this time, that align with this rebellion of traditional church authority. This can very simply be explained due to the massive population increase happening at the time. From 1700-1770 the population grew from an estimated 300 to over 2 million (pg.13 Jon Butler Text), of course new churches would be needed to support the growing population. And with the New Lighters challenge to authority being the "in" thing at the time, it only makes sense new colonists would be more prone to joining the awakening. But the momentum that stemmed from this revival would have been a distant memory at the time of the revolution. Even with John Adams giving credit to the awakening as a source of motivation behind the war (great-awakening.com article), his personal opinion could have varied greatly from that of the other colonists. And the very simple want people would have to not pay tax, and support what was then a foreign government would be enough to spur the revolution, without what was then a historical religious revival.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: The not so current Great Awakening

by Karla Logan - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 11:20 PM

You make a rather good point. It's a hard case to make that the Great Awakening was the cause of the Revolution considering the large time span between the two events. It's true that it could have leaded the region in that direction but seems far-

fetches to say it was the cause. And yes it seems like a valid expectation that with increase in population there would need to be an increase in churches. But was that the only reason for an increase number of churches?

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Religion elevates individuality..?



by Ronald Howard - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 7:18 PM

Below I have some quotes that I feel contradicted the point that the author was trying to make about individualism (reply is for 114-115 ONLY)

"let all Followers of the Lamb stand up and act for GOD against all opposers; who is upon GOD'S side? Who?" -- 115

"no longer were consensual values to prevail over individual ones" -- 115

>>I do not understand how this makes sense. If you act in the name of god, and not under your own judgment, how is this elevating the individual in any way?

"The Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America" -- 114/6

So breaking down one social norm to try and get people to believe another one elevates individuality?

Perhaps I had a hard time understanding what the author was trying to say because of the language used in the article, but after countless reads I found it very contradicting.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Religion elevates individuality..?



by Colin Roach - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 8:49 PM

You raise excellent questions. I'd interpreted more as breaking down a social norm not for individuality, but for autonomy from the European powers and their religions. Still, those quotes do seem to be rather contradictory.

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Re: Agreeing with Patricia Bonomi



by Simone Reynolds - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 8:57 PM

I agree with Patricia Bonomi, that the Great Awakening was the key to the American Revolution. Bonomi states on page four, "Just as the revival marked a significant divide in such thought and practice, so too it would supply the most pertinent and usable model for the radical activists in the years that lay ahead." Although the Great Awakening mainly dealt with religion rather than political issues. But nonetheless, it stemmed the roots of rebellion for years to come. The Great Awakening was only a taste of what was to come.

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