

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

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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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Re: The Great Awakening

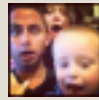
by Brody Wasson - Saturday, October 18, 2014, 10:06 PM

Patricia Bonomi was the side that influenced me the most. Her views on religion is very great, she talked about religion being a big issue in the new world and that the reason many fled to the new world was to gain a new life and to leave the religious persecution behind. My view on this subject is that no nation state can take over a place such as america. I understand that someone needs to be in charge but why couldn't there be a congress like there is today. If this were to happen in todays society there would defiantly be more of a religious and cultural view on who were to rule the free would. But then there is the subject of freedom in the

colonies. Freedom is never free and many americans like the colonist of the past think they have rights but who gave us the rights who put restrictions on us

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Awake the masses



by Adam Graves - Monday, October 20, 2014, 3:11 PM

I think that I tend to believe Patricia Bonomi side. To say that these revivals played no significant role in shaping individuals I believe would be an understatement. The colonialist pretty much were run by religion and colonists frequently had to side with the church or people that were being fueled by the church. So to have someone come and use theatrics to sell idea's that were radically different then the doctrines that they been being forced feed was new and I would imagine well received. The ability to think freely and be individualistic is what being Americian is all about. At the end of the Yes article it has a note from a Reverend William Shurleff, that "dividing spirit" would be manifested everywhere after mid-century in the proliferation of religious and political factions. To me this meant that the reverend believed that people were thinking more freely when it came to religion and politics.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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History is still linked....



by Sierra Howard - Monday, October 20, 2014, 6:53 PM

After reading through the text book this weekend, and allowing the forum question to kind of stew in my mind before I read the arguments, I had a preconceived idea that my response would lean in the direction of supporting the idea that the Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution. After reading both the supporting and opposing articles, I find myself rethinking that notion.

Our human existence, whether one believes is a result of God's creation, or scientific phenomena, has a much defined history of evolution with regards to our behaviors. In general, we tend to stay in a comfort zone of what is familiar, and reliable. As we get older, our experiences with new things, new ideas, new people,

give us clarity to be more individualized, and maybe think a little different than the generation that raised us. I think these very typical behaviors and thought processes are more relevant as to why there was an American Revolution, as opposed to the Great Awakening. Obviously, the further away from England the generations grew, it would have been more difficult to understand the connections, and feel the loyalty that must have existed within the first generation of settlers. As time passed, the natural evolution of their society was not necessarily aligned anymore with European standards, and this transcended cultural, political, and religious boundaries.

Although I do believe that in some ways (like history tells a continuous story), the Great Awakening did play a part in the American Revolution, I don't believe it was a key factor. If the Revolutionary War was based primarily around religious freedom and not the bigger political picture, then I think Patricia U. Bonomi would have nailed it. Given this I tend to side with Jon Butler.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: History is still linked....



by Adam Graves - Thursday, October 23, 2014, 4:07 PM

I think you made some very excellent points that I agree with. Specifically the points about how the society had changed and they were looking for change in the sense of how things were being governed. Like you stated the it seems that the appeal of these revivals were from people that were sick of hearing the same stuffing and having to adhere to ways that they didn't like. The society evolved and wanted change. When you get sermons being spoke in moving ways where you getting moved and willing to except these new ideas that give you the sense of being self empowered then you can understand why people were forming large groups to hear these sermons. You had some good points and made some valid points. Maybe it wasn't the cause of the revolution but help cause a shake up of religious and political views.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Is there really a large connection?



by Michael Leopold - Monday, October 20, 2014, 8:38 PM

I tend to side with Jon Butler. It is true that religion was a large part of people's lives in the years leading up to the American Revolution, but in fact, religion had been a large part of colonial life from the beginning. The revivalist movement, which Jon points out, "flourished principally between 1740 and 1743 and largely ended by 1745..." in New England(Butler 118). Other "revivals" in other areas occurred sporadically later. He concedes that there were other "outbreaks" in the following decades but this does not point to direct cause of revolutionary sentiments in the colonies. He also points out that these revivals only took place in some of the colonies, and within these colonies, only certain groups of people adhered to the movement. This doesn't really show the level of unity between the colonies that the revolution needed to occur. We all know that the revolution in America did happen, but I feel that this unity came from a more Nationalistic fervor, than a religious awakening.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Religious influences on immigration



by Jordan Hadley - Monday, October 20, 2014, 11:02 PM

I agree with Patricia. Religion was a huge factor in the development of the colonies. Although religion isn't nearly as big of a factor nowadays in society, it was back then. If you look at the Northern colonies, they were made up of English Separatists and the Puritans. These groups left the country because of religious reasons. In modern society, religious groups don't really have to migrate to different places. This is another reason why our country is so dominate because it doesn't have problems like religious conflict.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Religious influences on immigration



by Jordan Hadley - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 12:33 PM

After this weeks discussion, I agree even more with her side. Learning that The Great Awakening not only changed colonists lives, it changed the lives of people in the future. With all these new religions created, there was some diversity created in the country. It wasn't only Catholics and protestants. There were more branches of the protestant religion creating different groups and ultimately changing lives for the next generations to come.

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Minimal Effect



by Kyle Quinoveva - Monday, October 20, 2014, 11:52 PM

Reading through these articles I feel I have to agree with Jon Butler. While I am an adamant believer that no event in history happens in a vacuum, I have come to the conclusion that the Great Awakening's impact on the American Revolution was minimal at best compared to most other factors leading up to independence.

To cite points from Butler's argument I feel his two most important points were on page 122. First he talks about how, if you look at it, the great awakening did more to divide the colonies than unite them: By its definition the Great Awakening was a division amongst colonial churches. Not only that but, even if it wasn't so divisive in it of its self revivals were scattered with certain areas of the colonies having little to no revivals due to the decentralized nature of it.

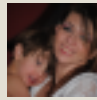
And finally, to quote his last point on that page, "They were political leaders who happened to be New Lights and Presbyterians rather than Presbyterians and New Lights who happened to be politicians." In other words while the Great Awakening may have had some impact on the Revolution the main reasons are so independent of it that the Revolution would have likely happened in its absence: Taxes would not have been lowered if revivalists never sprang up and Philosophers such as Locke had published their works long before the fervor even began to stew.

In short I feel that the Great Awakening and Revolution are more likely both events stemming from a similar overall independent trend in the colonies rather than the former being the main cause of the latter.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Minimal Effect



by Sierra Howard - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 9:14 PM

I agree absolutely. I have been reading through all the responses in our forum, and I am surprised that so many people feel that the American Revolution stemmed directly from the Great Awakening. It is absolutely true that our government has never had a separation of church and state, and for that reason I think people assume it was THE key. I don't disagree that it played a role, but from an evolutionary perspective of the building blocks of how our country came to be, every event played a role to some degree. I just cannot see how the defining correlation was the religious division of the Great Awakening.

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Re: The Great Awakening



by Jackson Baker - Monday, October 20, 2014, 11:59 PM

I believe that the great awakening was a key to the revolution. It was the first time that people had doubt in what was a staple point of the community. Although the uncertainty was eventually quelled it started to make people question things which ultimately led to the revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Awake since.....



by Saleena Smith - Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 9:39 AM

After reading the chapter and both points in the article, it is still hard for me to see which side of the argument I would stand on. I don't believe that religion was the number one motivation for many colonists to travel across the ocean, but I do think that once they got here and realized that they needed more control over the population, religion was the only way to fight for control over the masses. An illusion of control that worked

then... And I still believe it is happening today. We have a preconceived notion that we have control over our lives, but how much are we relinquishing to make the rest of the world feel non chaotic.

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Re: Awake since.....

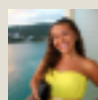


by Saleena Smith - Friday, October 24, 2014, 4:51 PM

After this weeks discussions on The Great Awakening I did something that I discovered I really should be doing more often. I called my Grandmother who has completed over 700 years of geneology. I asked her where the majority of our ancestors came from and if she knew the reasons underlying why they decided to migrate to the America's. What she said directly ties into our discussions of the Great Awakening. There seems to be a repeating pattern in the forms of growth and revolution in our world's history. The key to this pattern I believe is religion and from our discussions it seems like the majority of the class agrees with me. Almost all of my ancestors dating back to 1300 relocated to different areas of our nation due to religion. I believe that through the effects of being able to realize that no one person can govern an area's religion, my ancestors and everyone in that time period were able to join the Great Awakening to control their own destiny in government regulations and religious regulations. I think that we are still fighting for the same Great Awakening today.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Unified Colonies and Established Authority



by Caitlyn Craviotto - Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 9:47 AM

I tend to side with Patricis Bonomi in regards to the Great Awakening being crucial in the American Revolution. Patricia's beliefs encouraged people to act on individuality and their religious beliefs, which promoted the unifying of the colonies as Puritanism was declining by the 1730's. People were upset about the

decline in religious piety, although this was help in the colonists "attack" if you will on the political leaders.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Unified Colonies and Established Authority

by Caitlyn Craviotto - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 2:12 PM

There was also some beauty in Patricia's side: religions developed and diversified some of the country, which had to be a positive addition to not simply having Catholics and Protestants only.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Unified Colonies and Established Authority

by Caitlyn Craviotto - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 3:07 PM

It seems to me like the revivals helped individuals to shape their beliefs. It was interesting how Reverend William Shurleff in the "yes" article felt that through the manifestation of dividing spirit, people were starting to evolve from strict and staunch beliefs in their politics and religion. Perhaps it wasn't the Great Awakening that was alone in encouraging the American Revolution, but instead a natural evolution of the strengths and weaknesses of many beliefs that began to have different supporters. I think that just like in today's world, there was some natural interest in new ideas, people, leaders, and of course religion. With this, individuals began to have confidence in wanting new aspects of their society and future to exist and be pursued.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Key factor or just a small part?

by Sullivan Paulson - Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 10:33 AM

It cannot be argued that some religions have played a large and in several cases pivotal role in historical

events. It can be argued that "The Great Awakening" played at most a small part in the American Revolution and a regional one at that. I think that Jon Butler states this case quite well and shows that when these disparate revivals are looked at in context with other events they have been overemphasized. I find this quote near the end of his argument to be a good summation, "They may have been of some importance in helping colonists make moral judgments about eighteenth-century English politics, though colonists unconnected to the revivals made these judgments as well." (Page 125)

What I think is essential to keep in mind when thinking about "The Great Awakening" is that these revivals were varied, local and most important, divisive rather than unifying. The time period of their occurrence is both wide-ranging and sporadic. They did not happen in all the colonies and most were over well before the revolution. The revivals did not all have the same objective or identical outcomes. I have concluded that Jon Butler is correct because of this and the reality that there were far more unifying factors that played into in the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Is Religion the Cause?



by Zachary Smith - Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 11:14 AM

After reading the text, I believe that Patricia Bonomi was correct. The colonies were all about religion. Religious conflict was the reason they left in the first place. The Great Awakening was a big reason for The American Revolution. If you look at today, there are still conflict between religious beliefs. It's not as important than it was in the 1730's, but if the religious views didn't make the colonists question what they were being taught and told, then our world today would be different.

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Freedom of religion helped pave the path.



by Mariah Brant - Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 3:16 PM

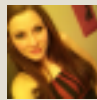
I agree with Patricia U. Bonomi. Religion had a huge influence in why people were moving to America. Freedom of religion. It was allowing people to make their

own decisions instead of being ruled by their country. It made it easier for them to rebel and stand up for themselves. I think their new found freedom of religion helped lead to overthrow of the British Government. They didn't want to be controlled anymore. Bonomi says "Religion has always been considered a likely agent of radicalism. (111). "Nor is their reason to doubt that the tremendous stir of The Great Awakening altered the social and political equilibrium of the colonial life," says Patricia.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Freedom of religion helped pave the path.

by Saleena Smith - Friday, October 24, 2014, 5:05 PM

I think that you have made many points that are relevant to our chosen topic. I believe, like yourself, that it is common sense that religion played an important part in the American revolution. To say that it didn't is denying the impact that religion has on our society today and the impact that it has had on past generations. Religion is thea basic building block that was used to establish the foundation of our nation. I also believe that religion is adaptive and evolving. Events happen in our small scale every day lives and on a larger worldly scale that change our views of religion and life on a regular basis. I do not believe that it is coincidence that religion was thought to be a factor in the great awakening. I agree with your stand.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Revival vs. Revolution

by Sierra Howard - Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 4:29 PM

The historians in the clip seem to promote the idea that the Great Awakening had pivotal influence on the American Revolution. Professor John Trickle conveys that the Great Awakening impacted the colonies socially and politically, saying "They (the colonists) were willing to take their faith and make it a mission to change the world." I believe they did. However, there are many factors that contributed to the revolution, and it really

seems more political than religious.

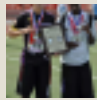
As I listened to the dramatic sermon delivered by Jonathan Edwards, "...lest you repent your sins, cast out evil, and come into the hands of almighty God!", I felt it. I can understand how people would be moved to repentance and conviction. There is no question that it created a new kind of 'reformation' in American society that still carries influence today.

The text book says, "This 'Great Awakening' shattered some denominational loyalties in the colonies..."(p.138), indicating that there was a great division amongst the colonies as a result. I feel that the book also supports the idea that the Great Awakening contributed greatly to the American Revolution, but it also explains a division of church and state. The religious aspects were transformed, but the political aspects only seemed influenced, which is not the same as transformed.

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Just the beginning..



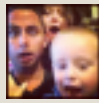
by Benjamin Kelly - Thursday, October 23, 2014, 2:55 AM

After reading this piece, I believe Patricia Bonomi is correct with her statement that the Great Awakening was crucial in the American Revolution. The original reason they left was because of religious conflict and this allowed them to have the freedom that they so desperately wanted. For the most part, colonist didn't even get to think for themselves and had to always listen to what the church said. To be able to break away from what the church was forcing you to believe is something that was not easy at the time, but colonists saw this as something that needed to happen. Everyone wants to be able to think for themselves and not be told how to live their life and I feel like this was the first time they saw that as an option. Professor John Trickle explained that the Great Awakening impacted the colonies in many ways saying "They were willing to take their faith and make it a mission to change the world." The new free thinking colonists were just the beginning of what turned out to be the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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As Joe would say "For Kicks and Giggles!"

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by Adam Graves - Thursday, October 23, 2014, 4:39 PM

After watching the video clip I took away a couple of things. In the video it was discussed the change it had on women and how the revivals had given them more of a social status then before. That alone is a had to make a difference in some areas where women far out numbered the man and gave them a voice and self worth. Professor John Trickle in the video also talked about how George Whitfield sermons caused a sense of unity, which help colony's bind together because colonists knew his sermons had moved others and created a sense of community. As well as a feeling that they were part of something bigger and grander with a sense of entitled power to make change happen. If there is anything that I've learned with current politics is this is exactly how society is used to persuade votes. Promise them hope and a dream and inspire them and you can persuade and in some cases dictate powers that be. A lot of us were sold on the hope that Obama promised and his inspirational "yes we can!" which was said in my opinion by a more inspirational man Cesar Chavez who use to say "Sí, se puede!" So in short did the awakening cause the revolution maybe or maybe not but shows that you can get society to change their opinion with a little theatrics and give them power to shake up old doctrines or politics that the masses are sick of.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Awakening was important

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by Robert Edwards - Friday, October 24, 2014, 4:58 PM

After reading the materials we have been presented with this week, I've come to believe that The Great Awakening (The first), was important to what eventually became the American Revolution. Before the Awakening, the colonists, relied greatly on the King and the mother country, however as people became accustomed to operating without the dictates of the king and thus live under their own rules and religious beliefs/dictates, the people began to, if not on a large scale, understand that they could govern themselves without Britain's intervention. As the Great Awakening shook the world (probably exaggerated), religious doctrine loosened it's grip over the people and allowed

them the chance to experiment with new philosophy, allowing even greater separation from British ideology (theology?). This eventually allowed the colonists to believe they could survive independent of Britain, thus sowing part of the seeds that would become the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Influence on America



by Benjamin Kelly - Saturday, October 25, 2014, 2:54 PM

Even with all the materials we learned in class I still have a strong belief that the Great Awakening had a large influence on the American Revolution. The movement that was happening was something that colonists had never really seen before and they were very reluctant to follow because they never really had a chance to think for themselves. The new faiths that emerged were much more democratic in their approach and the overall message was about equality. I think the Great Awakening should also be considered a "national" occurrence. It was arguably the first major event that all the colonies could share, helping to break down differences between them. I personally can't recall anything like that happening in England which is another reason it was such a big deal.

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