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The Great Awakening

by Joe Escobar - Friday, October 14, 2016, 8:54 PM

This thread is for discussions on the The Great Awakening topic.
To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: The Great Awakening

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What to believe? Yes or No?

by Garrett Richards - Monday, October 17, 2016, 2:25 PM

When reading these two essays, I fall in between the middle. I have to agree with both authors and their opinions of The Great Awakening. In Bonomi's essay I liked how she focussed on how it effected History. "The Great Awakening erupted into something so big it draw entire communities into a vortex," (lines 2-4). After reading this statement, I believe that with the information that Bonomi offers does help me understand her side of the story. But, on the other hand I'm stuck with also believing Butler's side of The Great Awakening. The main reason why is because in every history class that I have takin, we have not talked about this topic of history. Another part that leads me to believe "no" is that, "historians don't even know the exact date of The Great Awakening" (Pg1 P4). It is hard to pick from both authors due to their ways of explaining the information and what they believe. I hope that after reading my peers responses I will have a better understand on what side I truly believe is right.

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Re: What to believe? Yes or No?

by Tyger Gruber - Friday, October 21, 2016, 12:38 AM

History may be ambiguous in come cases because of poor record keeping or bending of the truth is the records. Though you state that the exact date of The Great awakening is unknown with a quote and page number, I see the importance of the opposition could be found it Bulter's essay where he describes that "No one would seriously question the existence of "the Great Awakening" if historians only described it as a short-lived Calvinist revival in New England during the early 1740s." so even if the EXACT date isn't known, no one could question that it happened and they know the approximate date of it (7). It would be very difficult to label the starting date, maybe when Jonathan Edwards gave his first successful sermon, or maybe when he received the church and named it The Church of Dry Bones (as seen in the video at 1:35). What is apparent is that it had an approximate start and end, and what lay in it's wake is a immense population shift to a new form of Christianity where conversion is a primary factor. You may find my reply to Joe Escobar's post enlightening and I use an interesting Juxtaposition of todays events to those of the 18th century. Who knows, it may just help give you a better understanding on what side you truely believe is right.

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Hope Kelley - Monday, October 17, 2016, 5:50 PM

I mostly agree with Patricia Bonomi, because I also think that the Great Awakening lead to the ideas for the Revolutionary war. I say mostly because I don't fully agree with her.

The Great Awakening caused many new denominations or religions to appear and with that more arguments between people who think their religion is right. Arguments become bigger and bigger until they become physical disputes and so on and so forth. Things escalate and could and have lead to war. The Awakening made colonists realize that they could have religious power in their own hands rather than in the hands of the Church of England, some colonists took that power to far.

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Hope Kelley - Monday, October 17, 2016, 6:52 PM

Please ignore my previous post, I misunderstood the questions and attempted to correct it but my time ran out.

I mostly agree with Patricia Bonomi because I agree that The Great Awakening lead to ideas for the Revolutionary war.

The Great Awakening was causes because there was a lack of passion for religion in the colonies. "Colonial clergy, fearful that a fall from grace was in progress, issued calls for a revival of religious fervor," Bonomi states. This sentence really stands out to me because it shows that the clergy was so worried about people falling away from faith or leaving the church that they sent people out to spread the word about this new thing. When colonists realized they could make their own religious path instead of following England, they took the chance. The Awakening brought religious, political, and cultural unity and it started the formation of The United States.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening, My Initial Perspective

by Morganne Roy - Monday, October 17, 2016, 7:55 PM

For starters I'm inclined to agree with Professor Bonomi. I think her point is better made, even though I thought some of her language was at times unnecessarily artistic; even though it was enjoyable to read those parts, I felt like it ultimately detracted from her point. That being said, in my opinion, I thought she made a better case and was able to create links between my impression of the spirit of the American Revolution and of the Great Awakening-- particularly in relation to the focus on individualism and personal liberty. What she said made sense to me on an intuitive level, creating a naturally flowing narrative where it became easy to understand how one thing led to another. Perhaps another read through and more discussion could change my mind, but after my first read through this is where I find myself.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening, My Initial Perspective

by Morganne Roy - Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 11:41 AM

After specifically re-reading Butler's rebuttal, I found his point concerning the lack of unification and gross generalizations of the so-called "Great Awakening" to be his most compelling argument. His quote at the end of pg. 9 stood out to me the most.

"[The revivals] appeared too erratically in too few colonies under too many different auspices to make such generalizations appropriate."

I don't know if this is enough to make me completely change my initial agreement with Bonomi, but to me it's the strongest case against it. Has anyone else identified what they see as the other side's best counterpoint?

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Foundation of rebellion

by Sonja Fritz - Monday, October 17, 2016, 8:02 PM

I don't agree with Bonomi fully but I do agree with the point she makes " Just as the revival marked a significant divide in popular thought and practice, too it would supply the most pertinent and usable model for radical activists in the years that lay ahead." I don't think religion was necessarily the main cause for the American Revolution but was the foundation of rebellion. Religion was very prominent in the New World. Churches gave you once a week to discuss and congregate morals and events. When you come together you discuss events ie. Boston tea party, get angry, and talk about starting up rebellion. This is a format, that allows brainstorming, even though it might not be intentional. These ideas that come about are the sparks change. My point is that while religion is the foundation for the last 1300 years, wars and rebellions for liberty have broken out without underlying religious undertones.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Disagree with Jon Butler with religion

by Tannon Rounsaville - Monday, October 17, 2016, 8:51 PM

When Jon Butler states that "religion failed to change the timing, causes, or effects of the revolution in any significant way." I disagree with that. Religion has a huge impact on any society. George Whitefield preached a series of revivals known as the GREAT

AWAKENING. This whole topic is based around religion but Butler says that it didn't change anything in the revolution. It makes no sense. Religion had a huge impact shaping this country to what it is today.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Disagree with Jon Butler with religion

by Garrett Richards - Thursday, October 20, 2016, 3:11 PM

I agree. Religion plays a big role during those days. When Butler added "religion failed to change the timing, or effects of the revolution in any significant way," it led me away from his whole point of the essay. Made my decision a little easier when comparing the two.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Disagree with Jon Butler with religion

by Sonja Fritz - Friday, October 21, 2016, 9:14 PM

To a point I do agree with you, however, in order for those statements to be true it would have to be unified religion but that's not what we have here. Instead you have several sections of protestantism, catholicism, judaism, and even native american beliefs, all co-mingling with one another. Which does not unify people under one religious belief but allows people to have other cultures and open minds to other ideas. Proof of this, all we have to do we look at Age of Enlightenment itself. But yes, religion has affected a lot of thought processes today.

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The Great Conversion

by Tyger Gruber - Monday, October 17, 2016, 10:21 PM

Raised in an no religious household, I was never exposed to church until a few weeks ago when I made friends with a religious person. he invited me to his church and I went to see what it was like. Not really my style but I learnt that they really emphasize the importance of converting people. Learning about The Great Awakening, and realizing it was caused because of the newfound emphasis on subjective religious experiences and by making conversion such a prominent factor; I can see why that habit has stayed within religion.

The late 21st century has been much less religious than the past. Do you think religious would still exist today if it had never received that boost by the transition to subjective religious experience over objective heaven vs hell scenario? Curious how you think religious would look today if the transition never happened.

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The Great Awakening, needed for the development of the United States.

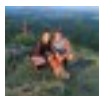
by Jake Preciado - Monday, October 17, 2016, 10:32 PM

The Great Awakening. Mainly a movement across the American Colonies, but also had traces in England, during the 1730s. The Great Awakening was allegedly started by American philosopher and minister Jonathan Edwards. It is said that his sermons were about sinners and how they were at the hands of an angry God and claimed that they're going to hell unless they repented of their sins to and turned to Christ for forgiveness. I believe that the United States of America would not have been founded on the same principles and values if it wasn't of The Great Awakening. This movement drastically changed life in the colonies. Common courtesy changed along with governing norms and every day customs. Also the idea of uniformity in religion became attainable within the colonies. Even though the colonies were originally founded on religious freedom a uniformity in religion was still desired. Although this idea of religious uniformity was a main idea the colonies were still scattered with Quakers and Anglicans. But nothing could derail the main theme that was the "primary American religion." Even though this time of new ideas this passion turned to the idea of revolution. John Adams even gave credit to the movement as the motivation behind war. So I firmly believe that The Great Awaking was necessary for the Colonies. With out this who knows, we never may have left The Royal Crown. Although people say that America doesn't have a religion (which it doesn't) we cannot deny that the basis and foundation of our country was based around scripture.

What do you guys think? Was The Great Awaking really needed to form the American government we know today.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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No correlation

by Peter Iten - Monday, October 17, 2016, 11:30 PM

After reading these articles, I agree most with Professor John Butler that the American Revolution cannot be directly tied to The Great Awakening. In my opinion both sides can be easily defended. However, I liked how Professor Butler noted that the colonial church was rapidly expanding before the revival. Prof Butler also states, "The growth of the colonial population from fewer than three hundred thousand in 1700 to over two million in 1770 made the expansion of even the most modestly active denominations highly likely." I think it's important to note that other factors such as this drastic increase in population would adversely affect religious attendance. Similar to the Great Awakening I think it's necessary to consider the other factors that should be taken into consideration

before claiming that religious revival was the driving force behind colonial succession from Britain. I'd first look towards economic sanctions such as the "Navigation Acts" and "Intolerable Acts" before the uprising of the so called "dissenting denominations", but that's just my opinion.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Both?

by Samuel Gibson - Monday, October 17, 2016, 11:55 PM

The "No" essay was a pretty thorough repudiation of the ideas expressed in the "Yes" essay, but the "Yes" essay was making a point that is broad enough to remain kind of valid despite that.

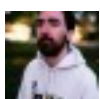
In the "No" essay, the writer's main point is that the popular conception of "The Great Revival" as a dramatic event with easily traced causes and consequences is a mischaracterization. He suggests that it was actually a series of regional events that were only loosely connected culturally and theologically, and that they had little significant impact on the mindset of the colonies regarding their desire for independence from Great Britain. After reading the essay I am pretty well swayed by the argument, although I have to admit that I am not familiar with a lot of the theological terms that the author used. He went to pretty serious lengths to demonstrate that different parts of the colonies had different levels of participation in the "Great Revival," and that the theological flavor of the different revivalist movements were pretty distinct.

On the other hand the "Yes" essay's broad idea that "The Great Revival" could have inspired a certain anti-authoritarianism that, perhaps, created more favorable conditions in the minds of the colonists for revolution is a good point that is hard to argue with. Whether it was a major factor or not, its entirely possible. Her more specific point that it was a "rehearsal" for the the revolution is a little more dubious

So, they both have points, but I think I'd have to lean towards the "No" essay. The "Yes" essay was definitely more readable... but that's not the question, I guess.

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The Great Awakening Shaped America

by Dylan Mandoli - Thursday, October 20, 2016, 12:03 AM

America is a country which was founded, explicitly, on a set of beliefs. While many modern governments are based on founding constitutions as ours is, the countries themselves often predate those governments by centuries. As the colonists coalesced into one American people, so too did their views, and America enjoys the unique position of having done that *before* forming into a nation, at least partially.

An important question to ask, then, is what these beliefs were, and where they came from. While it does not supply the whole picture, understanding the Great Awakening goes a long way in answering that question. The beliefs that minority opinions should be given equal consideration, that Authority must be legitimate to be followed, and that every man contains within him a the ability to determine for himself what is right and wrong, are all beliefs which grew and prospered in the Great Awakening, and stuck around to help build the worldview of the Founding Fathers.

America's distance from the motherland of Europe provided the colonists with the opportunity to experiment with new forms of social structure. The Enlightenment lead many to question if long-established autocratic structures, both in church and state, were truly the best way of doing things. Without long-established bishoprics and papal grants, America had little in the way of established clergymen. This lack of leadership too made it far easier to experiment with new church structures.

The Great Awakening stressed a personal approach to salvation. Through a conversion experience with the Holy Spirit, a man could earn salvation purely on his own, without the intercession of saints or the support of wise clerics. Congregations swiftly began to be lead into emotional experiences rather than contemplative gatherings. The Great Awakening stressed above all else the importance of the individual experience, and is there anything more quintessentially American than that?

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Vanessa Chenoweth - Thursday, October 20, 2016, 3:11 PM

One of the major points that Patricia U. Bonomi talks about that I agree with is when she talks about how Gilbert Tennent's "terrible and searching" sermons made it difficult for any person to submerge his or her identity in the group. I agree with this because it made his followers question his teachings and if they should seek greater edification elsewhere, as well as face wrenching decisions. Most ministers of the Presbyterian Church emphasized orthodoxy over a personal conversion experience (132). Tennent warned them that they were leading their people to hell, his attack split the church (132).

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Questioning the legitimacy of the Great Awakening on the Revolution.



by Alec Ebert - Thursday, October 20, 2016, 7:53 PM

For me, its much easier to think that it wasnt really the revivals that had a profound impact on the begginings of the revolution. it can be argued that several wanted to see the seperation from church and state, and the revivals were a possible new hope for that, however i think the more key factor was that the colonies were expanding at a rapid pace. In the words of Jon Butler "Revivals appear to have arisen when three circumstances were present— internal demands for renewal in different international Christian communities, charismatic preachers, and special, often unique, local circumstances that made communities receptive to elevated religious rhetoric." It seems to me that the colonist were just receptive to new thinking. Often brought on by more people and societies that could share and develop new opinions about the word of christ.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Questioning the legitimacy of the Great Awakening on the Revolution.

by Peter Iten - Friday, October 21, 2016, 11:31 PM

Alec, I had a similar view on the subject. I to agree that the rapid growth and additionally the economic success of the colonies (southern and chesapeake) had the biggest impact on the beginnings of the revolution. John Butler states "Obviously, the revivals provided little focus for intercolonial unity in the way some historians have described." This quote reminds us that the preachers during the awakenings were asking the people to separate themselves and focus their worship on a more personal level. It's this example of non-unification that leads me to believe the revivals weren't the greatest of motives for a revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Tyger - The Late Awakening (Reply) ft. Newfound knowledge

by Tyger Gruber - Thursday, October 20, 2016, 11:49 PM

When Patricia J. Bonomi makes it very clear that The Great Awakening is one of two main streams of thought, by saying "The two major streams of thought shaping western religious belief in the eighteenth century—Enlightenment rationalism and Continental pietism" she sets in clarity the presence of Enlightenment rationalism; as prominent as the republican or democratic parties knowledge looming over your head (3). As such, we are in a similar situation now a days, most of your friends and family are either Democrat or Republican, often separated by family and region. As such the majority of people in 1720 were one of the two aforementioned options. Later on, Patricia states that "A central issue separating supporters of the revival

from its opponents concerned the divisibility, or as some argued the indivisibility, of ecclesiastical authority." much like the voters of modern America, where ecclesiastical refers to ones relation to the Christain Church (4). Often people of a certain faith will oppose a political candidate because of their religious views, because of this both Hillary and Donald made it clear that they were Christains so they would appeal to the 70.6% of Americans which consider themselves a sect of Christain according to a Pew Reasearch Center study done in 2014. With this knowledge and juxtaposition in mind, If I were to say that America got into a war in a few dozen years, wouldn't todays politics be applicable to the future of our military and democratic positions?

Also, check out my Soundcloud if you've got time. [Acoustic Rock] Also found on Spotify and Tidal. Just put out a new song last week.

<https://soundcloud.com/ty-g-er/i-love-you-1644>

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Vanessa Chenoweth - Friday, October 21, 2016, 1:56 PM

I have to say that I don't really agree with all that John Butler has to say about what happened during the Great Awakening, but one part that caught my attention is when he talks about the 1736 Northampton revival. How it was one that touched "all sorts, sober and vicious, high and low, rich and poor, wise and unwise." I thought it interesting that he described it this way, and I agree a little bit with this because most colonists gathered to these revivals and each one of them landed in a different spectrum of being rich or poor as well as wise and unwise.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Alec Ebert - Friday, October 21, 2016, 7:51 PM

This paticular argument caught my attention as well. I think that thats mostly because of how relative it pertains to todays societies. Theres always been different classes of people in our country and many other countries around the globe and religion often acts as a social crutch for people to lean on, believing that some other outside power can save them from all of the perils and hardships of life on earth. Since we as humans have a concious and can rationalize thought, it makes us wonder where we come from. Religion is always evolving and we like to

gravitate towards what sounds better. In this case separation of church and state meant the possibility of a better life for the colonists. The revivals also focused in one's self interest with god, instead of a more communal approach to faith.

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Vanessa Chenoweth - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 11:19 AM

I mostly agree with Patricia Bonomi because I believe she made her point more clearly of the events that occurred during the Great Awakening. Like how the Awakening made colonists aware that they could make their own decisions about religion power. It also made religious conversions of the revivalist era were individualistic and egocentric. Also during the Great Awakening brought on that separatist Presbyterians and Congregationalists formed new societies.

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