



HST 201: History of United States F16 (Escobar Meta 20938 23214)

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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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Awakening the Revolutionary mind?

by Joseph Hemrick - Sunday, October 16, 2016, 3:23 PM

This was an interesting read, one I had not even considered before. Could The Great Awakening have been the foundation of the Revolutionary War, or just an exaggerated version of history?

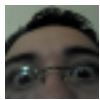
During my reading of Professor Bonomi's article, I felt as though she made some interesting points. "Impelled to justify their opposition, the revivalists developed novel arguments **defending the rights of minorities**, and they increasingly characterized the **authority against which they were rebelling as illegitimate, even tyrannical.**" (PDF pg.4) In defending their religious beliefs they are in a way setting the foundation for independence.

Even further with, "separatists constructed a defense that **stressed the rights of minorities against majorities, and of individuals against the whole,**" (PDF, pg.5) Those are pretty strong revolutionary words in my mind.

Do I think it's possible that the Great Awakening set the stage for the revolutionary war? To me, it is plausible. But Jon Butler makes some good counter points (continued in another post.)

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The missing link.

by Joseph Hemrick - Sunday, October 16, 2016, 3:23 PM

In Jon Butlers view, he states that, "it is obvious that revivals "swept" **only some of the mainland colonies,**" and "New Hampshire, Maryland, and Georgia **witnessed few revivals** in the same years." He then goes on to say, "The revivals also touched **only certain segments of the population in the colonies where they occurred.**" (PDF, pg.8) The idea that these revivals only occurred in small 'backwater' parts of the colonies are stated many times in his article, it is also mentioned that historians exaggerate many facts. (PDF pg.8) Which is something also mentioned in class, if firsthand accounts can be exaggerated, how are we to get a clear picture of history?

In the end, I am favoring Jon Butlers article than Patricia Bonomi's article, based on Butlers 'fourth' point. "The link between the revivals and the American Revolution is virtually nonexistent." (PDF pg. 11) The fact that there was little revolutionary rhetoric among the colonies during this time leads me to think, while the ideas of 'liberty and defending the minority' were certainly floating around, the Great Awakening was not the 'key' to the revolutionary war.

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Re: The Great Awakening - Individualism

by Zachary Fish - Sunday, October 16, 2016, 9:39 PM

I believe that the great awakening did lead to the american revolution. Patricia Bonomi stated that believed the great awakening broke down social cohesion (basically social cooperation) and elevated the individual. I believe that while doing this, the individual became more aware of its potential to thrive, create, and contribute more to society.

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Re: The Great Awakening - Individualism

by Joshua Vieira - Friday, October 21, 2016, 4:04 PM

After seeing the new evidence that Mr. Escobar has released I do have to agree that the Great Awakening did play a major role in changing the mindset of the colonist that they were not bound to England but should have the right to govern themselves. There a few lines on the website that really hits this thought home is that after the French and Indian war the Antichrist attitude was then directed to the George III and he was then seen as the Antichrist who had to be expelled from the colonies to bring a new era of righteousness.

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The Great Awakening NO

by Andres Ibarra - Monday, October 17, 2016, 5:01 PM

Jon Butlers starts off with stating the most common ways that historians describe The Great Awakening, then he takes his time picking apart each statement. One of his arguments was that he said "... calvinist religious revival in which converts acknowledged their sinfulness without expecting salvation..." then came back with an argument saying that "Calvinism never dominated the 18th century religious revivals..."

he also states that is hard to tell when this "Great Awakening" ever started or ended which also makes an argument about how religion could have been the key factor to American Revolution.

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Re: The Great Awakening



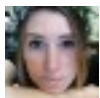
by Joshua Vieira - Monday, October 17, 2016, 8:18 PM

I would have to agree with Jon Butler on how “The Great Awakening” did not have a direct influence to the American Revolution. He points out on page 9 that” they appear too erratically in too few colonies under too many different auspices to make such generalizations appropriate.” He goes on to confirm this one page 10 as he writes “the prerevolutionary revivals should be understood primarily as regional events that occurred in only half the colonies.” This makes a great point that this was not something that was felt by all the colonist at the time and was a unifying agent for the colonies. The revivalist period happened 25 years before the American Revolution and burned out quickly. The “Great Awakening” did more to tear apart the communities that it went through, than it did to bring them together. At the time the Great Awakening was happening, American colonist were trying to be more British through a period of high consumption of British goods. On page 129 in our history book it says that “each succeeding generation of colonial Americans owned more British imports than previous generation..the American market for imported goods rose 120 percent between 1750 and 1773.”

I take this as the American colonies were impressed by British fashion and refinement and it was a way to still feel English even being far removed from it. Later taxation laws and the Crown imposing its rule on subjects that have never been to England and their families have lived in America for over a hundred years had more to do with the American Revolution than did the modest and quickly ending revival movement.

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The Impact

by Jaclyn Bahn - Monday, October 17, 2016, 10:50 PM

I agree with Patricia U. Bonomi’s perspective that the Great Awakening in America had a profound turning point in American Identity. Well the period of the Great Awakening was only at its peak for around a decade it was enough for the American identity of self to be born. The Idea of the individual is huge in america whether it manifests itself in the separation of church and state or our love of the underdog (in Bonomi’s words the minority). This Awakening also changed the way the church acted in our communities in a way that can still be felt. Turning them from a more or a financial and political power into just that of individual betterment.

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Re: The Impact

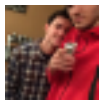


by Joshua Vieira - Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 6:41 PM

I would have to agree that the revival period did bring a new thought to the colonist by what Bonomi writes on page 3. "By promoting church separations and urging their follower's to make choices that had political as well as religious implications, the Awakeners wrought permanent changes in public practices and attitudes." I can see how this could open up a point of view for the colonist that they have never considered that they were able to change the status quo and the formation of unity as new nation. Unfortunately I don't think this mind set was brought to the masses, but a few backwoods colonists as Butler states on page 9 " the revivals provided little focus for intercolonial unity in the way some historian have described. They appeared too erratically in too few colonies under too many different auspices to make such generalizations appropriate."

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Re: The Impact

by Zachary Sielicky - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 10:48 AM

I also believe that religion produced the American Identity and that drove the colonists to seek freedom and separation from the crown. I like how how Bonomi describes how religion brought people together into one, almost like a family. She states

"As the Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America, it simultaneously elevated the individual... colonists had rarely conceived of themselves apart from a larger collectivity—the family, the congregation, or the town," (Bonomi).

This idea really highlights how the idea of individualism was not only present from person to person but also as a country as a whole, this idea exhibits anti-colonial rhetoric when you really look deep into the effect an individualized society acts.

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Zachary Sielicky - Monday, October 17, 2016, 10:51 PM

Though I do believe to some extent that the *Great Awakening* and the search and desire for religious prosecution did play a factor in the result of the Revolutionary War, I do believe it was not as big of an influence as business related issues such as taxes and trading sanctions such like the navigation acts. With this bias I almost

automatically lean towards Professor Jon Butler's argument more. Though Professor Bonomi does make very eye opening points about religious differences and struggles in the colonies, I believe that as Jon Butler said it best,

"Their social and political effects were minimal and usually local, although they could traumatize communities in which they upset, if only temporarily, familiar patterns of worship and social behavior."

At that time it would be much harder to bring multiple followers of various denominations of Christianity to come together to agree on something of this magnitude, especially when some followers of various religions did not get along in the first place. The problems I believe would have been on a much smaller, more local level.

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Over stressing Importance

by Miranda Marshall - Monday, October 17, 2016, 11:02 PM

I found myself more so agreeing with John Butler. I found it convincing when he explained that The Great Awakening was hard to find the exact date of in the first place and that it was only "a guess". I think the American Revolution would have come about either way and it wasn't of large significance to that portion of change. In the article it states "Historians also exaggerate the cohesion of leadership in revivals. They have accomplished this, in part, by overstressing the importance of Whitefield and Edwards" and that he faded away as the revival progressed. To me, this is a reflection of the whole awakening. The importance of the awakening was overstressed.

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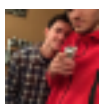
Re: Over stressing Importance

by Joshua Vieira - Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 6:49 PM

I too agree the American Revolution would have come about either way. One thing that I don't believe that the Great awakening played such a big part in the revolution is that it happened during a short period and it was 30 or so years before the American Revolution. The founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence in 1775 and the Great Awakening happened from somewhere between 1740 and 1745. I could see how it opened some new thoughts that the colonist didn't considered before but for me that is too long of a gap for it to be directly related to the revolution.

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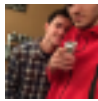
Re: Over stressing Importance

by Zachary Sielicky - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 10:41 AM

At first I agreed with everything that John Butler said too. I also think that the American revolution would have come about at some point because history shows that countries that are being held under control of another and colonized always seek to over throw the higher power and find liberty. But I do think that the Great Awakening had a major influence on the time in which the Revolution took place, it accelerated the process do to the cohesiveness that was brought about by religion, even though it was not a secular one.

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Zachary Sielicky - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 10:35 AM

After listening to the video on the Great Awakening, I got a better understanding of how the The Great Awakening really did have a major effect on the Revolutionary War. One thing that really caught my attention was the last minute of the video where the historians start discussing the effect that religion had on the masses, "Ethnic barriers, racial barriers, gender barriers were cut across the line in the Awakening," (5:38).

"The First Great Awakening was that event that got many people on the path to thinking of themselves as a separate people," (5:55).

These two quotes helped me understand how religion brought people from the colonies together and everyone was on the same page and what really triggered the idea that the Colonies were separate from England and its control in more than one facet.

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