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## Forum 3

### The Revolution – Conservative or Radical

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The Revolution – Conservative or Radical ►

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#### The Revolution – Conservative or Radical

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Friday, November 13, 2015, 10:50 PM

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. 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 Revolution – Conservative or Radical

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#### More in agreement with radicalism

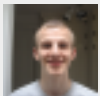
by [Justin Smith](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 12:39 PM

I would have to agree more with Gordon Wood that the revolution was a radical movement. The main topic that makes me agree with this stance is the fact that people were willing to fight against everything they had ever known and separate from the monarchy that they had been ruled by ever since the Europeans colonized America. But even more importantly, the new leaders of the United States decided to start a republic type government which had never worked before in history. In my opinion that is a very radical thing to do especially versus the conservative solution which would've probably been creating a monarchy in the colonies with representatives from the colonies instead of from Britain.

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#### Everything they knew?

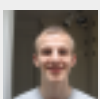
by [Robert Driver](#) – Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 10:24 PM

I don't think the American people were fighting against everything they knew. They saw themselves as one the freest peoples ever. They were fighting against the British government because they perceived it to be trying to take away their freedom. This is a contrast to most revolts where things go from bad to worse, and people get so fed up with it that they throw of the tyranny they've known their whole lives.

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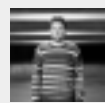
#### Monarchy to republic: always a radical change?

by [Robert Driver](#) – Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 8:25 PM

Technically, America did change from a monarchy into a republic. But I think the biggest change was that the new government would not have the power to do the things that the Americans hated the old British

government doing. I'm no expert on how the British government worked back then, but I think it was very similar to a republic, with limits on the king's power and a separate legislative body with at least one house having elected members. The government of the United States was more limited than the British government, had no nobility, and had an elected President instead of a king. Even if it was inspired in part by the ancient Greek and Roman republics, the United States government was very similar to the old British government. This is one of the reasons that I would say that the American Revolution was a more conservative movement.

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**Re: More in agreement with radicalism**  
*by [Justin Cox](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 1:37 PM*

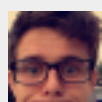
Justin,

Your opinion is well put. I can appreciate your perspective. However, you erred in my view when you wrote "the new leaders of the United States decided to start a republic...." As Carl Degler wrote, "no new social class came to power through the door of the American Revolution. The men who engineered the revolt were largely members of the colonial ruling class" (p. 125 Degler).

Earlier in the term we learned about a period in in American history dominated by the concept of Salutary neglect. During this time, British authority over the American colonies was lax and sometimes even non-present. This policy seems to have come arisen out of mutual convenience-- Brits didn't have to invest too much time and effort appeasing colonists while colonists were free to largely govern themselves. When England tried to reassert it's authority over the colonies, the colonists balked.

In my opinion, the American Revolution was a conservative attempt to reassert a feeling of self-destiny that colonists has become accustomed to during the period of Salutary neglect. I found that no new social class came to power, as Degler wrote, to be the most compelling argument for this idea.

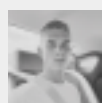
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**Re: The Revolution was not a Conservative Movement**  
*by [Nikita Douglass](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 6:05 PM*

In the American Revolution, people in the colonies fought to be independent because they were tired of the British Empire being in charge. They were not happy with the actions the British Empire took, primarily passing laws, such as the Stamp Act and Tea Act, which raised taxes that only benefited the British Empire. To protest the tax laws, they stopped buying British products and refused to follow British laws. One definition of conservative is “Holding to traditional attitudes and values and cautious about change or innovation, typically in relation to politics or religion” (www.oxforddictionary.com); therefore, I support Gordon S. Wood that the American Revolution was not a conservative movement. The colonies were not afraid to go against British Empire to build their own government.

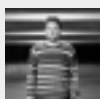
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**The American Revolution; a Radical Movement**  
*by [Jacob Brands](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 7:51 PM*

After reading about both points of view I would say I have to agree with Gordon Wood, the Amercian Revolution was a radical movement. In my opinion, it was a radical movement because we chose to wage full on war with Britain so we could obtain our freedom. I do not think it should be considered "conservative" when there are thousands of people dying for the cause. I also think Gordon Wood makes a very strong point about the Revolution producing a unique democratic society. No other republic in the world had worked and I'm sure a lot of people thought the idea was crazy but the founding fathers still chose to do it anyway and I believe that should be considered more radical than conservative.

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**Re: The American Revolution; a Radical Movement**

by [Justin Cox](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 6:13 PM

You suggest that the fact that the colonies declared war on Britain, is, in itself, enough to deem the American Revolution a radical revolution. What then defines a "conservative" revolution?

Must a revolution be non-violent to be conservative? What about a coup d'etat, a non-physical show of violence? Is that a conservative revolution due to the restraint of the revolutionists?

I consider instead the fundamental goals or values of the revolutionaries as the basis for definition of radical or conservative revolutions. I believe the American colonists revolted against the British crown in order to conserve their way of life.

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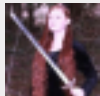
**The ideals of the Revolution**

by [Robert Driver](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 9:38 PM

While the American Revolution did produce some social changes, I don't think it was really radical. I agree with Degler that many of the "revolutionary" ideals already existed in America, and were merely strengthened during the Revolution. Freedom of religion, for example, can be traced all the way back to William Penn's ideals when he founded Pennsylvania (see page 76 of the textbook). These ideals did not appear "almost overnight," but gradually, in the years leading up to the Revolution.

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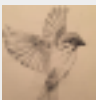
**Re: The ideals of the Revolution**

by [Bethany Scott](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 11:37 AM

One of our videos also made mention of John Locke's argument in 1689 (far before the revolution): that the law of nature obliged all human beings not to harm the life, liberty, or possessions of another. The colonists were mostly British and proud to be so, and felt that not even as Americans but as British citizens that they were being ripped off and denied certain liberties within the standards of their own (traditional British) law and more so the ideals of many British philosophers such as Locke. The mindset had long been with them, even if the right combination of circumstances for conflict were not present.

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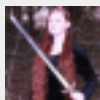


**Conservative**

by [Jacob St. Clair](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 10:12 PM

After reading both arguments I had one major question. What makes a revolution a revolution? Both seem to agree that change did take place, but the extent of the change that took place seems to be the deciding factor for whether or not the American Revolution was a conservative movement. The definition I found of a revolution was, a forcible overthrow of a government or social order in favor of a new system. This definition leads me to side with Degler.

Both Degler and Wood seem to agree on many points. The American Revolution started because of colonists being upset with taxation with no representation. Ultimately the tipping point was The Boston Tea Party. It lead to abolition of slavery and the disestablishment of the Anglican Church which eventually lead to the separation of church and state. I think who put it best was actually Wood. He described the revolution as, "A constitutional defense of American rights against British encroachments," (pg. 131). Both Degler and Wood agreed this Revolution was bound to happen eventually, and both also agreed this was nothing like the French Revolution. "The men who engineered the revolt were largely members of the colonial ruling class," (pg. 125). And finally, "The loyalist departure did not decapitate the colonial social structure, as some have suggested – it only removed those most attached to the mother country," (pg. 125). This is why I believe it was a conservative movement. No government was overthrown. Rather the political leaders of a new found America were trying to carry out their beliefs on what America was meant to be to begin with.



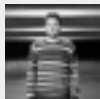
**Re: Conservative**  
by [Bethany Scott](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 11:46 AM

I'm glad someone else noted that they voiced a lot of the same points, which I suppose is encouraging as far as watching for unfair bias or historical misrepresentation goes. Its also good to have a clear definition of revolution, like you found. The British government certainly wasn't overthrown, and the colonists, whether they held patriot or loyalist leanings, all seemed to agree with the same ideals for which the colonies were founded; the loyalists simply didn't see them as "unbritish" at all, but instead a part of their proud heritage with and attachment to Britain, for example their understanding of British law and the value of a man and hard work which stemmed from the ideals of British citizens at least a 100 years back.



**Radical and Remarkable Revolution**  
by [Taylor Knox](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 10:49 PM

I agree most with Gordon S. Wood who says no, the American Revolution was not a conservative movement. He starts out his article by listing the reasons why it is very much so a conservative revolution which seems counterintuitive at first but he is actually using this as a way to show how it was very different from all previous revolutions which makes it much more radical and different than anything that came before it. Wood points out that by “destroying monarchy and establishing republics they were changing their society as well as their governments” (page 132) which shows that this is both a social and political movement. He goes on to discuss how the Revolution created a society completely fundamentally different then that of the colonial society and did so without industrialization or urbanization, which makes it truly remarkable. One of the most powerful points that Wood makes is on page 134, which discusses how the Revolution eliminated the monarchy and established republics. I think this ties into the video we watched in class that explained that no other republic in history has ever succeeded which proves this is not only a radical movement but truly remarkable because it was able to do what no other society has ever done before, transform from a monarchy to a successful and surviving republic that still stands today.



**Re: Radical and Remarkable Revolution**  
by [Justin Cox](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 9:21 PM

I agree that forming a federal republic was a radical act. However, I don't think the American colonists revolted against the crown because they really wanted a federal republic.

I think colonists began to revolt when they began to fear the loss of their customary way of life. As the last speaker in the *American Revolution -- 4.5 mins in length* video, Historian Dan Higginbotham, said "the colonists saw themselves as the freest people in the world, living in the kind of society envisioned by 18th century philosophers." My opinion is that colonists revolted against the crown in an effort to protect a way of life they felt was being threatened.

I believe this makes my perspective a neoconservative historical perspective.



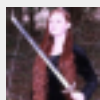
**Re: Radical and Remarkable Revolution**  
by [Taylor Knox](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 10:43 PM

I agree with that video quote and you that the American colonists didn't revolt against the crown because they really wanted a federal republic and it was more of a way to protect themselves but do you think that reason alone makes it not a radical revolution? I think that regardless of the reason of the revolt the society that went into the revolution and the society that emerged are vastly different and quite astonishing. And even though a federal republic wasn't there main goal, it was the outcome and greatly

changed almost every aspect of life.

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**RE: true & radical– conservative and not quite a revolution?**

by [Bethany Scott](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 11:09 PM

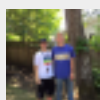
A quick question before I get into meatier responses, just for clarity's sake: in the handout issued in class (pg 120) the question "was the American revolution a *true* revolution" is posed, I'm assuming on the note that if it was conservative it was not "true", at least to strict constructionists. That it would've had to have been a radical movement, producing significant and deep societal change (pg 120) to fit the strict constructionists definition of a revolution?

Clearly we call it the American revolution, it fits the looser definition for a revolution, the majority identifies it as a revolution, so wouldn't it seem that the majority hold it to be true, whether radical or not? I suppose it simply confuses me, much like popular memes of the internet, claiming that "a real man/woman fulfills \_\_\_ qualifications"...well, I was of the opinion that real simply meant in the realm of existence, more often than not tangible but always producing some sort of use/action. On the same line of thinking, wouldn't a *true* revolution be a revolution that falls into the loosest terms, even if it is not a "proper" revolution?

Then again, perhaps semantics are unnecessary in this conversation.

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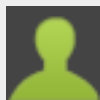
**The Conservatists Revolution**

by [Troy Grove](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 11:26 PM

After reading the provided text I have come to the conclusion that, in my mind, the American Revolution was undoubtedly a conservative movement. The revolutionaries wanted to maintain order without risking drastic changes. On page 122 of Carl N. Degler's argument he talks about how Virginia disestablished the Anglican Church, but then allowed religious freedom to those living there, supporting the conservative ideology. Another example can be found on page 242 in our textbook when the authors say "Those who looked closely saw that Hamilton's Bank of the United States was a carbon copy of the Bank of England.". Lastly, on page 125 of Carl N. Degler's argument he says "For the most part, the society of post-revolutionary America was but the working out of social forces which were already evident in the colonial period." Even after the revolution took place things were fairly similar to the commoners. Slaves were still slaves, Indians were still savages and women still didn't have equal rights. No new social class came to power from it either. The engineers of the revolt were still among the ruling class. It is clear that the American Revolution was in fact a conservative movement.

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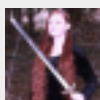
**Re: The Revolution – Conservative or Radical**

by [Parker Maidlow](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 11:55 PM

given that the constitution after the revolution paved the way for sentiments/values that eventually ended slavery, and that freedom of religion was significantly promoted, I conclude that social changes were significant enough

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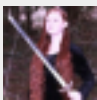
**Re: The Revolution – Conservative or Radical**

by [Bethany Scott](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 12:03 PM

Significant enough...to be radical? Were these values spurred by the conflict itself, or had they already long been in the colonists? I hate to step on the toes of what will probably be a forum in a totally different class, but were the "sentiments" that propelled the civil war primarily and solely about slavery? A quick glance into Abraham Lincoln's (and many other unionist') own position on the subject for a good deal of the war is a good deal less inspiring than you might think, and perhaps may add to the idea of just how traditional (aka conservative) this country's leaders preferred things to be.

Also, add the information we attained yesterday in class– the conflict came to its boiling point over a tea tax and other restrictions the colonists felt infringed on their liberty, and following their independence John Adams went and imposed a very high tea tax and other restrictive and downright unjust enforcement such as punishment for "seditious libel"– going back to the "authority shall not be questioned" and "rank shall be revered and respected, or else" mentality that the colonists strove to break while under British direction.

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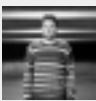
**Re: The Revolution – Conservative or Radical**

by [Bethany Scott](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 12:46 PM

To clarify on Lincoln as I realize that my statement may have come out as an implication for supposed support: Lincoln of course did not support slavery nor did the union, but their reasoning was that slavery was a big enough deal to the economy of the south that the south wouldn't sway on it, meaning that to keep the states together they would have to either 1. spread slavery to all of the states (an obvious no) or 2. Oppose the south to irradiate it entirely for the sake of the nation's unity.

Yes the civil war was about slavery, but not because the majority of Americans vehemently opposed the institution, as is generally implied. Any and all ideals of liberty and every man's right to it were gradually developed over the course of the colonist's time here, even under the British crown, which implies less of a radical change by the time of the "revolution".

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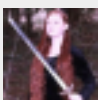
**Degler convinces me**

by [Justin Cox](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 11:59 PM

The author whose opinion I agree with most is Carl N. Degler. I was especially compelled by his use of statistics regarding political office holdings on ‘gentlemen’ before and after the American Revolution. Degler made it clear than the political leaders in post–revolution America were largely made up of those who had also lead before the war. It begets a fundamental question that Gordon S. Wood never satisfactorily addresses: How can a revolution be deemed “radical” if the class of people who are leading after are composed mostly of those who had led before?

Carl N. Degler convinced me that the American Revolution was a conservative movement.

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**Re: Degler convinces me**

by [Bethany Scott](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 12:07 PM

That's (your question is) a very good point. They (the leaders) were quite wealthy, respected, of high status, and of a federalist view–point, still holding to a similar way of thinking to the British law before, simply governing without their presence or enforcement.

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**The American Revolution and the creation of a Democratic society**

by [Cole Fritz](#) – Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 11:35 AM

I agree with historian Gordon S. Wood, who argued that the American Revolution was radical event that produced a unique democratic society. With this being said it means that the American Revolution wasn't a conservative movement, because of the way the colonists went about in making a change. This wasn't a normal revolution with uprisings over societal changes, but instead it consisted of intellectual changes that dealt with defending American rights from the British. This created a democratic society that encompassed ideals created by the founding fathers, who saw America as a society where every man is created equal. As Gordon Wood said, "if we measure the radicalism by the amount of social change that actually took place–by transformations in the relationships that bound people to each other–then the American Revolution wasn't conservative at all; on the contrary: it was radical." This is saying that the revolution wasn't a conservative movement, because of the way it

changed peoples social relationships; not because of how the government was overthrown.

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**Re: The American Revolution and the creation of a Democratic society**  
by [Jacob St. Clair](#) – Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 4:14 PM

Cole Fritz, when you say, "This is saying the revolution wasn't a conservative movement, because of the way it changed people social relationships; not because of how the government was overthrown," I'm assuming you're talking about the removal of British rule, are you not? If so, and the change in people's social relationships with the production of a democratic society makes this movement radical; I'm still left with the same question. What make's a revolution a revolution, and radical one at that? Does a lower social class have to rise up against political leaders, or is this social change enough. What does everyone here think? Nothing drastic seemed to change. Colonial rulers seemed to gain more freedom to rule how they pleased (even if their intentions were for the better of the people). Any thoughts?

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**Re: The American Revolution and the creation of a Democratic society**  
by [Bethany Scott](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 12:28 PM

How greatly did it change people's social relationships, as opposed to when they were contentedly under British jurisdiction and command? The way that colonists lived was indeed very different from anywhere else, and many of the ideals that shaped how they lived and related to each other were present before they had a desire to break from Britain—they wanted liberty but still wanted authority and that connection to their past. As one of the overview videos points out, most of the changes in mentality had already been made by the time the "conflict" that we refer to as the actual revolution arose.

The point can be made that it was rather because of these gradually developed and strengthened ideals of liberty and accustomed taste for lack of authoritative intervention during periods of lax involvement from the homeland that the conflict occurred. They had tasted the good oreos, and would never settle for generic again, and get rather upset if told to do so. This makes the "revolution" (overthrowing) or more accurately "redesignation" of power hardly radical at all, rather a people saying "we can do what you're attempting to do BETTER on our own, and on our own terms" which isn't entirely true (consider how the crown had to step in during colonist–native conflict) but the sentiment of a still very much British people nonetheless.

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**Re: The Revolution a Radical Movement**  
by [Nikita Douglass](#) – Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 7:41 PM

The American Revolution was extremely radical. North American colonies went up against the nation with the most powerful military, while having no money, a lack of supplies and ammunition/weapons. North American leaders wanted to start something new, and to create their own government. Maybe not every slave was free, nor were women equal to men; however, the American society was changing.

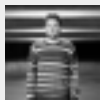
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**Re: The Revolution a Radical Movement**  
by [Justin Smith](#) – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 4:54 PM

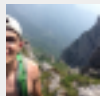
Very good point. Its funny how even in this very radical idea that little glimpses of conservatism are still showing up. The Continental Army was so poorly equipped because a lot of people didn't really want to buy into the whole ordeal, i feel like a lot of people may have been very supportive of the theoretical idea of a revolution, yet when it came time to either fight for the army or build and provide supplies for the movement people became very hesitant to do so. I wasn't there, so i cant accurately say why they didn't want to buy into it all, but i think there was a certain aspect of uncertainty that they would be able to support themselves without the help of British rule.



**Re: The Revolution a Radical Movement**  
by [Justin Cox](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 1:47 PM

I can agree that the notion of taking on the most powerful military in the world is a radical one, especially when you have next to no army of your own. However, what was the reasoning that led to that radical notion? What could motivate a nation to risk the lives of so many at such bad odds?

I believe the motivation was an attempt to *conserve* the way of life colonists had come to enjoy. That way of life included self-government, religious devolution and dignity. When that way of life was threatened, the colonists took a radical step to defend it.

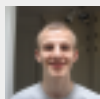


**The Revolution – Grey Area**  
by [Joshua Kaleel](#) – Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 2:42 PM

This argument has more of a grey area than either of the authors suggest. Both present solid evidence, but also some bias when it came to what their definitions of revolution were. Can a bunch of old rich white guys begin a revolution? Does revolution require people to be at rock bottom, or can it be led by lawyers?

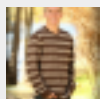
If this revolution was as conservative as Car N. Degler says, is it realistic to view the revolution as a mutual agreement that “the Americans more than any other people are convinced that all men are born free & equal”? Does the fact that before this quote, Degler states “Despite the lowly position accorded the Negro” not taint his statement? To base the argument that there was a “lack of profound & widespread social & economic change” due to the fact that they had been prosperous under British reign seems to completely ignore all of the challenges & tolls that the americans had gone through to separate from that crown in the first place. Ignoring the challenging pieces of the revolution because it was led by “stuffy gentlemen in knee breeches” also ignores the other radical attributes of the revolution that Wood describes as being “as radical & as revolutionary as any in history” when measured by the social change that took place.

“A momentous upheaval that affected the course of subsequent history” may be a bit too far on the radical side, when describing the American Revolution, but describing it as “the working out of social forces which were already evident in the colonial period” it seems to be underplaying it a bit to say the least. Sometimes revolution looks like a flowing, reckless, chaotic act by the masses. Other times it looks like previous political figures & wealthy men sitting around having meetings. To define the american revolution as one or the other is not realistic to me, it included conservative & radical action.



**Relative Equality**  
by [Robert Driver](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 3:58 PM

The weakness of Degler’s argument would be that all the quotes about the American beliefs of equality were taken from around 10 years after the revolution, not the fact that there were still groups that were still discriminated against. Despite this discrimination, Americans believed in the ideals of freedom and equality more than any other nation, and were more equal than other peoples. But Degler provides little evidence that these ideals were around long before the revolution, which would make his argument stronger. I think these ideals were already present in American society (they didn’t just spring up out of nowhere), they just weren’t quite as strong before the revolution as they were after it.



**Aspects of both come into play**  
by [Justin Smith](#) – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 4:41 PM

This topic is very much like any other debated topic, it isn't 100% radical and it isn't 100% conservative; rather a

combination of the two. For example, it can definitely be considered conservative in the sense that there wasn't any new social classes (it was still the same powerful people from each state as it was before the revolution), however i think you can also look in a radical way and say that even though it was still the same people in power. Not only did these people have to start a government more or less from scratch, they had to come up with a constitution that would not please only themselves but the population of the United States as well.

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**Relative Radicalism**

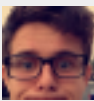
by [Robert Driver](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 7:06 PM

Part of this is that radicalism is relative. The ideas of representative government, liberty, and upward mobility that were radical in other parts of the world had already existed for a long time in America. The revolution didn’t transform America into a radical country; America was radical long before the revolution (as is stated in the 3-minute documentary clip). It could be argued that the revolution was radical because it happened in a radical country. But it was conservative because it strengthened the ideals that were traditional in the place where it occurred, even if those ideas were radical elsewhere.

And no matter how “radical” the revolutionary leaders were, they had to create a government that conservatives would be satisfied with. This would make a more conservative government, not a more radical one.

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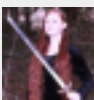
**Re: The Revolution was Radical**

by [Nikita Douglass](#) – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 10:15 PM

After the American Revolution, even though many Americans gained freedom and power, most of them were white households. Many slaves got their freedom through military service, either fighting for the British Empire or the North American colonies. However, slavery still remained in some colonies, and the ones who became free didn’t earn equal power. Women had the right to vote or to be somewhat equal as white men only if their man was away fighting or had passed away. In this situation women were in charge of the household, owned land and had the right to vote. “Many slaves won freedom, and women struggled for greater dignity. Both succeeded only when their goals proved compatible with the ambitions of white households”. (pg.219)

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**Re: The Revolution – Gradual, not radical**

by [Bethany Scott](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 2:24 PM

"For the most part, the society of post-revolutionary America was but the working out of social forces that were already evident in the colonial period. It is significant, for example, that no new social class came through the doors of the American revolution. The men who engineered the revolt were largely members of the colonial ruling class" – Carl Degler.

Since women's voting rights, slavery, and children's rights are a big part of the discussion of radical ideas brought about by the revolution, lets have a comparison, shall we?

1833– end of slavery in Great Britain

1865– end of slavery in the United states of America

1918–Women 30 and over win the right to vote in Britain

1920– Women win the right to vote in the US

1928– Women 21 and over win the right to vote in Britain

1833–1876– major children's labor laws in Britain (started in 1802), the last date being an enforcement of age requirements

1938– USA passes fair labor standards act, setting an age minimum of 16 for dangerous work

Voting rights for "Blacks"?

The US theoretically adopted full male suffrage with the 15th amendment in 1870, but this was not practically implemented in the south until the voting rights act of 1965.

Britain has had a long battle amongst its lands as to equal suffrage because in many cases the right to vote depended on wealth and land holding until the *Representation of the People* act in 1918.

The dates here would imply that the same ideals held by the Americans with their new-found freedom was also held very closely by the British, only the British accomplished these "radical" achievements of equality and well-being more quickly than the states, due to time taken up in the disagreements over legislature amongst the states and in the case of slavery, a war. Brits in Brtiain shared many of the same passions and desires and demands of their country and countrymen as far as morality went that US citizens did at the time of every achievement. If radical ideals is the primary argument being made for the radical nature of the revolution, I simply cannot draw a rational tie between the two. Colonists were an image of their relatives as far as beliefs, a reflection much like a rebelling child to a controlling parent.

The ideals did not radically but gradually change, the leadership remained much the same (75% of it, according to Degler), that leadership still being the already successful, wealthy, prominent, elite, and revered in their respected communities, and the proposals they set forth not a far cry from what many Englishmen believed to be their God-given rights. The conflict itself was unusual to be sure for by all logical means the English should have won (and without France's aid to the colonist's and Washington's leadership they very well may have). Peculiarity aside, the definition of a revolution, be you a strict or loose constructionist, does not fit the means to be radical.

1. On the loose side, the colonists did not overthrow Britain and replace them in the sense that many other bloody revolutions have attempted to, the very definition of "overthrow" being to forcibly remove from power. The British were never fully in control to begin with, most the leadership being colonists...recall that much of the outrage escalated when Britain physically stepped in and attempted to take over local governing. How can you overthrow a power that had it's foot in the door but for the most part had allowed you to build strong communities of your own leaders and governors?

2. On the strict side, much of the radical thinking of the colonists had been present in the type of Brit likely to traverse to a new land for a totally fresh start long before such tension in the colonies. Given a taste of success, freedom, and self-governing, this people had already begun to change and grow and develop ideas on freedom from the very first ship of colonists to arrive here. Influenced by philosophers like John Locke and many from their home nation which they were very proud of, it can hardly be said that the conflict itself spurred the individuality and attitude towards freedom of this baby nation; the actions of John Adams and other federalists are a good example of how small their comfort zone for change was. Change came gradually, the seeds for which were indeed planted within the colonists and aggravated and nurtured by the actions of the British government, but clearly not seen in bloom immediately. This and many other factors leads me to believe it was a conservative revolution.

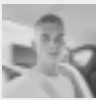
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**Re: The Revolution definitely a Radical Movement**  
by [Nikita Douglass](#) - Friday, November 20, 2015, 4:52 PM

After the American Revolution there were major social changes; some of the laws were swept away. Leaders were not as wealthy and they were less likely to be connected to the family. Many people gained power as citizens of the colonies, people were more involved in political decisions and some slaves gained freedom. "...the American Revolution was a radical event because America was the first nation to hold democratic values, allowing ordinary people to make money, pursue happiness, and rule themselves" Gordon S. Wood.

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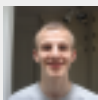
**A Radical Movement**  
by [Jacob Brands](#) - Friday, November 20, 2015, 8:18 PM

I've seen multiple people say they do not believe it was a radical movement because a revolution is defined as an

overthrow of a government. But the British government existed in the colonies and they still had some control over the colonists and to choose to go to war to gain their freedom from the Brlrish government should be considered a radical movement.

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**Re: A Radical Movement**

by [Robert Driver](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 8:49 PM

The British government was not overthrown (completely obliterated) by the "revolution", just weakened. This isn't really an argument for how radical or conservative the "revolution" was. It's just questioning whether it is technically a revolution according to the loose constructionist definition.

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**The Conservatists Revolution part 2**

by [Troy Grove](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 7:28 PM

Continuing with the new material provided for this week’s forum discussion has even further solidified my original position that the American Revolution was a conservative movement. In the first video Shiela Skemp (2:23) talks about how the colonists were steeped, or influenced, by English tradition of rights and were also influenced in the Magna Carta and John Lockes natural rights of: life, liberty, and property, all of which were cornerstones of the U.S. Constitution. Each example provides a conservative theme. They wanted change, but the changes were based on ideas that had already been solidified by Britain. Just like how the “Bank of the United States was a carbon copy of the Bank of England.” (pg 242). At (2:11) Jon Butler says, “Americans had developed a new political order, they effectively developed legislatures” once again supporting slight change, but developing a government system nonetheless. Lastly at the beginning of the video (0:15) Gordon Wood describes one of the “interpretations” of revolutions by saying that it is just a change or overthrow of government that is a violent one usually. This supports what I said in my last post how no new social class came of the American Revolution. The evidence I’ve provided in the videos and the readings clearly support my conservative theme.

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