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The Great Awakening

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The Great Awakening

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Saturday, October 17, 2015, 11:03 AM

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 Great Awakening

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Contributing Factors of the Overall Picture

by [Amanda Power](#) – Sunday, October 18, 2015, 9:57 PM

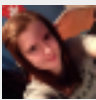
In the debate of the Great Awakenings Contribution to the American Revolution, I have to side with the argument of American historian, Jon Butler. Like Butler, I too have difficulty believing that the eighteenth century colonial religious revivals directly had any impact on the American Revolution.

The greatest piece of historical evidence I feel that he presented in support of his claim was in his mention that *“the expansion of the leading evangelical denominations, Presbyterians, and Baptists, can be traced to many causes, not just revivalism, or the Great Awakening”*. Butler references that many revivals had taken place prior to the “Great Awakening”, during which was also time when the colonies experienced a major population boom. This increase in the population from fewer than three hundred thousand, to over two million people, making the expansion of even the most modestly active denominations highly likely. He proceeded to mention that this was especially true because so many colonists did not settle in established communities with established religious institutions.

These combined components can appear to blow the magnitude of the revivals out of proportion. It goes to show that before putting too much weight or emphasis on one “historically altering event”, one must also consider other simultaneously happening at that point in history.

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Colonial Wars not The Great Awakening

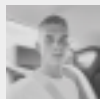
by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Monday, October 19, 2015, 2:17 PM

I agree with historian Jon Butler. He made many valid points on why the Great Awakening was not a key part in sparking the American Revolution. The Great Awakening did not happen throughout all the colonies. As Jon said, the revivals only occurred in some of the mainland colonies and only touched certain segments of those colonies. The Great Awakening did reach a mass amount of people, but there were still a significant amount of people that were not affected by it and yet still participated in the American Revolution. The revivals did not

bring significant intercolonial unity, due to the fact that they were erratic and in too few colonies. This is a good point that the Great Awakening did not produce a significant enough change that could be later linked to the sparking the American Revolution. I feel the best analysis Jon Butler gave was that the colonial wars during that time could be better linked to the American Revolution. These wars brought attention the need for political change and ultimately had a more profound effect on the American Revolution.

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A Different Point of View

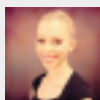
by [Jacob Brands](#) – Monday, October 19, 2015, 6:42 PM

After reading a couple of the posts, I saw that both people agree with American Historian Jon Butler and that they do not believe The Great Awakening had any direct influence on the American Revolution. Both of these posts had valid points and made a strong case for why Jon Butler would be correct.

Although if you look at it from a different point of view, I believe it did have an impact on the American Revolution. Once The Great Awakening started, the colonists realized they were not under England's rule as much as they were in the past and they had more freedom to do and think as they wish. After opening people's minds and showing them they don't just have to believe in what they are told I think it must've had a strong impact on the American Revolution.

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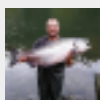
Broad Interpretation

by [Amanda Power](#) – Thursday, October 22, 2015, 9:09 PM

Though I agree with you that there may have been a mild influence of the "Great Awakening" preceding the American Revolution, I have to disagree with one word that you used in presenting your point: colonists. This may be overly "nit-picky" of me, but the word colonists is a very broad and general term which gives the reader the impression of all the people in all of the colonies. It is true that when the American Revolution came into effect there grew a more unifying and mutual bond amongst the colonies. However, with the "Great Awakening" not all colonists were involved, or even colonies for that matter. As stated by other students previously in this forum, Jon Butler mentions that the Awakening consisted of a few "scattered out breaks" only sweeping "through some of the mainland colonies...Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia" . Butler's usage of vocabulary and historical account suggests that the "great Awakening" did not have as profound of an impact as some may interpret. This makes it hard to believe that it could have made any substantial contribution to the American Revolution.

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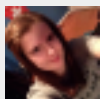
Re: A Different Point of View

by [Daniel Swisher](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 8:25 AM

I agree with you when you say that people had must've had a different way of thinking after the first Great Awakening. Therefore impacting the American Revolution. I can only guess as to what it would be like to be able to think for yourself for the first time. Not exactly something we have to deal with in todays world.

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Re: A Different Point of View

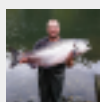
by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 4:37 PM

The point you're making is a valid one. The Great Awakening was a key in helping the colonist rise up and take action. It helped unify numerous amounts of people and brought some significant change. I do agree with you that it does have some relevance to the American Revolution. Though I feel not a large part. It did help unify some colonist, but the Great Awakening did not occur in every colony and many parts of the colonies were not affected. Also I believe, rather than the Great Awakening that as Jon Butler said, colonial

wars had a more influential impact in sparking the American Revolution.

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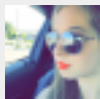
Great Awakening impact weak at best

by [Daniel Swisher](#) – Monday, October 19, 2015, 8:09 PM

I agree with Jon Butler when he says that The Great Awakening did not directly influence the American Revolution. Although Patricia Bonomi makes a good point when she says that private judgment and intuitive understanding had equal if not superior claim on the conscience. In a word, decision making had been internalized. I feel like this indirectly impacted the American Revolution. People are now thinking for themselves and making their own decisions. In its entirety though, the first Great Awakening created no intercolonial religious institutions and fostered no significant experiential unity in the colonies.

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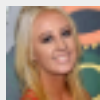
Re: Great Awakening impact weak at best

by [Kaitlyn DiMercurio](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 11:16 PM

I totally agree with you. The Great Awakening was significant because of the attitude it brought to American culture of the time. It was the result of a build-up as colonists were being oppressed from their desire to expand and create wealth for themselves because England was constantly trying to tax them and send in soldiers etc. Somewhere along the line a few people probably began to act on these notions and it caught fire and the Great Awakening was born out of the result of a peak in the colonists' distaste for the foreign leadership and that took form in the splinting of churches and people making passive revolts on their leaders. It wasn't the even of the Great Awakening that lead to the American Revolution but it was the growing attitude of the nation that started before and continued after the Great Awakening.

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The power of the individual

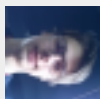
by [Kelsey Huber](#) – Monday, October 19, 2015, 9:15 PM

Although I do agree with points from both experts in their arguments, one of Patricia Bonomi's points stood out to me. Prior to the Great Awakening, colonists conceived themselves as a "family," with tradition and religion similarities. Once these episodes started, colonists were able to differentiate themselves and have a religious freedom of choosing what and how to believe. Bonomi says, "As the Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America, it simultaneously elevated the individual," (p 5.) Though there personal decisions were religious based, they were still able to decide and act whether it would create a positive or negative effect on society. Not only did the Great Awakening bring individualism, it also brought a different type of family to colonies.

Even though I do not agree on the fact that the Great Awakening did start the American Revolution, I feel that it did have an impact toward colonists coming together under a common cause. For example, the Freemasons reacted negatively toward the revivals; however, their decision was personal and they were able to create a sense of brotherhood from that, regardless on the effect toward society, (Liberty, Equality... p 134.)

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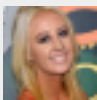
Re: The power of the individual

by [Drew Chappel](#) – Friday, October 23, 2015, 11:27 AM

The Great Awakening video suggests that revivals were sparked after religious speakers such as Edwards and Whitefield, started preaching their sermons that were committed to spreading the word of the bible in an emotional style. As a result, the colonists began to think individually about their actions on a personal level, rather than about what their actions will do for society. This is because their sermons attracted great amounts of people (as many as 30,000 at one point,) and the religion of the heart appealed to the colonists

more than the religion of the head. After this, yes, the colonists were able to differentiate themselves and have religious freedom. Bonomi suggests that The Great Awakening created conditions that were favorable to reform, and later suggests that since Americans have taken part in the dismantling of corporal religion, they are more likely to do it again (hinting at the American Revolution.) The question the really comes to my mind is: If the Great Awakening never happened in history, would Americans still have individual thought and emotionally based decisions that would later be a great factor in the American Revolution? Would they have figured it out some other way, had it not been for the religious speakers of the time?

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Re: The power of the individual
by [Kelsey Huber](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 2:25 PM

I’m really glad you brought up the point of “what if” the Great Awakening never happened. The video gave great perspective on how much a single sermon could lead to so many conversions. Race, gender and class did not matter. Even though not everyone participated in the sermons, there was enough involvement that created a religious movement and had people start to think individually over societal approval. Without the Great Awakening would there have been another historical event that would have caused this bond of people? Would we have gone a different route? What would have eventually impacted people’s lives to spark the American Revolution?

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Re: The power of the individual
by [Paul Young](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 11:04 PM

I like how you recognised the truth in both Patricia U. Bonomi's and Jon Butler's argument. As I read and watched the source materials, it became clear to me that a middle ground between the two positions made most sense. Perhaps the Great Awakening didn't affect the American Revolution as much as Patricia Bonomi seems to believe, but it certainly had to have had some effect. The two events happened within the same time period, and as such are bound to be connected in one way or another. At one point you note that the decision of the colonists "was personal and they were able to create a sense of brotherhood from that." This makes a lot of sense to me. While it may not have created a sense of brotherhood among all the colonists, it certainly did for some. It's easy to imagine how this sense of brotherhood might have encouraged a revolutionary mentality come the American Revolution. Thanks for sharing!

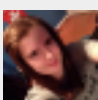
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Not all the colonies
by [Emalie Pilon](#) – Monday, October 19, 2015, 9:41 PM

I agree with Jon Butler. Although Bonomi made some valid points such as "the Great Awaking altered the social and political equilibrium of colonial life." I have to agree with Butler that it didn't effect all the colonies , just some.. The Great Awaking promoted religion that countered what the British were doing. But to say that they were inspired by god is a bit much.Its more likely that they realized that they could do something about it. Whether or not the great awaking made the revolution possible or not I'm not sure. But I'm sure that during the revolution it would have altered the way people thought while in it.

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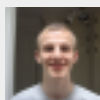


Re: Not all the colonies
by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Wednesday, October 21, 2015, 4:43 PM

The point your specified by Jon Butler is one that stuck out to me as well. The fact that the Great Awakening only occurred in some of the colonies is a crucial point. It validates the difficulties of the Great Awakening having significance to the American Revolution. As Jon Butler stated the revivals only appeared in certain areas of a few colonies. Making it very difficult for them to bring unity and to bring any significant change.

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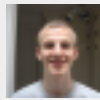
Was the impact bigger?

by [Robert Driver](#) – Wednesday, October 21, 2015, 5:25 PM

Just because the revivals occurred in a relatively small area doesn't mean their impact was limited to that area. Just like the Glorious Revolution happened in England yet affected much of Europe and the colonies in major ways, the impact of the revivals could have spread much farther than the revivals themselves. The impact may have been a small one in the surrounding areas, or it may have been a larger one that affected the whole nation.

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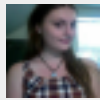
The Influence of the Revivals

by [Robert Driver](#) – Monday, October 19, 2015, 9:52 PM

I'm not sure whether the Great Awakening was a major cause of the American Revolution, but I think Jon Butler understates the importance of the revivals. They may not have caused the Revolution, but I believe they did have an impact that lasts to the present day. Nowadays, our culture focuses on individualism and the rights of minorities. I'm thinking the revivals were one of the roots of these parts of our culture.

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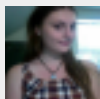
The Great Overreach

by [Paul Young](#) – Monday, October 19, 2015, 10:54 PM

Something I found fascinating about this reading assignment, was the difference in approach from the two historians. First we have Patricia U. Bonomi, who tries to predict what the extended consequences of the great awakening might have been. At one point she claims that the subsequent revivals of the great awakening "had unsettled the lives of more Americans and disrupted more institutions than any other single event in colonial experience to that time." (Pg.3 Assigned Reading) This is a rather hefty claim to make. While the parallels she draws between the Great Awakening and the American Revolution are very persuasive, I'm not completely sure I'm convinced. If the first revivals happened "from about 1739 to 1745", then it's important to consider that the American revolution didn't happen for another 30 years. This is rather significant, especially when you consider the fact that colonists in this time period didn't live past 49, on average. (Pg.106 Liberty, Equality, Power) To put things into perspective, this means most the main voices of the revivalist movement were likely dead by the time the American Revolution came around. Now, I don't know about you, but my political stances and ambitions are radically different from my grand parents. In fact, there is not a single position we share. Even so, we shouldn't underestimate the possibility of the the revolutionary mentality of the great awakening being passed down through the generations. I'd like to see more specific parallels made between the great awakening and the american revolution. Maybe there is documentation that shows similar uses of language between the two movements? All in all, I think I will need more information to really decide on taking a stance. It was very refreshing to read Jon Butler's side of things, because he neatly tucked everything back into their corresponding boxes. While Patricia was unraveling everything and trying to extend the reach of every little piece of evidence, Butler seemed to only take the evidence at face value. So far I think I'm siding with Jon Butler.

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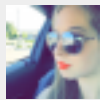
The Great Revival; Universal Calm or Dissent?

by [Paul Young](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 11:05 PM

Watching the additional video material on the matter only strengthened my original position. I'd originally suspected that Patricia U. Bonomi's argument was an over reach, due to the fact that her choice of language makes The Great Revival sound excessively volatile. For example, at one point she says it "unsettled the lives of more Americans and disrupted more institutions than any other single event in colonial experience to that time." (Pg.3 Assigned Reading) This is a contrast to the video material, in which J. Stanley Lemons says that "[e]thnic barriers, racial barriers, gender barriers, were cut across the line in the awakening." While on the one

hand we have Bonomi saying that the Great Awakening encouraged a revolutionary mentality, Lemons makes it sound like it was a peaceful, happy time in US history. I don't know about you, but I don't typically associate peace and happiness with a revolutionary mentality. The sources are contradictory, and in my opinion we'd be better off listening to a source that takes a more balanced approach. Luckily, the textbook does exactly that. This balanced approach is represented perfectly in the text, when it notes that "In Charleston and New York City, the official spokesmen for the bishop of London denounced him, but Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and baptists embraced him, at least until some of them began to fear that he was doing more harm than good." As we can see, it offers a fair and balanced perspective, recognizing that while many people embraced George Whitfield, other resisted him.

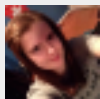
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The Spirit of the Time
by [Kaitlyn DiMercurio](#) – Monday, October 19, 2015, 11:27 PM

On the subject of the Great Awakening I would have to side with Jon Butler on his stance that the Great Awakening and the coming American Revolution was “virtually nonexistent”. Although I though that Patricia Bonomi’s argument was well constructed, I did not agree with many of her assertions. She spoke of how the Great Awakening was like a dress rehearsal for the coming revolution in that it allowed colonists to challenge authority and think on a broader scale. I do see the similarities. Both the Great Awakening and the American Revolution were instances where colonists stood up against the mass authority and brought about a great societal change and although I can agree with the correlation in these events, I do not believe there was any causation relating the Great Awakening to the American Revolution other than that it was the excitement of the times. Sometimes a society will find itself content and docile and at other times continual irritations will lead a society to be overcome with a desire to change and will challenge almost anything for the sake of moving into a new greater era. In this way, I think that both the Great Awakening and the American Revolution were symptoms of the restless time period, but I do not find that the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. Likewise I do find myself agreeing with Patricia’s stance on the magnitude of the Great Awakening, and although I side with Butler on the basis that the American Revolution did not come about because of the Great Awakening, I do not agree with his idea that the Great Awakening was merely a “short-lived Calvinist revival in New England”. In this matter I believe there is truth to both articles and that maybe these are examples of two extremist views, moreover, I believe that the Great Awakening was, as Bonomi described it, a pivotal time in colonial society but that, as Butler said, the Great Awakening was not key to the American Revolution.

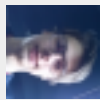
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Re: The Spirit of the Time
by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 12:02 PM

I agree with you on that both historians make valid points. As Patricia Bonomi stated, the Great Awakening was very influential and brought unity as well as change. Though just like you, I tend to side more with Jon Butler. His points showed that though the Great Awakening was influential in itself, it is difficult to find a link to the American Revolution. I find not totally agreeing with either historian, because both have truths to their arguments.

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The Great Awakening was not a key to the American Revolution
by [Drew Chappel](#) – Monday, October 19, 2015, 11:52 PM

I have to side with Jon Butler in the debate on whether The Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. I believe that the simple answer to that is no. There are many things that played a role in the American Revolution, and the great awakening just was not a big one. The revivals occurred in far too few colonies at dates that were spread out. Wherever there were leading ministers, they were local, or regional at best, without great impact on the society as a whole. They lead sermons that were not well prepared, in hopes of political outcomes that were delayed for as long as 25 years. According to Butler, revivalism wasn’t responsible for the spread of religious denominations, but a massive increase in population made it very likely. This is

because new colonists usually settled in communities that had no religious institution, which doesn't mean that the revivalists necessarily were attracting people to their established community.

When you refer to the pre revolutionary revivals of religion, you're referring to "*primarily regional events that occurred in only half the colonies.*" The events of the the Great Awakening lacks to have a large connection with the American Revolution, there are way more things that go into the story. You can't focus on just one thing and say "That is the sole cause of the revolution!"

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The Great Awakening insignificance to the American Revolution

by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Friday, October 23, 2015, 4:18 PM

Jon Butler's argument on how the Great Awakening was not a significant factor in the American Revolution, had many adequate points. In your response you emphasized a few of his points and I agree with you on their significance. A huge key to Jon Butler's argument was that the revivals occurred in too few colonies and only touched parts of those colonies which failed to produce intercolonial unity. Therefore it would not have unified vast majorities of people to later start the American Revolution.

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Perspective

by [Robert Driver](#) – Tuesday, October 20, 2015, 9:42 PM

I think Jon Butler's essay gives us some good perspective, although currently I feel like I don't know nearly enough about this time period to say with any reasonable accuracy how important and influential the Great Awakening actually was. If I knew more about how people thought back in those days, both before and after the Great Awakening period, it would be easier to tell just how much impact the revivals had. I often find myself in the skeptic position that Jon Butler seems to be taking in his essay, but on this issue I find myself unable to fully agree with either side.

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Re: Perspective

by [Daniel Swisher](#) – Tuesday, October 20, 2015, 11:43 PM

I completely agree with you on this. Both historians make great arguments to both sides of the subject. I can't make myself fully agree with one historian or the other. I feel like they are both partially correct, so I find myself in a grey area. I believe the first Great Awakening put people in a different mindset that definitely could have impacted the American Revolution but it is so hard to say without actually being there in that time period.

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Questions from a Skeptic

by [Amanda Power](#) – Thursday, October 22, 2015, 9:55 PM

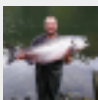
I have to say in watching the latest video posted to this forum I found myself distracted by topic straying questions regarding the intention behind the spark of the "Great Awakening".

One thing I found to be a bit strange was the mention that on "one Sunday there were over 100 conversions in one day". In my experience of attending church (both that of my own, and others), I have yet to witness, or hear about staggering numbers of converts in one year, much less a day. This brings me to my point of questioning the reason as to why there could be so many conversions in a single day. How is it possible for one man to have had the power or influence to spark an interest so uniquely great that hundreds flock to his sermons? This does raise a hint suspicion in my mind as to who Jonathan Edwards was a preacher. Was he truly

insightful, with an enlightening religious message that he wished to share? Or, did he possess a certain persuasive charisma, influential enough to make people feel that they had experienced a religious “awakening”? I know this observation is one that may appear “farfetched”, but the skeptic in me has to wonder.

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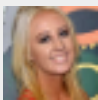
Re: Questions from a Skeptic

by [Daniel Swisher](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 8:20 AM

I agree with you. After watching the new video I found myself asking the same kinds of questions. How did they address so many people without any form of amplification? How could one man be so popular among Colonial America? It is hard to imagine that after living in today's day in age, there are so many different ways of thinking and so much opposition.

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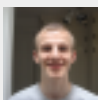
Re: Questions from a Skeptic

by [Kelsey Huber](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 5:39 PM

I as well was astonished when listening to the video about how many conversions happened in one day. It really makes you wonder what it was about their influential power that Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield had on people. It also gets me to that unlike today, there weren't many things people could participate in. Was there so many conversions due to the fact that religion was the only thing people could express themselves on? Or did people do this in the fear of missing out, not feeling included if they didn't convert? I know not every colony and colonists converted, but the video really gets you to think why so many people did.

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Re: Questions from a Skeptic

by [Robert Driver](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 6:05 PM

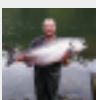
I think Jonathan Edwards' success was due partly to his insightful message and good but not unbelievably incredible speaking ability, and partly due to his audience. Remember, his audience was almost all Christian, so they already believed many things that were the basis of his message, but few of them had been exposed to the idea of the personal conversion experience.

But I don't think Edwards had much impact on the American Revolution. George Whitefield had far more impact in that regard. He had the persuasive charisma that Edwards lacked, and preached thousands of sermons in many of the colonies, advocating salvation by the personal conversion experience (which in turn, encourages people to think about themselves). It does seem exceptional that he could talk to thousands of people at a time without sound amplification, but that could just be that we underestimate the capabilities of the human voice because we rely on technology to do the job for us.

And I don't think peer pressure or fear of being left out were major reasons for the large numbers of conversions. I think part of it was that it was an emotional message delivered in an emotional preaching style, unlike most sermons in those days.

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Not to be downplayed

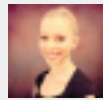
by [Daniel Swisher](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 8:15 AM

The Great Awakening was a movement started with spiritual growth which brought a national identity to Colonial America. It did great things for Colonial Americans as individuals but had little to no influence on the American Revolution. I don't agree with the last few seconds of the video when they talk about the First Great Awakening having an influence on the American Revolution. After revivalism takes place, people feel a new sense of identity. They are not afraid to overthrow major public figures in their communities, they are not afraid to stand up for what they believe in and what they want to stand for. The Great Awakening had minimum impact on the

American Revolution, but I believe it had major impacts on other aspects of Colonial American, therefore should not be downplayed.

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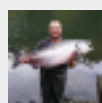
There is Some Value

by [Amanda Power](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 10:47 PM

I completely agree with your statement that revivalism can lead to a sense of new identity. Maybe it was this sense of obtaining a new identity that could have played a part in the stirring prelude preceding the American Revolution. It could be that the people found a new sense of spiritual purpose and identity, and then sought to see what other aspects of their life they could reform. It reverts back to the basics of psychology, that when people embark upon a "life changing journey", or undertake a new life task, it creates a domino affect of positive progression. A personal modern day example would be when I start a project, say redesigning a room, I feel a sense of accomplishment and progression which inspires me to go on and redecorate another room, then another, and so on, and so forth. That's where I feel you are right in saying that the enthusiasm of the religiously revived colonists could have a mild correlation with the American Revolution.

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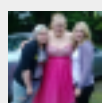
From then to now

by [Daniel Swisher](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 7:28 PM

Early colonial America were separate and very different colonies. The Great Awakening swept over each of the 13 English colonies at a very rapid rate. That experience did not just have religious connotations, but profound social and political consequences. And to this date religion has a substantial impact on voting patterns in America. The Great Awakening is sometimes given short shrift by historians because it seems primarily a religious phenomenon. It should not be. The Great Awakening was a key phenomenon in the making of the American character. I believe this is the only way that the Great Awakening influenced the American Revolution. Much like the Enlightenment, the Great Awakening allowed people to not fear individualism, but embrace it as a way of life. The Great Awakening did not directly influence the American Revolution, but it did indirectly influence the way we live today.

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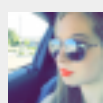
Maybe A bigger Part

by [Emalie Pilon](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 9:15 PM

After watching the video I don't know if I feel any differently about the great awakening. It was an impressive thing, but I don't think it was they key to the revolution. I think that maybe it played a bigger part then I originally thought, but not that much bigger. What really amazed me was to hear about Edwards and Whitefield. Its crazy and impressive to have learned what they did "not just one person at a time, but ten, twenty, fifty, one hundred people at a time where being converted." It just makes me curious as to what could possibly have been said to make that much of a change. Not only that but, one account says that one hundred people were converted in Massachusetts in just one Sunday " Over three hundred people in Massachusetts and one hundred of them in a single Sunday." How could this happen? Reading about it is amazing and I kinda wish that I could have seen it first hand. I feel like yes this had a big impact on a lot of people (not all of them), but I still don't think that it was "key" to the revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Maybe A bigger Part

by [Kaitlyn DiMercurio](#) – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 11:21 PM

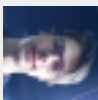
Though the video didn't really change my opinions either, I agree that it was the magnitude of people being converted that made the Great Awakening so significant. Based on this growing attitude of the colonists not wanting to be oppressed by their authorities I think that the revivals and split of churches would have still happened, but over a large period of time which it why I feel that the Great Awakening did not directly

influence the American Revolution, but the fact that so many religious conversions were happening all at one time makes the event of the Great Awakening something that is worth learning about but that doesn't mean that it influenced the way that the American revolution came about.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Maybe A bigger Part
by *Drew Chappel* – Saturday, October 24, 2015, 11:42 PM

I agree with you. After studying the material more, I have not changed my opinion, and I still agree with Jon Butler's standpoint, that The Great Awakening was not a key to the American Revolution. Although the revivals sparked some of the beginnings of personal religious beliefs, and it may have developed a kind of ""practice model' which enabled the provincials to rehearse," (Patricia Bonomi pg. 2) I don't believe it was the key to the revolution. I think that even if the great awakening never happened, then Americans would still develop the sense to bring down those who rule over you. The political crises happening after 1760 would be reason enough to rebel.

I do think it did make a difference, though. I found it interesting that Whitefield was able to make so many conversions happen in a day, changing hundreds of people lives. Religious speaking does have a powerful effect over people, even today. I almost found it funny that "he carried a special folding pulpit that he could step onto to be seen above the crowds, because it was so often that thousands of people were coming." It's hard to believe that he was able to speak in front of so many people and be heard without any kind of microphone or relay messenger or something to help get the word across.

Overall, I do think that the Great Awakening influenced a lot of people, but I don't think it was the key to the American Revolution, as many other factors went into play on that matter.

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