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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

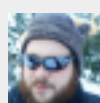
After studying the required materials, address the various questions. To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

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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"conservative", as a qualifying attribute to the idea of revolution.

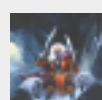
by [Stanley Cates](#) – Sunday, November 15, 2015, 12:54 PM

I find myself siding with the opinion of Carl N Degger, that yes, the American revolution was a conservative movement.

Revolution: a forcible overthrow of a government or social order in favor of a new system. (Google definition) Certainly the American revolution was a forcible action, I don't think many of us would argue against that. Consider however, that often during what we normally consider a revolution the members of government are often replaced in addition to the restructuring of government. "Of those who held an office under the state governments after the revolution, 75 percent had occupied offices before 1774, proving, if need be, that service in the colonial governments before the revolution was no obstacle to political preferment for a patriot afterward." –Degger Pg 126, forum reading. Degger goes on to describe the idea of individuals staying in power in more detail. This idea that the members of government remained by and large seems strikingly non-revolutionary, and that in no small part is why I feel that qualifying the American Revolution as conservative is appropriate. The second portion of the definition regarding social order seems out of place here as well. "It is significant, for example that no new social class came to power through the door of the American Revolution." –Degger, Pg 125, forum reading. Even just these two examples illustrate that the American Revolution was seemingly much more akin to resisting change than it was to making change.

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Short version of – Guided Crash Landing?

by [Brianna Huber](#) – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 3:05 AM

Hello Stan,

I really like your passage here, and I do appreciate that you included a definition of revolution at the top! I feel that what you have written has helped me start to distill what I have been thinking on the subject. I am

interested to hear what you think of my response.

I have been tied to the revolution portion, yet, only in certain ways...

I feel like the American Revolution was a revolution (towards English pressure, and eventually towards it's rule), yet was potentially a failed revolution in the way that you have mentioned here with your quote from Denger, ""Of those who held an office under the state governments after the revolution, 75 percent had occupied offices before 1774..."

Let's say you are a pilot who is taking a trip, flying as a passenger on a plane that is owned by the company you work for, and as you are drinking your beverage looking out your window, you start to realize that the flight is undergoing increasingly dangerous happenings. You realize that the disturbances are bubbling at points of non-control. What do you do?

A) Take over controls of the plane.

B) Leave it up to the Flight Captain on duty, and potentially allow the flight's demise, and your own along with it.

This is my comparison to the colonial leadership that reigned before, during, and especially the after, with those who remained in esteemed and fortuitous positions.

It is a group of leaders that came from traditional or "conservative", English service type background, yet, I feel that it is pretty radical or revolutionary to take over the reigns from Brittish rule, while at the same time, maybe at a certain point, it is just a good idea(to protect your investments, your safety, your community, and your rights.

I want to throw in this mention of the sub- sub chapter called **The Radical Explosion**, on pages 188 and 189 in Liberty, Equality, Power 7th Ed., This chapter makes me wonder still how to look at this quandary, while the writers do not mention much about violence in detail (revolution definition), I do not know how much bias controls this portion, and it is only a small portion of this topic. But something to chew on...

“The Stamp Act crisis and the Townshend crisis had been largely urban affairs.The Intolerable Acts politicized the countryside on a scale never seen before. When royal governors outside Massachusetts dismissed their assemblies to prevent them from joining the resistance movement, colonists elected **provincial congresses**, or conventions, to organize resistance. These bodies were larger than the legal assemblies they displaced, and they mobilized far more people. As the congresses took hold, royal government began to collapse almost everywhere. Numerous calls for a continental congress made the movement irresistible.”(p.188)

Yah, sorry this is the condensed version, I am not the greatest conversationalist. I am having a great time trying it, though (Introvert/Ambivert). I will post the omitted pieces seperetly.

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Re: Short version of – Guided Crash Landing?

by *Stanley Cates* – Friday, November 20, 2015, 8:53 PM

Hello Hanna (hope I spelled that right),

First of all; sorry it took so long to respond. I swear I'm not ignoring you, it's just been an exceptionally busy week.

I like your analogy, I think it paint a really nice picture of the potential mindset of the founding fathers, although I don't imagine they would depict a modern airplane. What I'm getting at is indeed that the founding fathers seemed to not care for the directions things were going and looked to preserve rather than change things; which is certainly conservative. In the online video "Hamilton's plan" UCLA Professor

Joyce Appleby goes as far as to say that "Hamilton wanted to see America be a purer Great Britain".(0:20) I think in the English language; which we kept around after the revolution by the way; we have trouble sometimes with words that we think are similar but aren't quite so close. Consider the following:

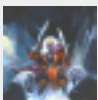
Radical: (especially of change or action) relating to or affecting the fundamental nature of something; far-reaching or thorough. (Google definition)

Extreme: A very severe or serious act. Not usual; exceptional. (Google definition)

In his book "Strangers in the land", historian John Higham explains in detail the theory of American nativism. Without turning this into a book report; and spoiling the book for you; there are three major bits to this idea, Americans are; Anti-immigrant, Anti-Catholic, and Anti-radical. With this in mind I would put forth to you that perhaps people are confusing the idea of radical with the idea of extreme; conservatism can most definitely be extreme.

What do you think?

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Open to definition (play on words "open to translation") Yah that was not the best play on words

by [Brianna Huber](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 1:29 AM

Please, I am not insulted! I just thought that maybe I was irritating people by writing at too much length (thought I might have gotten out of control), and that perhaps people were just being too nice to say anything. I think my ability to condense my thoughts in to fewer words is getting better with practice. Ha Ha Ha

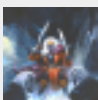
You know at the beginning of this exercise I was not so sure. But now, I feel as though some distinctions and definitions in and out of context of this time period that we are discussing are becoming more clear and understood by me (identifying definitions in posts, I feel is very helpful). I do remember writing the word radical in one of my posts, and actually was wondering if that was actually what I might mean! I am going to go back and look later.

I appreciate your points, I definitely agree after doing some more researching, and conversing with your point "conservativism can most definitely be extreme." – Stan. Again, I do agree with this now, and was having trouble with this one previously.

Let me know what you think of some of my other posts, if you get time, maybe you will be interested. I will try to keep an open ear if you post anything. I know how being busy can go. No pressure.

Wanted to send a response to let you know that I had read your post. Over and out.

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Omitted, from Guided Crash Landing?

by [Brianna Huber](#) – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 3:27 AM

I feel that the technique of absorbing and directing of chaotic public energy is a classic universal, and utilized U.S. political tool of today.

I walk away thinking that the public had to be satiated with a sense of social change, and upon willingness to go against England, these organizing future American leaders had to give them some to right the plane (public stability), and continue flying.

More from the sub chapter The Radical Explosion in Liberty, Equality Power... “...either resigned their seats or fled to Boston to

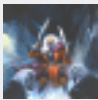
seek the army’s protection. The Superior Court could not hold its sessions, even in

Boston under the guns of the army, because jurors refused to take an oath under

the new act. At the county level (the real center of royal power in the colony), popular conventions closed the courts and took charge of law enforcement in August and September.”(p. 189).

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Apology, short version – Was the American Revolution a failed revolution?

by *Brianna Huber* – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 3:56 AM

Sorry again about the long responses, out of respect, and practice, I am going to make a summation of my former points.

Do you think that the American Revolution was a failure (if you consider the leadership conservative carryovers) which they are?

If so, what ways come to mind first?

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Partial Agreement

by *Jacob Rothaupt* – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 7:11 PM

I agree with you that the American Revolution was a conservative revolution. I also agree that the American Revolution was definitely a forcible action. However, I can't seem to get behind google's definition of revolution. While there is no doubt that a revolution could be a forcible overthrow of a government in favor of a new system, I believe that revolution and rebellion pretty much go hand in hand. And when I hear the word "rebellion" I think of the Whiskey Rebellion which was forced and had absolutely no bloodshed or violence. So I believe that a revolution could be possible without violence or conducted in a forcible way. Overall though, I agree with your arguments and sided with Degger as well.

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Re: Partial Agreement

by *Stanley Cates* – Friday, November 20, 2015, 9:04 PM

Of course revolution is possible without violence or bloodshed. I think it might behoove you broaden the application of the term "revolution". Thomas Edison, Andrew Carnegie, J.P Morgan, Martin Luther King; all revolutionaries, no bloodshed... Except Carnegie... Kinda... Anyway, point is that the word "revolution" is a Homonym, a word with multiple meanings; but we don't get to just add meanings when we want to. With that in mind I would put forth another definition that might fit your statements a little better.

Revolution: a dramatic and wide-reaching change in the way something works or is organized or in people's ideas about it.

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The change of the mind set

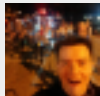
by *Jacob Spangler* – Sunday, November 15, 2015, 11:10 PM

I believe that the American Revolution was radical. I agree with Gordon Wood that the revolution was radical however one quote had really moved me. "Most important, it made the interests and prosperity of ordinary people—their pursuits of happiness– the goal of society and government. (Wood)". I never thought about the mindset of the American people going into the revolution. They were fighting for new opportunities and a chance to make a real name for themselves in their home land. Fighting for their own interests and not the Crown. These revolutionaries wanted a separate identity from the British rule. The reason I really think it was a radical

movement was because of the new opportunities they were fighting for in their home land.

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Websters definitions of conservative and radical
by Jacob Spangler – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 4:13 PM

Another point is the definition of conservative, holding on to old values. In Webster’s definition it includes this “not liking or accepting changes or new ideas”. This is so far from what the revolution actually was, if anything the colonists were not accepting the current situation. They were fighting for a nation to call their own. “Very new and different from what is traditional or ordinary”. This is Webster’s definition of radical, which I think fits very well with spirit of the revolution. There is nothing traditional about being wanting to be your own nation. So no I do not believe this revolution was conservative. It may have had conservative elements in it such as a fight for life, land, and liberty (John Locke). Overall I think it was a radical movement.

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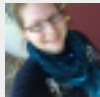


My personal opinion.
by Zachery Brown – Monday, November 16, 2015, 10:22 AM

After reading the article, "Was the American Revolution a Conservative Movement?". I am going to have to side with Mr. Gordon S. Wood on the question. I personally think that the colonists taking up arms against their rulers is extremely radical. The fact that they were arguably the first to stray away from the, "Monarchy" type of government and cut down the power of the executive branch also stands out to me. They may have input sources of their new government that were brought over from the way the British ruled. But their government was more different then the same to their former rulers. To me that just spells out radical. As Wood puts it, "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." And also, "that the Revolution produced major social changes." It is so hard for me to disagree with Mr. Wood on this. And I have tried to look at it in the more Conservative way, but continually find may way around the Revolution being Conservative to the more Radical aspect. So much has come of America since the revolution that may not have otherwise. Therefore I suppose I would be the more Progressive Historian,

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Re: My personal opinion.
by Andrea Adelman – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 8:02 PM

I would have to agree! Escaping England in and of itself could be seen as radical. The growing government of America was so unlike any other country's government, therefore that could also be seen as radical (out of the norm). To me, anything that promotes social change is a revolution of sorts, and could also be classified as a radical behavior. Think of social movements today; many are seen as "crazy", "outrageous", etc. Would that not be the same thing the English thought of the colonists during the Revolution and creation of America?

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A different kind of "radical"
by Kelsey Huber – Monday, November 16, 2015, 12:35 PM

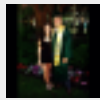
After analyzing both articles, Gordon Wood’s radicalism standpoint stood out to me the most. While both authors agreed that the American Revolution was not like any revolution before, it does not discredit that the revolution could be seen as radical. Wood states, “It was no less radical and no less social for being different.” (p. 131)

At this time, society was intertwined with politics; meaning if something was wrong with the government (Britain), then something must be wrong with the people/colonies. Being that it was a different kind of revolution than was ever seen before, it was one that that focused on altering society.

Even though it was a new type of revolution, as Wood states, the American Revolution was “not unique, it was only different” (133). There were plenty of social revolutions going on at the time but the American Revolution was a social revolution that took place on foreign soil, soil separate from the government’s main source of power.

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The Radical American Revolution

by [Cloyne Welch](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 12:35 PM



The colonies were trying to begin their new life in America but under their own control, not the British control. The American Revolution was fought because the colonies wanted to make their way towards a new beginning, while British wanted to replicate their own in American and presume control. The American Revolution was a radical in more than just one way.

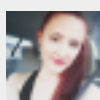
The American Revolution was radical due to the vast majority of difference in the American and British government. For one, the president is elected separately from legislature and has a time limit of four years, or two terms. The British Prime Minister is elected by the House of Commons and has no term limit. Also, the constitution is a specific document whereas the British government has the contents of a Constitution dispersed throughout the Act of Parliament.

Secondly, the word "conservative" means wanting the same old ways, making very minute changes and not promoting violence towards the people you share custom values with. The reason the American Revolution happened was because the colonies didn't want to make "conservative" changes to their existing system. Ryan McMaken in his online article, "Rothbard: Was the American Revolution Radical?", he states, "In the first and most obvious place, the success of the revolution meant inevitably the overturn and displacement of the Tory elites, particularly of those internal oligarchs and members of governor's' council who had been created and propped up by the British government." This shows that the British did not want any "radical" changes to America, hence the American Revolution.

McMaken, Ryan. "Rothbard: Was the American Revolution Radical?" *Mises Institute*. 29 Dec. 2014. Web. 16 Nov. 2015.

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Conservative, I don't think so.

by [Lauren Collett](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 5:02 PM

I have to say when I started reading this I believe my mind was already decided. The revolution was absolutely a radical movement. When you simply look at the definition of revolution up on google you already have trouble arguing the conservative side.

Revolution:a forcible overthrow of a government or social order in favor of a new system.

Alright so now we have a clear idea of what a revolution is but what makes something conservative?

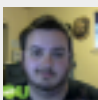
Conservative:holding to traditional attitudes and values and cautious about change or innovation, typically in relation to politics or religion.

Right away I already had trouble reconciling these two things. By its very essence revolution does not hold to conservative ideals. Now in Carl Deglers essay he argues that the revolution brought meager social change if any. I disagree with this completely and cannot understand how Degler talks in length about the religious freedom of the United States then goes on to talk about how foreigners marveled at the freedom of Americans. How is this not social change?Simply because the founding fathers were higher class citizens does not negate the fact that it paved the way for people of lower classes to have their say.Did it not pave the way for people like Andrew Jackson, who was from a poverty stricken family and was an orphan at the age of 14, to later become president just 46 years later in 1829?

(http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/andrew-jackson)

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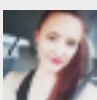
Rebellion/Revolution

by [Jacob Rothaupt](#) – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 7:29 PM

Would you consider rebellion and revolution to be similar?

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Similar for sure

by [Lauren Collett](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 9:40 PM

I think in the case of The American Revolution it could easily be defined as a rebellion.

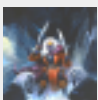
Rebellion(Google definition):an act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler.

They were essentially overthrowing the English rule and monarchy,a rebellious act in its own authority. It would be easy to see it as violent consider the numbers of deaths on both sides. Although I think it's possible it couldn't be close to a rebellion simply because of the size of it. Most rebellions seem to be smaller in size and not encompassing the entire nation. e.g. Virginia Rebellion, Bacon's Rebellion etc.

What do you think?

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I am also curious

by [Brianna Huber](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 11:46 PM

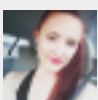
I like this thread!

So do you feel that the naming of these moments in history are named so, the way that they are, depending upon the relativity of the later events, size of event, or the complete or incompleteness of the ideological goals?

I wonder, if the United States was never to be, would you feel that a figurative "attempted (but unsuccessful) American Revolution" would have been called a Rebellion "x" of some type instead, because of the British ability to name it historically , or event size/duration comparison et cetera?

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Rebellion?

by [Lauren Collett](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 8:51 PM

Well I'd think the British most certainly defined it as rebellion to begin with wouldn't you? If the British would have won would it be called a rebellion still today? It's interesting to wonder. We only saw the British perspective in that one video. It would be interesting to see more about it.

Regarding the difference between rebellion and revolution. It does seem size plays a factor but after quiet a bit of internet searching I can't find anything clearly defining when it becomes a revolution and not just a rebellion. Wonder if anyone else has any better luck?

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Re: Similar for sure
by [Jacob Rothaupt](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 8:08 AM

While I do agree that The American Revolution could be defined as a rebellion, And I almost said I don't agree with the definition since I thought of the Whiskey Rebellion but then I looked at it again and the Whiskey Rebellion was definitely an open resistance. Personally, I don't think there is really a difference between a revolution or a rebellion.

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Re: Rebellion/Revolution
by [Cloyne Welch](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 12:55 AM

I think the American Revolution could coined as a rebellion, but not all revolutions could be. What's your view on it?

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Re: Conservative, I don't think so.
by [Kelsey Huber](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 3:29 PM

Lauren, I agree with your stance. I believe that the American Revolution was radical. As Wood stated the American Revolution was not unique but it was different from most revolutions (133). Though it was a social change, it was not the only social change that was happening at the time. However, this revolution played an important role in American history because it was the stepping stone for every social movement that followed it. If the America didn’t happen then it would have not allowed for the freedom of ethical and social expansion that we have experienced since our establishment.

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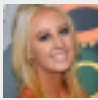
Radical in an 18th Century kind of way
by [Andrea Adelman](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 9:14 PM

I agree with Gordon Wood in saying that the American Revolution was not conservative. I feel that many people do compare it to other countries revolutions, rather than putting it in its own category. Given the circumstances of our young country, I would wholeheartedly say that the American Revolution was radical. There was nothing else like it done at that time. I daresay that a conservative movement would have been to stay under the rule of England, rather than separate into a whole new country. Wood states: “If we measure the radicalism of revolutions by the degree of social misery or economic deprivation suffered, or by the number of people killed or manor houses burned, then this conventional emphasis on the conservatism of the American Revolution becomes true enough. But 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 was not conservative at all; on the contrary: it was as radical and revolutionary as any in history.” (131)

Stated simply, if we compare the damages done by every revolution in the world’s history, I do think that it could be considered conservative. But that should not be the basis for considering something radical. The definition of radical itself is “(especially of change or action) relating to or affecting the fundamental nature of something; far-reaching or thorough.” (Google: “definition: radical”) Taking the definition into account, the Revolution affected the very bones of America as a country. It formed what values, beliefs, laws, et cetera were held/made to ensure

that the livelihood of the citizens was upheld. It also changed America into “something very different from what it had been.” (138)

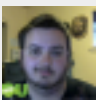
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Re: Radical in an 18th Century kind of way
by Kelsey Huber – Friday, November 20, 2015, 10:27 PM

Andrea, I think you made some interesting points. I agree that the American Revolution was radical, but radical in a way that is specific to that era. Although, the American Revolution was not like every other social up–rising, I do believe that it was not the only revolution of its kind. There were numerous other social revolutions that mirrored the American Revolution, even though they were not exactly the same. Woods does mention that the American Revolution was “not unique, it was only different” (133).

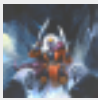
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A Conservative Revolution
by Jacob Rothaupt – Monday, November 16, 2015, 10:03 PM

My definition of "Revolution" coincides with the Strict constructionists. I believe a revolution is something that causes a major change in our society. For example, I believe if I texted everybody I knew, and they texted everybody they knew and so on...and we all stop what we are doing for one hour (Drivers pull over and stop their engines, stop working...etc) That would be a revolution. A revolution is something that produces major changes to society. However, I believe that the American Revolution was a Conservative Movement.

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Not on the fence – but on both sides ish
by Brianna Huber – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 3:46 AM

I like your message here, and it seems that I could feel similarly.

What is your definition of conservative?

Stan wrote a post where he talks about the conservative element, and more, thought you might be interested in reading it.

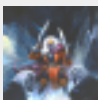
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Conservative
by Jacob Rothaupt – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 7:24 PM

In my opinion, to be conservative is to focus on the country itself and not foreign affairs. In modern day, I guess you could say a conservative is the people who say "MURICA" and drive big trucks but that's just my opinion. A conservative would be someone who cares about the country instead of putting other countries before our own.

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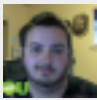
I think I concur, good Sir.
by Brianna Huber – Friday, November 20, 2015, 4:33 PM

Do you feel that you are saying that a **large portion of colonial leaders, who were conservatives (already holding office before the American Revolution)** were the **revolutionary leaders** for separating government from Great Britain's government and leadership?

If so, I agree.

I feel as though these leaders already had abilities in this organizing/leadership field, and used those abilities in a **radical** direction away from British rule.

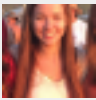
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Of course
by [Jacob Rothaupt](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 7:59 AM

In my opinion, there is no doubt that most of the colonial leaders were the revolutionary leaders. Look at George Washington for example. He leads the colonial army, he could've been president for more than two terms but he willingly stepped down. He was a prime example. Everything he did, most people would follow and he did it for the good of the country.

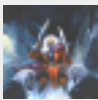
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The Radical Revolution
by [Lexus Diama](#) – Monday, November 16, 2015, 11:28 PM

Upon reading both author’s articles regarding the American Revolution, I agree most with historian Gordon S. Wood. I believe that the American Revolution was not a conservative act within history, it was a pro–American progressive movement that acted upon the Whig’s political views. The American Revolution started the domino effect to the end of Britain’s colonial rule around the world. After America brought England to its’ knees, other countries under British rule started rebelling and taking up arms against England. So yes, I would say that the revolution was a progressive movement, ending the reign of a monarchy and bringing democracy into practice as a nation. The English Monarchy was a system that created a society in which people were stuck within the class that they were born into, with very little movement to move up on the social ladder. A fact that Wood states in his argument that supports my viewpoint on this subject is in paragraph five that “in destroying monarchy and establishing republics they were changing their society as well as their governments, and they knew it.” (they referring to American revolutionaries). With the radical movement of the American Revolution, democracy came into play to where men of labor would be able to make something of themselves and move up in society. This is where the “American Dream” was created and came into play, changing social views.

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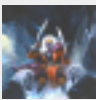
Radical Revolution & Conservative leadership responding/organizing it?
by [Brianna Huber](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 4:01 PM

I really like your reasoning, your explanation, and appreciate your view!

I see the American Revolution as a dis–appreciation of the British control by leadership, and who ideally, or politically sympathize with the anti–intolerable acts energy in the colonies when I read the sub–sub chapter in *Liberty Equality Power* titled, The Radical Explosion. This is the beginning of the last two paragraphs for that sub– sub chapter. Liberty, Equality, Power – “Before this explosion of radical activity, Gage had called for a new General Court to meet in Salem in October...”

By the last 2 paragraphs of wrap up, I am thinking, “Wow, much of the current leadership was really ready and willing to stir the pot against British leadership, and thus England. Do these leaders qualify to be considered conservative in an 18th century kind of way?”

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Revolutions: NOT “trickle down”, ARE “bottom up”, or “social power” based – & Leaders who are “conservative” can at the same time be considered radical
by [Brianna Huber](#) – Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 12:23 AM

NO. The American Revolution was a not a Conservative movement, but a moreover radical one.

To imply that any revolution can be undertaken by true “conservative” values is a contradictory use of the words

conservative (defined loosely– traditional), and revolution, together in the same sentence. Why would one have a revolution in the first place if traditional ways were acceptable? And at the same time, I feel that it is possible! Yet, only partly so, and not largely so, but potentially only in a parasitic or marginal way, that I do not feel to be true.

My point of view is completely dependent upon my personal definition of radical!Repeat, this is completely dependent upon my view of radial, in focus on this time of revolution, and society.

“Was the American Revolution a conservative movement, or a radical movement?”

First, I will say that any revolution would seem to start at the bottom (civilians, or the public energy), regardless of the origin of the mass of the new governing individuals, as argued against by Degler, (Yes, P126), by arguing so heavily that these leaders automatically define a whole movement, it would be difficult for me to fully agree. If I was a “federalist extremist type”, and I see revolutionary trouble coming, I might be willing to adjust my ways of administering public service at a certain point, in the least to keep my current investments rolling, if nothing else.

Also, how can colonists of any class at any point that are opposed to English Rule be considered conservative, especially to the British! Well, I do not think that the British would think that those individuals were traditional at all. To England, wanting to imitate England, is different from wanting to be a part of the U.K.

While those of "traditional ways" (Anglican ways), with a good education, and good social standing could have been largely inspiring to individuals of the public, which is what any effective leader can be, any to govern separatly from Parlement and England is non traditional, and thus non conservative, and pretty radical. "But in destroying monarchy and establishing republics they were changing their society, as well as their governments, and they knew it."(Wood 132)

Leaders must be able to guide and wield the power of a people who are restless.

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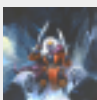
Revolution and Stuff

by [Jacob Rothaupt](#) – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 7:27 PM

I thoroughly enjoyed your argument. You made many valid points such as the colonists and the British. I'm curious as to what your definition of conservative is though. I couldn't seem to find it and got confused when you said, "To imply that any revolution can be undertaken by true “conservative” values is a contradictory use of the words conservative (defined loosely– traditional), and revolution, together in the same sentence." I was just curious if there was a more...detailed definition.

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Google Definition Vs. My own definition/ use and context

by [Brianna Huber](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 3:11 PM

Thank you for your response, and I agree with your statement! "I'm curious as to what your definition of conservative is though. I couldn't seem to find it" – Jacob Rothaput. I also feel that I had not really elaborated on that.

“holding to traditional attitudes and values and cautious about change or innovation, typically in relation to politics or religion.” – Google definition. Also I found this interesting, in the same definition, “of or relating to the Conservative Party of Great Britain or a similar party in another country.” Considering our common language, and historical connections, this is interesting to think about.

Since our first reading of yes and no, and reading what others say (especially Stan’s piece) I have been critically thinking a lot, and allowing myself to step outside of my isolated understanding, and to open up to the true definitions, and also to the culture of the arguments, positions, and to the understanding of the Historians we have read about and from.

I tend to attribute the context of this word mostly to how an individual could use the word for themselves, in their own households & local community: economically with the use of goods, resources/assets, and money, and also in other contexts of the government/public use of money, assets,

and resources.

There is this small portion of the google definition that is relatable to what I tend to think of the word conservative. "(of an estimate) purposely low for the sake of caution." Google Definition

But this is definitely not how Degler or Wood use it.

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American Revolution Context – definition "in law" but "in practice"

by [Brianna Huber](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 3:27 PM

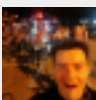
I understand that no matter what the word conservative means, or what even I think it means, the historians here in this debate are arguing a sort of **title** “Conservative”, not the word “conservative”, (with a lower case c). In the issue summary, the writer describes the different types of Historians in a way of sympathies, noting, in my mind, some (potential) biases of their positions.

“Early historians did not concern themselves with the social and economic aspects of the revolution...” (Summary of Issue 6) “George Bancroft”...”America won, he said, because God was on our side.”... “...until the beginning of the twentieth century, when a group of imperialist historians analyzed the Revolution from the perspective of the British Empire. These historians tended to be sympathetic to the economic and political difficulties that Great Britain faced in running an empire in the late eighteenth century.” And they go on, (I really enjoy the humor of the writer who did the summary, even though it may not be intentional) they must have tried to pick a Historian who was a moderate on this subject, so that the intro could have a balanced perspective, in the effort of less bias.

Are the conservatives the traditional leaders? This seems to be Degler’s definition. So after some thought, and flip flopping, I agree with Degler (and Stan) about the leadership having been overwhelmingly office holders before the American Revolution.

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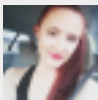
video clip #1

by [Jacob Spangler](#) – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 8:54 PM

In the first video clip Sheila Skemp explains that the colonists were ripe for revolution. She explains that the colonists knew John Locke’s idea of natural rights (life, liberty, and property). While this notion is based on the past (which would make it conservative) I still believe the revolution was radical in its nature. The things they were fighting for are traditional sure, the rights they were fighting for such as the right to own their own land. Yet this land would be owned in their new country. The idea of a new place to own land and raise a family, a new country which would be theirs and theirs alone. No crown to interfere with taxes and overlooking soldiers to keep their investment (the colonies) safe. They were fighting for a radical new nation, a nation in which they could make great. Here the colonists could be more than just colonists, they could be Americans.

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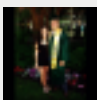
Life, Liberty and.....

by [Lauren Collett](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 9:45 PM

With that same idea I thought that it would make an easy argument for the conservative side as well. The fact that the English believed in the same basic principles we founded our country on. We just changed it to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Then we immediately continued taxation as well. I agree with you it still a radical movement and I believe this video clip agreed with that idea. It is easy to see how someone could turn that around to conservative, what do you think?

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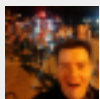
Re: Life, Liberty and.....

by [Cloyne Welch](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 11:25 PM

I agree, I could see how someone could view that as being somewhat conservative, but I think if it was looked at on a larger scale or seen as a whole, rather than portions (like the continuation of taxing) then it would be easier to view it as a radical movement. I feel that no matter what every government, society, or any group of people for that matter will have at least one similar way, tradition, or governing style that they may share. But I think one small similarity wouldn't create enough evidence for it to be considered conservative. What do you guys think?

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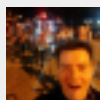
One small similarity

by [Jacob Spangler](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 1:36 PM

I agree, I keep reading arguments for conservative and I cannot seem to be swayed to that side. I still believe that it was a radical movement. If you do look at the revolution as a whole they were truly fighting for (I think) a new nation. However what constitutes a new nation? No mere name change from colonies to United States would be enough. These colonists were fighting for their independence, something they have never had before. They have not yet been free of the influence and watch of the crown. That’s why I think it was radical; they have never had their independence from the crown before. Yes we can say they were fighting for less taxation and wanting to go back to older values such that as liberty and land. However I don’t think those small similarities make it conservative.

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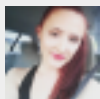
A new society

by [Jacob Spangler](#) – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 9:15 PM

I had begun to start questioning my stance on the revolution, if it was truly radical or was it really conservative? Gordon Wood had one quote in his paper that sold me on the idea that it was truly a radical movement. “It was in fact a new society unlike any that had ever existed anywhere in the world.” One argument that is brought up for the conservative side is that the colonists were fighting for rights such as the right to own land, which is not at all a new idea. With that being said it is the overall a radical movement for the following reason, the United States was a new place and a new idea. While I have mentioned these ideas in my past posts I do believe the idea of the United States was the most important element that made the revolution a radical movement at its fundamental core.

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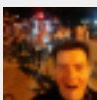
I would have to agree

by [Lauren Collett](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 9:53 PM

I would have to agree with you. When this discussion began after hearing our teacher speak on it I became pretty confused with who I should agree with but Gordon S. Wood does a really good job not only in the reading but in the video of making things clear for you. When he talks in video one about people having " A willingness to risk ones life, ultimately, for changing the order." Isn't that what makes it a revolution too. A group of people willing to risk their lives to change something. In this case it wasn't just under the rule of government but people got to choose their sides. From what we've learned in class it doesn't sound like there was a lot of money to gain their either.

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Money

by [Jacob Spangler](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 1:16 PM

You just made a really good point in your response there. You said that there was not a lot of money to gain from the revolution. I absolutely agree with you and I have never thought about it that way before. This would help the argument for the revolution being radical. If the colonists were fighting for more money and less taxing as the sole purpose for the revolution I would agree with a conservative argument. I just wanted to say that was a very good point you just made. It gave me some new ideas!



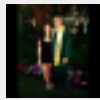
Radical

by [Emalie Pilon](#) – Thursday, November 19, 2015, 10:36 PM

I do not feel like the revolution was a conservative movement at all, mainly because of the definition of conservative and radical. Conservative is defined as holding on to a traditional attitude and values. And the definition of radical is relating to or affecting the fundamental nature of something. They overthrew the legitimate government which is as radical you can get, if they were conservative they would have supported the existing government ,it brought about a radical change, a change in how the colonists were governed. They destroyed the monarchy and set up a republic . Gordon s wood said that if we measure the radicalism by the amount of social change that actually took place– by transformations in the relationship that bound people to each other– then the American Revolution was not a conservative act it all, it was as radical and as revolutionary as any in history. By the early years of the 19th century the revolution had created a society fundamentally different than the colonial society was used to.And I think that different here is the key word. It was not the same as when they where under Britain's control. They wanted rights, that they felt like they were not getting . So they set out to change things and get those rights.

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Which Light Should the Revolution Be Seen In?

by [Cloyne Welch](#) – Friday, November 20, 2015, 10:57 PM

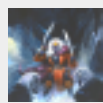
A general question for anyone.

In Gordon S. Woods argument, there was a paragraph that stood out to me. He states, "If we measure the radicalism of revolutions by the degree of social misery or economic deprivation suffered...then this conventional emphasis on the conservatism of the American Revolution becomes true enough. But if we measure the radicalism by the amount of social change that actually took place – then the American Revolution was not conservative at all..." (pg 130)

Taking into consideration the time period of the American Revolution, which one of these view points seem more important or more appropriate?

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Persons or Idea... Idea or Persons

by [Brianna Huber](#) – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 12:33 AM

Awesome Distillation of the Battleground between Wood and Degler. I feel it is great to see this quote of Gordon S. Woods argument. Although I feel as though they are arguing with different definitions of the word *conservative*.

In this quote that you mention, here specifically, "But if we measure the radicalism by the amount of social change that actually took place – then the American Revolution was not conservative at all..." (Wood p. 130).

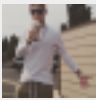
I sense that Wood is arguing using a definition of conservative to mean the traditional values in society, and Degler is arguing with at the very least, or at center with conservative meaning The **Conservatives** as a **specific** group of leadership that is considered Conservative because their actual connection to the leadership before the American Revolution. They do not agree on the same most important effects, or on the definitions, it seems. Maybe you were already implying similar thoughts?

I feel like the Leadership after the American Revolution was largely traditional (of the governmental structure before the American Revolution) ,afterward, at the top, and so someone at a point came out against their agenda (it just happened to be Jefferson) in some large ways. I feel that he had a challenge, at first, because the traditional English leadership values seem as though they were entrenched.

That is where I am at the moment. What do you think?

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Re: The Revolution – Conservative or Radical
by *Zachery Brown* – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 9:14 PM

After reading many of the posts here that lean more to the conservative side, I have left my mind open to see the radical vs conservative question from both sides. I originally sided more with the Radical view. And like I said after reading posts that sided with the more conservative side, Im still going to have to say that I think the American Revolution was definitely Radical. I mean, how can the first successful war against western imperialism not be radical? Not only that but a peoples war waged by the majority of Americans that had the courage to rise up in forms of guerilla strategy and malitias. And guerilla warfare had not yet even been developed technically. Despite the fact that they may have adopted a few strategies and ways to govern their new nation from the Monarchy that they had just waged war with, their are all too many more reasons that not only I, but many others can come up with. It was so radical that they decided to go with a Republic. Even though, like we learned in class, had never worked before. That is an extremely radical move. They also wanted nothing to do with Rulers, or Kings, and Queens. They were fed up with this way of life. To me this is all so much more radical than conservative. And just to throw this in their just cause I thought that this was a good example, The picture I attached, which of course is George Washingtons Ride across the Delaware River for an ambush, is an example of the guerilla warfare that I was talking about. So all in all, after all of the reading of the posts and researching the subject online, my final answer and commitment to the the question, "Was the American Revolution more Radical or Conservative?" Im obviously siding with Radical!



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Re: The Revolution – Conservative or Radical
by *Stanley Cates* – Saturday, November 21, 2015, 11:18 PM

Guerilla warfare was first described by Chinese general Sun Tzu in his manuscript "The art of war" in the 6th century BC. So, saying that it hadn't technically been developed might be a bit of a stretch.

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