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Continuing the discussion with new evidence

by Joe Escobar - Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 7:47 PM

This thread is for continuing this week's discussion on the The Great Awakening, but now with new evidence (video and website now visible on the forum materials webpage, linked above) and with new 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, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Continuing the discussion with new evidence

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Book vs Video The great awakening stances.

by Justin Stewart - Friday, October 21, 2016, 2:00 PM

The First Great Awakening Video that spoke about Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield took a very positive approach to them speaking of their accomplishments as well as where and how they preached. The video didn't give off the impression that the great awakening contained negative impact on society so I can only take away from this that they video is on the side of yes for this. The textbook however listed both the pros and cons of the events. It did give the information similar to the video however it also listed the downfalls of both men and how they rise and fall. To compare the two to each other I would have to say the book appears to be the most accurate because to present the information properly you need to list all of the events, not just the ones that side with your point of view. This is something that the book does or at least attempts to do whereas the video doesn't appear to even try.

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The Great Awakening, to open my eyes and compare it all.

by Justin Stewart - Friday, October 21, 2016, 2:15 PM

The website had a similar approach to the book in that it covered both sides of the story. It gives a broader range of information to the reader. I couldn't say that the information the book and the website covered were the same in the story or accumulation of information that they presented but rather they both took a broad approach to presenting the information rather than just presenting the information that they wanted like the video did. Regarding my outlook on The Great Awakening, I would have to say it shifted. Before when I posted my first post as well as my first few responses I was on a neutral point of view looking at the information and thinking well it does have some effect on history but I don't think that the effects can be considered impactful. Since being presented with more information I think that the great awakening did have a large impact on society and history and although I don't agree that the impact was all positive it would be hard being presented with the information that I have to deny that many things were affected by it. The great awakening, either way, you look at it was a pretty interesting topic that I was not aware of before taking the course so besides having to learn about it for a grade I am also glad I learned about it for general knowledge.

What do you all think? Did you sway your thoughts like I did, or are you still under the same thoughts and opinions of when you started?

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Re: The Great Awakening, to open my eyes and compare it all.

by Mariah Doyle - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 1:18 PM

Very interesting to see how your opinions have changed with the new information! I started off on the extreme "yes" side. For me, as I read more information and read more opinions from the class, I remained on the "yes" side but have gained a new understanding for the no side as well. I think this forum has proved that there are infinite ways to take information and there are many different points of views that all can be backed up whether we side with them or not.

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Re: The Great Awakening, to open my eyes and compare it all.

by Justin Stewart - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 2:17 PM

The forums have been kind of a new experience to me but also a pleasant one. Prior to doing the forums, I would read something about a topic and I would just take a side and move on but having to visit this over and over to earn points and having to think of things to talk about on the forums has forced my to look deeper into the topic that I previously had. Instead of being on the yes, or no approach of things and not being able to understand both sides I find myself still picking a side, yet still having a greater respect for both sides now. That's interesting to see that you shifted from an extreme yes to a yes after reading all the information and having with greater understanding your influence shift the opposite way than mine did even if just a little bit.

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Complications of summing History

by Jeff Johnson - Friday, October 21, 2016, 11:21 PM

I like the stance the video takes especially the last line where he calls it “a kind of backdrop or pre-cause for the revolution”(video 6:30). I would have to say yes the Great Awakening played a part in that later revolution but would have a hard time going as far calling it more than just a small part. I would have gone with Butler but think he went too far in saying “failed to change the timing causes or effects of the revolution in any significant way”(pg 11). If you are trying to sum up the fifty plus years before the revolution the video did a decent job but was a little religious. I think if u had the time to really

study that time period it would become a lot harder to put these different movements into one. I think if u really had the time to study it and not just a week for a 100 years Butler sums it up very well.

“What, then, ought we to say about the revivals of religion in prerevolutionary America? The most important suggestion is the most drastic. Historians should abandon the term "the Great Awakening" because it distorts the character of eighteenth-century American religious life and misinterprets its relationship to prerevolutionary American society and politics. In religion it is a *dens ex machina* that falsely homogenizes the heterogeneous; in politics it falsely unites the colonies in slick preparation for the Revolution. Instead, a four-part model of the eighteenth-century colonial revivals will highlight their common features, underscore important differences, and help us assess their real significance.(Butler pg 10)”

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New Evidence: The Great Awakening Website

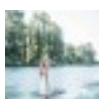
by Mariah Doyle - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 12:35 PM

The Great Awakening web page insisted that there is a strong link between the Great Awakening and the Revolution. The creators of the website would definitely have sided with Patricia Bonomi if they were to have to participate in our "yes or no" forum discussion. They both have the same main reasoning that The Great Awakening led to more feelings of national consciousness and "sentiments of self-governance" due to religious plurality.

Another connection I found on this page was actually to something we went over in our lecture in class. "The ideals of Puritanical covenant theology were manifested in the “social compact” of the Declaration of Independence." The author brought this up because during the time of the Great Awakening people started to realize how strong of a covenant that religion and government had with each other and this was just one of many examples of that.

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New Evidence: First Great Awakening Video

by Mariah Doyle - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 1:11 PM

The Great Awakening Video went into detail on George Whitefield and the revivalists' spreading of the word of god. They emphasized that the revivalists were not showing the people (for the most part) God for the first time, most people already were religious and even churchgoers.

The last minute of the video was where the historians talked about the effects of The First Great Awakening. Although they did say it was a contributing precursor to the Revolution, they didn't emphasize it as much as Patricia Bonomi and the Great Awakening website. I think the historians shown here would lean towards the "Yes" side but would be able to understand Jon Butler's point of view as well. This video seemed pretty similar to what our textbook said about the Great Awakening. They both thought that the Awakening inspired the people to think for themselves and gain a desire to be individuals, and eventually to rebel against who they felt oppressed by - the British.

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Hurricane

by Breana Kobold - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 4:45 PM

According to this new evidence it seems as though Jon Butler may be wrong, and that the revivalist conversions were rapid. People were clearly ready for a change and they jumped in as soon as they saw a chance for a transformation of religion. Jonathan Edwards seemingly played a major part in the “hurricane” that was the revivalist movement. They say that his events attracted 10’s of thousands of people but they also say that only 300 people were converted in Northampton Massachusetts. According to Wikipedia there were only around 1200 people living in that town during the 1730’s. That is 1/3 of the towns population that was converted. This makes me change my mind and think that Bonomi was right and that it was a “hurricane” that swept across the colonies.

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Re: Hurricane

by Jeff Johnson - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 11:27 PM

I just wonder how one town in Massachusetts becomes a “hurricane”? I think I’m going to have to go with Butler I just see too many things going on with too few links between. The last couple pages of his argument is too convincing like this from page 9.

“What, then, of the relationship between the revivals and the American Revolution? Obviously, the revivals provided little focus for intercolonial unity in the way some historians have described. They appeared too erratically in too few colonies under too

many different auspices to make such generalizations appropriate. The eighteenth-century colonial wars are more appropriate candidates for the honor. They raised significant legislative opposition to the crown in many colonies and cost many colonists their lives, especially in the last and most "successful" contest, the French and Indian War. Nor is it possible to demonstrate that specific congregations and denominations associated with the revivals originated anti-British protest that became uniquely important to the Revolution". (Pp 9)

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The Great Awakening-The cause of the American Revolution

by Benjamin McKenzie - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 8:26 PM

After watching the video clip and reading the essay on The Great Awakening website, I have been convinced that The Great Awakening played a large role in causing the American Revolution.

One way that The Great Awakening led to the American Revolution was by unifying the colonists. People felt a connection to one another regardless of race, gender, social or economic class. This unity led to a feeling of the colonists being their own people and separate from England.

In the article on the Great Awakening website, it's explained that during the time of the Great Awakening there were many groups of people that would break away from their larger churches to form smaller churches. I think that a good observation and argument for The Great Awakening leading up to the American Revolution is made when they state, "With the frequency by which believers broke away from larger churches to form splinter groups, the colonists must have been accustomed to separating themselves from larger institutions." I believe this describes the mindset of the colonies that would eventually lead up to the American Revolution.

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Revolution More a Consequence of Great Awakening

by Jeff Johnson - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 10:52 PM

I'm going to change my mind again I think calling the Great Awakening a key to the revolution is taking it to far. I'm going to go more with the Revolution being in part a consequence of the Awakening. In our book on page 134 it talks about how men became Freemason in reaction to the revivals. If I remember my history right a lot of our founding fathers were free masons including Washington. They also went to great length to separate church and state which I think was more a reaction to the revivals then them being any kind of key to the revolution.

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