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Continuing the discussion with new evidence

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◀ The Great Awakening

Continuing the discussion with new evidence ▶

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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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Re: Continuing the discussion with new evidence

by Hope Kelley - Thursday, October 20, 2016, 10:13 PM

I wanted to address the quote by William Knox. On the website provided in the forum, there is a quote "Every man being thus allowed to be his own Pope, he becomes disposed to wish to become his own King." This quote really stood out to me because I believe it has such a deeper meaning. I think it means that when a person has their own religious power over themselves, they was to be completely in control of themselves. By that I don't mean that people are under someone else's control, just that everyone wants to follow their own rules instead else's that have been put upon them. Religiously or governmentally.

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Re: Continuing the discussion with new evidence

by Alec Ebert - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 7:40 PM

I agree with this statement a lot. When I first read the argumentative essays I felt kind of lost in the text, it was very dense and i often had to read it three times over to really get the meat of what each historian was trying to argue in the context of what they were saying. At first after reading these, I felt like I agreed with Jon Butler because his words made the most sense to me. I'll admit, Im a bit biased because I have my own personal issues with religion. That often makes it difficult for me to believe that religion played such a major role in historical political events. However after watching the seven minute clip of that documentary and reading through the website, I began to side more with Patricia Bonomi. Once all of the information was a little more cut and dry I was able to put the pieces together that the great awakening played a huge role in the separation of church and state, and began to fuel the fires of the american revolution. The William Knox quote puts it into as simple as words can make it. In this time, if one is to become more independent in their thinking of preyer, then one becomes much more independent as a whole.

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The Church of Dry Bones

by Tyger Gruber - Thursday, October 20, 2016, 10:42 PM

In the video at 1:35 Stephan Stookey states that Jonathan Edwards named the church, the 'Church of Dry Bones' after it was passed to him. The video quickly moved on with no insight as to why he named it this, why would you imagine he would name the church such an odd name? The video later mentioned that he would preach impromptu sermons to up to 20,000 people!?!?! That is insane for that time. The fact that he brought a foldable platform to stand on so he could be seen by the

masses is a testimony to his stature. If he had all this power and stature I'm curious if he opened up any other churches, if so would he have also named them churches of dry bones? If so why are there no Dry Bones churches today?

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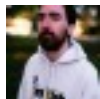
Re: The Church of Dry Bones

by Alec Ebert - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 7:02 PM

In terms of the "dry bones" name, I feel like it might have something to do with the of church goeres, in the sense that the practice of unity as a whole church was still the norm. Perhaps he felt the need to replenish the bones of his disciples by filling them with new meaning in worshipping the word of christ. The great awakening website talks about how around this time people began to accept that there wasn't just one correct church, but rather there were several that all had different interpretations of gods will. So getting back to the "dry bones" thing i think that has a lot to do with the fact everyone was monologue and focused on one belief instead of opening their minds to different ways of preyer.

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Re: The Church of Dry Bones

by Dylan Mandoli - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 7:42 PM

'Dry Bones' is a reference to the book of Ezekiel chapter 37, where the prophet Ezekiel has a vision where he a wakens in a massive valley filled with old, dry bones. Before his eyes, the bones are drawn together with meat and sinew formed out of thin air. The prophecy signifies the spiritual resurrection of heaven. To the spiritualists of the Great Awakening, it signified the spiritual resurrection of *salvation*. Edwards saw his congregation as a church of the unressurected dead, who, through personal conversion experiences, could be resurrected in the light of God.

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Re: Continuing the discussion with new evidence

by Hope Kelley - Friday, October 21, 2016, 12:13 AM

After reading the website information I can say that I think it is saying that The Great Awakening caused or helped the Revolutionary War come to be. In the first sentence of the "Religious Uniformity" section states "Perhaps he greatest fuel added to the revolutionary fire that began burning in the latter half of the 18th Century was religious pluralism within the colonies." I agree with this sentence because I believe

that the Great Awakening lead to the ideas for the revolution, like I stated in one of my previous posts. The article says "...the colonists adhered to no single denomination" but they all hated the Church of England. I believe all these denominations came together by mutual hatred and talked about a way to remove the source of it. Like Sonja Fritz said in her post "Churches gave you once a week to discuss and congregate morals and events. When you come together you discuss events ie. Boston tea party, get angry, and talk about rebellion." Common places became places to talk about revolution and when the right time to act was.

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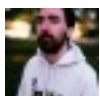
Continuing the talks with new visual evidence.

by Alec Ebert - Friday, October 21, 2016, 8:12 PM

For me the video really puts all of this in to a much clearer perspective, rather than reading the argumentative essays. The painted visuals of all of the sermons that George Whitfield put on combined with the feedback of actual historians really puts you into the mindset of someone who lived through this time and experienced the great awakening. When Peter Marshall explains how thousands of people would come to see Whitfield, he also goes on to explain how everyone had to come to a relationship with christ in the same way. It didn't matter what race you were or how much money you had. God looks upon everyone through the same eyes. Furthermore this led to a much more independent approach to Americanism and people started to speak up for the things that they wanted. After reading the essays I was more on the side of Jon Butler, feeling like the Great Awakening was more of just a minor detail in path of the first American settlers. Now I feeling that it played a much bigger role now that I clearly understand how many people were affected by this movement and how it played a role in more independent thinking of the American colonists.

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Analyzing new evidence

by Dylan Mandoli - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 6:11 PM

It is obvious to me that <http://www.great-awakening.com/> holds to the opinion that the Great Awakening heavily influenced American thought. From the earliest paragraphs, it is easy to see how statements like "The chain of authority no longer ran from God to ruler to people, but from God to people to ruler" apply to the future American Zeitgeist. I believe this attitude specifically is at the core of the philosophy behind the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution itself.

In the wake of the renaissance and the enlightenment, concepts like the Divine Right of kings had lost credibility among the common folk. Enlightenment philosophers such as John Locke contested calvinist notions of inherent evil of all mankind. The Great Awakening (and other movements) cemented in the minds of men that they had within them already the means necessary for salvation, without need of bishops or kings. The Awakening stressed the importance of spiritual individuality, encouraging personal conversion, and coming to theological conclusions based on introspection rather than explanation from the clergy.

Emerging from the Great Awakening, too, was the notion that authority to rule was given by the people themselves. The Consent of the Governed is an old concept in english law, dating far back to the Magna Carta, but never was it so ubiquitously applied nor as inclusive of the peasantry as in America. The Great Awakening cemented the notion that earthly laws descend from sacred or self-evident ones, and that the Government exists to *protect* the rights of the people, not to *grant* them. If authority stems from God, to people, to ruler, then true earthly power rests in the hands of the people themselves, and can be rightfully revoked from their rulers when mishandled. This notion of being allowed to overthrow unjust rulers would provide the foundation for the revolution's Casus Belli.

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Not convinced

by Sonja Fritz - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 6:34 PM

The video seems to be biased, saying that yes The Great Awakening is a tie to the american revolution. There is a discussion about figures in history and how their ability to convert people was so amazing and prolific in history. They also talked about the worshipping practices and how everyone was kind of hypnotized in a way, being so easily influenced. While this is true, it seems to be their whole foundation for why it ties to the American revolution, which is not enough evidence.

One of the speakers said that the preaching, unified people whether they were black, white, uneducated, or educated. This statement is a point I made on my other post. Yes, religion is the foundation that unifies people. It allows people to brainstorm, causing ideas for revolution but, the goal is freedom and liberty which is the driving factor for the American Revolution.

George Whitefield, specifically seems romanticised and praised, which is bias to me. I'm not convinced that religion is a direct correlation to the American revolution just because the preachers were so admired and people were easily swayed into thinking a certain way.

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Re: Continuing the discussion with new evidence, My Last Thought

by Morganne Roy - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 8:03 PM

The Great Awakening website obviously is falling in line with Professor Bonomi, as well as the video though to a lesser extent. I think, like Bonomi, the author of the website makes an excellent case using talented writing which weaves a cohesive narrative. The video too seems to showcase how the Great Awakening was the first "national American event" that led Americans to view themselves "as a people for the first time" (6:04).

At this point, I think I'm leaning towards neither side. While there seems to be an abundance of evidence in favor, the reverse is true also. Did the Great Awakening lead to the Revolution? I think a yes or no answer is too simplistic. Both sides are capable of making excellent points, yet I don't think I've seen either side completely successfully refute the other. My opinion now is that it's simply too difficult to determine the causal relationship. Would the Revolution have happened without the Great Awakening? Maybe America was destined to separate from Britain, and the Great Awakening only topically influenced the intellectual reasoning of those involved. Perhaps it is directly responsible for fostering the Revolutionary zeitgeist. Whatever the case may be, I've come to see a yes or no answer on this topic as reductive and non beneficial for my understanding of what actually happened.

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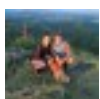
Video Evidence Relating to Essay

by Garrett Richards - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 8:30 PM

After listening to the podcast and reading over the website, I see that the authors of the two articles that we read left out a lot useful information. The great awakening was a tremendous part of history for the for the American people. When comparing this podcast I believe that they are trying to get across that The Great Awakening was one of the biggest steps in American religion. "Over 300 people were converted in North Hampton Massachusetts," (2:10). This stuck out because it goes to show how much Jonathan Edwards impacted the "uncommitted people" within the community. I did hear some parts from the podcast relating to Patricia J. Bonomi essay, which leads me to fall along the side of Bonomi and what she had to say in her essay.

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So.. I changed my mind

by Peter Iten - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 10:54 PM

After reviewing the video and the website on The Great Awakening, and whether the events did or did not have a direct impact on the American Revolution I found myself disagreeing with my original post. After watching the video and having the opinions of the numerous professors. I found it much harder to argue that no correlation existed between the two events. What stood out the most to me was the conclusion of the video, and to be specific when Professor Barry Hankins said “it was the Great Awakening that set the people on the path of separation.” I was sold. Whether you are considering the daily conversions of hundreds or the idea that the colonies had their first celebrity like star in George Whitefield. It’s hard to ignore or argue that change was taking place in the colonies. A change which I now believe may have ignited some of the fire that would lead to the revolution.

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