



HST 201: History of United States F16 (Escobar Meta 20938 23214)

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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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Breaking down barriers

by Judith Pohl - Friday, October 21, 2016, 5:52 PM

This video really gave me a better understanding of the impact of the Great Awakening. Now watching it twice after last week in class it's brought to light to me how much the great awakening broke down the racial, ethnic, and gender barriers.

As mentioned in class on Thursday, John Edwards promoted gender equality which in turn brought along the feminization of churches. This was a pivotal time, in my opinion, for gender equality, women felt empowered and encouraged.

Also I love the clips and readings on George Whitefield, he really intrigues me. I also find it surprising that Patricia Bonomi doesn't mention him much in her article. Had she mentioned him more and the impact he had of drawing crowds of thousands upon thousands to hear him speak my opinion of the impact of the Great Awakening may have been swayed from the beginning.

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Re: Breaking down barriers

by Reed Hueter - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 11:11 AM

Hi Judith,

I agree with you on how much clearer the video made this subject. It helped me realize how important Whitfield was and how many people he influenced. I also like how you bring in the idea of feminization of churches because this really was such a crucial time in history. I think if Patricia Bonomi would of talked about George Whitfield more and all he did I would of sided with her in the readings as well.

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United against the enemy

by Heather Shepherd - Friday, October 21, 2016, 8:40 PM

After reading the new evidence, my view of how the Great Awakening affected the American Revolution has changed. Originally I sided with John Butler's view but now I'm starting to agree that while the Awakening didn't necessarily "spark" the revolution, it created a new mindset of colonial unity and skepticism of power that wasn't present before. There's a good chance that this new mindset helped the colonies rally and fight for their independence.

When Butler pointed out the time difference between the Awakening and the Revolution, it seemed like the two events couldn't have had a strong link. But the Great Awakening website clarified what was going on during that time gap. The

Awakening brought people together in a communal way, creating a unified front against Catholicism. In essence, *colonists learned to put their differences aside and concentrate their fear and hostility onto a central foreign power.* The concept of the "antichrist" was applied to the Pope during the French and Indian War, and that allowed the colonists to unite against their common enemy. And later (as I'm sure we'll read in the next chapter) they turned their focus to King George III with the same zeal.

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Road to Revolution

by Kevin Smolek - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 10:02 AM

This new evidence reinforces my thinking on the Great Awakening, and how it was a major step towards the kind of thinking that lead to independence. The newly posted video ended with saying that the film makers also thought that the mass revivals were an important event, and helped build a mindset that the population was one people, and different than the British. The "national consciousness" that arose after these revivals had many lasting impacts, including, according to the newly linked article:

"The chain of authority no longer ran from God to ruler to people, but from God to people to ruler. The children of revivalism later echoed this radicalism and popular self-righteousness in the American Revolution, when self-assertion turned against the tyrannical ways of George III." (Paragraph 4, linked page of Great-Awakening.com).

This quote is trying to show that this movement radically shifted the balance of power in the Americas, from a king or pope figure, to the common people, and I feel like that is the whole spirit of the American revolution.

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Influencing the Revolution

by Reed Hueter - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 10:24 AM

In this video on the Great Awakening the authors are clearly supportive of the idea that this caused the American Revolution and I see why. Once the revivals began taking place it states in the video that preaching services would sometimes last a day forming around the idea of individualism. Its the first time in the colonies that people were on the same page and they thought of themselves as people. It also talks about the importance of George Whitfield and how influential he was. George Mardsen stated in the video that "Whitfield was the first american star that everyone heard about. Benjamin Franklin had seen him preach in front of 20,000 people and without amplification this was impressive. The video also exposed that he gave around 18,000 sermons which he did not plan. These facts made it easier for me to see that maybe the Great Awakening really did have an effect on the American

Revolution. I think the textbooks opinion on this question is mixed. It emphasizes that the revivals only happened in half the colonies and it also states on page 134 that "the revivals prompted New Side (evangelical) Presbyterians and Old Side (anti-revival) Presbyterians" and that people became much harder to convert after the initial revivals.

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Presbyterian Rebellion

by Reed Hueter - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 11:02 AM

The website agrees with the video in the sense that the revivals caused the Revolution. It says "John Adams gave credit to the Great Awakening as the source of motivation behind the war, and in certain parts of England the revolution was even called the "Presbyterian Rebellion"." More key points it talks about is how the revivals were a form of social cooperation that bounded together through their mass conversions. The colonists had a religious zeal that burned strong and this turned to a burning desire for independence which led to revolution. All in all after reviewing these different sources I have a mixed opinion on this matter. I see both sides of the argument strongly and can conclude that the revivals definitely changed the colonies, but the fact that these only happened in half the colonies and that there is no direct link from the revivals to the revolution makes me think it wasn't as big as an impact as many think.

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Bonomi

by Judith Pohl - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 12:53 PM

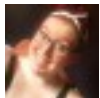
Throughout this week's forum I have been swayed back and forth some on the different opinions of classmates, the readings, and videos that Escobar has posted. After researching all sides and views I agree most with Bonomi and her view the Great Awakening was in fact key to the Revolution. A few points she made I felt supported and drew the line between her article and the video. "Before it subsided, the revival had unsettled the lives of more Americans and disrupted more institutions than any other single even in colonial experience to that time." This shows the scale of how many were affected to begin with and that this wasn't something that had happened in colonial life prior. It also states in the video that it affected many different religions, calling the Great Awakening "an across denominational event," when referring to the huge crowds coming to see Whitefield preach. To me this stresses the importance of a sense of unity between the denominations that prior to this didn't seem to exist. Bonomi later mentions (pg3) "into this volatile and expectant environment came some of the most charismatic and combative personalities of the

age...and the thunder of a Whitefield rolled.” These “personalities” played a huge factor in what she later mentions (pg 5) as a times that were “elevating the individual.”

My final opinion is yes I do believe the Great Awakening did play a large part in the American Revolution. It “cut through gender, racial, and ethnic barriers”, gave the individuals a sense of empowerment and energy, and was “one of the first times people in these disparate colonies had been on the same page(Video 5:54).” I think it was time for the people to feel the empowerment and hope they got out of the Great Awakening and that it would be one of the key factors to the American Revolution for years to come.

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Whitefield's power behind preaching

by Tyra Potter - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 4:50 PM

After watching the video posted I have grown interested in George Whitefield’s preaching style. The video has many historians that are all in awe of how Whitefield drew in such large crowds. (4:30) He was giving spontaneous sermons throughout all thirteen colonies. He would preach to tens of thousands of people without amplification, being an actor I can’t even imagine the power he held in his lung capacity. I also know that if someone believes in what they are saying well enough than they will be able to get anyone who listens to them to believe it as well. Whitefield believed it was his duty to repent and to get others to see the sins of their ways and repent with him, and that is exactly what he did. He was not only a man of god but a performer, and I respect that.

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agreeing with Bonomi

by Alex Costelow - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 9:32 PM

After reading other classmates thoughts on this discussion, and especially after viewing the video Instructor Escobar posted, I can more confidently say I believe that Bonomi's point of view on this argument is more appealing to me. Faith and religion were a huge part of peoples culture then, people followed what they believe to be true- "the 18th century was punctuated with religious episodes that seemed to erupt without warning and draw entire communities into a vortex of religious conversions and agitations of soul" states Patricia U. Bonomi. The video repeatedly expresses the theme that religion excited people, faith excited people, & when they were given the chance to break free/ have their own views, they took it.

From the website Escobar posted I found a statement made by William Knox, a British statesman:“Every man being thus allowed to be his own Pope, he becomes disposed to wish to become his own King”. This extremely stood out to me because I couldn't have said it better myself. People were forced to follow religions and views whether they agreed with it or not, so the people knew if the 13 colonies were to break away from the British monarchy, that they would then be able to be become essentially "his own king".- or their own king, as William Knox stated.

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