



Administration

Student Support

Navigation

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

Home ► Fall 2016 ► HST 201 F16 (Escobar Meta 20938 23214) ► Week 4 ► Forum 2 ► The Great Awakening



Search forums

Forum 2

The Great Awakening

• [Subscribe](#)

◀ Continuing the discussion with new evidence Continuing the discussion with new evidence ▶

Display replies in nested form



Move this discussion to ...



Move



The Great Awakening

by Joe Escobar - Friday, October 14, 2016, 8:54 PM

This thread is for discussions on the The Great Awakening topic.
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: The Great Awakening

Sum of ratings: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Truth is somewhere in the middle

by Jeff Johnson - Monday, October 17, 2016, 12:01 AM

While I tend to side a little bit more with Jon Butler, his comments on the last couple lines on page 11 saying the revivals failed to have any significant effects on the revolution takes it a little too far. The first author Patricia Bonomi tries to place too much on a movement that only lasted a few years and was only part of a much broader picture. Trying to claim such broad effects in what was only part of the colonies oversimplifies the issue while saying it had no effect at all only ignores it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Truth is somewhere in the middle

by Grant Garcia - Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 12:23 PM

I agree with a lot of what you are saying because Butler and Bonomi both write about the relation of these two events in polar opposite fashion, where as in my opinion the reality is that one didn't directly lead to another, but The Great Awakening Certainly sparked the thought of revolution, but again it is somewhat too much in my eyes to say that it is the soul cause. Would you agree that although it may have not caused the American Revolution, the Great Awakening sparked it and contributed to the thought of it?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Truth is somewhere in the middle

by Benjamin McKenzie - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 8:48 PM

I agree with you on this and think that in reality the answer is somewhere in the middle. I don't think that The Great Awakening led directly to the American revolution but I believe that it caused a shift in thinking that contributed to colonies eventually wanting to break away from England. It doesn't seem to be a black and white issue and if the argument is "it led to the American Revolution or it didn't" it'll be difficult to come to a consensus.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Modern day religion?

by Justin Stewart - Monday, October 17, 2016, 11:47 AM

As I read through the information provided and the two sides of the table I didn't find myself choosing one and getting drawn to it however for the sake of the information I took to the best I guess I would have to be on the yes side. The reason that I say this is there were several statements in the article that brought my attention to them and

made me want to use them to respond to this forum as well as post some questions to the rest of the class. As I was reading I saw this “Old side Presbyterians shared a corporate view of church government; that is once decisions had been approved by the central synod, all members were expected to abide by its rulings.” This quote from page 4 of the article got me thinking. This is what people argue about in modern times regarding religion. The argument of how to act on a day to day basis and what amount if any influence should be placed on this regarding religion for this decision. To look at the Presbyterians side according to the article I take from this that the church determines this. However as I read further into the article I see that even in this time this ideology was not entirely agreed upon. Further on down the page the article says.” Yet the revivalists claimed the liberty “to question and judge all, and reduse[d] Subjection to every proper Judicature” this shows that this argument has been going sine the 1700’s. It is amazing to me that after hundreds of years we are still to this day having the same arguments on religion. Like I said I didn’t really have a side I personally could pick in the articles of which I believe but I did find this portion on the yes side to be quite interesting so I’m curious what you all thought on this portion and if I am getting the same thoughts or meanings out of the text as the rest of you.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



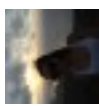
Limited Communication

by Breana Kobold - Monday, October 17, 2016, 7:50 PM

I have to say I most agree with Jon Butler who says the “great awakening” has little to do with the revolution. While it may be true what Patricia J. Bonomi says “Once having taken part in the dismantling of old institutions and ' the shaping of new ones, Americans at , every social level would find themselves less hesitant to do it again.” It has been proven throughout the history of time that people follow by example and once they have broken down a wall they are less hesitant to do it again. I agree in that sense. But with very limited communication, not within, but between the colonies it is hard to imagine a “hurricane” type uprising between the pieties. While I imagine any sort of communication would be slow it seems impossible that within 5(ish) years mass amounts of people were involved in the revival. I also imagine that because this was at a time where religion and church were so prominent that there would have been a very limited amount of people to agree and essentially “walk with” the Awakeners who were advancing their “religious ideology by overturning the orthodox majority”. It seems impossible that the Awakeners adopted such a large gathering into their radical religious ideas. It is a fact that people want to fit in and "believe" what the majority believe so it would be quite difficult especially with limited communication to gain such a following.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



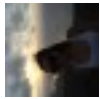
Re: Limited Communication

by Shelby Say - Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 11:10 AM

I definitely side with you about this disagreement with the "hurricane sweeping the colonies" statement. It truly is hard to imagine the large majority of people to be involved in the Great Awakening and taking part in this religious movement. I personally feel that Butler was more realistic about this aspect in the event about how many people were revivalists and geographically where it mostly occurred.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Professor Butler and The Great Awakening

by Shelby Say - Monday, October 17, 2016, 9:03 PM

I agree that religion did have an impact on the American Revolution, but I don't necessarily agree that The gReat Awakening was the "key" to the American Revolution. I interpreted Professor Bonomi's stance on the situation that she strongly believes that the individualism of religion involved during The Great Awakening highly influenced and greatly contributed to the political upheaval of the American Revolution. I, personally, side more with Professor Butler on the fact that there is not enough of a strong correlation between these two events. Yes, religion was no doubt a factor in the American Revolution, but The Great Awakening as a whole, was not the cause of the American Revolution. As he stated in the handout, "the expansion of the leading evangelical denominations, Presbyterians and Baptists, can be traced to many causes, not just revivalism or "the Great Awakening." I agree that there were many outside factors that impacted the start of the American Revolution and we can't simply just name The Great Awakening as one of the main causes. Professor Butler also goes into how The Great Awakening falsely politically unites the colonies in preparation for the Revolution. What I liked most about this statement was that he then backs it up by giving a very informal four-part model of the impact of the revivals. In the last paragraphs, he mentions that the revivalists contributed to English politics by moral reasoning and judgement but so did others that were not revivalists. I couldn't agree more with this reasoning because, as Joe mentioning during lecture, there are religious influence in decision making including our political systems as well. Therefore, we can't just assume that the event of religious unity in pre-Revolutionary America is why the American Revolution occurred.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Short Lived Calvinism-Most Accurate

by Benjamin McKenzie - Monday, October 17, 2016, 9:41 PM

Jon Butler persuaded me to believe in his over argument Bonomi's. It seems as if the term "The Great Awakening" is a bit exaggerated and as Butler describes the Rivals "swept" only some of the colonies and only affected portions of the ones they interacted with. I believe Butler described it well when he said no one would question "the Great Awakening" if it was called short-lived Calvinism which I believe is a more accurate way to describe it. I believe that While "the Great Awakening" did have some influence, it was not as influential as some historians say it was.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Short Lived Calvinism-Most Accurate

by Breana Kobold - Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 7:45 PM

At first I agreed with you that "The Great Awakening" had little to do with the revolution but after re-reading the chapter it seems that Bonomi may be right. Although the "Awakening" may have not "swept" over the colonies like she stated it did spark a sense of independence and confidence within the revivalists. Like we talked about in class "greed" is a powerful thing. While the great awakening may not be a situation where greed was the most crucial reason for the rise of the revivalists, people learned that they could stand up for themselves and that it actually worked. I think this may have sparked a sense of power within them that they could become independent from Britain. After the great awakening it is clear that there was now almost a "climate of rebellion".

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Short Lived Calvinism-Most Accurate

by Justin Stewart - Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 11:50 AM

This is the thing that we see throughout history, both sides are going to have valid points if well researched and well presented. I myself found it hard to fully commit to either side but even when you do you run into the situation in which you are speaking of. You said "The Great Awakening is a bit exaggerated" to which I think most things in history are. In order to make it into the history books, there not only needs to be an event that occurs but it needs to be important enough for someone to document it along the way. Sometimes this is the case because the event changes history on a large scale and sometimes it is the cause that the event is interesting. For example, as we went over in class almost all of us have heard of the Salem witch trials which prior to this course I thought was a terrible event causing a large number of innocent deaths, only to find out only two dozen people were executed. So why then would this event be such a popular one when it was small in compared to most. It is due to the accusations of witches. This is

an exaggerated event as well and also I think shows that history although full of facts and events also has a bias towards it on how it's presented just like you say the great awakening did.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Short Lived Calvinism-Most Accurate

by Breana Kobold - Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 8:15 PM

I agree. As another example, in textbooks and in most history classes, we all know that Christopher Columbus was referred to as the "explorer" who "discovered" America and this was just a fact as far as anyone was concerned. It is only in recent years that I have heard him referred to as a "greedy conqueror". Though he kept good documentation of his expeditions, the rest of the world understood his voyages to be vastly different and regarded him practically as a hero. I think this relates to the understanding of the great awakening because it just shows that the difference in documentation and presentation of events can lead to many different interpretations of the event, some which may be true and some which may be untrue.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



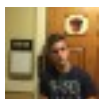
Re: Short Lived Calvinism-Most Accurate

by Breana Kobold - Thursday, October 20, 2016, 9:15 PM

In my last post I meant to say that Europeans regarded him practically as a hero, not the whole world.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Why The Great Awakening Helped Spark the American Rev.

by Grant Garcia - Monday, October 17, 2016, 10:28 PM

In my opinion the Great Awakening was a large key to the American Revolution. As the textbook outlines on page 120 there was a large variety of ethnicities and religions coming into the colonies. With people of so many different practices and previous political backgrounds it was easy to see that not all people wanted the same thing. Previous to moving to the colonies these people were more seen as outcasts if they didn't follow the religion of political views that followed the beliefs of the majority in their country. In this new age of the colonies there is no generic norm because of all these different backgrounds. This was the first opportunity these people really had to form views of their own without worrying about the appeals of tradition surrounding their previous environments. This is outlined in part of the

analysis by Bonomi where she quotes, "No longer were consensual values to prevail over individual ones, at least in matters concerning the soul. Now private judgment and intuitive understanding had equal if not superior claim on the conscience. In a word, decision making had been internalized." People were now openly experiencing the option to agree or disagree with people of other views because it was what they believed true and not what was conceived as true by most. This opportunity to form one's own views on religion and political structure was in my opinion not going to stop domestically as most things were still being run majorly by Great Britain. The Great Awakening and the American Revolution certainly aren't the same thing but the spark in freedom and forming your own beliefs was carried over from the Great Awakening and in my opinion with the support I have listed, sparked the American Revolution as a whole.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



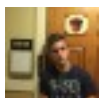
In my eye

by Eric Land - Monday, October 17, 2016, 11:13 PM

I don't think that the great awakening caused the American Revolution. The reason is because it was all because the Boston Tea party was kind of the "Kick Off" for the Revolution. Also in another stream, the whole George Whitefield event. People wanted to come see him and then the only people who didn't were the Angelicans. (The book, pg. 133) The book says they distrusted him. Jon Butler sad the Great Wakening is very hard to date. The thing is with people is that they semi guess when certain things happen.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: In my eye

by Grant Garcia - Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 12:32 PM

I understand not thinking the great awakening directly caused the American Revolution, but I believe it played a huge role. The Boston Tea party occurred in the 1770's where as the Great Awakening was more in the 1730's and 1740's according to our textbooks. I agree it is difficult to draw conclusions when the information is not perfectly mapped out but the Awakening occurred before the Boston Tea party. Perhaps the events that occurred and took place during the Great Awakening didn't directly start the Revolution, but in my opinion they sparked the thought of it and even led to the mindset of a new approach to the system being used by governmental powers. Having that mindset and new found beliefs can lead to other things such as the Boston Tea party which may have had a more direct impact on the spark of the American Revolution. In my eyes the

Great Awakening was one of the first points this idea became an actual option. Would you agree or do you believe it truly played no role in the revolution? I'd love to hear your reasoning!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: In my eye

by Mariah Doyle - Friday, October 21, 2016, 10:55 AM

Yes, it is sort of difficult to date entirely accurately. But we do have a general range of time, and I don't think the dates really matter when it comes to the lasting effects of the Awakening. If we didn't have written documentation that Columbus sailed in 1492, it wouldn't lessen the effects of the event. Are you saying that George Whitefield was an influence that started the Revolution? Because don't Whitefield and The Great Awakening go hand in hand?

The way I see it the rise of feelings of independence and "national consciousness" that the Great Awakening sparked led to a boost in courage and confidence and helped to inspire the Americans to rebel and carry out the Boston Tea Party. So yes I 100% agree that the Tea Party kicked off the Revolution but I think the Awakening deserves some credit for that

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Patricia Bonomi: YES

by Mariah Doyle - Monday, October 17, 2016, 11:22 PM

After reading this article and re-reading chapter 4, I decided that I agree with Patricia Bonomi over Jon Butler. The Great Awakening was a major key in the American Revolution. Bonomi summed up my reasoning perfectly, "No previous occurrence in colonial history compared with it in scale or consequences. True, the floodtide of evangelical fervor soon subsided, but nothing could quite restore the old cultural landscape." There was a section in our book in the end of the chapter laid out all the consequences of the Awakening including changes in populations of religious denominations, changes in the views on slavery and equal rights, and the rise of new job fields. Those sound like some pretty important changes to me! I believe that if the Great Awakening didn't happen, the American Revolution and America as a whole would've been completely different.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

Re: Patricia Bonomi: YES



by Eric Land - Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 12:20 PM

I am half and half with this idea. I believe that there were some hard feelings left over from the Great Awakening, but also at the same time I don't think that it was all from the Great Awakening. So, everything that happens in the world will be based on Religion. It is one of those things and that will always be involved with politics and events in the world.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Still on the fence

by Jeff Johnson - Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 1:32 AM

I still have a hard time completely agreeing with either of them but if I was forced to choose I would probably go with Butler. I still think it is a little too simplistic to claim revivals were a “rehearsal for colonists’ assault on English rule (Bonomi pp 1)”. While I do believe the revival played a part in the shaping of views in the colonies I do not believe it was more than just a part of a much broader picture. The colonies were just expanding to fast and the revivals were spread out and never really gained enough momentum to claim such major change and creation of radicalism. Even though I believe there was lot more going on I cannot go as far as to say “they failed to change the timing, causes, or effects of the Revolution in any significant way (Butler pp 11)”. I have to believe that at least some of the ideas even 30 years later must have played a role in people’s ideas of self and governance.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Still on the fence

by Eric Land - Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 12:31 PM

I agree with you, it is hard to say either yes or no but people do have a tendency to hold a grudge. I believe that most of the events in the world, are caused by people still being up in their feelings.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The Great Awakening the key to success?

by Matt Oordt - Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 7:58 AM

I'm leaning more towards Bonomi on this one. I think that she did a much better job at getting her point across, linking the Great Awakening to the American Revolution. She goes on to say, "The Great Awakening erupted into something so big it draw

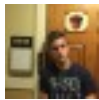
entire communities into a vortex," . This really put into perspective how The Great Awakening effected history.

This does not mean that Butler's point of view went unnoticed. I found some of what he had to say to be appealing; specifically when he states that "historians don't even know the exact date of The Great Awakening". I found this to be quite disturbing. How can the Great Awakening be so key to the American Revolution if they don't even know the date of when it happened.

That's just my two cents though.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: The Great Awakening the key to success?

by Grant Garcia - Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 12:41 PM

I think this post is very interesting and it makes for a good conversation since you are still slightly in the middle even though leaning towards yes. I would like to comment on what you said about the Great Awakening with regards to not having an exact date on it. I realize it is hard to find something crucial if we can't even state when it happened but some things aren't considered crucial until we see the aftermath of said event which can often times be centuries later. I think what is most important is the chronology of what occurred and the event that took place in those occurrences. We know the Great Awakening was before the American Revolution and we know during the Great Awakening many people were beginning to form individualistic views and spark their own beliefs on political systems as opposed to rendering to what has been there for years simply because it has been there for years. Knowing that information I personally believe it is easy to say that one event helped lead to another.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: The Great Awakening the key to success?

by Justin Stewart - Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 12:02 PM

Did the great awakening impact history in the way that some think, This is the question I pose to you. The reason that I ask this is although the great awakening did occur and history is documented to prove that I wonder how key it was to the American revolution? You stated that they didn't even know the date of when it happened. I know that might seem like a small detail to some but I wonder if it wasn't important enough to document the date then how much impact did it really have compared to how much interest it had. I don't deny that it did play a role but rather if it played a major one. I used an example in one of my previous posts that I will reference here. The example was from the Salem witch trials. Something that we all know occurred and most are familiar with. The Salem witch trials with all its

documentation and all the speak that is done about it only amounted to two dozen deaths which we learned in class. Now that is not to say these deaths are important but just as these two dozen deaths might be considered less than a major impact in history would the great awakening also be considered something that is exaggerated as well? Let me know what you think.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Change of Vote

by Jeff Johnson - Thursday, October 20, 2016, 1:54 AM

In his writing Butler did persuade me more that Great Awakening was more just a part of the later revolution and Bonomi goes wait to far in her claims. If we are going strictly on

YES

: Professor of history Patricia U. Bonomi asserts that the Great Awakening, by fostering challenges to established authority and by encouraging people to act on individual conscience, represented a rehearsal for the colonists' political assault on English rule that began in the 1760s.

NO

: Professor of American history Jon Butler challenges the validity of the term Great Awakening and argues that a link between the eighteenth-century colonial religious revivals and the American Revolution was virtually nonexistent.

i would have to go with Bonomi. The statement from Butler of “virtually nonexistent” takes thing a little too far. If he had said something closer to little or small I might still have had to go his way. I still think Bonomi takes it too far and it was only a part of a broader picture. I like the quote in the end of the video which I think sums it up well “religion can be seen as a kind of a backdrop or pre cause of the revolution”.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Change of Vote

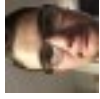
by Mariah Doyle - Thursday, October 20, 2016, 3:19 PM

This is also part of what made me steer away from choosing Butler. The matter-of-fact approach of him saying that the link literally did not exist, while Bonomi had SO much to say about the increase of independence and individuality, etc. being influential, did seem extreme. Even if he would have said it had "very little" to do with the revolution it would strengthen his argument. We have seen

extemes/exaggerations this many times in class already, including within our textbook (remember "THE most devastating event in history" from one of our first classes?) Of course our textbook and Jon Butler are still reliable sources, but the use of this matter-of-fact language does make you take a step back and think.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The Great Awakening changing the colonies for better or for worse

by Jabon Hagel - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 10:05 PM

After watching the seven minute video on the topic the Great awakening I felt a bit overwhelmed of how great this event was. Not only did the colonies go through this event but so did England, Scotland, and Whales.

In the colonies alone it began in the late 1730's as Stephen Stookey observed and peaked in the 40s. John Edwards was really the first to get this religion up roar under way in 1734.

To me this is such an impressive feat because it brought people together in the colonies. not just the whites but Indians and Africans as well. In the video clip at the 4:12-4:20 mark it stated that a preacher had preached to more people in Boston in a ten day period than more people who actually lived in Boston at the time.

It was also stated in the video clip that this was the true beginning of religion in the South. It really shaped the South into the Bible belt that it is today.

In my personal opinion I agree with Professor of History Patricia U. Bonomi that this was the first true start towards the revolution for the colonies. After this wide spread of religion broke out the colonies came together to worship and celebrate their beliefs. This brought people from all over the colonies closer together. In some States as many as 100 people would be converted a day. With more and more people coming together it brought the colonies to begin to form the great nation that we have today.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

◀ Continuing the discussion with new evidence Continuing the discussion with new evidence ▶

Moodle Docs for this page

Accessibility at Lane

You are logged in as Joe Escobar (Log out)

HST 201 F16 (Escobar Meta 20938 23214)

