

HST 201: History of United States F17

(Escobar Meta 20887 23004)

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The Great Awakening
by Joe Escobar - Friday, October 13, 2017, 7:10 PM

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IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which side of the issue, YES or NO, you have chosen to support or write about. Do NOT simply leave it RE: The Great Awakening

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No ties between the Awakening and the Revolution
by Kamron Low - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 5:15 PM

After reading the arguments, I'm inclined to lean more on the side of John Butler that there was no real link between the Great Awakening and the American Revolution. Butler goes on to state in page 7 that, "the revivals swept only some of the mainland colonies," and that they "touched only certain segments of the population in the colonies where they occurred." And he also argues that the two events were a quarter of a century away from each other.

However, there's on aspect of Patricia Bonomi's argument that I and it also seems Butler can acknowledge. She states on page 4, "As the Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America, it simultaneously elevated the individual." She argues that the Awakening was the

practice for the individualist mentality that helped spark the English revolt in the Revolution. Although, I believe that kind of mentality is a foundation of human nature, where they strive for what they believe in, which seems to be the heart of the revivals, or even the revolts or rebellions of the time. But as Butler pointed out, the revivals may not have gained enough momentum for that factor to even be significant.

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Re: No ties between the Awakening and the Revolution

by Raleigh Emerson - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 4:13 PM

It may be human nature to follow your heart but up until the Great Awakening the colonists were living aimlessly under a tyranny. They may have had the will to fight, however they did not have the guidance or direction before the Great Awakening. As Bonomi said "The institutional disruptions and church separations of the Great Awakening thus providing a kind of 'practice model' which enabled the provincials to 'rehearse'-through unwittingly- a number of situations, and the arguments appropriate to them, that would reappear with the political crisis of the 1760s and 1770s." (Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?) This experience was key in keeping the people united as one.

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Finding an Identity

by Isabella Amaral - Monday, October 16, 2017, 4:03 PM

Out of the two suppositions expressed by Patricia Bonomi and Jon Butler, I have to say that I agree with Bonomi's perspective of why the Great Awakening was the reason for the Revolutionary War. I concur with her view since when the Church of England was built as the congregation of the whole nation, individuals understood the political power dwelled in the English rather than their own.

"The institutional disruptions and church separations of the Great Awakening thus providing a kind of 'practice model' which enabled the provincials to 'rehearse'-through unwittingly- a number of situations, and the arguments appropriate to them, that would reappear with the political crisis of the 1760s and 1770s." (Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?)

This helped them democratized religion, by revising the power between minister and congregation, therefore giving the colonies a separate identity than the English.

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Emotions of The Great Awakening Carry Over and Factor Into Revolution

by Rachel Gragg - Monday, October 16, 2017, 5:06 PM

I agree with the opinion of Patricia Bonomi in that The Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. It caused friction amongst the people of the United States and caused settlers to become inspired to fight for what they believed was right. In the reading, Bonomi

states that, "...the revival has unsettled the lives of more Americans and disrupted more institutions than any other single event in colonial experience to that time" (Page 2). An event that can have that much effect and stir up that much emotion in people has to be a leading cause of why Americans sought to be independent.

The Great Awakening conjured up the question among all Christians as to "who is on God's side?" A Christian's goal is typically always to be doing what is Godly and what has been asked of them through God and the Bible. So, when there's two sides of Christians pointing at each other and telling the other that they aren't doing what God has asked of them, it is sure to stir up a lot of emotion and defense.

According to the textbook, one of the biggest leaders of The Great Awakening, George Whitefield, "embodied the old Non-Separatist ideal that all English Protestants were somehow members of the same church" (*Liberty, Equality and Power*, Page 133). This would obviously stir up anger in the Separatists minds and make them disagree with what the ideologies were for the revivalists. As Samuel Finley said, "He that is not actually with us, is against us" (Page 4 of reading packet). The Great Awakening really stirred up a whole "us versus them" mentality among the settlers, therefore making emotions run high as the Revolution begins to take form not long after.

What do you guys think? Do you think the emotions of the settlers caused by The Great Awakening carried over into the American Revolution?

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3

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Re: Emotions of The Great Awakening Carry Over and Factor Into Revolution

by Kamron Low - Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 4:01 PM

I don't believe so. If emotion was the link between the Awakening and the Revolution, then what about all of the revolts and rebellions that happened in the past few centuries for the very similar reason of fighting for what they believe? Not to mention that the Awakening happened over three decades before the revolution. And as Butler mentioned the Awakening only spread to certain colonies and certain populations of those colonies.

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Re: Emotions of The Great Awakening Carry Over and Factor Into Revolution

by Kamrin Dodson - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 2:44 PM

I agree with you 100% as Jon Butler pointed out in his article if historians would have called it a short-lived Calvinist revival in New England in the 1740's no one would want to or even care for that matter of the topic of the Great Awakening, anyway I do agree with you 100% that the Great Awakening was not a key to the American Revolution.

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Re: Emotions of The Great Awakening Carry Over and Factor Into Revolution

by Jack Swisher - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 7:52 PM

John Adams said "The Great Awakening was the source of motivation behind the war." Mid-way through this week my opinion has changed. The first half of this week I was against believing that the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. After watching the video and reading the new material given to us, I have found reasons why these revivals led to a revolution throughout the colonies. The colonists were scared of standing up for themselves, but after the preaching throughout the colonies was done, the colonists finally believed in themselves. Without these speeches, the colonists would never have changed themselves for the better, the colonists would never have felt as "one" for the first time and most importantly felt like they could control their own destiny. "It was through the revivalism of the first half of the eighteenth century, that the colonists were able to step out from under the protectorate of the established christian churches and assert religious control over their own nation's destiny." This coming from greatawakeining.com. The historian's from the video released on Wednesday stated that the revivals touched many colonist's lives, brought them together and gave them a sense of freedom. Going back to John Adam's quote, without these speakers touching and motivating lives, there would never have been a drive to start a life toward freedom. Now, I don't believe that this event was the main reason behind the American Revolution, but I now believe that it was definitely a key.

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Re: Emotions of The Great Awakening Carry Over and Factor Into Revolution

by Jesus Narvaez Santiago - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 9:14 PM

I do agree that the Great Awakening carried over into the American Revolution because like Patricia Bonomi talks about on the second page of the reading bottom two paragraphs she mentions how people were actually spreading more west, and become more aware of the thing they wanted to believe in. In kind of gave them a freedom of their own belief, and religious revival.

They did not agree a lot with the British ways of beliefs from what the video also talks about in minute (5:58) that "they had their own individual beliefs, and started to think themselves as Americans as their own people". So it leads to this American Revolution from that separation of the British.

So yes I believe the Great Awakening was the event that led into it.

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Change of heart

by Jack Swisher - Friday, October 20, 2017, 2:47 PM

The Great Awakening provided positivity in the colonies. Not only did these revivals spark a sense of freedom as a whole country, but the Great Awakening had a lot of good things happen with individual colonists.

The Great Awakening created conditions uniquely favorable to social and political, as well as religious. It promoted church separations and urged followers to make individual decisions politically and religiously. This all coming from page two from Patricia Bonomi. I believe that the Great Awakening gave the colonists something to believe in. On page

three, it states that the Great Awakening altered the social and political equilibrium of colonial life. The Great awakening elevated the individual, helped colonists make more personal decisions for god and led the way to better human relationships.

So as this week has progressed, I have had a change in heart in thinking just how much did the Great Awakening create a key to the American Revolution. I think these revivals helped colonists start believing in themselves, and have the want to become a nation.

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Re: Not a key

by Jack Swisher - Monday, October 16, 2017, 5:41 PM

I don't believe that The Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. The American Revolution was a colonial revolt aimed to be free from England. The Great Awakening was a short religious revival from 1740-1745. But on page six paragraph four Jon Butler states that "historians agree. The revivals flourished principally between 1740 and 1743. Most settle for 1740 because that is when Whitefield makes his first appearance in New England.

In my opinion, there were more significant events that led to the American revolution. For example, The Boston Tea Party, The Intolerable acts and the First continental congress. Before reading the Great Awakening section of the textbook, my previous teachers had always told me that the American revolution was from the colonies trying to become free from Britain. Jon Butler states in paragraph two of page one, that "Nobody would seriously question the existence of the Great Awakening if historians only described it as a short lived Calvinist revival in New England during the early 1740's." The revivals were obviously Calvinist ones, they talked about reintroducing colonists to the theology of Puritan clergymen. In the reading I found that Calvinism never dominated the Great Awakening. The great Awakening was definitely a good movement and affected the society of the colonies. I think it opened people's eyes a little bit but I don't think this revival was big enough or effective enough to really be a key to the American Revolution.

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Re: Yes

by Kinsey Alexander - Monday, October 16, 2017, 5:57 PM

Patricia U. Bonomi suggests that the Great Awakening paved the way for the American Revolution by stimulating a movement against deference. New Light clergymen emphasized individual decision making, asserting that it was dangerous "to place explicit faith in the judgment of others" (Bonomi). From my understanding, the American Revolution was sparked by colonial dissatisfaction with British intervention. This signifies a willingness to disobey authority that perhaps wasn't as prevalent in the early years of British colonization.

Many of the early colonists would agree to the standards that their local congregations set for them. With the Great Awakening, this theocratic way of life began to dissolve. Bonomi proposes that this redefined traditional thought on social order. I take this to mean that the

colonists became less receptive to the influence of political and religious authorities.

On the other hand, Jon Butler believes that the revivalist movements only temporarily disrupted the traditional social systems. This is certainly a possibility, but it makes sense to me that the revolutionists derived their defiant attitude from the shift in social order brought about during the Great Awakening. Therefore, I have to side with Bonomi.

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Re: Exaggerated

by Jack Swisher - Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 6:49 PM

I see where you are coming from and I also believe that the great awakening shaped the colonists to become less receptive to the influence of political and religious authorities. Religion has always played a huge factor in colonial life, colonists were always trying to establish religion in certain areas, and always were trying to convert native Americans. To me, religion is not a cause to the great awakening merely because religion has always affected colonists, these revivals had an effect to colonists individually.

In Jon Butler's writing, he talks a lot about how the great awakening was exaggerated. The Great Awakening swept through only some of the mainland colonies. These states included; Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Virginia according to Jon Butler on page seven. He states that those colonies had some revivals going on some time between 1740 to 1770. Those states were not the only states that saw some action from revivals, Butler states that New Hampshire, Maryland and Georgia witnessed a few revivals in the same years. This stands out to me because the American revolution was a country wide effort, and these revivals only affected a percentage of the population. My opinion there takes me to another point that Butler says, "The revivals there (Pennsylvania) had a sustained effect among English Settlers only in Presbyterian churches. The Baptists who were important to New England revivals, paid little attention to them until the 1760's."

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Re: Exaggerated

by Kinsey Alexander - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 8:06 PM

Jack,

That is true, Butler did mention that the revivals took place in only half the colonies. Even so, the revivalist movement had social implications. Since it is human nature to heed and follow social norms, slowly, through small interactions, the movement against complacency could have easily spread throughout the remaining untouched colonies. The denominational splits might have been isolated cases, but the shift in attitude towards authority was not necessarily unique to religion.

In the video one of the historians pointed out that “individual experience of grace began to feed into emerging ideals of American independence and American individualism”. That is to say, the Great Awakening encouraged notions of autonomy within colonial society. I believe that this was characteristic of the revolutionary mindset.

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Re: Yes

by Alexxis Romo - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 11:50 AM

Although in my last posts, I stated that the Great Awakening was not a leading factor to the American Revolution, I do agree with you that there was a shift in social order that the Great Awakening brought forth. The Great Awakening website states that the social order shifted from "God to leader to the people to God to the people to leader". This proves to be something very different than what everyone was used to, and I can see your point that this shift might've sparked something in people. They might have gotten some ideas from the Enlightenment, but i don't think this is true for everyone and that it led to an all out revolt.

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Yes, The Great Awakening Was a Key to The American Revolution.

by Raleigh Emerson - Monday, October 16, 2017, 6:00 PM

At the time of The Great Awakening the colonies were in disarray and lost. Sent off with a mission some were lost. While there were a multitude of religious paths that had been taken by the people of the colonies which brought discord between the people at the time leaving some alienated. These squabbles were nothing compared to the iron thumb of the english government that these people had been living under for years. As Patricia Bonomi talks about the rift between the people and their choices of religion. “The Proliferation of churches and sects, intensifying denominational rivalries, and smallpox and earthquake alarms that filled meetinghouses to overflowing all contributed to quickening in church life”(2). Church life had taken an ever so slight backseat in the minds of the people as they saw greater issues in store for them. The Great Awakening brought people together against a common enemy and lessen the bickering over pointless religious quarrels over whose more holy as Bonomi states. “No longer was conscience to be sacrificed for outward appearances of unity”(3). This movement clearly caused people to get past their differences to some extent and work towards a greater good, subsequently this is why I believe The great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution.

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Re: Disagree With Great Awakening

by Jesse Elizondo - Monday, October 16, 2017, 8:49 PM

I agree with Jon Butler’s point that Britain’s 18th century Colonial Wars with France had a greater effect on starting the Revolutionary War. During the Colonial Wars involved numerous battles between France and Great Britain which lead to many colonists losing their lives.

Figures from Wikipedia show that during the Battle of Quebec of King William's War, a force of 2300 provisional soldiers from Massachusetts were sent to Quebec during which many were wounded and around a thousand died on the return trip. The Great Awakening, compared to the Colonial Wars did not have as much of a significant effect in the start of the revolutionary war. Though religion was a very important aspect of many people's lives in the colonies, the Great Awakening's effects were not as widespread as claimed, with the revivalists still being a minority in colonial society. The Great Awakening had more of an impact on the individual level rather than the Colonial Wars which lead to strict trade laws and taxation which had more of an effect on relations between Colonials and British that lead to the Revolutionary War.

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Re: Opinion Still Stands

by Jesse Elizondo - Friday, October 20, 2017, 7:27 PM

Honestly the video didn't sway my opinion like I thought it would. I thought the video was going to present a lot of new information that was going to change how I felt about the subject but the video felt more like it was just saying the same things as the article. The video describes that The Great Awakening was a mass conversion and how Whitefield was able to hold amazing sermons and everyone was brought together by it, but all that information was given in the articles. Also it's hard to tell which side is being historically truthful, because both sides just seem to say things that contradict each other. For example, when reading the "yes" argument it talks about how widespread the Great Awakening was, but then the "no" side just basically talks about how insignificant the Great Awakening was which completely contradicts the other side. But which one is right? I guess for accuracy I would have to give it to the "yes" side because multiple other historians can agree with the information given in that argument, but I still find myself siding with the "no" side of the argument. It's not even that I agree with Jon Butler's specific argument, I just believe that there were other factors involved in starting the Revolutionary War that played a bigger role than the Great Awakening. The reason that best represents why I side with Jon Butler's argument more than Patricia's is because at least he mentions one factor that I can agree with that played a bigger role, as shown in this quote "The eighteenth-century colonial wars are more appropriate candidates for the honor".

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Re: Opinion Still Stands

by Kinsey Alexander - Friday, October 20, 2017, 10:32 PM

Jesse,

I too feel frustrated by the contradictions between the two articles. True, most of the information we've been given promotes Bonomi's perspective, but I'm sure there are plenty of historians out there who can back up Butler on his stance as well. We just weren't presented with that information. Truth be told, I don't know what to believe. I picked Bonomi's side not because I think that Great Awakening was the sole reason for the American Revolution, but because I can agree that some part of it influenced the revolutionary mentality. Otherwise, I agree with you. There are plenty other (some more significant) explanations behind the American Revolution.

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An awakening that didn't spark a revolution

by Alexxis Romo - Monday, October 16, 2017, 9:09 PM

After reading Patricia Bonomi and Jon Butler's sides to the debate of whether or not the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution, I found myself ending up on Butler's side. Butler makes a strong case that, "the link between the revivals and the American Revolution is virtually nonexistent" (p.10) He makes different points to support this argument.

Butler quotes Richard Bushman when he states, "the Awakening was more like the civil rights demonstrations, the campus disturbances, and the urban riots of the 1960s combined" (p.6) I found myself agreeing with this statement, because it does seem like the people were just trying to demonstrate their religious opinions to what was going on at that time. Bonomi states that, "Commercial growth, land shortages and land opportunities, the diversity of immigration, and rapid population growth were all effects of the Great Awakening. I can imagine how these problems were handled in a way that was more like a protest and less like a revolution.

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Re: A Key to the American Revolution

by Carly Kleefeld - Monday, October 16, 2017, 9:35 PM

To answer the question, "Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?". My answer is yes, I believe the Great Awakening was a major influence on what led to the American Revolution. I answer yes because a number of developments came to be, such as "an accelerating pace of commercial growth; land shortages as well as land opportunities; the unprecedented diversity of eighteenth-century immigration; and a rapid climb in total population" (p.2). These play a role because with population growth, comes more homes and settlements in rural areas. The Great Awakening created many conditions and brought them to be more favorable, such as religion, politics and the social aspect of things. The great awakening also was said to give higher power to the individual, it brought people up. Although some say that the Great Awakening divided people instead of bringing them together.

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Maclain O'Leary - Monday, October 16, 2017, 9:41 PM

I agree that yes the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. I believe that if you go back and look through all of the big events in Americas history, religion played a part in one way or another. It may not have been the main point of the American Revolution, however, I do believe it played a role in it. The Great Awakening brought about major change and disrupted many of the day to day things that people in the Americas had come to know. It added to the, as Bonomi put it, "religious unease in the early eighteenth century" and that on top of all this there was "an accelerating pace of commercial growth; land shortages as well as land opportunities; the unprecedented diversity of eighteenth-century immigration; and a rapid

climb in total population". All of this built up caused the American Revolution, it wasn't the Great Awakening in and of itself that caused the revolution, but it was a part of the larger picture that eventually caused the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Carly Kleefeld - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 7:54 PM

I also agree that religion played a major role in the American Revolution. Bonomi states, "The Great Awakening created conditions uniquely favorable to social and political, as well as religious, reform by piercing the facade of civility and deference that governed provincial life to usher in a new age of contentiousness."(2) In my opinion, this pushed the people to make religious and even political decisions. This would make major changes in the peoples attitudes. Bonomi also states, "Religion has always been considered a likely agent of radicalism."(3) Therefore, I also believe that all of this built up to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Yes, I agree with Patricia Bonomi.

by Robert Taylor III - Monday, October 16, 2017, 10:14 PM

The historian's position that I agree with most is that of Patricia Bonomi. One example of Bonomi's work that really caught my attention was on the ideals of American clergymen influenced by the spiritual intensity and emotional warmth of Reformed pietism. It is explained that they were aggressive in their pursuit of promoting their belief, that religion itself was in a way being undermined by rationalist individuals who dismissed its validity. Which in turn, the historian compares the jockeying of debate relative to the topic as a staple of human nature that historical origins mirror the religions timeframe.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Yes, I agree with Patricia Bonomi.

by Carly Kleefeld - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 2:46 PM

I also agree with Bonomi, I like how you brought this information up because I haven't seen it in any other posts. I believe that the American clergymen did push their beliefs onto the people because they wanted them to convert. Although most of the people were already church-goers (as stated in the video). Most people in that time traveled many miles just to hear people such as Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield preach. Although, I don't believe that religion was a way of being undermined.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Kamrin Dodson - Monday, October 16, 2017, 10:27 PM

The time of the Great Awakening is something that I personally do not know that well in history, but from what I do know about it is, that may Universities in this time were sparked by the Great Awakening and it was also a time that was during the last economic growth in the early colonies

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Re: The Great Awakening "who is upon Gods side"

by Katie Ohlsen - Monday, October 16, 2017, 10:54 PM

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.

I Agree with Patricia Bonomi. Although the Great Awakening happened nearly 20 years prior to the American Revolution the impact it had on it was significant. During the peak of the Great Awakening you see all people come together. Rich, poor, old and young people coming together for one purpose. The quote from Corinthians 6:14--17 — "Be ye not unequally yoked together with Unbelievers. . . Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate." speaks volumes. What that did for your extremist in communities was astronomical. These people who had such radical views began to speak up and find others who shared their views. This community wasn't afraid to speak out and voice their opinions. At the time the people didn't have a sense of unity. Religion brought them together. An event like that does not go without an effect on the future. Especially where Religion and politics are concerned. The Revolution was a direct result of the Great Awakening. Without the Great Awakening would there have been a Revolution?

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening "who is upon Gods side"

by Rachel Gragg - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 4:42 PM

Katie,

I totally agree with you. The mentality of religion bringing people together I feel like was a major theme in The Great Awakening, and I think that contributes to the ideals of the Colonists in the revolution when they decide to come together and rise up against Britain.

The Awakeners wanted to get the word out about what they had learned about salvation to as many people as possible and wanted people to join in their community.

In Bonomi's essay, she states that, "Presbyterian and Congregational separatists constructed a defense that stressed the rights of minorities against majorities, and of individuals against the whole, in matters of conscience" (Reading, Page 4). When people have the mentality of "us against them" it brings the people together. This is something that hadn't happened much before The Great Awakening, and I definitely think it could have unified the colonists and contributed to them wanting to rise against in the Revolution.

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Daniel Game - Monday, October 16, 2017, 11:10 PM

“The Great Awakening created conditions uniquely favorable to social and political, as well as religious, reform by piercing the facade of civility and deference that governed provincial life to usher in a new age of contentiousness. By promoting church separations and urging their followers to make choices that had political as well as religious implications, the Awakeners wrought permanent changes in public practices and attitudes” (Patricia U. Bonomi page 2)

I would say yes, and I do agree with Patricia point. During The Great Awakening created social, political, and religion. The textbook 131-134 talks about how religion point view changed, 135 talks there were some colleges built in America, 138-140 talks about political culture in the colonies.

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Jesus Narvaez Santiago - Monday, October 16, 2017, 11:24 PM

I agree with Patricia J. Bonomi because after reading both it seems like she had a good point about how life was changing in the colonies and as well expanding which created a lot of new opportunities and as well new beliefs. And by people having the choice on religion they created church separations she states, “By promoting church separations and urging their followers to make choices that had political as well as religious implications, the Awakeners wrought permanent changes in public practices and attitudes” (pg. 2, Paragraph 4, end of line 6).

People came to change their attitudes towards a certain way of belief is what I understand from that sentence, and religion does play a big role in changes. Just like we talked in class about how the majority of U.S. Presidents have been protestant, and our country is mostly protestant as well.

One the facts she used was when she talks about how there was an “unease about religion which were caused by commercial growth, land shortages, land opportunities, and immigration” (pg. 2, Paragraph 3, Line 1). With new populations of people come different beliefs which can contradict each other, so in my belief this is why the Great Awakening was a big change to history and for the revolution that follow.

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2

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The Great awakening COULD HAVE affected the American Revolution

by Nickolas Frasier - Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 12:18 PM

Main ideas that leapt out to me during this was the growth of the moral choice ideal. With the rise of new churches into the area, most started believing that a person has their own moral choices in life to make. The churches started unifying the land, building schools and orphanages, welcoming women, indians, and african americans to join, and the inspiration led to a rise in colonists helping those in need. But the biggest was they started having very heated conversations and arguments on what was truly right and horrifically wrong. It opened the minds of the colonists and could have definitely led to the ultimate idea to secede from England and revolt.

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Re: video opened my eyes

by Jack Swisher - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 8:28 PM

The video really opened my mind on the opposing side of this argument. The historians in the video were definitely favored the Great Awakening being a key to the revolution. The historians had many examples as to why they had the reason to belief it was a key to the American Revolution. The historians explained how these revivals brought Americans together and gave these colonists a sense of freedom. These revivals swept across the colonies and touched many lives, men women and all races. These revivals converted ten to hundreds of people at a time. The reason these were so effective is because speakers like George Whitfield drew large crowds. One historian said that one speech drew a crowd of twenty thousand. Stephen Stookey claims that "revivals were a great blessing."

In this video, there is a lot of good information. At the beginning of the week, I was in favor of the Great Awakening not being a key to the American Revolution. I still believe in that opinion because the there are larger things that led to the revolution. For example, the closing of the Boston port, the quartering act and the Quebec act. According to revolutionarywar.net, the Quebec act was "expanding British territory into Canada and guaranteeing the free practice of Catholicism."

The revivals had an impact on the colonies at an individual level. In the video it did state that that the speeches brought colonists together, but I believe that bigger issues with Britain were keys to the American Revolution.

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Re: video opened my eyes

by Alexxis Romo - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 9:07 PM

I agree with you. The video did too open my eyes to a new perspective on the Great Awakening and i found out many things about it that i didn't know about. It's mind blowing how someone like Whitfield had that kind of power over people.

On the Great Awakening website, they lay out a set of ideas that are in favor of the awakening being a stepping stone to the revolution. The site stated that," the chain of authority was changed from God to the ruler to the people to God to the people to the ruler". This suggests that the people ultimately had the power over their leader and it was god speaking to them to make the choices.

People were undergoing great changes in power stance and had more say in what was going on in their lives and community, but i still feel like there was more to the revolution like you state.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: video opened my eyes

by Carly Kleefeld - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 8:04 PM

I also agree that the video contained a lot of insightful information. It gave me a better understanding of the information we read from Bonomi and Butler. I like how you included revivals because it was a new form of religious expression for the english. Although I do disagree with how the Great Awakening was not a key in the American Revolution, I believe that it promoted the people in a positive way. as stated in the video, due to religion, it caused the colonies to somewhat be on the same page for the first time, it emerged their ideas of independence and American individualism.

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The Great Awakening: A Great Gathering?

by Alexxis Romo - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 9:01 PM

In the First Great Awakening video, an interesting point stood out to me. The narrator stated that there was a huge gathering of blacks, whites, educated, and non educated people getting together to al listen to one minister speak. The video also explained how the Great Awakening was a time of independence wand individualism. Also, people were speaking up, getting energized, and even had the power to overthrow ministers. The narrator stated that this was the pre-cause of the American Revolution in a cultural and social way.

After reading this I do have a different perspective on the Great Awakening. I now see how much of an impact the Great Awakening had on people, socially, during that time. It really brought people together and allowed them to speak freely about what they thought and felt. However, I still don't think this was a direct cause to the revolution; I still see this as just a big gathering almost like a social protest.

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Re: The Great Awakening: A Great Gathering?

by Carly Kleefeld - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 2:53 PM

The video also gave me a new perspective on the Great Awakening. I thought it was interesting how one man could bring everyone together and almost cause a peace between all races and genders, and even skin colors. Like said in the video, the colonies were on the same page for the first time. It's amazing how preaching services could last up to a whole day and the people would want to be there to listen. Although i do disagree that it wasn't a cause to the American Revolution, but I can see how it looks almost like a social protest.

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The great Awakening was not a key to the American Revolution

by Kamrin Dodson - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 2:38 PM

I have to agree with Jon Butler that the great awakening was not a key to the American Revolution. Jon says it best himself when he says "No one would seriously question the existence of "the great awakening" if historians only described it as a short-lived Calvinist revival in New England during the early 1740's"(Butler Pg.6).

He is saying that the way historians have described it make the Great awakening seem more powerful than it actually is and reason for that is that historians named it the Great Awakening because of the fact that it makes it sound more informative and would get people interested in the subject.

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Update: perhaps there is "something"

by Kamron Low - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 3:53 PM

I may have found some information in our textbook "Liberty, Equality, and Power" that may shed some new light on the discussion. In pages 183 and 184 of Chapter 5, it talks about equal rights becoming a hot topic in the 1770s, and at the bottom of 183 it talks about evangelicals from the Great Awakening agreeing with 1742s Hugh Bryan that "slavery was a sin."

And as freedom of slaves became more and more popular, an important woman came up by the name of Sarah Osborn. She apparently was a friend of George Whitefield from the Awakening days. And she supported her family by opening a school to teach women and Africans and even held religious meetings with them, practically becoming a "big local revival."

I would still disagree that the Awakening was a determining factor for the Revolution, but it seems clear that some of it spread into some of the preceding events of the Revolution.

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The Great Awakening Foreshadows the Events of the Revolution

by Rachel Gragg - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 4:17 PM

The events that took place in the Great Awakening and the actions of the Awakeners almost directly correlate to the motivations behind the American Revolution. Patricia Bonomi states that, "The Great Awakening altered the social and political equilibrium of colonial life," (Reading, Page 3). The American Revolution happened because the colonies wanted to be independent and separate from the "big guys" in Europe. The colonists (or the minority) wanted to become their own country. They wanted to overturn the rule of Britain and they wanted to become independent.

From Bonomi's essay, we learn that The Great Awakening forced the followers to make choices that held political and religious implications. They wanted to get the word out that they had found the key to salvation, and they wanted people to follow. In the textbook, it is said that, "In the middle colonies... most people in the region... had never joined a church. The

revivals prompted many of them to become New Side (evangelical) Presbyterians, Old Side (anti revival) Presbyterians, or non evangelical Anglicans" (*Liberty, Equality, and Power*, Page 134). The Great Awakening reflected a mentality of "pick a side" and to achieve the ultimate goal of gaining as many allies as possible.

The Awakeners began as the minority in the churches. In order for them to expand and reach more people, they had to overturn the majority or bring down the institutional structures of the large churches. They longed for permanent change. Doesn't this sound familiar? As I stated before, this is a direct foreshadow of the events to bring on the Revolution.

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Re: Religion & The First Great Awakening

by Carly Kleefeld - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 7:52 PM

After carefully watching the first Great Awakening video, I came to the conclusion of how religion did, in fact, play a major role in the American Revolution. All of the historians in the video seemed to support that yes, the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. The most influential statement I heard was when Stephen Stookey said, "Tremendous religious upheaval". In my opinion, this is very true, not only because of the two most impactful preachers, Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield. Because the two had brought in people from most of the colonies, people would come from all over just to hear Whitefield preach and to be converted by him. Another impactful quote was, "ethnic barriers, racial barriers, gender barriers, were cut across the line in the Great Awakening," when Stookey said this it showed the way all people came together, putting aside their differences and social norms just to hear a man preach, and to be closer to God. With religion as a major role, it lead to the people becoming more independent and confident, they spoke up for what they believed in. Finally, at the conclusion of the video an unnamed historian states, "In that deeper more cultural, more social way, religion can be seen as a kind of backdrop or pre-cause of the American Revolution." This statement makes me believe that all of the historians do believe that not only religion played a major role in the American Revolution but that the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution as well.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Religion & The First Great Awakening

by Daniel Game - Friday, October 20, 2017, 4:00 PM

Yes, I agree with your point.

The first Great Awakening although heavily influenced religion, it also encouraged an individualism that would come to characterize Americans. The spread of religious indifference, of deism, of denominational rivalry, and of comfortable backsliding profoundly concerned many Christian. This concern ushered in a wave of revivals that swept through the American colonies. At this time man in Europe and the American colonies were questioning an individual's role in religion and society, and the Great Awakening provided these answers. The religious revival of America's common folks was the first major event

that all colonies could share, breaking differences. Governing norms were questioned as practices and mindsets begin to change. These revivals placed greater emphasis on an individual's faith and salvation, which pushed individual experience over established church doctrine. No longer were colonists passively listening to religion, they gained more passion and actively began studying the Bible. The Great Awakening forced a higher importance to be placed on education which triggered the belief in equality of opportunity. This was, "The Principle that accepted the inequality of income and other circumstances of life as natural, but held that persons of low social rank could raise themselves up by industry, perseverance, talent and righteous behavior to the top of economic and social order, Reassurance, direction and religious purpose gained, ultimately provided people with an American identity distinct from Europe. Although largely referred to solely as religious revivals, the morals and themes expressed.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Another update, perhaps a full change of heart

by Kamron Low - Friday, October 20, 2017, 11:52 AM

Disclaimer: as of my last post I have not seen the video. But as I have seen it now I believe I may have changed my mind. As the video mentioned, George Whitefield, as the star of the Awakening, spread his teachings of Individualism across numerous colonies and led people to believe they were an American people of Independence. But as Butler stated, The Awakening only affected certain populations of certain colonies. However, his teachings may have slowly but surely spread throughout all of the colonies. After all, Whitefield's teachings may not have gotten to everyone at the time, but nearly every colonist has heard of him. And the key factor: his teachings of "Americanism," and an independence that people began seeing each other as all a part of regardless of gender, race, or class, evolving into the American mindset that lit the fires of the Revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Another update, perhaps a full change of heart

by Kamrin Dodson - Friday, October 20, 2017, 1:08 PM

Kamron,

I agree with you 100% I too had not watched the video until recently but I now believe that with the teachings of George Whitefield also the star of the Great Awakening I believe that this made the colonies believe that they wanted a change and the only way to do that was to have a Revolt against Britain and declare their freedom so they could have the choices that we have today for religion. I back your point 100% and I don't think that after seeing the video and re-reading Professor Bonomi's argument that anything will change my mind in what I believe but that is the way that I feel about it but you made a great argument here.

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Re: Another Update, Changing sides



by Kamrin Dodson - Friday, October 20, 2017, 1:04 PM

As of my last post I had not seen the video but after watching the video and re-reading the handout for the yes and no side I have decided to change my side on the topic I do believe the great awakening was a key leading up to the American Revolution. George Whitefield said it best himself. Also re-reading the handout of the yes no side of the great awakening there were a couple of quotes that helped me in the decision to change my mind on the topic. "A central issue separating supporters of the revival from its opponents concerned the divisibility, or as some argued the indivisibility, of ecclesiastical authority"(Bonomi Pg.3). What patricia is saying here is that it was a big issue and this was only one of many issues that were leading up to the American Revolution. "No previous occurrence in colonial history compared with it in scale or consequences"(Bonomi Pg.5). What Professor Bonomi is saying here is that there were times in 18th century America that things had happened that could have led to the American Revolution but none greater than the Great Awakening in scale or consequences meaning that the Great Awakening had great consequences for the colonies if they chose to break away from the religion and want to do their own thing. Professor Bonomi also indicated that the colonies were not listening to the belief that you had to listen to those that were appointed above you. So as for watching the video on the Great Awakening and now re-reading Professor Patricia U. Bonomi's argument I know believe that the Great Awakening was a major key in the events leading up to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Colonists Coming Together Foreshadows Revolution

by Rachel Gragg - Friday, October 20, 2017, 3:19 PM

After watching the first video about the Great Awakening, I am even more sure that it contributed to the American Revolution. The Great Awakening was an event that brought people together in a way they never had been before. The revivals were not trying to bring the word of God to people that had never heard it before, their goal was to bring all Christians together through this particular way of preaching the gospel.

The video states that Jonathan Edwards would convert hundreds of people at a time. There were a ton of people being reached by this particular way of preaching and this perspective of the gospel. It goes on to tell us about George Whitefield and his incredibly powerful sermons. According to the video, every American knew who George Whitefield was, and most of them had heard his sermons. People from every denomination came to hear him speak and they were all united under the main underlying principle Whitefield would preach of everyone needing to come to Jesus in the same way. The Great Awakening broke down barriers between people and was the first time people from all of the colonies were brought together.

All of these different people from all of these different backgrounds all living different lives coming together under one common purpose has to build morale. The colonists were brought together and taught that in God's eyes they are all the same and all need to come to salvation the same way. They were taught that the gospel applies to each of them the same way and that brings people together. It has to have contributed to why the colonists came together to

rise against the British. People coming together under one common purpose and with one goal is the exact same as what would come to happen in the American Revolution. The Great Awakening conditioned the colonists on what life would be like in the future and helped them realize how similar they all were.

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Re: Reaffirmed YES stance

by Kinsey Alexander - Friday, October 20, 2017, 9:56 PM

The Great Awakening website and the video both reaffirm my stance on this topic. In the video, the historians talk about how the revivalist movement brought together people from different denominations and socioeconomic positions. One historian pointed out that it was “the first time people in these disparate colonies had been on the same page”. This contradicts Butler’s position on the intercolonial unity at that time. He believes that the revivals “appeared too erratically in too few colonies”(p. 9). Be it so, Butler still agrees that half the colonies were touched by revivalism despite its lack of organization, and as the video stated, this brought together people from vastly different backgrounds. This was probably the earliest form of solidarity that colonial America had experienced, perhaps even foreshadowing the unification that occurred during the revolution.

Furthermore, the Great Awakening website indicates that this movement incited a “national consciousness” that advocated self-assertion. This resulted in “an attitude that went against the deferential thinking that consumed English politics and religion”. This is also a point that Bonomi made, as I indicated in my first post. Essentially, the Great Awakening inspired colonists to challenge authority; a precedent that was set and later followed during the American Revolution.

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Peyton Hobie - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 1:32 AM

I firmly believe the great awakening was one of the tipping points to starting the American revolution. Because throughout history religion has been a focal point of war, and people breaking off from the church of England is a big move which essentially forms an opposing side against England. For Example when Patricia talks about "Religion has always been considered a likely agent of radicalism". It just emphasize how when people break away to form their own belief system they are willing to fight for their own beliefs. Think of it in a sense that without the awakening there might not have been a revolution at all. Because without any opposition there would have been no conflict.The Awakening provided the means by which colonists could communicate this revolutionary ideology. It was the First Great Awakening that truly provided the ground for the American colonists to begin to see themselves as a chosen people.

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**my take on for**

by Daniel Brockett - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 7:18 PM

According to "THE HOSANNAS OF THE MULTITUDE": THE GREAT AWAKENING IN AMERICA . By Patrica U. Bonomi; the answer to the question 'Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?' the answer was yes ,she makes the argument that the great awaking influenced America to rebel greatly. I personally agree with her due to the fact that religion is often the spark that ignites revaluation throughout history. In the article she sates. "As the Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America, it simultaneously elevated the individual. During the more communal seventeenth century, colonists had rarely conceived of themselves apart from a larger collectivity—the family, the congregation, or the town. But the eighteenth-century revival penetrated and shattered that unitary cosmos by directing its message to the individual. In exhorting their followers to make personal decisions for God, and then to act on those decisions regardless of their effect on the larger society, the revivalists gave sanction to a new dynamic in human relationships."

with the religious upheaval it caused people to think for them selves and stand up against *tyranny of the redcoats. In concision Taking all these things into account it makes a very persuasive argument for the great awaking influencing the revolution*

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**Re: my take on for**

by Robert Taylor III - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 9:15 PM

I agree. The Great Awakening is the result of individual desire for expressive freedoms, and this period in history is a great example of the lengths that members of a given society will go to achieve that.

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**Website Confirms Foreshadowing**

by Rachel Gragg - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 9:45 PM

The Great Awakening website only further confirms the fact that it lead to the American Revolution. All of the events considering small churches leaving the large churches and wanting to be independent and forming their own groups directly foreshadow the events of the Revolution.

The entire premise of the Revolution was to get out from under the power of Britain and to be independent from their rule. The Great Awakening inspired people to form their own smaller churches if they did not believe in what their church was teaching. The website states that, "It was through the revivalism of the first half of the Eighteenth Century that the colonists were finally able to step out from under the protectorate of the established Christian churches and assert religious control over their own nation's destiny" (Towards and American Identity, great-awakening.com). This was one of the first times that people had come together in order to form their own "destiny." People were uniting in order to do what they thought was right for themselves, just as the colonists did later in the Revolution. They were declaring their independence on a smaller scale, and practicing their future right to freedom.

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Re: Change of Opinion

by Jesse Elizondo - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 9:57 PM

First off, after reading the article it seems like the author is agreeing that the Great Awakening did have a significant impact in starting the American Revolution and after reading it my opinion on the subject has changed. I really enjoyed this article, unlike the first articles we read or the video we watched, this one really linked the Great Awakening's effects to the American Revolution. My favorite quote from the article, and the one that most affects my change of opinion is "The effect of Great Awakening unity was an attitude that went against the deferential thinking that consumed English politics and religion" because it really makes that connection between the Great Awakening and how it conflicted with the English doctrine which helps show a divide growing between the colonists and the English which leads to the Revolution.

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