

HST 201: History of United States F17 (Escobar Meta 20887 23004)

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The Great Awakening

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The Great Awakening

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The Great Awakening

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

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IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

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Re: Yes the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution

by Christopher Zuercher - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 2:00 PM

Although Jon Butler states, "the revivals of religion in pre-revolutionary America...failed to change the timing, causes, or effects of the Revolution in any significant way." I find it difficult to believe that the Great Awakening did not have at least some impact on the colonists perspective. Particularly the idea that the Great Awakening laid the foundation for reform in other spheres of social and political life. Patricia Bonomi described it well, "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." It also seems that some of the values that were emphasized

in the Great Awakening coincide with those of the American Revolution. Such as, "the revivalists developed novel arguments defending the rights of minorities, and they increasingly characterized the authority against which they were rebelling as illegitimate, even tyrannical," (Patricia Bonomi, 3).

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Overexaggerated Factor

by Andrew Erkert - Monday, October 16, 2017, 2:36 PM

Based on what I have read in the two arguments and the chapter, I think the impact of the Great Awakening on establishing a start to the American Revolution, is overblown.

Both arguments were convincing, like the mentality of the revivalists described by Professor Bonomi as "individualistic" and "authority challenging." The point that she made about them being a minority as well, trying to overthrow the traditional system also clicked with me, but when I read the second article, Professor Butler's logic seemed to overwhelm and expose the over-emphasis of the magnitude of the revivals.

The point that convinced me the most, was the fact that there was a massive growth in population during that time. He said on page 8, "population of 300,000 in 1700...to over 2 million in 1770" for the colonies. He presented the idea that with a population boom such as that, many churches were bound to grow exponentially, even for the "most modest denominations."

Another point that he made was on how "erratically" they appeared and how few colonies had them and that they didn't leave a lasting dent in the authority of the church figures in power. They had appeared in so many different times and had on a "regional" spread "at best."

Had the revivals been more mainstream, I could see them becoming a crucial element to the American Revolution.

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Unity of the Colonies

by Andrew Erkert - Friday, October 20, 2017, 7:27 PM

After reading the website and watching the video, I am slightly shifted over to the side of it being a possible key factor, predominantly based on the unification of the colonies through the Awakenings.

As mentioned in our textbook, people in that time didn't view them selves as the U.S. yet. They didn't view themselves as a whole. Although, with these awakenings, people gathered all around to hear George Whitefield, for example, preach. The video even stated that it had set the foundations in the South for the region known as the "Bible Belt."

The website had also brought up the unifying force of anti-Catholicism that had strengthen the ties between the colonists due to their cooperation with one another to expel Catholics and reject popery. The website had said that after dealing with the Catholic "issue", the colonists had found a new "antichrist" to hunt, in George III, which clearly would create tension and disdain for the British presence in the colonies.

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No, the Great Awakening was not Key, Based on the Timing

by Kerianne Guza - Monday, October 16, 2017, 6:25 PM

I agree with John Butler, the Great Awakening was not key to the American Revolution. The Great Awakening "revivals in both places occurred a quarter of a century before the Revolution began", in 1765 (The Great Awakening Yes No Debate, Jon Butler, pg.9). If the Great Awakening had such a large impact on the revolution, why did it take so long to happen?

In the Great Awakening Christianity became more personal to people and they began to pull away from ceremonies and rituals. The American Revolution was not about that at all. Yes, it was about change, but not in this way. The American Revolution was more about the freedom of being separate as their own country.

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Re: No, the Great Awakening was not Key, Based on the Timing

by Tuan Tran - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 3:19 AM

The Great Awakening is a key factor to the American revolution as it mentions in " *The Great Awakening.com*": *The major effect of the Awakening was a rebellion against the authoritarian religious rule which spilled over into other areas of colonial life. Amidst the growing population of the colonies within the 18th Century and mass public gatherings, charismatic personalities such as Whitefield and Tennent rolled through to deliver their messages. Though a religious movement, the Awakening had repercussions in cultural and political spheres as well. Customs of civility and courtesy, the governing norms of life in the colonies, were set aside in favor of a more quarrelsome age. Practices and mindsets were changed by the Awakening like never before.* " (paragraph 1- significant of the awakening: the root of

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Re: Religious Impact

by Christopher Zuercher - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 8:44 PM

"As the Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America, it simultaneously elevated the individual," (Bonomi, 4). The idea of individual rights and personal freedom were hallmarks of the American Revolution. The Great Awakening gave rise to the individual, so in some ways there is a connection. Also, the act of going against "traditional authority" is similar in both cases. Though the Great Awakening occurred in the religious sphere, religion was at the center of life for a lot of colonists, thus I think it is fair to assume that once there was this religious transformation it made it more possible for a political transformation to occur. Is this a fair assumption?

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Re: No, the Great Awakening was not Key, Based on the Timing

by Dylan Ganahl-Johll - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 10:55 AM

Kerianne, I agree with your post. The Great Awakening and the American revolution were about change, but not the same change. And although some might say that the American Revolution had a part in religious views and wanting to become free/ separate as their own country. But then again the same question arises, why did it take so long after the Great Awakening for anything to happen?

And even though they may have some small similarities, much like a lot of things something can be pieced to make a connection between the two. And with that, I believe that the American Revolution didn't happen because of religious views and beliefs but because they wanted a change in freedom.

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Re: NO-The Great Awakening

by Cooper Gay - Monday, October 16, 2017, 8:03 PM

I agree with Jon Butler on the idea that the Great Awakening had little to no important role in the American Revolution. As stated by Jon Butler (page 10) "Their leadership was local and, at best, regional..." stating that the overall effect of the new movements of religion were not involved with the feelings of unity among the colonies that were more present during the American Revolution. In Liberty, Equality, Power (page 134) it's stated that the revivals were more involved with dividing some communities further, such as the New Side and Old Side Presbyterians. While the Great Awakening had strong lasting effects in every community, it did not show such effects to unify the colonies as a whole, instead effecting more regional groups and separated religions.

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Re: NO-The Great Awakening

by Tuan Tran - Friday, October 20, 2017, 9:36 PM

Opposite to the Jon Butler idea, the Great Awakening.com tells us that " The religious revival of the Great Awakening melded the colonists in a way that would not have been possible otherwise. Eighteenth Century Americans thought of religion as something communitarian – a form of social cooperation – rather than a competitive endeavor of individuals that the world of commerce envisioned. Christians were told to be benevolent and to make self-sacrifices, and many were bound together by way of their shared mass conversions. Thus, they could afford to make sacrifices for their land in times of need"(12). Different religions used to separate each other but they soon realized the positive cooperation as their share the same goal: to be the independent nation. As a result, The Great Awakening somehow exploited the hidden assisting manner in every colonist thoughts which helped the American Revolution more successful than ever.

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Comparing Awakeners to Millennials

by Joel Pedroza - Monday, October 16, 2017, 9:02 PM

After reading both Bonomi and Butler's arguments in whether the Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution, I would have to agree with Bonomi. As previously mentioned by the professor, my mind can be changed with reasoning. In Patricia's argument, on paragraph three page two, she mentions that, "into this volatile and expectant environment came some of the most charismatic and combative personalities of the age" which is relatable with times today. During that time people needed help from the church, so of course, we can see this was a huge implication to the Awakening. The church would share ideas and people would generally start to listen. It sounds like a term that we currently use like "millennials", which is used by people that transfer into adulthood within the 21st century. Basically, "millennials" share similar traits, political views, etc. (<http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/millennials-millennial-generation>)

My point is this, millennials are influenced by the internet and communities back then were influenced by the church. It was a new age during the Great Awakening and that is when the church started taking advantage. Like today, when people see everyone doing the same thing in the internet, then they will want to follow. Awakeners were getting used to a new way of living and everyone wanted to follow.

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Re: Comparing Awakeners to Millennials

by Banyan Ryan - Friday, October 20, 2017, 7:48 PM

I never thought of such a comparison, but I completely agree with you. The internet allows for wide-spread information and influence much easier than it did in the 18th century. Similar to how Whitefield was able to draw crowds of thousands using his charisma, so do many of today's online personalities you can find on YouTube and other sights attract people to spread their own message. Only nowadays the numbers of followers can add up to the millions.

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NOT a key to the American Revolution

by Dylan Ganahl-Johll - Monday, October 16, 2017, 9:51 PM

After reading both sides, I have to agree with Jon Butler that the Great Awakening was not a key to the American Revolution. I believe that this was not a key because not only did it happen a quarter of a century before the Revolution began, it also was difficult to date. Butler also stated "All but few describe it as a Calvinist religious revival" (pg.6). He also states that revivals "swept" only some of the mainland colonies, leaving out the rest. Which is far different than the American Revolution which killed thousands of people for independence.

I also agree with Butler because like stated on page 8, "Revivalism never was the key to the expansion." Not being about expansion didn't result in a tragic amount of deaths such like the American Revolution. Which makes the colonial wars a better argument for this like stated on

page 9. This is a better candidate because many lives were lost. Not only were the colonial wars much more like the American Revolution by fighting for what they believed in. Making the link between the revivals and the American Revolution even farther apart.

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YES.

by Isaac Anderson - Monday, October 16, 2017, 10:49 PM

For now, I'm will go ahead and agree Patricia Bonomi. Yes, the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. Even though the American Revolution didn't happen for another 30 years (roughly), the religious revivals may have just provided the spark that was necessary for such a revolution to happen. On page four of our handout Patricia Bonomi states, "As the Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America, it simultaneously elevated the individual" (Pg. 4, Great Awakening Handout). She explains that the colonists in the seventeenth century were very communal and recognized themselves as being a part of a larger collective, but the revival broke that mold by directing its message to the individual (pg. 4). That sounds pretty American to me, and it seems that people were thrilled by this new approach. George Whitefield was attracting "as many as 30,000 people in the cities, twice the population of Boston" (pg. 133. *Liberty, Equality, Power*). The Great Awakening may not have been the direct cause of the American Revolution, but based on my limited knowledge I believe that it created momentum and changed the direction of early Colonial America.

(The Great Awakening Handout)

(Murrin, J., Härmäläinen, P., Johnson, P., McPherson, J., Fahs, A., Gerstle, G., Rosenberg, E. and Rosenberg, N. (n.d.). *Liberty, equality, power*. 7th ed. Cengage.)

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Religion and The Great Awakening: Factors to support The American Revolution

by Tuan Tran - Monday, October 16, 2017, 11:33 PM

As Patricia said " Religion has always been considered a likely agent of radicalism. Nor is there reason to doubt that the tremendous stir of the Great Awakening altered the social and political equilibrium of colonial life. Just as the revival marked a significant divide in popular thought and practice, so too it would supply the most pertinent and usable model for radical activists in the years that lay ahead. Many features of the Awakening foreshadowed what was to come".(*Was the Great Awakening a key to the American Revolution, page 2, paragraph 5*) During the 18th century, religion has a big impact on people's behavior and the way society forms. It opens people's mind to change the world and assists the potential revolutionary leaders to guide his groups to against the retrograde ideas of the empires, especially in the Great Awakening ages. The world needs the fresh and new general transformation to the effective modern methods in the government systems. This also creates a new history event which determines the world's destiny: The New Born Powerful Country- United States Of America. Once again, the correlational relationship between The Great Awakening and American Revolution has been recognized as " The Great Awakening, a religious revival, swept through the American colonies several decades before the American Revolution. The revival

altered the way many people thought about themselves" (*The Great Awakening and American Revolution, paragraph 1- Religious Movement section*). The New Light brings the positive benefits for future America colonies so more Americans accept and spread its information to all colonies started with the famous quote from Jonathan Edwards: "God was an angry judge, and humans were sinners!".

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Re: The Great Awakening

by Sam Reposa - Monday, October 16, 2017, 11:43 PM

Overall, I tend to side more with Jon Butler's opinion than that of Patricia Bonomi. Bonomi made some excellent points about the religious disruption caused in the churches and colonies by radical preachers such as Whitefield, Tennant, and Davenport—supported by the "Disruptions" subsection on page 134 of the textbook; however, Butler makes points arguing that the revivals of the "Awakening" had little to no relationship with the American Revolution in colonies other than Virginia, "The relationship between prerevolutionary political change and the revivals is weak everywhere except in Virginia (Butler, 10).

One thing I really like about Butler's article is that he brings up other points and claims that other historians made and argues against them with facts. One major point Butler makes is that the revivals didn't have as large of a regional scope as historians make it seem. According to Butler, prerevolutionary revivals were "regional events that occurred in only half the colonies" (Butler, 9).

In conclusion, I appreciate the claims Bonomi makes about disruption; however, Butler makes the effects of those claims seem minuscule after Butler provides regional context and gives an idea of how much effect the revivals of the "Awakening" really had. I put *Awakening* in quotes because Butler makes the claim that "Historians should abandon the term "the Great Awakening" because it distorts the character of eighteenth-century American religious life and misinterprets its relationship to prerevolutionary American society and politics" (9).

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No Relation

by Joshua Sims - Monday, October 16, 2017, 11:45 PM

I believed at first that The Great Awakening was a very large key leading up to the American Revolution. However, now that I have read Jon Butler's, "The Great Awakening As Interpretive Fiction" I have to say that how he explains that the validity of the Great Awakening was minuscule, since it only hit a few mainland colonies such as Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and Virginia. Also on page 10, Butler claims that revivals were not exactly "conservative" because they didn't uphold every traditional religious order, but they were coherently not radical in no way, shape, or form. What do you think of his statement on this?

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The Great Awakening Was Not Key to the American Revolution



by Carley Kramer - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 8:13 AM

Although I believe that the Great Awakening could be evidence of the new ideas and shifting culture in the colonies in the late 18th century, I do not believe that it was key to the American Revolution. While it had an effect on American education and religious life as we read in chapter four, I thought that Jon Butler's arguments in *The Great Awakening as Interpretive Fiction* effectively showed that the Great Awakening likely didn't have an influence on the American Revolution. In the essay, Butler explains why it's difficult to link the Great Awakening and the American Revolution due to the timing of the events and data from the period. While Patricia U. Bonomi's article makes an interesting connection between some of the ideals of the Revivalists and some ideals of the American Revolutionaries, I struggled to find explicit connections between the two events in her argument.

In his argument, Butler writes, "Obviously, the revivals provided little focus for intercolonial unity in the way some historians have described. They appeared too erratically in too few colonies under too many different auspices to make such generalizations appropriate." (p.9, pg.2) He suggests that population growth had more to do with the expansion of the church, writing "The growth of the colonial population from fewer than three hundred thousand to over two million in 1770 made the expansion of even the most modestly active denominations highly likely." (p.8, pg.4) The question of population growth seems important to me, and I do not believe it was addressed by Bonomi. As the population grew so much, it seems easy to think that that would create a greater need for more churches and new denominations, as that kind of population shift is bound to impact the culture of an area. Butler also points out that "Presbyterianism expanded as rapidly in the middle colonies between 1710 and 1740 as between 1740 and 1770." (p.8, pg.3) This telling data suggests that the revival had less to do with expansion of religious life in America than some might think.

When I looked in chapter four to see what our textbook had to say on the effect that the Great Awakening had on the American Revolution, there was no mention of the Revolution in the section "Long-Term Consequences of the Revivals." The long-term consequences described seem to be a rise in church-going women, more men joining the Freemasons, and a shift in religious demographics. Between our textbook failing to mention any political connection to the revivals, Bonomi's lack of concrete arguments, and Butler's use of data in showing that the two events had no explicit connection, I am inclined to agree with Butler in saying that the Great Awakening was not key to the American Revolution.

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Great Awakening does not awake a Revolution

by Nallely Martinez - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 10:57 PM

In the handout, Jon Butler's ideas of the Great Awakening having little to do with the uprising to a path of revolution coincides more with my decision of the relationship between The Great Awakening and the American Revolution. In Butler's essay, he makes an important key point to why the "expansion" of the revivalist ideals and followers could not be directly linked to the beginning of the American Revolution. The revivals were seen as "an emotional response to God's Word that brought sudden conversions to scores of people" (textbook p. 132). As these

revivals grew many historians argue that the conversions and events doubled the number of revivals and congregations. During the 18th century “the population of British North America doubled every 25 years” (textbook p. 118). As the population grew of course these colonial churches would undoubtedly grow as well. The textbook even argued that “the revivals had dramatic consequences... [with] more men than usual join[ing] a church” (textbook p. 134). Although it seemed like a dramatic growth of congregation, one also had to take into consideration the vast number of settlers arriving throughout the 18th century.

Also, as Butler noted, with no real proof showing that these “specific congregations and denominations associated with the revivals [even] originated {the} anti-British protests” (reading p. 9) one simply could not make a straight correlation between the two events. Of course, the Great Awakening rouse thousands of people to a feeling of spiritual awakening that gathered in a feeling of unity but the revolution came from a more unified front against anything Britain, regardless of being Evangelical, Presbyterian or Anglicans.

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The French and American War was Key in the American Revolution, not the Great Awakening

by Kerianne Guza - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 3:48 PM

With so much time in between the The American Revolution and the Great Awakening it is most definitely possible that events in between the two had more weight in causing the American Revolution. Jon Butler addresses this by stating that the other wars, in between the two events, “raised significant legislative opposition to the crown in many colonies and cost many colonists their lives”, most from the French and Indian War (The Great Awakening Yes or No Debate, pg.9).

The commander of the British Army in North America was John Campbell, who many colonist disliked and “sometimes bluntly rejected his orders”, increasing tension between the colonies and their view of Britain (Liberty, Equality, Power, pg.152). The British officers used more force to discipline, “including hundreds of lashes for routine offenses”, which was also harsh on the colonist (Liberty, Equality, Power, pg.154). This could very well have made some colonist wonder why they even were with their mother countries.

In the French and Indian War, countries fought against countries and indians against indians in a battle for land. They weren’t ready to put down their arms and join each other quite yet, but joining together and forming a new country does seem like perfect solution, that in time, the colonist did take. When you realize this, it becomes no surprise that only two years later the American Revolution began.

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Re: The French and American War was Key in the American Revolution, not the Great Awakening

by Jacob Spriggs - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 7:53 PM

I agree with your point that the French and Indian War was a major key to the American Revolution, maybe the most influential key, but I disagree that the First Great Awakening was not a key at all, although a more minor key. In the fourth paragraph of the link to Great-

Awakening.com, it states that "The chain of authority no longer ran from God to ruler to people, but from God to people to ruler." To me, that sounds pretty similar to the ideology that influenced the events which gained America her independence, such as the writing and signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Prior to the Great Awakening, the American people were split by their religious denominations, but the Awakening brought people together as Americans to rebel against the characteristics of the Church of England which resided in their own churches in the colonies. so once again, no the First Great Awakening was not the biggest key to the American Revolution, but it has to be recognized as one of the many keys.

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The Great Awakening Video Response

by Kerianne Guza - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 5:08 PM

These historians support the idea that the Great Awakening did, in fact, play a key role in the American Revolution; while the historians that wrote our textbook, seem to be fairly neutral on the topic. They barely even so much as mention the American Revolution at all while writing about the Great Awakening. The only time they do is while discussing the popularity of freemasons, men that joined together in brotherhood, holding their own ceremonies, which "peaked during the American Revolution" and a while after (Liberty, Equality, Power, pg.134).

In the video, Barry Hankins mentions that the Great Awakening got the colonist to see themselves as separate people for the first time. However, I argue that given the distance between the regions, it was only a matter of time that would start to reveal how separate the colonies were from Britain. They were dealing with different problems in a whole new world. Sure they still held many similarities in culture with Britain, but time only revealed more and more differences. This would have happened with or without the Great Awakening. Maybe the Great Awakening gave the Americans a nudge in that direction, but it was nothing that a few more years couldn't have also done and it most certainly was not a major key in the cause of the American Revolution.

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Re: The Great Awakening Video Response

by Christopher Zuercher - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 7:18 PM

The Historians from the video seem to support the idea that the Great Awakening was the key to the American Revolution. One of the Professors in the video states, "people speak up, participate and overthrow ministers they don't like, so in that deeper more cultural or social way religion can be seen as the pre-cause or backdrop for the American Revolution." I also found it interesting when Professor Barry Hankins states that the Great Awakening, "was the first event where people thought of themselves as a separate people." Professor Stephen Stookey appears to be presenting the most historically truthful information. He gives an accurate timeline of the Great Awakening and an accurate description, "A time of religious upheaval." Later in the video he goes on to say that, "the

idea of the individual experience of grace began to feed into the emerging ideals of American independence and American individualism." This statement seems to be true in my estimation.

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Re: The Great Awakening Video Response

by Isaac Anderson - Friday, October 20, 2017, 12:55 PM

Hi Kerianne,

I agree with you, that because of the distance between Britain and the colonies, a revolt against Britain was inevitable. However, I still believe that the "nudge in the right direction" that you speak of should be given credit as a key. "It created mass enthusiasm among the colonies." (1, 0:48). If the great awakening *didn't* happen, but a few years later an event happened that nudged the colonists in a revolutionary direction, we would be discussing that as a possible key to The American revolution instead. If the Great Awakening didn't happen, but another event took place that created a "National Consciousness" among the colonist, would we be able to say that, in fact, it *wasn't* a key to the revolution because it was bound to happen a few years later or, could we give that event credit?

(1)https://media.lanecc.edu/users/escobarj/201/forums/2/201_Forum_2/Media/First_Great_/

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Re: The Great Awakening Video Response

by Tuan Tran - Friday, October 20, 2017, 8:58 PM

As I can conclude from the video " *The Great Awakening Video*", near the end of the video, one professor said that " The great awakening is the core prerequisites for American Revolution". Moreover, the great Awakening formed the American personalities- they realized they adapted with the individualism cultures which were different apart from the British. Once again, the Awakening.com states that " 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"(11) It could be not the major key to cause the Revolutionary War but one of the necessary factors to contribute to establishing the unique nation which united all of the religions and European people together. The video also mentions that " During the Great Awakening, more people stand together, they have rights to do whatever they want". People now assist each other to bring the freedom back to the Americans, they do not want to be managed by the British Empire and the Church Of England.

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Religion: Small but Powerful Tool

by Banyan Ryan - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 7:12 PM

Religion has always been a tool used to persuade the public for or against something. No matter where you stand on the topic of religion, you cannot deny that it's been repeatedly used by people in power to gain followers through several means. The Great Awakening helped to reimburse religious belief across America, so it's hard to imagine how such a thing wouldn't play an important role in American history.

In the text, Butler made the point that it didn't spread as much across America as we are lead to think. "New Hampshire, Maryland, and Georgia witnessed few revivals..., and revivals were only occasionally important in New York, Delaware, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The revivals also touched only certain segments of the population in the colonies where it occurred." (Page 6). However, in my opinion, regardless of how far the Awakening spread, the strength of religious persuasion is enough to create large changes within nations, even in small communities. Think of any point in history and you'll find an example of this. So yes, regardless of how small it may be, I think The Great Awakening must of had some significant role in America.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Still a Firm Yes.

by Isaac Anderson - Thursday, October 19, 2017, 8:44 PM

After checking out the new forum material, I will firmly stand by my original decision. Yes, the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. "The social effect of multitudes of new denominations was not, however, a fracturing of communities, but a unifying drive which helped to create a "national consciousness"." (1) If these events that we are studying created a "national consiousnes" and 30 years later the American revolution happened, I just find it very hard to think they are not linked to one another. The revivals dealt with religion, but they opened peoples minds to a new way of thinking that brought into question all of the societal boundaries. "Every man being thus allowed to be his own Pope, he becomes disposed to wish to become his own King" (1, William Knox). I think that all of the material we have been presented with has been in agreement that the Great Awakening was a big part of the Revolution, except for Jon Butler of course. I believe that the Great Awakening was a key, not *the* key. A lot of things had to happen to determine the outcome, but it definitely set the tone for next few decades.

(1)<http://www.great-awakening.com/roots-of-revolution/>

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Re: Still a Firm Yes.

by Dylan Ganahl-Johll - Friday, October 20, 2017, 12:34 PM

I agree with what your saying Isaac, at first I believed that it had little to none to do with the American Revolution. But after further readings and videos, I do believe that the Great Awakening helped open the eyes of the people to fight back and not just be under a single

church but to fight for freedom and individualism. I also like your last sentence in saying that the Great Awakening was a key not the key to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Still Not a Key Factor

by Nallely Martinez - Friday, October 20, 2017, 12:07 AM

The historians from The Great Awakening Video seem to all support the idea that the Great Awakening played a significant role in inciting the American Revolution. All the historians in the video speak of the revivals as significant events that unified the colonies under a similar sentiment of spiritual awakening. Karen Bullock, a historian from the video, wanted the audience to realize that “the First Great Awakening, [which] was important to remember, [was] an across denominational event for Americans” (4:55). By emphasizing a feeling of inclusiveness for Americans it could be argued that that same unity helped them towards the path of revolution.

The textbook coincides with the videos ideals of the Great Awakening being an “immense religious revival [that] swept across the Protestant world” (page 131). The major key difference would be that the textbook made sure to include the revival only really affected the Protestant world. An across denominational unity and event would have been inclusive of even Catholics, which if they were not converted were probably still feeling excluded. Even of the events were for all Protestant denominations, the Great Awakening seemed to separate more than unite. The after effects of the revivals brought upon the colonies “a process called ‘Separatism,’ which split existing Congregational and Baptist churches along pro-revival and anti-revival lines” (article p. 8).

If the Great Awakening really influenced all American’s to feel as one, the actions of separating congregations seems to put a weak structure for a strong front needed to fight and win a revolution. Colonials seemed to “admire the courage of the redcoats and the victories they won but hated their brutal discipline and arrogant officers. British officials... [also] underestimated colonial contributions to the imperial cause.” (page 158). A sentiment of anger towards the British empire seems more fit to unify the colonies at that time to incite a revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Yes, but no. Reform is why it's good, but that's nullified by failure to cooperate. The answer is no. That would have probably been fine. If I had just written that, my subject line would most likely not be as long as of my main body of text.

by Joseph Hassman - Friday, October 20, 2017, 12:06 PM

The Great Awakening was a moment when Christianity evolved to adapt to new views of their core values. The unfortunate thing is that they did not move collectively as a congregation, sparking more conflict among brothers. The Christian church is built on unity, so by constantly separating, it only harms itself.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: The Great Awakening

by Dylan Ganahl-Johll - Friday, October 20, 2017, 12:29 PM

At the beginning of the week I sided more with that the Great Awakening didn't have much to do with the American Revolution. However, after watching the videos and doing more reading I believe that the Great Awakening did influence the American Revolution, even though it happened roughly 30 years after.

In the first video, it stated how that there were many conversions a day and that it was with all religions. These Religious revivals put people on a path of thinking separate and independent. With these ideas beginning to develop and people wanting to become free they then started to speak up and overthrow people who they didn't like. Also, the website about the Great Awakening also states that "The ideas it produced opposed the notion of a single truth or a single church." This goes along with what I was saying before, people didn't want to all follow the same thing and wanted to become free and separate from the rest.

And although the American Revolution didn't happen right after the Great Awakening, I do believe it played a part in opening the people mind's to become independent, which then eventually ended up with the revolution, where they fought for their freedom.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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The Great Awakening IS a key to the Revolution

by Jacob Spriggs - Friday, October 20, 2017, 7:14 PM

After reading chapter 4, the article titled "Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?" and the page from the website, along with watching the First Great Awakening video, I believe that the First Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. Obviously I agree with Professor Bonomi's half of the article, but I don't completely disagree with everything Professor Butler had to say on the matter. He stated that "it is obvious that revivals 'swept' only some of the mainland colonies...Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Virginia," which is only less than half of the colonies, but they were the ones most actively rebelling against English prior to the war. It seemed to me that Butler's half of the article was trying to point out that the Great Awakening was not relevant to the Revolution at all, which can't be true, and all the sources listed above offer information supporting that it was a key to the Revolution. However, I don't think the Great Awakening should be mistaken as the most influential factor for the Revolution, as there were several other factors that had larger impacts such as the French and Indian War.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Great Awakening Video Response

by Banyan Ryan - Friday, October 20, 2017, 7:27 PM

The histories seem to support the idea that the Great Awakening was indeed an essential part of the American Revolution. The most obvious evidence was their mention of how Whitefield's sermons attracted all different kinds of people, regardless of their race, class, sex or anything. "If you're gonna be saved, you've got to come to Jesus the same as everybody else does. Down on your knees asking for God's forgiveness." as one historian states. This in tern helped the people of America see themselves as one large community, planting the seed that would

one day grow into the firm belief of American Independence, which the Revolution revolved around. And this idea spread throughout the country, so this effect was felt by most of the colonies. The video even ends with the statement "In that deeper, more cultural or social way, religion can be seen as a kind of backdrop or precause of the American Revolution".

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Great Awakening Video Response

by Tuan Tran - Friday, October 20, 2017, 9:12 PM

American people had been enlightening and achieving new opinions toward God's words as *Was The Great Awakening A Key To The American Revolution* illustrates that " 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"(17, page 4 of 10). Now, colonists formed their solidarity brotherhood to create new futures for the great nation later known as the USA. Once again, Great Awakening.com demonstrates the relationship of Great Awakening to the God's faith in colonists: "The effect of Great Awakening unity was an attitude that went against the deferential thinking that consumed English politics and religion. Rather than believing that God's will was necessarily interpreted by the monarch or his bishops, the colonists viewed themselves as more capable of performing the task. The chain of authority no longer ran from God to ruler to people, but from God to people to ruler"(4).

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The Great Awakening was the Beginning of a Revolution

by Kerianne Guza - Friday, October 20, 2017, 8:06 PM

After reading the debate and watching the video on the Great Awakening's influence on the American revolution, I continued to strongly believe that the Great Awakening was not key in the American Revolution. However, after reading what the Great Awakening website had to say on the matter, I could no longer deny the influence that the Great Awakening had. The article itself even said that "the major effect of the Awakening was a rebellion against authoritarian religious rule which spilled over into other areas of colonial life" (Great Awakening Website). This rebellion that they talk about was only the beginning. The colonist no longer felt like they needed the opinion of rulers, or the pope, in matters of the faith. "The chain of authority no longer ran from God to ruler to people" because the people no longer thought they needed a ruler as a middle man (Great Awakening Website). They now believed that they could interpret God's word themselves.

The article goes on to say that "this religious zeal turned into revolution and sentiments of self governance" (Great Awakening Website). Now it is clear that the Great Awakening's lasting effect was the mindset of independence from their ruler and the pope, which led them to ideas

of revolution. I cannot say that without the Great Awakening, the American Revolution would not have happened, but the American Revolution may not have come so quickly without that extra nudge. There are many other events that happened afterwards, such as the French and Indian War, that played major roles in the spark of the American Revolution, but the Great Awakening was where it all began.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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Video and Website Response: Great Awakening Still Not Key

by Carley Kramer - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 10:40 AM

The website seems to firmly support the idea that the Great Awakening had a large influence upon the American Revolution. Here, the website directly connects the ideals of the Revival to those of the American Revolution: "The effect of Great Awakening unity was an attitude that went against the deferential thinking that consumed English politics and religion. Rather than believing that God's will was necessarily interpreted by the monarch or his bishops, the colonists viewed themselves as more capable of performing the task. 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." (pg.4) The video also supports the idea, with both sources claiming that the defiance of tyrannical churches gave way to the defiance of a tyrannical government two decades later.

The website also states that "The social effect of multitudes of new denominations was not, however, a fracturing of communities, but a unifying drive which helped to create a "national consciousness"." (pg. 3) I found this interesting because Jon Butler's arguments seems to disagree with this idea of unity. As he states, "Obviously, the revivals provided little focus for intercolonial unity in the way some historians have described. They appeared too erratically in too few colonies under too many different auspices to make such generalizations appropriate." (p.9, pg.2). He goes on to write, "Nor is it possible to demonstrate that specific congregations and denominations associated with the revival originated anti-British protest that became uniquely important to the revolution." (p.9, pg.2) It seems to me that the Great Awakening lead to more denominations, and therefore more disagreements within the church rather than unity throughout the colonies. While they may have found unity in the idea that their religious choices were their own, I believe that Butler argues successfully to show that this unity was not widespread or politically motivated enough to affect the American Revolution.

Even when revivalists were involved in the revolution, Butler explains why their motives were more political than religious. "New Lights and Pennsylvania Presbyterians played important roles in colonial protests, but their activity does not, in itself, link revivals to the Revolution in any important way. First the revivals in both places occurred a quarter century before the Revolution began. Second, neither group expanded in the 1740's or sustained its membership later exclusively because of the revivals. Third, the British probably angered laymen of both groups because the latter were important politicians rather than because they were New Lights and Presbyterians. Or, put another way, they were political leaders who happened to be New Lights and Presbyterians." (p.9, pg.2). Butler also mentions that colonies where the Revival was unsuccessful or inactive reacted the same way to British tyranny as Revivalist colonies. After watching the video and looking into the website, for these reasons, I still believe that the Great Awakening was not key to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Bomani exaggerates

by Joel Pedroza - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 12:30 PM

At first, I completely agreed with Bomani's point about awakeners was key to the American Revolution. Jon Butler did bring some interest points to this topic. Butler mentions in the first paragraph of page six, "The Awakening was more like the civil rights demonstrations, the campus disturbances, and the urban riots of the 1960's." Even though, Bomani had a more convincing argument in my opinion, the fact that Butler has other historians the agree with his argument helps. Butler brings up points how the revivals only swept some of the colonies. This makes the Great Awakening more minuscule, not having any affect on the American Revolution. It only affected the religious side of the colonists. It is also mentioned that many residents were already leaving the church before the Awakening. If people were already leaving, than how were the colonies being affected by the Awakening? Many people were coming in from European countries during this time, which I believe they already had different religious views coming with them. Bomani exaggerates her points, while Butler uses evidence to back up his argument.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Roots of Revolution

by Christopher Zuercher - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 12:50 PM

After reading the article on the Great Awakening website I definitely think that the Great Awakening was the key to the American Revolution. The quote that was most telling to me was, "The effect of Great Awakening unity was an attitude that went against the deferential thinking that consumed English politics and religion. Rather than believing that God's will was necessarily interpreted by the monarch or his bishops, the colonists viewed themselves as more capable of performing the task. 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." It seems that The Great Awakening gave colonists a sense of individual identity and gave way to a larger feeling of desire for more personal freedom. Thus the American revolutions roots lie in the religious awakening that occurred in the mid 17th century.

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1

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The Importance of an Antichrist

by Banyan Ryan - Saturday, October 21, 2017, 6:25 PM

The mention of the Antichrist in the last two paragraphs of the linked webpage under the section titled "Shared Goals" intrigued me. This title is still being used today as a label for many powerful people. It's typically heard by most people as a joke. And there are others who will use this term in a non-literal sense to articulate their hatred for a specific person. Today

you're bound to find an example of someone referring to the president as the Antichrist, either as just an insult or in some cases, very literally. But something interesting that the text explains, which is still true today, is that overtime the title will shift around to various people as a result of the threats of the previous 'Antichrist' subsiding. And how this shift may actually help people to unify under their common distaste of a specific individual.

"When the "popish" threat subsided somewhat with the passing of the French and Indian War, the colonists searched for a new Antichrist at which they could direct their attention. They found him in George III, who needed to be expelled from the colonies in order to bring forth the new age of righteousness." (paragraph 14). A group of people claiming someone as the Antichrist and having the threat of that person's power lead up to nothing, causing those same people to search for someone else to rally against is a cycle that has been going on since the 18th century.

It's easier for people to rally against a person than an ideal, since they can often see the individual as a physical manifestation. Something they can all collectively call out to and point fingers at. Perhaps in order for people to unite against something, they need an 'Antichrist' to join them together in hate.

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2



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The Great Awakening ►

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