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HST 201: History of United States F17

(Escobar Meta 20887 23004)

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Using the New Materials
by Joe Escobar - Thursday, November 16, 2017, 9:48 AM

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Social and idealistic changes
by Kamron Low - Thursday, November 16, 2017, 4:29 PM

I still firmly believe the Revolution was a radical/progressive event by technicality. Though there was some conservatism within post-war ideals of the independent mindset that Americans wanted, breaking away from a monarchical traditions is what makes the Revolution progressive as a whole.

As John Richard Alden pointed out: "It inspired and continues to inspire colonials of all colors to seek freedom from European domination. It also brought into existence for the first time in modern history a republican system of government in a large nation. The example of republicanism successful over the vast territory of the United States constituted a threat to monarchism everywhere, and stimulated revolt against kings and emperors."

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Re: Using the New Materials

by Isabel Aguilera-Muro - Friday, November 17, 2017, 12:53 PM

After reading each Historians opinion or whether the Revolutionary War was a conservative movement or radical movement, I still stand with my original opinion of the Revolutionary War being a conservative movement. Having conservative views means holding on to traditional attitudes and vales, which is what the Americans intended as explained by both historians Clinton Rossiter, and Daniel Boorstin. Historian Rossiter explains how "Americans were fighting not so much to establish new rights as to preserve them" (Boorstin). In document two, historian Rossiter has a similar intake of the revolutionary war explaining how standers of liberty or " the world" had already been made and therefor Americans were simply trying to make it stronger and more effective. Historian Roositer exact words were " The world, at least American corner of it, had already been made as any sensible man could imagine. Americans had never known or had long since begun to abandon feudal tenures, religious intolerance, and hereditary stratification. Their goal therefore was simply to consolidate, then expand by cautious stages, the larger measure of liberty and prosperity that was of their established way of life." (Roositer).

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Re: Using the New Materials

by April Frost - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 10:59 PM

Isabel,

I have to disagree that the American Revolution was a Conservative Movement. Your definition of conservative views may be placed in a modern tense, but I believe with the Revolution, it refers to more of whether the movement was initiated with specific intent and did not "bleed out" into further unspoken change. Historians agree that the term "revolution" involves any resort to violence that also leads to societal and economic change, but the argument here pinpoints whether America did truly change within the society. So the conservative standpoint here is focused on if the American people were already upwards in their movement of change, or whether the American Revolution was a radical event that sparked dramatic change. Gordon S. Wood says that "nothing could be more radical than to make every man independent." (pg 136). The patriarchal monarchy had not broken until soon after the American Revolution. Even the revolutionaries hadn't completely abolished slavery, but those numbers had started to drop significantly after the war. I believe that the American Revolution had to be a radical movement in order to evoke such drastic change, that may not have even reached its extent otherwise.

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Re: conservative

by Kinsey Alexander - Friday, November 17, 2017, 7:10 PM

I still believe that the rejection of monarchy and implementation of a republic was a radical result of the American Revolution. However, it has come to my attention that the philosophies within the Declaration of Independence pervaded American society even before tensions broke out with Britain. Clinton Rossiter revealed that the goal of the Revolution “was simply to consolidate, then expand by cautious stages, the large measure of liberty and prosperity that was part of their established way of life” (document 2). Daniel Boorstin also made a similar point. After the release of the Declaratory Act, Britain began to enforce more control over the colonial way of life. The colonists wanted to maintain the status quo, but this newfound involvement posed a threat. Hence, war broke out for independence. Moreover, documents like the Constitution were produced later to reinforce ideologies that were already widely approved of. Therefore, I think I want to change my stance. I now believe that the American Revolution was a conservative effort.

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Revolution BEFORE the War

by Banyan Ryan - Friday, November 17, 2017, 7:39 PM

The more I look at the different sides of this question, the more it seems that the biggest factors in disagreements come from the specifics. I've already asked if the debate regarding the Revolution being conservative was talking specifically about the war itself or the affect it had afterwards, but now the topic of how the Revolution began BEFORE the war with how the American economy, politics and way of life evolved differently than that of Britain.

As quoted by John Adams himself in the video, "The Revolution was in the minds of the people. And this was effected from 1760 to 1775, in the course of fifteen years, before a drop of blood was drawn at Lexington". So the Revolution, in terms of ideals and how the colonists' minds were shifting away from the crown, had begun far before the war itself was caused due to taxation. So is THIS the Revolution we're meant to be debating over or the war itself?

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Re: Revolution BEFORE the War

by Kinsey Alexander - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 11:06 AM

Banyan,

Butler stated in one of the videos that “when you add together a new kind of political order, American materialism, the development of a widely broadcasted new world economy, and different nationalities, you have a society that looks utterly unlike old-world society”. So really, John Adams was correct. The fundamental institutional changes that came from the Revolution occurred prior to war breaking out with Britain. With this in mind, perhaps we should redefine the period between 1775 and 1783 as the “War for Independence”. Otherwise, the American Revolution should be considered as a conservative movement, because the colonial insurrection was simply an effort to maintain these changes that were already in effect.

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Using the New Materials: Still Against

by April Frost - Friday, November 17, 2017, 11:09 PM

After studying the excerpts from the historians, I feel more secure with my original stance. I do not believe the American Revolution was a conservative movement. Degler had a strong defense of how a conservative movement was visible, but I believe they failed in acknowledging the aftermath. Wood urges his audience to recognize impactful outcomes, such as that the revolution "set into motion ideological and social forces that doomed the institution of slavery in the North and led inexorably to the Civil War." (Document #8).

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Re: Using the New Materials

by Daniel Brockett - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 10:20 AM

After reading the new material I think the it's about perspective from our standpoint yes it was a revolution (differs from my original view) But for the birts it was simply a lost of a colony. It's became to expensive a rebellion to squash so they stopped. It was simply more pros then cons. The british had a lot of other stuff on their plate and it just was not worth it. *"The successful rebellion of the patriots profoundly affected the course of the future, not only for the Americans, but for all other peoples. The American Revolution brought the first break in the European colonial system. It inspired and continues to inspire colonials of all colors to seek freedom from European domination. It also brought into existence for the first time in modern history a republican system of government in a large nation. The example of republicanism successful over the vast territory of the United States constituted a threat to monarchism everywhere, and stimulated revolt against kings and emperors. The proclamation in the Declaration of Independence of the equality of men in the sight of the Creator continues to serve as a battle cry for social and political justice. The patriots won independence; they also made a good start on the long road toward establishing and securing 'the rights of mankind.'"*(John Alden) It ended up being a huge miscalculation by them though. Because it wasn't a revolution the independent thoughts and ideas that stemmed from it , the bill of rights, and the deceleration of independence. Then brought on a Revolution of ideas (whether it was inevitable; Caused by the times or vise versa. The revolution caused the times to change, is more of a nature vs nurture type of discussion, in that both probably influenced each other.)

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Revolutionary Movement

by Hee Jin Seo - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 1:15 PM

The opinion of the revolution suggests a different interpretation. Gorden Wood claimed that revolution is related to fundamental changes in the society and social relationship. People get involved in revolution from many different reasons. Some might risk their lives to seek the changes. According to Jon Butler, the American had developed the new political order and the American politics was participatory. American society was going to be modernized by

revolutionary economy, politics and social contexts. The ideas from the first video clip supported the opinion that the American Revolution is not a conservative movement. I agree that we cannot underestimate the strength of social influence of the revolution.

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Radicalism and the Fall of the Monarchy

by Kerianne Guza - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 5:40 PM

Even after reading the historian's arguments, I am just as sure of myself as before that the American Revolution was a radical movement. John Richard Alden supports this argument by mentioning that "the United States constituted a threat to monarchism everywhere" by breaking free and becoming a large republic. What they had done was so radical that it made monarchs all around the world tremble in their seats, wondering if they were next. Once people saw that they too could take back their rights from their monarchy and have more left governing, what would stop them from doing so?

The idea of having a republic, especially one as large as the colonies, seemed unrealistic to many people. They thought that since no one had successfully done it before, that it, in fact, could not be done. However, the colonist had dared to think so radically, and bravely took on the challenge, proving those people wrong.

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Radicalism Supported by the Videos

by Kerianne Guza - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 6:23 PM

In the end of the first film, they discuss just how revolutionary the colonies were. Wood addresses this in the first article by saying that the revolution "made America into the most liberal, democratic, and modern nation in the world" (Wood, pg. 133). It was the colonist radical ideas are what made them such a modern society. They stated their beliefs about human rights firmly and sought after them with the determination, strength, and sheer luck that won them the revolution.

The second video is a reminder of just how different the colonies were from other countries around the world. They had "Greater prosperity than anywhere else in the world", yet they were bold enough to ask for more (Wood, pg.134). This is one of the things that sets the American Revolution apart from other revolutions. Few countries would have taken the leap that the colonist had if they were in their position. It was the colonist's way of thinking when being put under such circumstances by their monarch, that led them to pursue independence.

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Re: Using the New Materials

by Robert Taylor III - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 8:55 PM

After reading the additional opinions given by these historians I still believe in my original position. In my opinion, I still believe that the American revolution was indeed a conservative movement. In my readings, I found the thoughts of Daniel Boorstin, seemed the most persuasive. His statement "The Americans were fighting not so much to establish *new* rights as to preserve old ones" really supported my interpretation of the happenings of the revolution. Post-revolution society was largely the same as it was before the war.

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Re: Using the New Materials

by Maayan Kirtner - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 10:35 PM

In document 4, by Gordon Wood, he asserts that the American Revolution was a radical revolution because of how different classes of society changed. As he puts it, classes of men who could not read and had ever been educated now had the chance to be representatives in their states and societies. This revolution has given chances of men to pull them up by their bootstraps and make a name for themselves. By the 80's the House of Representatives had significantly increased. There were still men of high class character, but now there were also many men that had been elected by their peers who were farmers and merchants and poorer than any person who had ever been in politics. This was new and exciting. You could a nobody to high society but really be able to change politics for your fellow man. People now had a chance to show Britain, that hey, we really can create a better society by being our own people. A people of normal, lower class men who work for each other to create a more "equal" society.

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Re: Using the New Materials

by Robert Taylor III - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 11:01 PM

In the videos the first details the fact that the term revolution has differing individual meanings to those in U.S. historian circles. Also, the video gives a brief description of the nature of the time period, where it is noted how colonials were actually very fond of certain aspects of British customs but the vastly unique socioeconomic and demographic landscape caused the colonial society to in a sense outgrow that of the antiquated English values. The second video describes the belief that the American Revolution has a profound effect on society in America to this very day. The draws from the notion that the revolution was bound to happen due to the nature of its domestic inhabitants, America was seen as a place of incredibly vast freedom and unclaimed fortune that was without comparison to anywhere else in the known world. Both videos are great examples of the want for individual liberty and status that is free from singular regulation.

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Re: Using the New Materials

by Isabel Aguilera-Muro - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 11:14 PM

After watching the videos, reading the articles, and reading each historians opinion the Revolutionary War, I still continue to belive the Revolutionary war was a conversvative movement. The revolutionary war a an important part of history that helped build a legal nation as explained in video two. some Ideas still continue to be part of our current ideals. Although the Revolutionary War made a large impact politically and socially, the war was only the effect and consequence. The revolution was already in the minds of the colonist, which makes it a conservative movement (Video 2).

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◀ The Revolution

Using the New Materials ▶

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