

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

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Using the New Materials



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Using the New Materials

by Joe Escobar - Thursday, November 16, 2017, 9:48 AM

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New Materials strengthened my opinion

by John Steil - Thursday, November 16, 2017, 3:48 PM

John Richard Alden's review strengthens my opinion that the Revolution was more of a radical event. He says, "the patriots profoundly affected the course of the future, not only for Americans, but for all peoples. This event inspired other countries to revolt against kings and emperors. The equality of men in the sight of the Creator has been used by other countries to lead changes in social classes. Unfortunately, as Linda DePauw points out African Americans, servants, women and poor white males were not allowed to vote until a later time. This was unfortunate. However, like Wood stated on page 133, "The revolution made possible the anti-slavery and women's rights movements of the

nineteenth century and in fact all our current egalitarian thinking". Social orders did end up changing because of the American Revolution.

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Re: Historians

by Kelsey Lane - Friday, November 17, 2017, 3:27 PM

I read through the different view points of the historians that you provided for us in the new material available to us. I found this to be very interesting as well as mind opening. One thing I found very interesting was from document #3 where it states, "The Americans were fighting not so much to establish new rights as to preserve old ones". I had never thought of the revolution in this way before, but when thinking about what we have discussed in class as well as whats in the book I see how this can be true.

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The Revolution Borrowing From Past British Traditions

by Nicholas LaMonica - Friday, November 17, 2017, 3:55 PM

After reading some of the quotes provided from these historians, something that changes my opinion is the quote by Daniel Boorstin in which he describes the Revolution as implementing civil liberties that were an homage to ancient British institutions: "The Americans were fighting not so much to establish new rights as to preserve old ones... The Revolution itself had been a kind of affirmation of faith in ancient British institutions... trial by jury, due process of law, representation before taxation, habeas corpus, freedom from attainder, independence of the judiciary, and the rights of free speech, free petition, and free assembly." An example of taking a British tradition and implementing it into our political system is the influence of the Magna Carta, a document written in 1215 that established for the British people the important right of trial by jury. This is a foundational part of American democracy. Another example is John Locke's influence on our constitution; in his book The Second Treatise of Government, he describes a social contract between people and government in that people must obey the laws of government, and in return the government must be responsive of people's needs. This push and pull relationship is evident in our electoral system, the forming of interest groups and other political organizations intending to mobilize the people for policy change.

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Further readings

by Casandra Fountain - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 12:14 PM

I feel the material given sways to the progressive theory but I still cannot bring myself to side with that theory. As I said before, there wasn't a significant social change that took place. As Daniel Boorstin quotes, "The Americans were fighting not so much to establish new rights as

to preserve old ones..." (Historian readings) America had established their way of life for the most part before the Revolution. Power "simply" transferred from the King and Parliament to the American Confederacy, then to a more powerful Constitutional government. I decided to search for more articles based around the conservatism of the American War for Independence and I found this website, First Principles Journal. They have an article on the American Revolution written by Bruce Frohnen. Frohnen states, "This change of form and content [change in power from the King to Constitutional government], did not alter the basic nature of American life, its local character, and its emphasis on the importance of local autonomy." (firstprinciplesjournal.com) This reiterates that America's separation from Great Britain was not a radical movement.

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Continued thought

by Casandra Fountain - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 11:19 PM

In the additional reading document #5, Carl Degler writes, "Eighty-nine percent of those who filled an office before the Revolution also occupied an office under one of the new state governments." He also stated a similar fact in the original reading we were given. The upper middle class of the 1770-80s stayed the same for the most part. Degler states the class structure, distribution of property, the capitalistic economy, the ideas of the people concerning government were left untouched by the Revolution (p.127). It's hard to say that things changed radically when the same men were in power, land was being distributed to landowners and not the landless, they were still very close to Britain in trade and relied on such for 90% of the revenue for the nation, along with willing to "break" the truce with France to continue such trading. Over time things of course changed but I believe we have to look at this as a single event and not a span of years when trying to decide the type of movement.

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Re: Using the New Materials

by Coty Ferguson - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 1:27 PM

There are many factors that are clear examples of the lack of social upheaval that is present in true revolutions. One of the major examples is Hamilton. He was a man who respected and idealized the structure of British government. This is exemplified by his model of economy that he based heavily on the British model, having a unified currency as well as a national bank that would be the only one allowed to actually allowed to print create the new currency. This ideology and modeling method are outlined in the short video on Moodle. Another factor that supports the idea of staying relatively the same culturally as Britain and thus undermining the idea of a true revolution occurring is the fact that many people for years after the war still used British items shipped across the ocean as symbols of wealth and privilege. And the fact that the United States would continue to trade with Britain and have the vast majority of its trade come from Britain is an interesting factor. This would fall out of fashion as the country drifts away from its British roots and becomes its own country, but the fact of the matter is that the United States were still British in many aspects even after the war.

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No, The American Revolution was not a conservative movement.

by Rhyen Moncrief - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 5:45 PM

After carefully reading and processing the historian's perspectives on the American Revolution, I would still have to agree with Gordon Wood that the American Revolution was not a Conservative Movement. " The Revolution democratized the new state legislatures by increasing the number of their members and altering their social character.." The radical nature is evident in the American Revolution I believe when we look beneath the surface at the argument that Americans used to defend their rights ; the higher- law principles of consent of the governed and natural rights.

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Re: Video Response (1)

by Jesse Elizondo - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 10:28 PM

The video was a pretty short and general overview of the subject but there were some interesting points made. I like in the beginning how they relate revolutions as being more than just overthrowing a government but something that causes significant societal change. This relates to my opinion on why I think the Revolutionary War was a conservative movement because there wasn't any significant societal change made. Another interesting bit of information brought up was that Americans were steeped in Britain's tradition of individual rights, with things like the Magna Carta and John Locke's notion of natural rights which influenced our own government. This information helps reinforce my opinion that the war was a conservative movement because things remained largely unchanged after the war and it showed that Colonial America still had cultural ties with Britain. There is some information that Jon Butler gives that could be a counter to my opinion like how he described that things like our government and economy were radically different than anything in the old world. It is something to consider but the video didn't give enough information on it to change my opinion so this is something i'll have to research.

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Re: Video Response (2)

by Jesse Elizondo - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 10:28 PM

This video was interesting due to it talking less about the revolution and more about what the mindset of Americans were and how America was such a different country compared to the rest of the world. This could be related to cultural differences from Britain, and possible societal changes that took place after the war. Overall I enjoyed the first video more, it was more informational and related information from the Revolutionary War to what the definition of revolution was, which is something I really liked. There was still some stuff that I liked in the second video. An example of something that I thought was good was the scene with Thomas Fleming and how he gave a contrast to what americans value. Some examples of these values are how Americans love free but also value authority, and how we

fought to free people and yet we still owned lots of slaves. These contrasts were really interesting to see and if this was the point to the video it does give an insight to the American mindset.

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Re: Historian Views

by Brogan Cornish - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 11:08 PM

After reading the articles about the historians I'm not as confident with my first couple forum posts. Like when John Richard Alden said, "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." He's telling me that the revolution was caused by the introduction of republicanism and helped change America after the American Revolution. But this comment by Daniel Boorstan said, "The Revolution itself had been a kind of affirmation of faith in ancient British institutions... trial by jury, due process of law, representation before taxation, habeas corpus, freedom from attainder, independence of the judiciary, and the rights of free speech, free petition, and free assembly." So he explains a lot of great examples of how Americans were accepting these aspects of American culture rather than change anything. This was telling me that before the Revolution that we actually had a lot of structure before we fought to get out from underneath Britain.

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Re: The New Confusing Materials

by Brogan Cornish - Saturday, November 18, 2017, 11:32 PM

At the end of video #1 the historian explains about how America was revolutionized before the war. He said they were, "Revolutionary in social contact, economy, and it was a modern society." This historian explains on how culturally we were different, but we had the same ideas about rights and John Locke's ideas. Thus creating a great amount of social contact, economy and a modern society before the Revolutionary war took place. In the second video it conflicts my ideas about how the Revolution affected American society. Gordon S. Wood say in the first thirty seconds of the video, "The American Revolution was the most important event in American history. Infused into our culture all of our noblest ideals... our belief in equality, liberty, happiness, and the constitution." He explains that the American Revolution inspired these ideas to create the Constitution, create equality, and help liberty. I'm really on the fence of this argument I believe that some of these were inspired solely by the American Revolution, but I feel that some of the basic ideals were already in place. I really can't make up my mind now if the American Revolution was a conservative movement or not. All these historians are very credible and very convincing. I'm choosing to be on the fence in this argument.

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