

HST 201: History of United States F18 (Escobar Meta 20749 22611)

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Continuing the Discussion

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Thursday, November 15, 2018, 9:20 AM

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Extending the discussion

by [Brayden Lane](#) - Thursday, November 15, 2018, 10:55 PM

The paragraph written by John Richard Allen helps further extend my belief that the American revolution was in fact not a conservative movement. "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". (document #1). That short sentence alone shows how the American revolution wasn't conservative but a very diverse rebellion that changed society. John Allen goes on to say how The successful,

rebellion affected the course of the future, and how it also brought the first modern system of government to a large nation. The paragraph written by Allen supported my existing stance that no, the American revolution wasn't conservative.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Freedom?**by [Maria Cecilia Contreras Sanchez](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 8:29 PM

I agree that this paragraph has a very good point of view in saying that the American Revolution gave us freedom from the British government. But analyzing it in more detail, this gave me to understand that we were free from Europe domination, but that freedom was not equal at all. And that is clearly stated in the video, when it is mentioned that it had to wait another 100 years to be able to say that they were all free and end with slavery.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**The american revolution might have been more conservative than i thought.**by [Brayden Lane](#) - Thursday, November 15, 2018, 11:09 PM

Document #3 written by Daniel Boorstin makes me think that yes the American revolution wasn't a complete conservative movement but maybe some parts were conservative. "The Americans were fighting not so much to establish new rights as to preserve old ones". (Document #3). The paragraph written by Boorstin makes me rethink a little bit on how much is actually conservative. Before reading document 3 I believed it was a full rebellion movement that changed society drastically. But as Daniel put it was a movement but not so much to gain new rights and change society but to establish old ones. Such as British institutions trial by jury, due process of law, rights of free speech and others. All these still stand in society today which leads me to believe that it had some conservative parts to it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**A Fresh, New Perspective**by [Devin Brown](#) - Friday, November 16, 2018, 12:11 PM

In short, my opinion of the American Revolution was changed, going from a radical revolution to a revolution that preserved their ideals, and set a working example for countries to follow. With that said, however, I don't think it was the American Revolution that led to other revolutions to overthrow their monarchy, as I believe that would've happened in due time regardless, it was just that the American Revolution happened first, and to say that everything else happened because of it is irresponsible.

As John Richard Alden said in his document *The American Revolution, 1954*, "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." While I agree with what he said, I believe that the way he says it implies a few things, e.g. saying that our system of government threatened monarchism and stimulated revolts is an over-exaggeration. The reason people began revolting was mainly because they were fed up with the huge gap in wealth and the way politics were handled in monarchism. The American Revolution simply gave an example of a replacement government and how it could work, but the seeds of revolutions were already sowed.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Different aspects of change**by [Owen McCoy](#) - Friday, November 16, 2018, 9:20 PM

For a revolution to be revolutionary it requires "deep societal change." Therefore, the question becomes whether or not the American Revolution produced deep societal change. There are many aspects of this, but I will start with the obvious.

Out of the War for Independence emerged a nation founded on the Federalist desire for a strong national government Republican principles such as "certain unalienable rights" extended to all on the premise that "all men are created equal." In document #1, John Richard Alden adds that "It also brought into existence for the first time in modern history a republican system of government in a large nation." America had a representative government with three branches to check and balance each other, designed for peaceful transfers of power every few years. A written constitution gave it the power to enforce and uphold the law of the land, but it also prevented the government from becoming too powerful; the sovereign people would see to it if they did. These were all political changes not reflected anywhere else in the world at the time.

It is more difficult to pinpoint socioeconomic changes, but I will do my best. Thomas Jefferson envisioned a nation of farmers. Eventually, the U.S. acquired all of the land East of the Mississippi River. Later, Jefferson bought the Louisiana purchase and America moved West. Different areas of the country adopted different industries, lifestyles, and even speech patterns. Also, I like what Gordon Wood says in Document #8 about slavery: "If any Americans were to retain it, as southern Americans eventually did, they would have to explain and justify it in a new racial and anthropological ways that their former monarchical society had never needed. The Revolution in effect set into motion ideological and social forces that doomed the institution of slavery in the North and led inexorably to the Civil War." He also points out that this was not the case prior to the revolution and that the "Republican attack on dependency" was responsible for this. This became one of the most prominent factors that determined the sharp ideological divide between North and South.

There was no great overturning of the economic class structure, something found in many revolutions but not our own. The people in power still tended to be on the wealthier end. The rich largely stayed rich or got richer. But new opportunities for lower and middle-class workers arose during this time. Many headed West to become farmers. Many became artisans or merchants to stimulate the new nation's economy. Others saw it fit to run for

elected office. In Document 4, Gordon Wood offers his perspective on this: "In New Hampshire, for example, in 1765 the colonial assembly had contained only thirty-four members, almost all well-to-do gentlemen. By 1786 the state's House of Representatives had increased to eighty-eight members. Most of these were ordinary farmers or men of moderate wealth." In any case, I feel that the other societal changes I listed outweigh the traditional (though dynamic and expanding) class structure.

Finally, I think it is significant that the Americans wrote a constitution that could be amended in order to create "a more perfect union." The political leaders of the day knew full well that their attempt at a constitution wasn't perfect. But they knew that times would change, and so they created a nation that could adapt to change or even lead change worldwide. America has retained many of its core principles for more than two hundred years, but it has also seen other ideas come and go. The phrase "all men are created equal" did not originally apply to all people. Eventually, it was extended to slaves, women, and later the immigrants who streamed into the country in pursuit of happiness. It is another debate entirely whether America is a nation of change, but this is certainly the way it has played out in history.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3


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Re: Different aspects of change

by [Maria Cecilia Contreras Sanchez](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 8:56 PM

I think your analysis is very good, specially the last part of your explanation. Since it's clear that the Constitution was not perfect from the beginning. They needed to keep making changes on it in order to keep growing a better America. I know that white Americans after the war affirmed their freedom and equality in their states constitution and Bill of Rights, but Americans rarely applied these values to blacks or Indians.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0


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Re: Continuing the Discussion

by [Maria Cecilia Contreras Sanchez](#) - Friday, November 16, 2018, 9:46 PM

For me to read the articles, it seemed to me that they support more the point of Degler. One of the most important points in favor of Degler is that DePauw gives us. His point of view tells us that most of the Americans during the Revolution were blacks, servants, women and minors. Which in spite of it were not free at all and likewise did not have the same rights as that of voting. It also mentions Americans who were considered poor because they had a little or no property, which was also excluded from voting. Jameson also supports an important point of Degler point out that only some received more benefits than others.

On the other hand, I feel that they support the point of Gordon. (It could be because the same appears in the video), however the important points in both videos. In the first video it is explained that the Revolution was a social change and to end the British monarchy. It is mentioned that the Revolution helped to develop a new political order making people

more participatory. It is also argued that the Revolution helped a new economic world for the country. The second video mentions that Americans had noble ideas. The Americans wanted equality, freedom, happiness and of course their independence. We mention the word Revolution could refer directly to war, when in reality the war would only be an effect or consequence of the Revolution. In the case of the American Revolution it was a change in the minds of the people. An important fact that the video gives us is that before the Revolution 80% of the "rich" enjoyed many benefits making an inequality among the rest of the people. Another important information was that it was mentioned that slavery was one of the problems that was not really solved because it needed to pass another 100 years solve it. Analyzing the material, it is really difficult for me to decide which side it supports. Both give very good points. The Revolution gave Americans new opportunities and a change in their lives.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2


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Re: Continuing the Discussion

 by [Brayden Lane](#) - Friday, November 16, 2018, 10:58 PM

"Revolutionary in social contact, and revolutionary in its economy, revolutionary in its politics, it was a revolutionary society". (Jon Butler 3:10 video 1) This quote by Jon butler stands out to me because it helps further my belief that the American revolution wasn't a conservative movement. It was different than the world had seen before, it didn't stay the same and instead the American society changed, new politics and a new economy. All major factors on whether the society was conservative or not. They didn't believe in old traditional English ways though some argue that they did. I believe that in order for a society to be conservative it needs to stay the same and stick to its traditional ways, and the early American society didn't do that, it was revolutionary in so many aspects.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1


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Who was more persuasive?

 by [Brayden Lane](#) - Friday, November 16, 2018, 11:15 PM

For me even though I believe the American revolution wasn't conservative, out of all the authors Daniel Boorstin made the most persuasive argument. "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." (Boorstin). He then goes on to list different legal and political items and ideals we adopted from Britain. I'd have to agree he's right and we even see those ideals such as due process of law in society today. It's hard to deny that we adopted those from Britain and in return were an unchanged conservative society. Boorstin made me think about how maybe the American revolution wasn't all a rebellion but maybe it had a little bit of conservative ideals to it that led to an unchanged American society.

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0

**Conservative Revolution?**by [Gurpritam Sandhar](#) - Friday, November 16, 2018, 11:48 PM

In the American Revolution video #1, Edward Countryman from Southern Methodist University said something so simple and true that it made my initial post of why the American Revolution was not conservative even stronger. He said, "What drives people to get involved is somewhere between hope and fear, vision and desperation, people get involved for all sorts of reasons cause revolutions are never simple things (38 second mark)." People had the hope of a free nation that wasn't under British rule, they also had the fear of death because it were the men with hope who willingly gave their lives for this nation, not knowing what the outcome would be. I personally feel that if not one but if hundreds of men are willing to give their lives in battle for a better future, not just for themselves but everyone who wanted a free nation, that is what you call a revolution. There was nothing conservative about the men who gave their lives for this country so why should we call the revolution conservative? People fought for change and change is what we got. In the reading Gordon Wood writes, "The revolutionaries wanted to create a new republican world in which "all offices lie open to men of merit, of whatever rank or condition." They believed that "even the reins of state may be held by the son of the poorest men, if possessed of abilities equal to the important station (pg.14)." Nothing about Gordon Woods quote above is conservative, the courage to demand and fight to advance as a nation under our own ruling so that "all offices lie open to men of merit of whatever rank or condition" is something that never would have happen under the British rule. As Edward Countryman said in the video, "Revolutions are never simple things." I still believe that the American Revolution was not conservative.

What do you guys think?

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2


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**Sticking to my instincts**by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 8:54 AM

After reading the opinions of the historians, I am still of the mind that the Revolution was not a conservative movement. The historian Clinton Rossiter while of opinion that the Revolution was a conservative movement. He cites that it was only in America that it was conservative to the rest of the world it was radical. He says it is only viewed as conservative in America because they had already started making the changes that seemed radical before the revolution. But I say the revolution actually cemented these changes. Changes that the rest of the world saw as radical. One of the other reasons I see the revolution as radical is because it changed the way the world looked at government. John Alden supports this when he 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." How can we see the American Revolution as conservative when it inspired revolutions that we see as radical such as the French Revolution.

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Sum of ratings: 1 (1) **Still Sticking to my instincts**by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 8:55 AM

The first statement from the video that supported my thinking in the of radical Revolution is Gordon Wood speaking in the beginning of the first video about what makes a revolution. The line that stood out to me was that a revolution is a “matter of risking ones life for the sake of change.” I believe hat to want change badly enough to risk one’s life for it could be considered radical. The very first point I made in this forum was how the Revolution changed society in a way that endures even to today. Thomas Fleming supports this in the second video when he say’s “so many aspects of what Americans are today can be seen here in this Revolution.”

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Point of View**by [Devin Brown](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 11:22 PM

I very much like your perspective on this matter, in that inside of America, we may view the American Revolution as conservative, but many outside are more likely to view it as radical. As Daniel Boorstin said in his piece titled *The Genius of American Politics*, "The Americans were fighting not so much to establish new rights as to preserve old ones," so to us, the American Revolution was just a way for us to keep living how we were. To the outside nations, the way we were living began to differ greatly from how they did, so they may have saw our change--or rather confirmation on our principles--as a new, interesting perspective and model on the role of government, as you also pointed out in John Alden's piece, "when he said 'The example of republicanism successful over the vast territory of the United States constituted a threat to monarchism everywhere, and stimulated revolt against Kinds and Emporers.'"

In other words, whether the American Revolution was conservative or not may depend on what you're basing it on, whether it's the standard based on the European countries, or if it's based on pre-revolutionary America. While in general I believe the American Revolution to be conservative, basing it on America before the American Revolution, I can appreciate the argument of comparing it to the other European countries.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Rights of Mankind**by [Gurpritam Sandhar](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 1:47 PM

Document #1 by John Richard Alden made the most persuasive argument which supported my original take on if the American Revolution was a conservative movement. I said no, and I feel like he would also agree. He writes, “ The patriots won independence; they also made a good start on the long road toward establishing and securing 'the rights of mankind.’” I totally agree with him. I

believe that because of the sacrifices made by the patriots during not just the American Revolution war, but any war in general, it leads to bigger and better things. If people are willingly giving their lives for the betterment of the people and their future, how could we not respect that. If we take for example the American Revolution, the patriots were fighting for a free nation that was no longer going to be under the British rule, but along with that win, they changed more than just the reigns of power. They won the people the rights to do many things. Such things that were written in the Constitution, Bill of rights, and Declaration of Independence. Which in my opinion were not conservative at all.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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John Richard Alden helped reinforce my position on yes, the American revolution was a conservative movement. He explains that the American revolution started a domino effect among European colonies to break away from the dominating euro power.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

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I believe it was conservative movement because the colonist were over being told what to do. I really liked how in video 1 one of the historian's state "risking one's life for change with order "1:10. To be you can connect this to the materials we have talked about because they were willing to fight and die for what they believed in.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

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