

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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My Stance on the Revolution

by [Nathan Edwards](#) - Thursday, November 15, 2018, 6:43 PM

After reading over what the many historians had to say, I feel a little more insecure about my argument. I still believe that the Revolution was not conservative but it's a lot harder for me to make that claim. Looking at Boorstin's argument made me realize that Americans more so wanted to preserve old rights rather than make new ones, which made me rethink my idea of what it means to be conservative. I think they did keep a lot of old ideas and incorporated them into their new system. I feel as if they mixed their old ideas of what makes a country and

combined them with new ones. But what brought me back to the non-conservative side was what DePauw had to say. "But perhaps the most significant mark of their (slaves) unfreedom was their usual lack of a right to vote, for the privilege of consenting to the laws was the essential right of a free man" (DePauw) Since the majority of Americans were made up of slaves, changes had to be made in order to account for them. They eventually needed to end slavery which resulted in the Civil War. In both accounts, I was swayed each way. Each argument is very compelling and, as I've stated, it was really hard for me to choose. But in the end, I find more evidence supporting the Revolution being non-conservative.

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conserved not overthrown

by [Jakob Ramirez](#) - Friday, November 16, 2018, 12:21 AM

While reading the additional information I was able to strengthen my argument that the American Revolution was a conservative movement. This is because the colonists had a way of life set up that was being threatened by the British, so they fought back by strengthening their control. The revolution was fought to conserve their social and political views. Society itself was not overthrown and started all over again, but instead they fought to allow their current society grow. Daniel Boorstin supports this by stating, "The Americans were fighting not so much to establish new rights as to preserve old ones..." (The Revolution, pg 1).

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Re: conserved not overthrown

by [Levi Savage](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 2:37 PM

I disagree with your assumptions that the American revolution was a conservative one. As John Butler puts it in video #1 "Americans had developed this new political order they effectively developed legislator and American politics was marvelously participatory in its character. The revolution had already happened the war they fought was to protect their revolution which was far from conservative for the time. Because

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The Free People

by [Nathan Edwards](#) - Friday, November 16, 2018, 2:52 PM

After watching both videos, I hold to my view and recognize just how important the Revolution was to Americans. "It was not just a change in government but a change in society and social relationships" (Video #1, 0:24). This further proves my point by saying the Revolution had an

impact on every aspect of their daily lives. The Americans loved being English but felt like they had a right to a revolution (Video #1, 2:30). After the Revolution took place, the Americans felt the most free that anyone could be during their time. Land was cheap and abundant which made America a great place to settle. The Revolution was even called "the most important event in American history" (Video #2, 0:19). Looking on this evidence, America was changed in many more ways so I can't say that the American Revolution was conservative.

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[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Document Findings - Still Conservative**by [Jeffrey South](#) - Friday, November 16, 2018, 6:03 PM

In our first discussion I took the side of the American Revolution being conservative. Since the release of new opinions and findings I still agree that the American Revolution was conservative. As Clinton Rossiter explained it in document #2, the colonists had an established way of life that was being threatened. In document #3, Daniel Boorstin, explains it along the same lines, "The Americans were fighting not so much to establish new rights as to preserve old ones..."

I can see how people could see the American Revolution as radical if they were looking through the eyes of the British and the Crown.

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[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Document Findings - Still Conservative**by [Nathan Edwards](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 3:28 PM

I don't think Rossiter said that their established way of life was being threatened. He mentioned that their goal was to consolidate and expand their liberty and prosperity but not that it was threatened unless implied. I also don't think Americans would only see the Revolution as radical if they were British or on the side of the British. Because the Revolution had much to do with the movement away from slavery, the Southerners disagreed thus leading to the Civil War. "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" (Wood, Document #8). The North recognized there needed to be change which is why the American Revolution must be considered as radical.

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[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Document Findings - Still Conservative**by [Jeffrey South](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 9:35 PM

"The world - at least the American corner of it - had already been made over as thoroughly 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 large measure of liberty and prosperity that was part of their established way of life.” - Clinton Rossiter

I may have summarized it incorrectly, but what I took from that statement was that, yes, the colonies still answered to the Crown somewhat, but they were a sea away from the motherland. They took the basis of how they lived from the British but over time constructed their own rules, their own societal ladder, and chose their own leaders. We have to look at what the words radical and conservative mean, and as I explained in my first post in the original forum, the American Revolution was about consolidating the Colonists' way of life when the British finally crossed the line.

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No, it was Radical

by [Lisa Schnabel](#) - Friday, November 16, 2018, 8:14 PM

The view of slavery was also radically revolutionized due to the American Revolution. Our textbook states that “during the war, Americans began to think, more than before, in crude racial categories. Ideas about racial inferiority clashed sharply with claims of universal rights and human equality” (p.198). Wood also argues that Americans had rarely seen the need for criticizing or defending black slavery before the war. Although black slavery was not totally abolished, Wood states that the cultural climate concerning many different forms of bondage were now being attacked “with a vehemence that was inconceivable earlier” (p. 15). Wood asserts that “the Revolution in effect set in 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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No, it was Radical

by [Lisa Schnabel](#) - Friday, November 16, 2018, 8:16 PM

Wood proceeds with his argument saying “the revolutionaries wanted to create a new republican world in which ‘all offices lie open to men of merit, of whatever rank or condition’” (p.14). It is here where Wood’s quotes David Ramsay, a physician, historian and whose patriot speech was given in 1778, he says “even the reins of state may be held by the son of the poorest men, if possessed of abilities equal to the important station” (p.14). Wood is asserting that the American Revolution unraveled the dependency on the nobles to fill the principle positions of leadership in the government. In the document #4, Wood

writes "Men of more-humble and more rural origins and less educated than those who had sat in the colonial assemblies now became representatives" this was clearly revolutionary. Jon Butler, from Yale University, states that America had "a society that look utterly unlike old world society, this was a revolutionary society...it was a modern society" (video #1, 3:02). Americans still have the same spirit as was ignited in the Revolutionary War. General John Galvin sums it up best by saying "we qualify everything we do and all the relationships that we have, domestically and in terms of our foreign policy on those ideals that came out so very clearly as we started into the war of independence" (video #2, 0:58). Essentially, the American Revolution radically changed the face of politics and the people of America.

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"the harder the conflict, the greater the triumph" (George Washington)

by [Levi Savage](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 1:02 AM

The American revolution was it really a revolutionary or was it just a changing of the torch from Great Britain to the American upper class. How could it not be anything other than one of the most important events in the world that created the most powerful nation that ever existed in human history? For the first time in ever, a large scale republic was made and it succeeds. It did not fall or capitulate to a dictator or a second revolution like most other countries in the world had during our long and fruitful life as a country.

The very foundation of the old world changed to that of a new. Where the liberties of the individual man were protected and guaranteed by a constitution. Along with this, a whole new culture was made where the right to self-govern had been practiced for generations. But one thing we must not forget is that the revolution happened before the war ever began as John Adams puts it "What do we mean by the revolution the war that was no part of the revolution it was only an effect and consequence of it the revolution was in the minds of the people and this was affected from 1760-1775 in the course of 15 years before a drop blood was drawn at Lexington". The revolution was one that happened within the people before the war ever began. Because without this revelation, how could there of been any war?

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Re: Continuing the Discussion

by [Dylan Mecchi](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 3:17 PM

After reading the document spoken from the historians one that really stuck with me was document #2: Clinton Rossiter, Seedtime of the Republic, 1953. It speaks about how the colonists ideas were all surrounded around preserving the current way of life their living.

“However radical the principles of the Revolution may have seemed to the rest of the world, in the minds of the colonists they were thoroughly preservative and respectful of the past The world - at least the American corner of it - had already been made over as thoroughly 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 large measure of liberty and prosperity that was part of their established way of life.” This excerpt talks about how the rest of the world thought that the American colonist was seen as a radical while the colonist viewed themselves as the preserver. It was all based on point of view but this excerpt definitely is evidence that the American Revolution was a conservative movement.

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by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 7:23 PM

The roots of the American revolution can be traced all the way back to the first settlers of the colonies. While the Quakers were not exactly revolutionaries they came to the colonies in search of religious freedom. The ideas formed in the enlightenment and the great awakening were carried with these peoples to the frontier. As well as the idea of escaping the control of Great Britain. Even Jamestown which began ridden by disease and in a struggle for survival with local natives. This colony showed many of the ideals that we consider to be American even to this day. The idea that one can become rich by hard work and risk taking alone is the heart of the american dream. I believe these ideas and new ways of thinking are the real cause of the american revolution. Yes the revolutionary war was a result of politics and a long history of minor disagreements. However all of this was blown way out of proportion when the war began. Honestly I do not believe that the everyday militia would have been willing to fight and die over a 3% tea tax. The revolution was much deeper ingrained into the minds and hearts of Americans than tariffs or even the presence of the British military. This freedom seeking national personality along with the independent thinking brought by the enlightenment were the true causes of the revolution.

The immediate effects of the war may have only been political or constitutional. However none of the social and or expansional changes could have been possible without it. If the colonies had remained limited to the east coast and subservient to the monarchy then none of the following changes like the social justice movements or even manifest destiny could have occurred. While the American people were not harshly oppressed or even mistreated the founding fathers had something much more progressive than the mediocrity of life in the colonies. “The new republic would be equally free and independent.”(Gordon Wood, pg13) These ideals of equality and Independence were what this country was founded upon. Weather we stayed true to these notions or not does not make the achievements of the sons of liberty void. “With all men now considered to be equally free citizens, the way was prepared as well for a radical change in the conception of state power. Almost at a stroke the revolution destroyed all the earlier talk of paternal or maternal government, filial allegiance, and mutual contractual obligations between rulers

and ruled.”(Gordon Wood, pg16) The effect of rejecting a monarchy and any and all dependance to it made way for most all of the changes in the following century. As well as the free thinking and forward momentum mindstate that exists in this country today.

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No, my opinion has not change

by [Karsten Brevik](#) - Saturday, November 17, 2018, 8:43 PM

After reading each document and video I stand by my original stance that not only was the American Revolution a true revolution, it was also not a conservative movement. Although I was taken by surprise at the fact Mr. Degler pointed out that nearly 70% of the signers of the Declaration of Independence held office under the colonial regime. In my previous post I wrote about how remarkable it was that eighteenth-century revolutionaries were able to see the need for change before letting their colonial society descend into chaos and this gave me some more context on how they were able to accomplish that. It also provides more information on why the structure of government they created though fundamentally different had some of the same characteristics of British system of government from which they were seceding. Let me know your thoughts on this.

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