

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

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The Great Awakening

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Saturday, October 13, 2018, 12:33 PM

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IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

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Re: Yes The Great Awakening Influenced the American Revolution

by [Gehrig Van Tol](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 1:49 PM

While one may not be able to initially draw the connections between the Great Awakening and the Revolutionary War, or how the Great Awakening, a primarily religious revival period ,could have contributed to such a bloody conflict, upon further analysis of the reasons behind both, the connections become more obvious. Professor of history Patricia Bonomi asserts that the Great Awakening was not so much a religious revival, but instead an “open rebellion against the "spiritual Tyranny" of traditional church authority”, where based

simply on “matter of conscience” the separatists of the Presbyterian and Congregational religions defended the rights of the minority form the majority. From this perspective the entire concept of the Great Awakening can be compared to the “rebellion” of the colonies against the mother country of England, where instead of rebelling against a country , it is a people rebelling against traditional church authority. King George III, the king of England at the time of the Revolutionary War, confirms this, one page 193 of the textbook where George replies to the colonies “The Declaration of the Causes and Necessities of Taking Up Arms”, with a formal proclamation of rebellion. While this rebellion turned into physical violence, the same beliefs were carried over from the earlier Great Awakening, referencing back to the “spiritually tyranny” of the traditional church, which sounds very similar to the tyranny of England over the colonies including the famed “taxation without representation”. The Great Awakening principle of defending the rights of the minority against majorities is also a very “Revolutionary” concept, where the minority of the colonies defended their own rights against the majority of England. Considering all these similarities in the concept of a rebellion as well as the principle reasons behind the two, it is easy to see how the Great Awakening directly influenced the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3


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Re: Yes The Great Awakening Influenced the American Revolution

 by [James Carr](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 8:34 PM

I can absolutely agree that the settlers from England were migrating to escape English rule (and for other reasons), but they weren't the original settlers; don't forget about the Natives, the Dutch, Spanish, French, etc... all migrating for different reasons. The English were part of the migration and religion was part of that- but do you think the US would have formed without the English settlers? Perhaps if the Dutch or Spain ruled?

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0


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Re: The Great Awakening

 by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 3:14 PM

The Great Awakening began as a rebellion. Yes it had nothing to do with social or political issues but it was still a group of people challenging the church and government. The revival showed that people could question and challenge the authority of the church. The revivalists showed a nature for passion and choosing revelations of the heart and religion above all else. This was almost unheard of at the time it was even seen as heracy. The reformists greatly valued their emotions and this lead to their spiritual intensity, lack of reason at times and head strong determination to start a revolution. This turn away from relying only on reason especially in religion challanged the very way that people thought. I think it was in this way that the revivalists sparked the ideas that would eventually lead to the American revolution. Regardless of weather the american revolution had anything to do with religion it was almost entirely based on liberty and money (but I'm going to focus on the freedom aspect for arguments sake.) The Great awakening quickly spread to America and with it it's ideas about free thinking, freedom and individualism. Now these

things seem to be at the heart of any revolution and I think its foolish to say the two revolutions were completely unrelated. I personally believe that every revolution has the same ideals at its core. Weather the reason are different or not I think the great awakening is what began the talk and action that would eventually lead to the American revolution even if only through inspiration although I believe it goes deeper than just that. The revivalists claimed the freedom "to question and judge all, and refuse subjection to every proper judicature." This idea alone when spread to america would spread like wildfire because the situations of the two revolutions are similar in that they both stem from oppression. I think the idea of questioning and challenging ones living conditions and freedoms is essential to a revolution and if these ideas hadnt been brought to america who knows how things would have turned out.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [James Carr](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 8:38 PM

Do you think these particular freedoms, liberties, and desire to escape oppression might have some religious sub-context? Remember, the Puritans were still very religious but due to differences in beliefs, salvation especially, they escaped English rule (rule by the Church instead of the government.) Perhaps the American Revolution only happened because there was a sort of religious harmony among the citizens, as diverse as they were.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 11:54 AM

Honestly there is probably a lot of truth to what you said. America was literally founded on religious freedom. Regardless of Britain the pilgrims came to the colonies to escape spiritual oppression. However I'm still going to disagree with you. I believe that this idea was probably engrained in american culture at this time period. The idea of escaping to a new frontier that is practically lawless and all can practice their own set of beliefs freely. Not to mention no one was getting burned at the stake for their beliefs (except for satanic witches.) I realize that I am kinda a fence sitter on this issue because I definitely agree that religion was the source of the defiant and liberty seeking personality so often seen in american peoples. This said I don't think that the american revolution was about religion at all. I think it was only started by religion, that people saw the passion and emotional intensity of those that came to america from the great awakening. I think the intensity that often accompanies spirituality is what caused people to change the way they think and question their surroundings and this eventually lead to american revolution.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

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**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Logan Habib](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 6:52 PM

I find it interesting that you say the American Revolution was not really about religion, and that religion provided only a spark to ignite the revolution. I also agree that people definitely gravitated towards the passion and intensity that the Awakening provided, but I also would like to point out the impact it had on the Revolution. The Revolution itself was not conceived by the Great Awakening, but the Awakening did cause a shift in ideological, sociological, and religious ways. It shattered the social order of church hierarchy, and directed its attention toward the individual. People who normally were not allowed to voice opinion could freely express opinions and accept the light of God into their lives. It provided hope for a new age in the colonies. Due to the recent shift in thinking about transformation of the individual, the self-focus affected the social and communal aspects of living in some colonies. The economy began to change drastically in the colonies. A section of my notes for chapter 4 has the quote, "When the Great Awakening began to thrive, the old institutions began to crumble."

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening YES**by [Emma Powell](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 4:37 PM

The great awakening was key to the american revolution. Patricia U. Bonomi does a great job of expressing why she believes the great awakening was such a key part to the american revolution and really swayed me to side with her.

(Page three on the handout) Bonomi brings up one of the central issues at this time which speaks greatly to the american revolution, "Old side presbyterians shared a corporate view of church government; that is, once decisions had been approved by the central synod, all members are expected to abide by its rulings." Bonomi goes on to explain that society never directly questioned why they did this. The New siders "encouraged contentions and divisions within the congregations" They didn't enjoy this idea of obeying rules that were set all by one side.

(Page 4 on the handout) "As the great awakening broke down social cohesion in America, it simultaneously elevated the individual." I really think this exemplifies the idea of the american revolution.

These people were truly tired of being given orders and just following them, they had started their own new homes, interacted with new people, animals and territory as well as debated and struggled to find their own religion. The Great Awakening did a lot to the minds of americans and gave them the idea that they could create and decide what their religion should be. This was I believe the biggest step towards the American revolution.

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Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2

**+1 Butler**by [James Carr](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 7:56 PM

Given both stances from Patricia J. Bonomi and Jon Butler, I am inclined to lean more towards Butler. They both made great points and Bonomi was right in that religion played a huge role in the colonization of the Americas, especially seeing as how many of the settlers were Puritans, Separatists, and Quakers looking to escape the Church of England, but it certainly was not the only reason for migrating. People migrating for exploration, resources, expansion, and to escape their own countries, tyranny, etc... and become independent. The American Revolution, in my opinion, would have happened regardless of religious circumstance. As Butler says in the last paragraph; "[the revival's] leadership was local and, at best, regional, and they helped reinforce- but were not key to- the proliferation and expansion of still-regional Protestant denominations in the colonies..." he goes on, "Their social and political effects were minimal and usually local..."

I think this raises a bigger picture, especially in the present day debate- "Was our nation founded as a Christian nation" or "on Christian principles", or is revival simply a bi-product of population expansion and the creation of communities, states, and culture?

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2

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**Re: +1 Butler**by [Ryan Monett](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:20 AM

While I understand The Great Awakening was not a *direct* cause of the American Revolution, it had a large societal impact on religious liberty and unification against England. As noted on [Britannica](#):

"The increase of dissent from the established churches during this period led to a broader toleration of religious [diversity](#), and the democratization of the religious experience fed the fervour that resulted in the [American Revolution](#)."

It's easy to mix causes and effects and that one particular event truly doesn't mean it was a direct result of the American Revolution; however, it provided a rationale for distancing ourselves from England, and The Great Awakening stirred up the colonies to develop more institutions of our own.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

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**Population growth during The Great Awakening**by [Logan Habib](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 9:30 PM

The historian that I agreed with more was Patricia U. Bonomi. Of the many points she made, the point she made about the impact that the numerous developments attributed to religious unease during the eighteenth century had on religious revival stood out to me.

Bomani states that population growth, as well as numerous other things such as land opportunities and commercial growth, had a major impact on the "quickenings in church life," and I fully agree. Colonies started expanding and maturing and, with the recently developed printer thanks to Johannes Gutenberg(lecture notes-week 1), the religious revival was able to reach a number of Americans more efficiently. During this time of increasing Anglo-American evangelicalism, many charismatic and important figures emerged such as George Whitefield and Gilbert Tennent. These two evangelists drew thousands of people with their preaching and created many mass gatherings, all of which was possible due to the increasing numbers of people in the colonies. Whitefield and Tennent created a sense of unity in the colonies through a deeper understanding of religion and encouragement of a deeper commitment to redemption. The mass religious revival was made possible due to the matured and larger colonies coming together to gain different introspection.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2


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The Great Awakening - Revival of New Thought, giving way to The Revolution

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 9:41 PM

The Great Awakening was a Key to the American Revolution

The Great Awakening was in fact a huge factor in the shift in attitudes, beliefs, almost a tilting point in our early history before the American Revolution. As noted in "Liberty, Equality, Power: 7th edition" the revivals "transformed American religious life." As we have discussed in class, we're a nation that is approximately 70% Christian (give or take) if we combine all faiths in belief in God (Catholic, Presbyterian, Non-denominational Christian). I argue this point because beliefs dominate societal choices and decisions, and precede changes in history. The book also notes that "The Great Awakening created several new colleges....It also reshaped the Presbyterian Church" which also held a large majority of ministers. Brown University, Dartmouth, Princeton, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University were all born, at least in part, from the backlash from The Great Awakening experience. When Franklin helped establish the Freemasons, it also drove numerous people away from religious life, instead joining a brotherhood based on "sobriety, industry, brotherhood, benevolence, and citizenship" as our book notes. These all further distanced us from England in my opinion. The Enlightenment began to take root and hold on society as did new denominations. To summarize, the development of independence of thought (colleges), the Freemasons, and the backlash from Whitefield's revivals all took hold in shaping our distance from England.

To summarize, from [History.com](#) to further state my hypothesis on the effects of The Great Awakening:

"The Great Awakening notably altered the religious climate in the American Colonies. Ordinary people were encouraged to make a personal connection with God, instead of relying on a minister. Newer denominations, such as Methodists and Baptists, grew quickly. While the movement unified the colonies and boosted church growth, experts say it also caused division among those who supported it and those who rejected it. Many historians

claim that the Great Awakening influenced the Revolution by encouraging the notions of nationalism and individual rights. The revival also led to the establishment of several renowned educational institutions, including Princeton, Rutgers, Brown and Dartmouth universities. The Great Awakening unquestionably had a significant impact on Christianity. It reinvigorated religion in America at a time when it was steadily declining and introduced ideas that would penetrate into American culture for many years to come."

Ideas shape us, but beliefs *change* us.

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2



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Re: The Great Awakening

by [Bryce Moore](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:37 PM

I agree with professor bonomi for a couple reasons. "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." -Page 2 Religion was a huge factor in the great awakening. Many people used their beliefs to harvest this land they settled in and it affected the future outcome greatly. Now it was negative at some times. "The institutional disruptions and church separations of the Great Awakening thus provided a kind of "practice model" which enabled the provincials to "rehearse"—though unwittingly—a number of the situations, and the arguments appropriate to them, that would reappear with the political crisis of the 1760s and 1770s." -Page 3 this political crisis could've created a huge outstir but it did not, so this is one huge reason why I support Professor Bonomi in the reason why I think, yes it was a key of the American revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Re: The Great Awakening

by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 9:02 AM

Hi I liked your post a lot. I agree with many of the points you made and I thought it was interesting how you said that the great awakening divided a population of people. I never really thought about that ow it broke apart the religious community into sects. After all that was their entire goal was to be seperate and free of the church. This is yet another similarity to the American revolution.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0



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Effects of the Great Awakening

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:50 PM

After reading all of the required materials I have no doubt that the Great Awakening was a very influential event. However, I fail to see how it significantly affected the American Revolution. One thing that is certain about the Great Awakening is that it created or aroused divisions in the religious community in areas of the colonies. Jon Butler points out that "the revivals of the 1740s stimulated the formation of over two hundred new congregations and several new denominations. I am inclined to think that all of these divisions would have made it difficult to unite against a common enemy. Butler states that wars in the 1700s had a greater impact on the revolution than the Great Awakening. I think that this is accurate because while the great awakening did give rise to new ways of thinking, its effects were mostly limited to the church.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Effects of the Great Awakening**by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 12:22 PM

I am curious how the Great Awakening divided american culture? I've heard arguments in this forum for the opposite and I like hearing both sides of things. Also I like your point that wars were more likely what caused people to change and especially to question authority. Personally I believe that spirituality also had more sway on the people of the time period. I feel like we often forgot what a large part of society and daily life that religion was back then. We take it for granted that people used to go to church every week and live (for the most part) by a code set by their own set of beliefs. Sure I agree that war could have had a similar jarring affect that caused people to look around themselves and change the way they think. However I believe that spirituality may have had a much larger affect considering the timing of these two revolutions it seems to me they must have at least some relation.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Effects of the Great Awakening**by [Owen McCoy](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 8:39 PM

You mentioned just now that religion had a strong influence on people's lives and decisions back then. It is precisely this reason that I think American culture became divided during the Great Awakening. When church issues became hot, controversial topics, people picked sides. The textbook provides an example of this in that the Presbyterian church split into the New Side and the Old Side.

There can be no doubt that the Great Awakening had a significant and lasting effect on the course of history because religion was such an important part of people's lives. However, I am inclined to think that wars had if not a larger effect then at least different effects. Sure the basic philosophies are similar for the Great Awakening and the colonial wars, but I think that both their causes and effects were different. Specifically, the Great Awakening's effects were limited to people's social lives and church hierarchy, whereas the effects of colonial wars pertained more to political and

economic issues. This may be an oversimplification, but I think the latter was more pertinent to the start of the American Revolution (although I suppose we'll find out next week the extent to which this is true).

Finally, you also mentioned the timing of these events as a factor. You yourself pointed out that "ideas can last longer than 25 years." This is entirely true, especially when you think about the excellent comparison you drew to religious statutes and how long they have lasted. In another post, you said that you didn't think that the American Revolution was *about* religion, only *caused* by it. This is where I am inclined to disagree because I think that short term effects of the Stamp Act, the Intolerable Acts, and the closure of Boston harbor were more significant. It is telling that the Revolution started up North. I take this as a clear sign that the war was started for economic reasons. In class on Tuesday it was shown that the North had a bad economic standing in therefore more incentive to start a war. However, I think that Americans all around were more ready and willing to rebel this time around given that they had the Great Awakening as a precursor.

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Re: Effects of the Great Awakening

by [Bryce Moore](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 11:43 PM

I agree with you that it was very influential. And I can also see why it did not affect the American revolution that much in many people's eyes.

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It Couldn't Have Been

by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:54 PM

When reading the article, the position I agreed with the most was that of Jon Butler. I decided to read this forum with an open mind and having my own background knowledge on the topic. After having read the two points of views, I had found myself siding with Jon Butler. It becomes hard to believe that The Great Awakening was a major key to the revolution. While it did have its influences, I couldn't see it as a major key. In a paragraph, he writes that "It is not surprising that the eighteenth-century revivals of religion failed to bring significant new power..." (p.8). I like this sentence because on his position, he integrated a lot of evidence when he presented that there weren't a lot of support when it came to matching the dates in history. This article made me choose my side, that the Great Awakening was not a key to the American Revolution.

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Re: It Couldn't Have Been

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 10:35 AM

While I agree some may doubt the validity of the impact of The Great Awakening, As mentioned at ushistory.org: "Although the Great Awakening was a reaction against the Enlightenment, it was also a long term cause of the Revolution. . .The Great Awakening was also a "national" occurrence. It was the first major event that all the colonies could share, helping to break down differences between them. There was no such episode in England, further highlighting variances between Americans and their cousins across the sea. Indeed this religious upheaval had marked political consequences." I see the above as evidence of our further retreat from English rule. We developed our own colleges of thought and education systems, divided ourselves into both New Light and Old Light factions *within* the colonies which can be argued led to religious freedom - one of the basic tenants upon which our nation was founded during the American Revolution.



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3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: It Couldn't Have Been**by [Emma Powell](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 11:40 AM

I am interested in your point of view, I chose the other side and said that I do in fact believe the Great Awakening has a lot to do with the American revolution, you bring up matching dates in history, as much as a timeline is important and useful in these situations isn't it important to remember the people who experienced The Great Awakening were apart of the time leading up to The revolution as well as being apart of the revolution, although different in context these two significant times in history have very similar themes, moving away from the ruling of something they felt oppressed them, whether that be religiously or otherwise I think we have to realize these battles

meant something to them. After going through one and coming out victorious don't you think that would allow them to feel confident enough to take on a bigger monster?

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1



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Team Butler

by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:54 PM

After reading the article I find myself agreeing with Jon Butler. I do not believe the great awakening was key to the American Revolution. The first and most basic reason being that the timelines do not match up. The great awakening happened years before the Revolution. Butler supports this in page 9 of the forum article by stating that "the revivals in both places occurred a quarter of a century before the Revolution began." As well as the fact that many of the congregations did not last until the revolution. On page 9 he supports this by saying that "Andrew Croswell's revivalist congregation in Boston had all but collapsed by 1770." Even if the awakening had had any political ramifications they would not have lasted for the 25 years to the revolution. Pg 9

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Re: Team Butler

by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 7:15 PM

I tend to think that ideas can last longer than 25 years. Revolutions hardly happen overnight and take how long religious ideals have been around for example. For someone who has believed in something thousands of years old like a religion 25 years probably doesn't seem like a long time. The ideas these people spread like something as simple as questioning the church could have had a ripple affect on history.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Re: Team Butler

by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 12:00 PM

People had already been questioning the church for years. That is the biggest reason that people started to migrate to the colonies in the first place, was to escape religious persecution and gain religious freedom. This immigration started years before the revivals showing us that the colonists had been capable of questioning the church long before the revivals and the revolution. Timing is not my only reason for siding with Butler. There were already numerous faiths dividing the colonists but the revivals introduced many more. After the revivals and the addition of several new religious sects they were even further divided than they were before. Butler's support for this comes on pg. 10 of the article "As such, they created no intercolonial religious institutions and fostered no significant experiential unity in the colonies." Clearly stating that the revivals did not bring unity to the colonies. With this new diverse religious climate setting colonies against each other it is hard to imagine them coming together to fight against Britain. Joe mentioned the dangers of this

diversity on Tuesday Oct. 16th "Was diversity our strength, no it brought competition." As well as stating on Thursday the 18th that one of the long term effects of the awakening was a shattered unity.

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Re: Team Butler

by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 7:40 AM

Further more the revivals did not happen in every colony. The text book states that they occurred mostly in the New England, Mid Atlantic colonies and only for a time in South Carolina. The Chesapeake remained on the outside of the revivals, when finally a couple of the Chesapeake colonies were drawn into the revivals it was not until later movements.(pg. 131) Butler also supports this on pg. 7 of the article. "It is obvious that revivals "swept" only some of the mainland colonies. They occurred in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia with some frequency at least at some points between 1740 and 1770 . But New Hampshire, Maryland, and Georgia witnessed few revivals in the same years, 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 they occurred." If we are to see the Great Awakening as a unifying event that was key to the American Revolution then we would assume that it included all the colonies.

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Re: Team Butler

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 8:47 PM

I agree with you on two accounts: both that the time difference was too great and that the awakening did little to affect politics. I think that the revolution was fueled by many things but sparked by economics and politics. There were several events in the decade leading up to the start of the Revolution that pertained more to these areas. A popular argument made by team Bonomi seems to be that the Great Awakening was sort of a practice round for challenging the powers that be. But given that the life expectancy back then was not as high as it is today, 25 years would've been a long time, about a generation. The time frame alone makes me think that there was no direct causation of the American Revolution by the Great Awakening, but I also agree that any indirect causation (if any) was not one of the most prominent factors.

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Yes, The Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution

by [Jakob Ramirez](#) - Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 12:43 AM

I tend to side with Patricia U. Bonomi's idea that the Great Awakening was indeed a key to the American Revolution. I was most influenced when she stated, "As the Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America, it simultaneously elevated the individual" (reading pg. 4). Which further developed thoughts that the Great Awakening reduced the significance of church doctrine and much rather gave colonists a sense of individualism, which in turn manifested decision making for oneself rather than for the bigger group.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Yes, The Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution**by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 5:48 PM

Hi Jacob,

I like your description of the side you chose, but I have to disagree. While the Enlightenment could have possibly been a key to the American Revolution, I find it hard to believe. The first reason is because they could not have occurred at the same time. Jon Butler states in the forum article, on page 9, he states "the revivals in both places occurred a quarter of a century before the Revolution began.". By that statement, it couldn't have possibly happened at the same time. The Enlightenment had a major effect in society, but it couldn't have been a major key to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:0 (1) 0

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Yes, The Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution**by [Jakob Ramirez](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 10:02 PM

Gerardo,

I can see where you are coming from, and yes the revival and the American Revolution did not happen simultaneously, that does not mean the ideas that developed would not have further developed. As Bonomi states, "...seventeenth century, colonists had rarely conceived of themselves apart from a larger collectivity- the family, the congregation, and the town. But the eighteenth-century revival penetrated and shattered that unitary cosmos by directing its message to the individual... to make personal decisions for god, and then act on those decisions regardless of their effect on the larger society..." (handout pg 4). This further supports my statement that the individualism that was developed during the Great Awakening would eventually become a huge part of the American Revolution. This transformation from one of a larger collective to an individual not only brought insight upon the colonists that they could break away from the higher authorities in which may have brought upon conversations of the ideology of a revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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**Re: Yes, The Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution**by [Bryce Moore](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 8:37 PM

Hello, I too agreed with Patricia Bonomi's side. So it caught my eye that I should read yours since you did also. I also strongly agree that the Great awakening reduced the significance of the church doctrine and gave the colonists as you said, individualism.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 12:44 AM

When reading the article, the position I agreed with the most was that of Jon Butler. I decided to read this forum with an open mind and having my own background knowledge on the topic. After having read the two points of views, I had found myself siding with Jon Butler. It becomes hard to believe that The Great Awakening was a major key to the revolution. While it did have its influences, I couldn't see it as a major key. In a paragraph, he writes that "It is not surprising that the eighteenth-century revivals of religion failed to bring significant new power..." (p.8). I like this sentence because on his position, he integrated a lot of evidence when he presented that there weren't a lot of support when it came to matching the dates in history. This article made me choose my side, that the Great Awakening was not a key to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Hunter Ignatius](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 9:58 AM

I would argue that the great awakening was Not a key to the American Revolution, I think that trying to assume that this "Hurricane" type movement like Butler describes, was able to reach every family and settlement that was along the colonies coast line is ridiculous. Without a more modern, or at least more organized way to help spread the movement through the colonies it would die out. As butler says on page 6 "In New England, historians agree, the revivals flourished principally between 1740 and 1743, and largely ended by 1745." A full 30 years before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Emma Powell](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 4:10 PM

Hunter, your point is very interesting, in this day and age it is so easy to forget that there was once a time where social media and technology didn't exist, the way these people communicated was by word of mouth or travelers. However, in Bonomi's article about the great awakening, she mentions on page 3 "For such work they required allies, and

owing to the importance of the laity in colonial church life, as well as shifting values in eighteenth-century provincial society at large, the revivalists found their allies among the people.” Here she uses the word allies to describe those beginning to rebel. Yes this was all done by word of mouth but nonetheless it was done. If word of mouth didn’t exist at this time the American Revolution might’ve not worked. I do think you’re point is valid and interesting but after the Great Awakening, of course news spread, showing people change was possible. Don’t you think tha

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2


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Re: No The Great Awakening was not the key to the American Revolution

by [Gehrig Van Tol](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 10:40 PM

Throughout his writing arguing against the Great Awakening being the key to the American Revolution, author Jon Butler unsurprisingly makes many, thorough points as to why the “Great Awakening”, he questions even the name, is not at all significant to the American Revolution. However, one of the more significant parts of the article was when he offered an actual key to the American Revolution, in the eighteenth-century colonial wars, namely, the French and Indian War which we have read about in the textbook as learned about in class. From this I recalled that these conflicts stirred a lot of “anti-British protest” as Butler puts it. The first I read about was the Knowles Riot, due to forced conscription of the colonists by Britain. As Butler points out, regarding the Great Awakening “or is it possible to demonstrate that specific congregations and denominations associated with the revivals originated anti-British protest that became uniquely important to the Revolution”. An actual revolt against British troops would certainly count as anti-British protest however. Even when the colonists and redcoats actually fought together against the French, as I recall, there was still hostility between the two continued as described on page 152 and 153 of the textbook “colonials did not care to serve under his command and sometimes bluntly rejected his orders. Provincials believed they had a contractual relationship with their officers...when ordered to stay longer, many of the definitely walked home”. From this we can see that the colonial wars created much more anti-British thought then anything mentioned regarding the Great Awakening, even in Patricia Bonomi’s previous article.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3


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

by [Gehrig Van Tol](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 11:49 PM

One of Jon Butlers major arguments against the Great Awakening being the key to the American Revolution is that it was not in fact one joint awakening throughout the entirety of the colonies, but rather several smaller separate religious revivals, something I touched on in my previous post. This is in fact was confirmed to be true by “The Great Awakening video” posted on the forum, which, at around the 3 minute mark notes the smaller and more isolated religious revivals occurring around the colonies, particularly the south. Yet, the video then goes on to mention, at around the 3:20 mark, “that these scattered revivals began to be strung together” by an english evangelist, George

Whitefield. Butler argued that historians overstated the importance of Whitefield along with Edwards. However, in the video professor of history George Marsden says that Whitefield was “the first American star”, that everyone had heard about, including Benjamin Franklin. If Whitefield was so well known as is put forth by the video, then by extension, the Great Awakening which Whitefield was a major component of, must have been very well known as well. This contradicts Butlers assertions in his article. Because even if it started somewhat disjointed, this means that the Great Awakening eventually became very widespread and touched many, if not most parts of the colonies. And I know from previous classes, despite not going into great detail into the American Revolution yet in this class, that the Revolution itself was not instantly a colonial group effort. It started as many pockets of resistance that eventually spread to a revolution, due in large part to influential leaders such as George Washington. Perhaps you could say that George Washington was the Whitefield of the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Thursday's Lecture**by [Jakob Ramirez](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 9:34 PM

Today during lecture we learned about John Newton, when hearing his story it goes to prove that ideas can develop for a long period of time until any actions are taken. John Newton did not write 'Amazing Grace' until 14 years after he had his epiphany, and it took an additional 19 years after that for him to say anything about how awful the conditions of the slaves ships were. This being said, I still strongly agree with Patricia Bonomi that the Great Awakening was indeed key to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Thursday's Lecture**by [Logan Habib](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 7:33 PM

This is an interesting point that you have made. John Newton was definitely impacted by the effect the Great Awakening had on the colonies. Due to the widespread impact the religion was having in the colonies, John converted to evangelical Christianity. The Great Awakening made it possible for John to explore other aspects of spirituality and eventually convert himself and accept the doctrine of evangelical Christianity.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 12:08 PM

The enlightenment is one of the great turning points in history. While It didn't happen on American soil its effects would spread far and wide and have lasting impacts. I think the enlightenment itself may have also added to the unrest that eventually led to the American revolution. I say eventually because the two revolutions are almost a quarter century

apart. However there are far too many connections to ignore. The most important in my opinion did not even come from the great awakening but as a reaction to the enlightenment itself. The enlightenment was the first time in history where independence and self reliance was preached. It showed people that self actualization was a more effect strategy for change than asking god or the church to solve your problems. I think this mind state of individuality and self dependance once spread to the americas caused a great deal of unrest. This is the first step to starting a revolution, realizing that something can be done about the dissatisfaction with the system in place. With that said the reaction to the enlightenment had almost as large of an impact as it did itself. The great awakening rejected only the part of the enlightenment that denounced god. The "awakened" as they called themselves took everything else from the great awakening and used the ideas in their spiritual movement. They were self reliant and defiant group that still held onto their beliefs despite those that opposed them. They rebelled against the church authority and even the ideas of the enlightenment itself, they stood up to the church which had hardly ever been done before and defied a movement itself. "Congregationalists throughout the north joined the presbyterian thousands in the middle colonies in open rebellion against the spiritual tyranny of traditional church authority." Sound familiar? Take out the spirituality and you've got a full on dress rehearsal of the American revolution more than a decade before it was even organized. Rebelling against the church in the Americas was an essential step of the larger issue at hand because it showed people that they could not only challenge the forces controlling their small communities but, they could do it successfully. Without the enlightenment none of this could have been possible. I feel like people think the two events are unrelated because it is un-american to think that the ideas that set the colonies free did not originate from them. Honestly the colonists did not originate from the colonies and of course they brought their beliefs and ideals with them across the atlantic to the frontier. These powerful ideas shaped the course of American history as well as the Presbyterian movement. The great awakening not only inspired people to believe in self actualizaiton but also showed the power of a group of people united under a single cause. The ideas spread by it to America caused the restlessness and distrust of authority that would eventually lead to the American revolution more than two decades in the future.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

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Re: No The Great Awakening was not the cause of the American Revolution

by [Gehrig Van Tol](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 4:39 PM

A major part of Patricia Bonomi's argument is that essentially the Great Awakening provided a mutual colonial spirit of rebellion against authority in a bonding manner. This attitude essentially remained part of the colonies that led to the attitude of rebellion leading to the Revolutionary War against the authority of England. And while it is difficult to completely say that the Great Awakening had absolutely no effect no effect on colonial attitude, in his article Jon Butler gives facts to prove that the Great Awakening was not as binding a time for the colonies as Patricia Bonomi insinuates. Butler states that what is known as the Great Awakening didn't even occur in every state of the colonies, and beyond that only had an affect certain parts of the population, as Butler writes, "the

Baptists, who were so important to the New England revivals, paid little attention to them until the 1760s, and the colony's taciturn Quakers watched them in perplexed silence. Not even Germans imbibed them universally, the residents of Germantown were steadily leaving their churches". Butler instead asserts that it was the French and Indian War that most influenced the spirit and attitude that would go on to cause the Revolution. In fact one of the most well known historical American political cartoons of all time, which we learned about in class and can be seen on page 148 of the textbook, Benjamin Franklin's "Join or Die" cartoon supports this very notion. The cartoon is literally calling for the colonies to come together, or else they will be destroyed. This stresses the importance of the colonies coming together in a much more concrete and evident way than some vague connections between a religious revival and how the attitudes of the revivalist during this time led to a Revolution over 30 years later.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 5:46 PM

The historians in the video seem to agree that the Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution. They believe that it brought the colonies together and united them against the English. Karen Bullock states that it was an across denominational event. While Stephen Stookey says that ethnic, racial, and gender barriers were cut across the line. The last historian in the video who was not named really established this video as being on Bonomi's side of the issue. Starting at 6:05 It was the first national event that the idea of individual grace began to feed into emerging ideals of American independence and American individualism. So people speak up, they get energized, they participate, they overthrow ministers they dislike. In that deeper more cultural way religion can be seen as a kinda backdrop or preface of the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Jakob Ramirez](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 9:13 PM

I took the same ideas away from the video as you did, I found it as a key point of the argument that I have been trying to make this past week. That the Great Awakening was so influential toward the American Revolution because it promoted individualism, and provided the colonists with the confidence to stand against much larger and more powerful groups of people.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Website**



by [Logan Habib](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 7:22 PM

The side of the issue that the website seems to promote is the religious aspect of the Great Awakening. The author discusses the significance that religious unity had among the people of the colonies and how this new religious zeal developed into a revolution and sentiments of self-governance. She is even quoted with saying, "The religious revival of the Great Awakening melded the colonists in a way that would not have been possible otherwise." She gives further evidence of this by stating that Christians during this time were bound together by a common goal and could afford to make drastic decisions for their colonies in time of need. Finally, she says, "The religious fervor spawned by the Great Awakening provided the catalyst for political and military action for fulfillment of religious expectations." I personally think all of this points to the fact she is supporting the religious importance of the Great Awakening.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#)

1



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Re: The Great Awakening

by [Bryce Moore](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 8:59 PM

So at the beginning of the week I focused on Bonomi's side of the argument more since I agreed and sided with her the most. I decided too focus more on Jon Butlers side to look at the specific things that I agreed with that could've been different than Bonomi's side.

Butler states, "Still, two points are important in assessing the importance of revivals to the expansion

of the Dissenting denominations in the colonies. First, revivalism never was the key to the expansion of the colonial churches. Presbyterianism expanded as rapidly in the middle colonies between 1710 and 1740 as between 1740 and 1770. Revivalism scarcely produced

the remarkable growth that the Church of England experienced in the eighteenth century unless, of course, it won the favor of colonists who opposed revivals as fiercely as did its leaders. [Edwin] GAustad estimates that between 1700 and 1780 Anglican congregations expanded from about one hundred to four hundred, and Bruce E. Steiner has outlined extraordinary Anglican growth in the Dissenting colony of Connecticut although most historians

describe the colony as being thoroughly absorbed by the revivals and "Separatism."".

Page 8

The main saying that caught my eye was in the beginning. That revivalism never was the key to the expansion of the colonial churches. Before I thought that would be a great possibility that it was a key if not, something major to the expansion of the churches. Obviously promoting anything in todays world usually gains buyers or fans and such. So you would think that this should be very well true. So this was something that I would have disagreed with if it was in Bonomi's article strictly because it sounded to be perfect if it was a major key. So this changed my perspective on a thought in this whole article that at the beginning of the week I would've and have been thinking opposite.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Owen McCoy](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:14 PM

I think it's interesting that you are going back and trying to understand the other side of the issue. That seems like a great way to reinforce your current beliefs or perhaps gain a new perspective on things. I've found that arguing against an issue is challenging because (in this case) it's hard to completely disprove that the Great Awakening influenced the American Revolution, so my arguments (against the issue) have been somewhat confined to merely undermining support for the issue. The excerpt from Butler's essay that you included is an example of this. I noticed that the webpage said that from 1760 to 1790, more traditional denominations declined and more revivalist denominations flourished, so there is a correlation between growth and revival. However, by providing the example above Butler suggests that there is not causation.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Bryce Moore](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 9:06 PM

A few days ago we learned about John Newton. I have heard of him very much so before this class, but not as much information as I had known before. He did not write the song "Amazing Grace" until 14 years after his epiphany. Even crazier, he never said anything about how awful the slaves ships were until 19 years after that. This makes me support Bonomi's side much, much more than I previously did. So I very much agree with her that the Great Awakening was a very major key to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**I'm still not convinced**by [Owen McCoy](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:17 PM

After watching the video and reading the webpage, I have a greater appreciation for the significance of the Great Awakening. However, it seemed to me that both sources showed preference to the "yes" side of the issue. Somehow, I am still not convinced. One aspect of this that the webpage pointed out is that the Protestant majority was opposed to the pope and held a general anti-Catholic sentiment. Eventually, similarities were drawn between the pope and King George III, who became the next target of colonial attitude. This is a point that I hadn't considered. Another point of interest was that that one of the things emphasized in the Great Awakening was the ability of the individual to preach, interpret, and fulfill God's word. The webpage compares this to the way the colonies broke off from Britain to form a system of self-government.

In short, I think the Great Awakening did more to influence events in the near future than I originally thought. However, I stand by my opinion that the Great Awakening was not a key factor, but only a factor. I am more inclined to agree with the application of the "follow the money" approach mentioned in class. The video pointed out at some point revivalist ideas spread to the South and are still present today. It is interesting that despite the emergence of a general revivalist ideology in the colonies, the war started up North (an area that bore the brunt of economic provocation) and took longer to spread to the South (an area that didn't have as much economic motivation to fight a war). I still think that economics was the largest factor at work here, but I now see that there are arguments for the other side that I underestimated.

Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:39 PM

The website like the video seems to side with Bonomi, that the Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution. The site believes that the revivals were a cohesive event that brought the colonies together despite religious division. "The social effect of multitudes of new denominations was not, however a fracturing of communities but a unifying drive which helped create a "national consciousness". Since these religions did not rely on a pope or an extreme head of the church it caused people to crave autonomy outside of the church as well. "William Knox noted about the American drive for independence. "Every man being thus allowed to be his own pope, he becomes disposed to wish to become his own king." The site also talks about the growing opposition to Catholicism as a result of so much Christian growth and how with this growth came a need to oppose the pope and when they had seemingly defeated that they had a need to unite against what they thought was the new threat. "One common understanding shared by all was an opposition to Roman Catholicism. So 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 King George III.

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