

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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Re: The Great Awakening shaped the Revolution

by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Sunday, October 14, 2018, 6:17 PM

which historian's position do you most agree

As I read through this ounce my first opinion Would be with Patricia U. Bonomi

In my opinion the Revivals helped to shape, Ideas and ideals, the mental and emotional state and religious ways of people.

During this Revival the social order of church hierarchy was dethroned, and the rejection of power structures. People who before had their voices not heard and silenced were suddenly able to speak about God's grace in their lives. It provided a new hope to a new age and promise punishment to those who imposed the tyranny of doctrines, practices, and ceremonies.

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1



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Re: The Great Awakening shaped the Revolution

by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 9:20 PM

Adding to my first opinion

Religious beliefs have played a huge part of how people act. This can be a determining factor in how people decide how to live their lives, which in those days change was in their hearts and mind. I have read different students opinion on how the revivals didn't get to every place. And this is one of their reason for thinking that it didn't play a role in leading up to the American Revolution.

Its interesting to me on how your opinion on this matter sways you this way.

I would consider myself a religious person and it plays a big part on what i say and do. I am always thinking and trying to improve my self. And my thoughts go out to all of the people that I know which is not just limited to the Eugene/Springfield area. On the contrary i talk about my experiences to my daughter and some of her friend which live in Maine, and my daughter in Portland, my brothers in Alaska and Idaho, my father in California and the list goes on. My point is even though it was different back then to communicate long distances. It could have happened and been a huge factor in shaping the American Revolution.

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2



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Revivals and Choices

by [Nathan Edwards](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 12:29 PM

I would have to say I agree the Great Awakening had much to do with the American Revolution. The Great Awakening was a time where revival was spread across all of the colonies. Religion affected the daily lives of the colonists because it was everywhere. Each of their views went beyond their religious realm and entered other realms such as politics and ethics. Many were convicted by preachers (such as Jonathan Edwards or Samuel Finley) not to be cowardly but to share their views and incorporate them into their everyday choices. I really liked what Bonomi said, "Only God could see into the heart, and neither ministers nor congregations should interpose themselves between the individual and his Creator" (Article, 5). Man cannot see what a person is thinking, only God can. This changes how people think and react and could very well affect their choices leading up to the American Revolution. The Great Awakening also had other

consequences such as the Freemasons becoming more common. These were people who still did business but without joining a church. "The movement (Freemasons) peaked during the American Revolution and for a few decades after it" (Book, 134). In conclusion, the Great Awakening opened up more opportunities for revivals which got people thinking about their choices and definitely played a role in the American Revolution.

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Re: Revivals and Choices

by [Tyler Weiss](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 6:25 PM

While I agree with you in that the Great Awakening played a significant role leading up to the American Revolution, I think it is important to be aware at where the revivals actually took place. In Bonomi's article she only talks about revivals in the middle colonies and New England, and in Butler's article he states how they only, "occurred in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and some in Virginia (Butler, paragraph 6)." The few revivals that occurred in other middle colonies were minor and insignificant, and could be compared to any number of previous religious revivals that had been occurring throughout the colonies during the 17th century. As far as the revivals that had a major impact and spread across great distances, they were mostly confined to the middle and northern colonies. This makes sense, and still supports the argument that the Great Awakening had an impact on the colonies that helped pave the way for the American Revolution, because the middle and northern colonies were where patriotic sentiments were born and colonials began to contemplate rebellion.

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The value of the Great Awakening

by [Justin Oljace](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 4:45 PM

I agree most with Patricia Bonomi's position, that the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. In the first paragraph she says, "The eighteenth century, and the latter part of the seventeenth, were of course punctuated with religious episodes that seemed to erupt without warning and draw entire communities into a vortex of religious conversions and agitations of soul." This detailed sentence helped me realize how impactful the awakening was on communities. In the textbook on page 133 they talk about how George Whitefield would attract crowds of 30,000 people which was twice the population of Boston. Those numbers are impressive and shows how they were able to bring many people together. In the fourth paragraph she talks about how it "created conditions uniquely favorable to social and political, as well as religious reform"... These points are swaying me to believe that the Great Awakening was important to the American Revolution.

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**Re: The value of the Great Awakening**by [Christopher Bischoff](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 9:35 PM

I thought it was very interesting when you mentioned how George Whitfield gathered as many as 30,000 people when he preached. I wonder if all the people that attended, attended for religious reasons? Or if there was just nothing better going on at the time and watching George Whitfield act out stories was just the best form of entertainment?

I could not help but wonder how such a large crowd would be able to hear a single man without the modern convenience of microphones and speakers.

According to [this](#) article, "For different sites, our models project that Whitefield had a maximum intelligible area of 25,000 to 30,000 square meters under optimal conditions. A solid crowd over that area would constitute about two people per square meter, leading to an overall crowd of 50,000 to 60,000. However, if the crowd was slightly noisier, or if Whitefield was a little hoarse, the intelligible crowd area could decrease quickly."

In the same article they talked about how Benjamin Franklin conducted experiments to calculate the distance at which George Whitefield's voice would become unintelligible. "Franklin's estimate gave an area of about 23,000 square meters, which is just slightly lower than our largest projections. His largest error was his assumption of the crowd density, which he calculated as one person per two square feet—what modern crowd statisticians refer to as "mosh pit conditions." This experiment gave him an overall crowd estimate of about 125,000 people, which is much larger than Whitefield's largest reported audience of 80,000"

I think it is likely that a large number of listeners/ spectators were there for the show and that the crowd just drew more people in because they want to see what all the commotion is about.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-science-of-sound-whitefields-massive-crowds/>

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

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**In the Right Place and the Right Time**by [Devin Brown](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 7:14 PM

In short, I agree with Professor Jon Butler in that the Great Awakening didn't affect the American Revolution in any particular way. That is to say, it just happened in the right place at the right time, and because of that, many contributed it to fostering the environment to start the American Revolution. Even so, the Great Awakening "appeared

too erratically in too few colonies under too many different auspices..." (pg 9), thus wasn't a uniform movement under which the majority of colonists participated in a conjoined manner.

Moreover, while "Connecticut New Lights and Pennsylvania Presbyterians played important roles in the colonial protests," (pg 9) it would be more accurate to say that "they were political leaders who happened to be New Lights and Presbyterians" (pg 9) as opposed to the other way around. With this, I believe it is fair to say that the Great Awakening wasn't a key factor in starting the American Revolution as some people might argue, and instead a movement that happened a bit (several decades) before the American Revolution started.

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2



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Re: In the Right Place and the Right Time

by [Jeffrey South](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 10:25 AM

Devin,

We have to think about the *people* in the Great Awakening and not the Great Awakening as an event that did something as itself. When the Great Awakening occurred it gave some colonists' a new perspective on life and religion. As religion was the central part of everyone's lives, it really dictated their motives individually and politically. When it occurred to people that it was actually okay to have your own opinion (the Awakeners belief), it changed aspects of their lives so drastically that it opened up a new path that the colonies would take to separate from the British Empire. So no, it wasn't the Great Awakening that outright caused the American Revolution but it definitely had a huge impact (a key) to its upstart.

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1



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The Scale of the Great Awakening

by [Devin Brown](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 3:27 PM

Jeffrey,

I would like to start out by asking you for your evidence of the Great Awakening's responsibility for the colonists' perspective on life and religion, as you never directly supported any of your claims. With that aside, you said it yourself, "it gave some colonists' a new perspective on life and religion." The Great Awakening did not have the magnitude necessary to be an influence on enough people for it to influence their mindsets and lay the groundwork for the American Revolution. "[The revivals] occurred in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia with some frequency at least at some points between 1740 and 1770" (pg 7), while "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" (pg 7). Not to mention that in "Philadelphia--or at least claiming to do so--the residents of Germantown were steadily leaving their churches, and [. . .] they remained steadfast in their indifference to Christianity at least until the 1780s..." (pg 7), so there were portions of the population that weren't even involved in religious revivals.

To say that the Great Awakening was solely responsible for an increase in people's perspective of individualism, would be sorely mistaken, as well as irresponsible to do without evidence to back up your claim.

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More Evidence Against Revivalism Influence

by [Tyler Antich](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 9:57 PM

To add to your evidence against this point, Butler also states: "Andrew

Crosswell's revivalist congregation in Boston had all but collapsed by 1770, and no historian

ever has demonstrated that similar congregations elsewhere served as isolated cells of anti-

British protest" (Pg. 9). This evidence furthers your point in saying that the revivalists didn't have enough numbers, comparatively, to be

given as much credit as they are by historians for their influence on the revolution.

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Re: Key player or not, what do you think?

by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 8:37 PM

Devin you said: "I believe it is fair to say that the Great Awakening wasn't a key factor in starting the American Revolution as some people might argue, and instead a movement that happened a bit (several decades) before the American Revolution started."

There were a lot of so-called key events that could have contributed to the American Revolution. I ask you this what do you think those other events were. Do you think maybe the Currency Acts of 1751 and 1764 were key to the American Revolution?

(Currency Acts of 1751 and 1764 – Revolutionary-War.net) "It prohibited the colonies from creating new currency and made current paper money to only be used for public debt. This caused a lot of debt. This caused a lot of personal loss in funds and created many problems at a person's level for the colonist. In 1770, the Parliament agreed on a compromise, this allowed only New York to print a certain sum of new paper money

every year to be used for public debts. In 1773, the Currency Act was amended completely, extending this privilege to all the colonies.” Was this key you think in leading up to the American Revolution. I think it was.

Maybe the French and Indian war (1754 – 1763) was also a key event that lead to the American Revolution. King George III did lose a huge amount of money because of his spending on supplies for his army and colonies. So, he created more taxes on the colonies without their consent. So, then King George sends soldiers across the Atlantic to make sure the colonies were behaving. I pretty sure they were outraged, what do you think. I think this was a key factor also in leading up to the American Revolution.

On March 24, 1765, the British Parliament passed the Quartering Act. One of a series of measures primarily aimed at raising revenue from the British colonies in America. American colonists annoyed and disliked the Quartering Act, not because it meant they had to house British soldiers in their homes, although most likely some did. But they were being taxed to pay for provisions and barracks for the army, who they thought was unnecessary during peacetime and an army that they feared might be used against them. This one is key

How about Boston tea party? On December 16, 1773 some officials in Boston refused to return three shiploads of taxed tea to Britain, a group of colonists boarded the ships and destroyed the tea by throwing it into the Boston Harbor. In response Parliament was intent on upholding its rule in America and passed four acts that were known as the Coercive Acts in Britain but were labeled the Intolerable Acts by the colonist. And because Boston was the heart of hostility, the acts targeted Boston and Massachusetts in particular. I think this was key most assuredly.

The Great Awakening was a religious revival that impacted the English colonies in America during the 1730s and 1740s. Even though it was a couple of decades before the American Revolution. I think this was key also.

I think all of these examples are key in leading up to the American Revolution I am not trying to change your mind, for myself I think as we live our lives many things contribute to fostering the environment, like unfairness, war, religious beliefs, politics, birth, taxes, good times, bad times, self-improvement, desires, wanting a better life. We all want something better for our lives, it's in our nature. If I lived back in these times and lived in those conditions, going through those all the examples listed above, it would have been on my heart and mind for change, only because I know what I have today.

If you know of any other events that might have been a key leading up to the American Revolution fill free to post.

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2



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The Extent to Which It's Influence Spread

by [Devin Brown](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 12:01 AM

First of all, I would like to thank you for your reply, as it gave me a slightly new perspective.

I guess what I'm trying to say when I don't think that the Great Awakening played a key role in starting the American Revolution is that I believe it would've happened without it. In other words, I agree that the Great Awakening played a *role* in the American Revolution, but where I differ is to say that it played a *key* role in it.

As you graciously pointed out, there were many events that played an important role in starting the American Revolution, some more than others. The events that you pointed out have, more or less, lead to, or were, a direct conflict, testing, or stressing colonial ties to the English, whereas the Great Awakening did not. While I believe that the American Revolution would've happened with or without the Great Awakening taking place, I cannot say for certain it would've, or more than likely in a different form, if your other examples hadn't happened. The Boston Tea Party was a huge event and protest against the British, the Quartering Act indirectly threatened the American settlers by showing off their force, etc.

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Re: In the Right Place and the Right Time

by [Erik Westfall](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 12:35 PM

After reading your post, I definitely have to agree with you. Most of them were in the right place at the right time, which greatly helped set the stage for the American revolution! But for the most part just like you said, the great awakening happened in a few colonies and even then only a portion of that colony, thus I think the great awaking might have played a tiny role but I don't think we have it to thank for the revolution!

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No! Population growth was a significant factor in the Great Awakening

by [Christopher Bischoff](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 8:39 PM

I agree with Jon Butler because he lays out the information in a very organized way and it seems as though the changes brought about by the Great Awakening were scattered among the Colonies and New England throughout approximately thirty years, and that it did not have the type of influence that historians claim. The point that I agree with most is that population growth was probably a big reason for the new evangelical denominations and congregations rather than some sort mass religious awakening.

Butler talked about how there were many causes for the new evangelical denominations, one of them being the population growth during that time period. The population in the New World according to Butler was approximately 300,000 in 1700, and jumped up to around 2,000,000 by 1770 (pg. 8). He also pointed out the fact that many of the new colonists settled in new communities that lacked religious institutions, suggesting they created their own denomination, or followed an already established division of religion.

According to the textbook, "Between 1700 and 1760, the population of the British colonies had increased by more than a factor of six, from 250,000 to almost 1.6 million (Murrin 156)"

And according to [this](#) website, the population of the American colonies was 250,888 in 1700. Then the population jumped to 1,593,625 by 1760 and 2,148,076 by 1770.

Not only were new colonists coming in, but the colonists that were already living here were having children and the children who could not be supported turned to trades, or moved away to new opportunities (Murrin 119). I imagine this would be another reason for new evangelical denominations because the children that move away might change their minds about their parent's religion if it led to them being "sent" away from their families. Or if they simply changed their minds and beliefs as many people do as they grow up.

<https://web.viu.ca/davies/h320/population.colonies.htm>

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2



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The Great Awakening and the failed revivals!

by [Erik Westfall](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 9:22 PM

After reading both articles twice I'm going to have to take the side of Professor. Jon Butler! The first time reading through both articles I could not make a choice on what side to pick, both professors offer good points and a fair amount of evidence to support their claims, but during my second read I knew I had to take the side of Jon Butler. One of the first things he talks about is how the revivals did not effect every colony and they colony's they did happen in it was only a portion of the population. Residents were actually leaving their churches during this time, especially in Germantown. Another argument that he makes that I completely agree with was the growth of the churches and how compared to other time periods that they did not nearly grow that much. In fact many ministers changed their preaching style due to these revivals! The final point I'd like to agree with is how he says that the Colonial wars are more appropriate for the honor of the great awakening and how during this time they were able to raise significant legislative opposition to the crown, especially during the last and most successful war, the French and Indian war! Historians also were not able to virtually any proof how the revivals were related to the American Revolution! If anyone has any points they'd like to add or can change my mind I would love to hear it!

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1



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The great a awakening played it part.

by [Selina Scott](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 10:18 PM

No, I do not believe that the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. I believe there were thing that held much more influence on the American Revolution after 1740's for example the seven year war that gave Britain new territory (6, artical) ore even

the taxes that were implemented after 1770 that led to the Boston tea party. These things were more keys to the American Revolution then I believe the Great awakening was.

However I do think some elements of the Great Awakening led to an idea of an American revolution, like (132, textbook) this "awakening" of people led them to question the religious leaders and there parliament authority that was an ocean away, now i can understand how you would want independence from that.

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1



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A new mindset has developed

by [Tyler Weiss](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:08 PM

I agree with Patricia Bonomi in that the period of the Great Awakening in North America sparked key movements in society that helped the start of the American Revolution come about. Bonomi illustrates the conflict between the Enlightenment rationalism and Awakening revivalism to give an idea of the main streams of thought that were alive in the colonies at that time. While the revivalists were, "in open rebellion against the 'spiritual Tyranny' of traditional church authority," the rationalists of the Enlightenment movement were teaching people to rely on reason and make individual decisions based on consciousness (Bonomi, Hosannas of the Multitude). While these two groups were in opposition of each other, they both were challenging the current norms established by the authority. It is clear to see how, once the religious revivals died down in the 1760s, those newly developed mindsets would have remained and stirred up the political tensions that were beginning to brew.

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2



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How Revivalists Unknowingly Planted the Seed for American Revolution

by [Tyler Antich](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:32 PM

I agree with Patricia Bonomi's theory that the Great Awakening was key to the American revolution. I agree with her more than Jon Butler because if you look at how the colonists start to change how they see the world because of the awakening, those same views are represented by the majority of Americans during the revolution. For example Bonomi says those in favor of the great awakening "defend[ed] rights of minorities," and wanted to be separated from "tyrannical" churches (pg. 3). The fact that really drove home this viewpoint for me was that the "revivalists claimed liberty to question and judge all." This also sounds just like the colonial rebels against the throne during the American revolution. During the revolution the colonists wanted their opinions to be taken into consideration, they wanted to be free of tyranny, and they questioned the throne's every move leading up to the war instead of just ignoring it like an Old Side presbyterian would have. In conclusion, the ideas from revivalists greatly helped influence the demands of the colonists leading up to and during the revolution.

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3



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The Cause for their Skeptic-ness

by [Devin Brown](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 11:46 PM

While you claimed that the Great Awakening was the cause for the colonists skepticism of "the throne's every move leading up to the war instead of just ignoring it like an Old Side Presbyterian would have, I would have to argue that a different cause led them to do that: looking out for themselves. The British kept burdening the colonists, taking what classmate Scott Carpenter said to me in a post, there were the Currency Acts of 1751 and 1764 which "caused a lot of personal loss in funds and created many problems at a person's level for the colonist," as well as the Quartering Act, where "they were being taxed to pay for provisions and barracks for the army, who they thought was unnecessary during peacetime and an army that they feared might be used against them."

It doesn't take a Great Awakening to become skeptical of British Parliament's decisions, when they are directly negatively affecting you.

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1



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1 key to a door with 3 locks

by [Jeffrey South](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:42 PM

I would have to agree with Patricia that the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. The Awakeners main debate, that the beliefs of the church were on a majority over minority decision basis, which meant that the majority vote on a decision was used and the minority voters had to go along with the decision no matter what they thought on the matter, was wrong and incited a lot of non-believer thoughts. Factionalism in a religion was widely denounced as destructive of the larger common good, therefore the minorities were to keep quiet about their opinions and beliefs. The awakeners were in open rebellion against the "spiritual tyranny", as Patricia puts it, of traditional church authority (Pg. 4). For my own opinion on the matter, I believe the Great Awakening created a more positive, self-motivated group of people who would actually fight for what they wanted and believed in. Although the Great Awakening, along with other historical events, was an indirect cause of the American Revolution, it definitely played a major role in the new wave of colonists' beliefs of how the church authority should or shouldn't be involved in people's daily lives. I believe without the Great Awakening, AND OTHER MAJOR EVENTS, we would not live in the same free country that we do today.

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3



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The Great Awakening A.T Who do I side with.

by [Annie Taylor](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:51 PM

I personally believe in John butlers *The Great Awakening as Interpretative Fiction* Article. Within this article Butler makes the claim " The Awakening was more like the civil rights demonstrations, the campus disturbances, and the urban riots of the 1960's combined. All together these may approach, through certainly not surpass, the Awakening in their impact

on national life" (Butler par1). All though-out Butlers article he states "The best example of the phenomenon is Pennsylvania"(Butler par5). This is where the Baptists payed little attention to the New England Reviles until about the 1760's. which however, Also during that time Benjamin Franklin was giving all his money to a preaching in Whitefield in Philadelphia which created Whitefield's fade of influence and revivals promoted there own religion. Revivals were locally lead, this created them to be abated without shattering its structure instead of a traditional social system making the religion in prerevolutionary America a failed system because there was no change in timing the cause or even the effects to anything of the revolution in any way.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Only religious revival

by [Elias Brouse](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 12:53 PM

For the longest time, I had assumed the Great Awakening was an awakening for the revolution. I had figured that some connection existed between the religious revival and the years following but had never discovered any of those connections. After reading the articles, I have decided that little to no connection exists between the two events, and although from an overall view the awakening looks like it may have sparked something to start the American Revolution, the events were to spread out to be a unifying start to a war for independence. I agree more with the article by Jon Bridges, stating that the Great Awakening is "Interpretive Fiction."

The Great Awakening was said to have "swept" across the mainland colonies, according to some historians. I remember reading in the textbook that the revivals "...affected some areas more intensely than others..." (Page 131 of the textbook) and Bridges backs up this point by saying the revivals "swept only some of the mainland colonies" (Page 7 of the articles.) Even then, these all happened at different times throughout the eighteenth century, and "...touched only certain segments of the population in the colonies where they occurred." This happened in my home state of Pennsylvania, where I remember learning the revivals had less of an effect than in most places. Revivals were often separated and spread out over very certain areas. According to Bridges, Revivals arise when three circumstances are met: Internal church demands for renewal, charismatic preachers, and special, local circumstances that made communities open to religious revival (Page 10 of the article.)

Due to these exclusive circumstances, the social and political effects, if any, were minimal and very local to the area of a specific revival. In order for the Great Awakening to have had any effect on the pre-revolutionary era, they would have had to achieve some type of intercolonial unity, which was not at all achieved. Bridges agrees, stating "They appeared too erratically in too few colonies under too many different auspices to make such generalizations [intercolonial unity] appropriate." The revivals started no anti-British protest, and it does not make sense to say it had a part in stating the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Even though I disagree that the Great Awakening was insignificant, you do have some valid points by saying revivals happened only in certain places and not all of the colonies. But while preachers travel abroad, word of mouth from people get to more people and can lead to many more colonies having revivals. As Bonomi said, "By promoting church separations and urging their follower's to make choices that had political as well as religious implications, the Awakeners wrought permanent changes in public practices and attitudes." This leads me to believe that many preacher's sermons would convict people to share the word with everyone they knew which would explain why the Awakening did have such an impact. This would not only affect their spiritual life but their physical life as well. Also, I think you meant to quote Butler instead of "Bridges" but I understood who you were talking about.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Only religious revival**by [Elias Brouse](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 6:06 PM

I apologize for my misquote, I did mean to put "Butler" in rather than "Bridges." I like the point you make, connecting the effects of the Great Awakening to both the spiritual and physical lives of the colonists. I will say though, the impact made overall was too erratic across the colonies to cause any more than temporary local effects on the community. Butler says in his article that "Their social and political effects were minimal and usually local, although they could traumatize communities in which they upset, if only temporary, familiar patterns of worship and social behavior." After these temporary revivals occurred, things usually turned back to a traditional social system, and only slight changes may have been made to some congregational structures.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Words from John Adams from that time period.**by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 6:01 PM

I think it would be a good idea to hear from someone of this time what they think. John Adams one of the founding Fathers of the United States, (Wikipedia John Adams) "he served as the first Vice President (1789-1797) and was the second President of the United States (1797-1801). He excelled as a lawyer, diplomat, and leader of American independence from Great Britain. He was a dedicated diarist and his correspondence with his wife and advisor Abigail provides important information on the era."

site below:

John Adams to Hezekiah Niles, February 13, 1818, The Works of John Adams, vol. X, ed. Charles Francis (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1850-6). 282.

He says:

As John Adams would later write, "The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people; a change in their religious sentiments of their duties and obligations." If we are to take this change of "religious sentiments" from before and after the Revolution seriously, we must take the phenomenon of the revivals seriously.

This is John Adams words of that time. I am sure that he new more about the reason of the American Revolution than people who study it today.

(John Adams – History) During the 1770s, he was a delegate to the Continental Congress. In the 1780s, Adams served as a diplomat in Europe and helped negotiate the treaty of Paris (1783), which officially ended the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783).

"religious sentiments" duties and obligations, a change, was in the minds and hearts of the people, phenomenon of the revivals seriously. If you ask me these are some pretty strong words that he wrote.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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Re: Words from John Adams from that time period.

by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 9:53 PM

forgot to mention that I am still leaning towards yes the great awakening played a part in the American Revolution

Sum of ratings:0 (1) 0

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How I see it

by [Selina Scott](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 7:43 PM

So this idea of the Great awakening being a key to the Great revolution was confusing for me and I read the article over and over, still I didn't understand what the revivals in 1730-1740 had to do with the American revolution three decades later. I looked elsewhere for a simplified explanation of the Great awakening and the way (green) describes it is " a period were religious people became more religious" and in the article (9, Jon) assess the real significance in four parts; that the revival only occurred in half the colonies meaning this unity against the proverbial hand that fed them (Britain) was not a result of the awakening itself.

The need for ministers and religious leaders diminished because of the new found freedom of religious by the heart (132, textbook) as follows the need for a government an ocean away was reduced, but to come to that conclusion the colonies need a lot more then some

revivals to push them over the edge.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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The Impact of Preachers

by [Nathan Edwards](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 8:01 PM

I believe the video presents absolute fact that the Great Awakening was vital to the American Revolution. As shown in the video and in class today, Jonathan Edwards was not only a great evangelist but also a great intellectual. He knew what he was talking about and everyone at the time was aware of who he was (video at 1:20). Since the news of the gospel and preachers were everywhere, many conversions happened during that period. George Whitefield was also a great preacher and according to the video he preached over 18,000 sermons so it's safe to say everyone knew who he was (video at 4:25). But I would have to say that the greatest evidence was made when it was said that they're individual feeling of grace lead to emerging ideas of ideals of American independence (video at 6:08). So what I've learned is that all of the religious conversions led to their ideas and choices to be influenced by the Great Awakening thus influencing their political ideas as well.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Contradictory Evidence Regarding the Scale & Importance of the Great Awakening

by [Tyler Antich](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:49 PM

I don't disagree that revivalist's political views were changed as a result of the Great Awakening, however, I do believe there are a few holes in your first statement regarding the magnitude of the awakening. According to Butler, "the prerevolutionary revivals should be understood primarily as regional events that occurred in only half the colonies" (page 10). This refutes your claim that the news of the gospel and preachers was everywhere and that it resulted in many conversions because of this. It is also stated by the author that the mass increase in new settlers from 1700 to 1770 "made the expansion of even the most modestly active denominations highly likely" (Butler, Pg. 8). This information puts the growth of the Great Awakening's supporter growth in perspective with other church growth and also provides some reasoning along with it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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I change my mind

by [Selina Scott](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 11:19 PM

At first i sides with Bonomi the the Great Awakening wasn't a key to the American revolution, and after the video and the lectured in class I now believe the Great Awakening was a par of the American revolution. The video about the Great Awakening lead me to believe they sided Bonomi as well, at least that is what i got from two of the historians

(Hankins) "the first Great Awakening was the first event that led people to think of themselves as separate people" and another historian (unknown) "the individual feeling of grace made people speak up, they overthrew ministers they saw as irrelevant and this was the backdrop or precarious to the American Revolution."

What the historians say in the video is close to what the website say and the most influential part that explains exactly how the Great awakening connect to the American Revolution, "Rather than believing that God's will was necessarily interpreted by the monarch or his bishops, the colonists viewed themselves as more capable of performing the task." meaning the colonist didn't need Great Britain anymore.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Founding of colleges

by [Justin Oljace](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 11:20 PM

After more research, I still think that the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. In the bottom paragraph on the first page Patricia says, "Before it subsided, the revival had unsettled the lives of more Americans and disrupted more institutions than any other single event in colonial history." This is evidence of just how big of an impact it had on the lives of Americans.

In the textbook on page 135 it says, "The Great Awakening created several new colleges." The universities founded were Princeton, Brown, Rutgers, Dartmouth, Pennsylvania, and Columbia. I think it's interesting to see some of the benefits the Great Awakening had on this country in creating some of its most prestigious schools to this day. The founding of these schools helped push the colonists one step closer to Revolution.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Whitefield's Impact

by [Tyler Weiss](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 5:42 PM

I don't find many of Butler's arguments, for why he thinks the Great Awakening didn't have an impact on the Revolutionary War, to be particularly convincing. In his article, he states that, "Georgia witnessed few revivals...and revivals were only occasionally important in New York, Delaware, North Carolina and South Carolina (Butler, paragraph 6)." He then goes on, later in the article, stating how Whitefield's impact is often overstated because his charisma dwindled in following decades and, "he did little to organize and coordinate integrated colonial revivals, and also failed to exercise authority over the ministers he inspired (Butler, paragraph 7)." I find this to be a pretty weak argument, given that even though southern colonies may have had fewer revivals than the middle and northern colonies, George Whitefield's revival reached their settlements, and even Butler doesn't try to deny that during this period he did deliver sermons with incredible charisma, and left a lasting impression on the thousands who were able to witness him. While Whitefield's

charisma may have dwindled in the following decades after his colonial crusades, the beliefs that he planted in the minds of the colonists, that began with challenging the authority of the synods, remained.

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

2



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Re: Whitefield's Impact

by [Elias Brouse](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 3:06 PM

After watching the video, I noticed your points are very well proven through a lot of the historians that gave their thoughts on the Great Awakening. Although I still agree with many of Butler's points, I do agree that Whitefield's impact did reach most colonies, and most likely did have an effect on a lot of the colonial population. The video talks very highly of Whitefield and touches on the fact that he makes over 18,000 sermons, and even if those sermons didn't always have large crowds, his messages would reach many. Author and Lecturer Peter Marshall gave his thoughts on Whitefield's impact, stating "every living American I dare say knew who this man was, and out of 3 million Americans back then, many had heard him preach." (Video, 4:36) While this is a bit of a bold statement, in my opinion, his message definitely resonated amongst most of the colonies, and the beginning ideas that the colonists could be a separate people may have had some effect on uniting colonists against a few decades later. Barry Hankins of Baylor University states in the video, "the idea of individual experience of grace began to feed into emerging ideas of American independence..." (Video, 6:08) This is the only convincing point I see to a connection between the Great Awakening and the American Revolution.

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

2



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The Search for Truth

by [Nathan Edwards](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 7:07 PM

After reading the article and book, watching the video and now the website, I can conclude that the Great Awakening was very significant to the American Revolution. "Practices and mind-sets were changed by the Awakening like never before" (Website, paragraph 1). I believe all evidence points to the fact that people were very moved by the gospel that it affected their everyday lives. "John Adams gave credit to the Great Awakening as the source of motivation behind the war, and in certain parts of England the revolution was even called the "Presbyterian Rebellion" (Website, paragraph 11). Even John Adams thought the Great Awakening influenced the war. I'm trying not to repeat myself but there cannot be any doubt that people's decisions were affected.

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

1



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Re: The Search for Truth

by [Justin Oljace](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 8:08 PM

I enjoyed reading your post and think you made some good points. I also used the article, book, video, and website to come to the conclusion that the Awakening was significant to the American Revolution. A quote that influenced my decision from the website was in the third paragraph, "The social effect of multitudes of new denominations was not, however, a fracturing of communities, but a unifying drive which helped to create a "national consciousness." This quote tells me that religion got Americans thinking and men like George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards brought the people together. In the video a historian says, "Ethnic barriers, racial barriers, and gender barriers were cut across the line in the Great Awakening." (5.40) The Great Awakening allowed America to evolve and gave Americas a new enemy in Britain. It is clear to me that over time the Great Awakening was a significant part of the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**George Whitefield had a larger impact than religion did**by [Christopher Bischoff](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 9:41 PM

The historians in the Great Awakening Video support that the Great Awakening was a pre-cause to the American Revolution. Around the 6:21 mark, an older gentleman with glasses says "People speak up, they get energized, they participate, they overthrow ministers they don't like, and in that deeper more cultural or social way, can can be seen as a backdrop or pre-cause of the American Revolution."

However, the same gentleman also says "We have understood these revivals not as bringing in people who had never heard the word of God, this is not like missions in foreign lands, the people hearing this had been mostly church-goers already.

Religion had been around since the settlement of America. For the most part it had been stable, although divisive between religion and sects. According to the video, George Whitefield played a critical part bringing different people together. Slaves, free people, White, Black, educated, uneducated, high born, and commoners all stood shoulder to shoulder in the same crowds, and heard the same gospel from George Whitefield. "It was a cross-denominational event." Whether or not they believed his speeches, I have no idea. But George Whitefield asserted that they all fell under the same rules and judgements under God, regardless of class, gender or race. He held eighteen thousand sermons, from Maine to Georgia. Nearly all three million Americans had heard of him, and many had heard him speak. "Ethnic barriers, racial barriers, gender barriers were cut across the line in the awakening."

I think that George Whitefield and his sermons had a profound affect on all Americans because he brought a lot of different people together, and at the time it was rare to have such large diverse crowds gather to listen to one person speak. Is it possible that George Whitefield had a more profound affect on the American Revolution than religion itself did?

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: George Whitefield had a larger impact than religion did

 by [Nathan Edwards](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 5:26 PM

I'm so glad you brought that up. I thought it was very interesting that most people were already church-goers meaning that they weren't hearing anything new from speakers like Whitefield. Although I'm sure Whitefield had a great way with words. I believe George Whitefield played a very important part in the Great Awakening and American Revolution but I don't think he was the main factor to affect the Revolution. I think all of the evangelists and preachers helped changed people's worldviews. But I totally agree with you that Whitefield was significant. Great job, Christopher!

Sum of ratings: 0 (1)

0


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Jonathan Edwards and religion had a significant impact on America

 by [Christopher Bischoff](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 10:27 PM

Jonathan Edwards was a true intellectual. "Regarded by many scholars as one of a handful of original thinkers that America has produced." (1:20) "He preached about the doctrines of grace, he preached personal responsibility and renewal." and he converted between ten and one hundred people at a time.

People would pray for hours, sometimes an entire day between two or even three preachers. "Worship was held at all kinds of hours" (2:54). "So what the Great Awakening did in part was to stimulate religious fervor and authenticate religious practices of working class or the lower classes." (3:00)

Not only were people getting involved in their communities through their churches, they were also "overthrowing ministers they didn't like" or agree with. "The revivals shattered the unity of New England's Congregational Church. Evangelicals seceded from dozens of congregations to form their own "Separate" churches (Murrin 134).

"In 1700, the three strongest denominations had been the Congregationalists in New England, the Quakers in the Delaware Valley, and the Anglicans in the South. By 1800, all three had lost ground to newcomers: the Methodists, who grew at an astonishing rate as heirs of the collapsing Church of England during and after the Revolution; the Baptists, who leaped into second place; and the Presbyterians (Murrin 137)."

Even though religion may not have had a direct impact on the American Revolution. The Great Awakening was a precursor to the split away from Britain, as many churches began to preach their own modified methodologies. New colleges were created, "Harvard, William and Mary, and Yale. Although Yale eventually embraced the revivals, all three opposed them at first. (Murrin 135) Various religious groups started different colleges. For example, New Light Baptists founded the College of Rhode Island and Dutch reformed revivalists started Queens College (Murrin 136). People began to think more freely and question authority. They took action by starting their own denominations and in some circumstances by healing old schisms.

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Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

**What side does the website support?**by [Justin Oljace](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 12:02 AM

The website seems to support the Great Awakening as a key to the American Revolution, like in the first paragraph when it says, "Practices and mind-sets were changed in the Awakening like never before." I think spreading of different religions throughout the colonies really made people question their beliefs, which gave the people awareness and knowledge. In the third paragraph it says, "The social effect of multitudes of new denominations was not, however, a fracturing of communities, but a unifying drive which helped to create a "national consciousness." The websites suggests that the religions brought the people together. Later in the article they talk about how John Adams believed the Awakening was "the source of motivation behind the war." They continues to circle back to the idea of the Awakening bringing the colonists together. It says, "The religious revival of the Great Awakening melded the colonists in a way that would not have been possible otherwise." The website makes me lean towards the Great Awakening as a key to the American Revolution even more.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2


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**"Religion is one of the biggest motivations to start a revolution"**by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 3:25 PM

The Great Awaken website seems to favor that it supports the Great Awakening as a key to the American Revolution

The Great Awakening Website says: "The major effect of the Awakening was a rebellion against authoritarian religious rule which spilled over into other areas of colonial life. Though a religious movement, the Awakening had repercussions in cultural and political spheres as well. Customs of civility and courtesy, the governing norms of life in the colonies, were set aside in favor of a more quarrelsome age. Practices and mind-sets were changed by the Awakening like never before.

John Adams gave credit to the Great Awakening as the source of motivation behind the war, and in certain parts of England the revolution was even called the "Presbyterian Rebellion".

-

AP US HISTORY – Week in Review (September 16 – September 20) from the Great Awakening Website says: "Great Awakening was a breakdown of the social classes but affected the lower class mostly. The colonies did not agree to being controlled, religiously. Therefore, they decided to rebel. "The people in the colonies believed that they should be able to practice any religion that they wanted, not by someone forcing them to do so. Eventually, this religious zeal turned to revolution and sentiments of self-governance. That

the religious spirit of the colonists was a necessary component to the drive for independence is confirmed in the sentiments of those who lived during the period of fighting.

The First Great Awakening Video: Revivalism was a huge part of the revivals that happened during this time Stephen Stookey Professor of Church History, say it was a time of tremendous religion upheaval. Barry Hankins, Karen Bullock, and Stephen Stookey talked about Jonathon Edwards and how he was one of the first to talk about grave and personal responsibility in renewal. Which led to a lot of conversion, and from New England spread down to the south. Worship became a huge part of people's lives sometimes all day. J. Stanley Lemons says: The Great Awakening stimulated religious fervor. Stephen Stookey and George Marsden, talked about, George Whitefield, a key player in the revivals, who showed up in 1739, and his sermons had a severe, deep, intense effect on all Americans. On different people together, at the time it was infrequent to have large diverse various crowds gather to listen to a person speak. George Whitefield had a profound effect on the American Revolution in religion itself did? Peter Marshall says: He spoke to massive crowds and spoke over eighteen thousand sermons from Maine to Georgia, and everyone knew who he was. People from all Denominations came to hear him. For the first time people began to think of themselves as a separate people. This started this idea of American independence and American individualism. This causing a backdrop and pre-cause of the American Revolution.

Every person that talked in the Great Awakening Video I believe back up and support the idea that the Great Awakening did play a part in setting up for the American Revolution. Peter Marshall Influenced me the most when he was talking about massive crowds and spoke over eighteen thousand sermons from Maine to Georgia, and everyone knew who he was and had heard him preach. This to me is a huge factor because. **"Religion is one of the biggest motivations to start a revolution and it spreads like wild flowers."** At mark 6:33 it says it was a backdrop or pre-cause of the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

3



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Re: "Religion is one of the biggest motivations to start a revolution"

by [Annie Taylor](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:32 PM

After reading your statement in the forum You had changed my mind completely. I first had said no, but the way you had explained the situation had made me change to yes.

Sum of ratings: 0 (1)

0



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Long term consequences of the Great Awakening

by [Tyler Weiss](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 5:03 PM

In our textbook's section regarding the long-term consequences of the revivals, it addresses how the ratio of women to men in churches began to rise significantly due to the fact that, "thousands of men were becoming Freemasons, often instead of joining churches (textbook, pg 134)." The textbook touches on the Freemasons' practices of, "sobriety, industry, brotherhood, benevolence, and citizenship," all traits that would help to unify colonists even outside of the Freemason community. I believe it is also important to note that around this time (June 24, 1734 to be exact) Benjamin Franklin was elected Grand Master of St. John's Masonic Lodge in Pennsylvania ([Masonic Chronology of Benjamin Franklin](#), Sachse). As Grand Master of the Pennsylvania Freemasons, writer for the Pennsylvania Gazette, and prominent early advocate for American Independence, Benjamin Franklin would have found himself in a position of incredible influence during the period following the Great Awakening. In a sense, Whitefield's sermons that drew in the masses, gave the people a more individual mindset, allowing them to think more for themselves and hear the word of God spoken to them directly, instead of through the voice of a ruler. It was this new self-consciousness that led many of the men to leave their churches and join the Freemasons, where Benjamin Franklin was ready to pick up the torch that Whitefield had left for him.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Edwards and Whitfields impact**by [Justin Oljace](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 7:30 PM

In the video I think the historians support the Great Awakening as a key to the American Revolution. Early in the video Barry Hankins says, "Jonathan Edwards was a true intellectual. He is regarded by many scholars as one of the original thinkers America has produced."(1.15) It's amazing to me that Edwards was able to convert hundreds of people at a time. This quote from Barry helped influence my decision that the video supports the significance of the Great Awakening. In class Joe talked about how Jonathan Edwards promoted gender equality and I just think it's fascinating to learn about people who were so forward thinking for their time. I believe it's safe to say that Jonathan Edwards writings and ideas still influence people today's society.

Later in the video the historians go on to talk about George Whitfield. Professor George Marsden says, "George Whitfield, the great evangelist was the first American star."(3.40)

This sentence stood out to me because it describes the significant role he played. He preached around 18,000 sermons in America. The founder of Methodism had a great influence. Towards the end of the video the historians talk about how the Awakening allowed people of different colonies to be on the same page. Americans started to see themselves as a separate nation, and that's why the Awakening was key to the American Revolution. At the end of the video the last historian says, "Religion can be seen as a pre cause of the American Revolution."

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Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2

**The Great Awakening chnage in points**by [Annie Taylor](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 9:57 PM

The great Awakening was a point in history where a series of religious revivals in the British colonies. This is where the colonists found new meaning and new ways to define religion. Catholic Church's had a great abundance of followers when crossing over to North American colonies along with the Protestant religions as well, until when Jonathan Edwards came into the picture and held a speech that had "warned" the people of ignoring religion and to continue its practicing and within Connecticut and Massachusetts. After that George Whitefield begin his influence in Georgia within 1739 where he was successful in bring English colonist into join local churches and to find comfort within the church, through sermons and the excitement among his listeners. Benjamin Franklin then published a number of Whitefield's sermons in a newspaper when he was a news printer. The great awakening had given the people a path for the American Revolution because the teachings from people lead to being more exposed to ideas such as people under equal under god and or treated equally by the government. The more northern Colonies were governed by a British parliament that had more feudalism ideals. I changed my mind of the American revolution, it was a great key the American revolution.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

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