

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

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which side of the issue, YES or NO, you have chosen to support or write about. Do NOT simply leave it RE: The Great Awakening

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Yes, the Great Awakening made people think.

by [Stevie Escobedo](#) - Sunday, October 14, 2018, 11:51 PM

The Great Awakening was very beneficial to the American Revolution because it made people think. The Great Awakening was caused due to problems arising that these people had not yet been familiar with as well as letting people further explore their individual mindset and show that individually differences can be made. One Major thing the Great Awakening did for the American revolution is it showed Americans what problems would arise from including religion in their policies. These problems were things such as

exclusion and creating tyrants. Another problem that arose through religion is there were many debates on what words were true, people were often misinterpreting or changing the bible so much so that it was even a sin to follow your faith too much.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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I Think Not

by [Zane Hiam](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 1:30 PM

Was the Great Awakening a key to the American Revolution? My opinion is that no, it was not, and I base that opinion on the following information from the handout.

As Jon Butler so eloquently summarizes, “[the revivals] appeared too erratically in too few colonies under too many different auspices to make such generalizations appropriate.” He then goes on to explain how there’s no evidence of any revivalist congregations serving as isolated cells of anti-British protest. Butler also does a good job of highlighting the lack of radical change advocated by the revivals. Similarly, if the revivals were, as Butler says, isolated events that occurred in only half the colonies, how can they be credited with creating the sense of colonial unity that the revolution was based on? It seems to me that the French and Indian war did more to promote colonial unity than the revivals did.

That was the conclusion I reached, but if anyone has a different point of view, or if you think I overlooked something, please let me know.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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No

by [Mateo Morales](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 6:00 PM

As Jon Butler put it, if they were in today's times they would be seen as civil rights demonstration. Another reason I disagree is because they didn't happen everywhere so therefore it was not necessary.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Why I agree with Patricia U. Bonomi

by [Ben Crawford](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 6:34 PM

I personally agree with Patricia U. Bonomi’s take on the Great Awakening. This is mainly because I believe that it gave the people a sense of empowerment and change which later paved the way for the revolution. As stated in the reading on page two, “by fostering challenges to established authority and by encouraging people to act on individual conscience, represented a rehearsal for the colonists' political assault on English rule that began in the 1760s”. The term that comes to mind for me in this situation is the butterfly effect. The butterfly effect is “the sensitive dependence on initial conditions in which a small change in one state of a deterministic nonlinear system can result in large differences in a later state”. Because the people of colonial America spoke up and created

change during the Great Awakening, they instilled in themselves a sense of power and elevated the status of the individual. Fast forward a few decades down the road to the revolution and you can see that these values were vital to the success of the Colonists gaining their independence.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: The Great Awakening

by [Austin Anderson](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 7:45 PM

From what I have been reading about The Great Awakening, my stance on the question of whether or not it was a key to the American Revolution would so far be no. While it did happen at a fast pace across the nation at the time, the quote from page nine of the forum "They appeared too erratically in too few colonies under too many different auspices to make such generalizations appropriate" highlights my stance on the matter. Not only was it happening in a non-orderly fashion from what appears to just be whatever non-specific person was traveling between colonies spreading the Awakening. Not only that, but I feel that even if it didn't happen the Revolution would have still happened due to tensions between the colonies and Britain that were present for a while before the Awakening happened from the constant taxes and the Trade Act. The Great Awakening might have helped some places take a stance but I don't believe that the entire country revolted because of Whitefield's preaches.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Good Point

by [Zane Hiam](#) - Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 11:35 AM

I appreciate how you pointed out that the American Revolution was largely a reactionary response to British tax policies, and likely would have still happened without the Great Awakening. While the Awakening might have changed the mindset of many in the colonies, it didn't incite revolution, and I therefore don't think it's correct to say that it led to the independence movement in the colonies.

Sum of ratings: 0 (1)

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Re: Good Point

by [Austin Anderson](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 11:21 AM

Something else that I was thinking of was that, from what I gathered, while I don't think that it was what made the Revolution happen, I do think that because of the way Whitefield was preaching how to live their lives might have cemented the mindset of revolting after it had already started. He might not have started it, but the areas he affected, such as New York of the middle colonies where he did the most traveling, might have had the strongest resistance to Britain. Like Braden Lane pointed out on their own response, page 2 of the handout reads "By promoting

church separation's and urging there follower's to make choices that had political as well as religious implications, the Awakeners wrought permanent changes in public practices and attitudes." Because of how closely people held Religion to their daily lives, those areas that Whitefield had impacted had both a physical and spiritual reason to continue the Revolution against Britain. I feel that all those areas needed was that push that other colonies were giving. What do you think of this theory?

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1

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Yes, The Great Awakening was one of the Keys to revolution

by [Kenzie Hodges](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 7:53 PM

I believe that the Great Awakening was one of the key periods that help to shape events to come. It helped create a better sense of community by increasing church membership with women, and while thousands of men actually rejected the church they too created a community of the Freemasons. (textbook pg.134) It also promoted communication with news of the revivals in periodicals like The Christian History (Textbook pg.135) Creating bonds between people, and also between communities. These communities only made stronger by the fact that with the revivals came the founding of new colleges. Bringing people together from all 13 colonies.

I found Professor Bonomi's claim that the Great Awakening also provided a sort of "practice model" interesting (packet handout pg. 3). While I agree that the Great Awakening is a key to the American Revolution I don't think there are enough similarities in the processes of both events for one to be considered a rehearsal of the other. Stripping them down to there most simplistic requirements as Bonomi's does might make them sound like similar events within different organizations (church vs government) I think that this is removing too much of the required context.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Yes, The Great Awakening was one of the Keys to revolution

by [Amanda Francis](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 11:51 AM

I agree with you that The Great Awakening is one of the keys to the American Revolution, but it is definitely not the only key. To add to what you said, the influence of the Enlightenment, "a broad intellectual movement that applied reason to a wide range of human affairs" (textbook p.126), cannot be ignored. "A new learned elite" (p.129) of doctors, chemists, and layers was beginning to emerge. The colonies were becoming a more educated group of people, and education is power. For instance, John Wesley and George Whitefield, two major players in the religious revival, began their missionary work at Oxford University with the founding of the Holy Club. Eventually they came to America. Whitefield used his "musical voice and Oxford diction" (p. 134) to spread his message and gain the attention of newspapers which helped to further spread the revivalist movement to the other colonies.

Had these revivalists not been educated, would they have been able to draw the attention of the colonists and gained as much traction? The creation of more colleges was a direct result of The Great Awakening further solidifying the value of education to the colonies at the time. I think The Great Awakening was a result of the Enlightenment which eventually led to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2


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**Education**by [Kenzie Hodges](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 6:24 PM

Thanks for the reply. I think you are absolutely right. The creation of colleges through the Great Awakening is a driving force behind the Revolution. In the video on Tuesday it was specifically mentioned how the founding fathers were educated, and while the video was talking more about the reasons they had the time and money to be educate my first thought was of this topic.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1


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**Re: Yes, The Great Awakening was one of the Keys to revolution**by [Amanda Francis](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 11:43 AM

After today's class lecture, I think it's important for me to make a few corrections on my original post. Although they are related because The Great Awakening came about as a rejection to the Enlightenment, as Professor Escobar said in class, I don't think it was accurate for me to have drawn such a straight line from the Enlightenment as having such a positive influence on the Great Awakening. I do still think it is important to note the value of intellectualism during this time in regards to both movements. For instance, Johnathan Edwards, who Escobar described as a "great intellectual" in today's lecture, "played a critical role in the Great Awakening." I still think the revivalists educational backgrounds had a lot to do with their ability to have as much success in the Great Awakening as they did, but the Enlightenment isn't to thank.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1


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**Re: Yes, The Great Awakening was one of the Keys to revolution**by [Ben Crawford](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 9:59 PM

While I agree with the fact that it brought the colonies together, I do believe that it also did have a role in the revolution. The Great Awakening might have not been a "dress rehearsal" per say, but it still did affect the thinking of the colonists in a way that would be similar to how they thought/acted during the revolution.

Sum of ratings: 0 (1)

0


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Education brought the revolution



by [Gavin Sherrill](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 9:15 PM

The Great awakening encourage and opened several college institutions (textbook page 135). With education comes an individual conscience (page 1 "was the great..."). I believe the new consciences of the American colonists empowered them to revolt for their individual self-interest.

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

1



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great awakening yes or no

by [Reed Battaglia](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 9:32 PM

After reading both sides of the readings I have decided to agree with Jon Bulter. For the reason because he brings up a good point saying that, "historians agree that it happened in 1740". I found it a little funny how he made a point of saying that no can give a for sure date upon when it started in the first place. It upsets me that there were no records really from that time period where we could have a definitive answer.

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

1



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Re: great awakening yes or no

by [Ben Crawford](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 9:55 PM

I agree with the fact that it is a little unsettling that they can not pin down an exact date, however a small time frame is known due to historical evidence. Also, I would not discredidit the entire great awakening just because they could not pin it down to a single date. There is evidence that it occured. You have to remember that they were still living in a time where there was no way to fully document something like we can today or even 100 years ago.

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

1



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Was the great awakening revouloutionary or not?

by [Brayden Lane](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 9:51 PM

The great awakening, was it revolutionary or not? I personally believe it was and I side with the yes side. Patricia states on page 2 that "By promoting church separation's and urging there followers to make choices that had political as well as religious implications, the awakeners wrought permanent changes in public practices and attitudes." To me this seems like one of the biggest points she made, because that's an ideal America is found on. The ability to make religious and political choices upon your own free will. Along with the many other points I agree with of Patricia's this might be the most important one. The key part in this is I find and see them as separating and becoming more diverse and that is another ideal we believe in, diversity.

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**Re: Not the Key**by [Gurpritam Sandhar](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 10:12 PM

Having read through both sides of the “ Was the Great Awakening a key to the American Revolution”, I have to go with John Butler and say no. The reason I agree with John is because he makes many good points, one of which is stated on page 9 in the second paragraph. He writes,” The Revivals provided little focus for intercolonial unity..They appeared too erratically in too few colonies under too many different auspices to make such generalizations appropriate. If we look at history and this period of “The great Awakening” a revival was considered “ An emotional response to god’s word that brought sudden conversions to scores of people (Murrin,132).” I honestly feel like it was a numbers game, to see what denomination of faith had most followers. Revivals did not bring people together, in my opinion it confused people on what to actually believe. If we look at the American Revolution, it was a “Colonial Revolt” against Great Britain, it brought people (patriots) together from the 13 colonies to fight together. The Great Awakening was not a key to American Revolution, but i do believe that because of all of the shifts going on with people and their beliefs during the “Great Awakening”, it taught people of that time how to think more critically when it came to making any decision.

How do you guys feel about this?

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Not the Key**by [Reed Battaglia](#) - Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 4:41 PM

After reading your response i couldn't agree more with you. Great Job!

Sum of ratings:0 (1) 0

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Not the Key**by [Donald Laskey](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 8:56 PM

I agree with you by saying that John Butler was right. The Great Awakening was not a key to the American Revolution. He brought up a lot of good points to back up his belief. I like how you brought up one of his better points when he says, "Revivals provided little focus for intercolonial unity....They appeared too erratically in too few colonies under too many different auspices to make such generalizations appropriate," (Murrin 132). Revivals during the Great Awakening did not have enough strength or stamina to make major influences towards the future political state of American colonies. If they wanted to become a key in the development of the American Revolution, they would have had to be more consistent and supported. I think that the wars during the 18th century helped spark the revolution more than the Great Awakening did. I think this because John mentions that "The colonial wars are more

appropriate candidates for the honor," (Murrin 132). Events such as the French and Indian War held more influence on the colonists. Successes like this gave the colonists confidence. Ultimately, these events added up and eventually led to the start of the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Re: The Great Awakening Yes and Why.

by [Brenden Nesbitt](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 10:58 PM

The great awakening to me seems to be an important part of our history. This was a revolution in itself. I feel as if the concept of an awakener still lives in us today. Throughout the early times of Americans colonization "colonists rarely thought of themselves apart from a larger collectivity." - Patricia Bonomi. When I think of how everyone on earth, I resort to thinking of everyone as individuals rather than a group. I see a world of unique people with many trades and talents. To think we can all live uniformly when we all offer something different to the world is impossible. To ever believe life in America would be the same of those in Italy, Portugal, France, Spain, Great Britain, or any other country regardless of affiliation is not possible. America brought many new variables into the lives of those who transitioned from Europe. How could colonies want to live a life like those in Great Britain when life would never be the same and is not a life they believe in, just as how could those individuals with different views support and be apart of something if they don't believe in it.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Re: The Great Awakening

by [Donald Laskey](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:09 PM

I would have to say no and agree with Jon Bulter. the reason I agree with him is because he brings up a lot of good points; like for example how he says that the Great Awakening was hard to date and how the historians settle for the 1740's because it goes with Whitefields first appearance in New England. What has influenced me to make my decision was when Jon says that the historians also exaggerate the leadership of the revivals. They have overstressed the importance of Whitefield and Edwards. Like for example when they say that Whitefield "leadership" was ethereal he also did little to organize and coordinate the rivals.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Re: NO the Great Awakening was not key

by [Jedaiah Falone](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:24 PM

Overall I most agree with Butler's position. Around a century before the Great Awakening even took place, colonies housed different religious sects and ideals (from class lecture on 10/09), more divided than united by their numerous beliefs. Additionally, Christianity has always been characterized by renewal, separation, dissent, etc. The Great Awakening was

not a religious phenomenon unique to the colonies, but rather another transitional period within Christianity. About the revivals, Butler states that “their theological origins were international and diverse rather than narrowly Calvinist and uniquely American. Revivals appear to have arisen when three circumstances were present—internal demands for renewal in different international Christian communities, charismatic preachers, and special, often unique, local circumstances that made communities receptive to elevated religious rhetoric” (Butler, pg 10). If anything, a better argument to make would be that various other factors within the colonies (war, expansion, immigration, politics with Britain, etc) that built up to the Revolutionary War were actually key to the Great Awakening itself.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1


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**Question and Judge All**by [Amanda Francis](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:26 PM

Was the Great Awakening a key to the American Revolution? I agree with Patricia Bonomi's article that says the Great Awakening created the conditions in which an event like American Revolution could occur. Revivalists “swept across the Protestant world” and “shattered some denominational loyalties in the colonies” (textbook p. 131). Bonomi states in her article that “The revivalists claimed the liberty ‘to question and judge all, and refuse[d] Subjection to every proper Judicature.’” As a result, emphasis was placed on the individual and not the group within the realms of the church. This way of thinking allowed people to question their religious teachings and leaders for the first time. In addition, the resistance to church leadership created an environment of factionalism that eventually extended to politics. While Jon Butler refutes many commonly held historical assumptions about dates and leaders, he does not provide a strong enough argument against the profound impact the concept of individualism and factionalism had on the path to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3


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**What of Colonial Unity?**by [Zane Hiam](#) - Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 11:46 AM

You bring up some good points, but I think you would do well to consider the sense of colonial unity that was the foundation of the American Revolution. I would argue that it was even more of a factor than the concept of individual liberty. And where did this sense of colonial unity come from? Not from the Great Awakening, which Jon Butler points out happened too sporadically and in not enough places. I would argue that this ideology first became prevalent during the French and Indian War, as demonstrated by the congress at Albany and Benjamin Franklin's "Join or Die" cartoon, which everyone should recall from the textbook.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1


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Break Before You can Come Together



by [Kenzie Hodges](#) - Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 7:58 PM

While I think you are absolutely right about the sense of unity in the colonies coming from the French and Indian War. I think one can also say that the ideas of individuality and questioning authority played a pivotal role in the ideas of the revolution. And perhaps Butler has a point about the revivals being to sporadic in time to be this sweeping ideals, but these ideas continued to grow in the form of the colleges created. One such University being Princeton, which according to the textbook drew in students from all 13 colonies and then sent graduates back out throughout America. (Textbook pg.135)

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: Break Before You can Come Together

by [Amanda Francis](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 12:36 PM

The unification of the colonies during the time of the French and Indian War came with great hesitation. The textbook states, "They also distrusted each other. Despite the French threat, they were not ready to put aside their differences and unite. They did not yet see themselves as 'Americans'" (p. 149). Ben Franklin's cartoon was created to convince the colonists of unification because although they distrusted each other, they distrusted the president general even more, and were not going to agree to the Albany Congress. The colonists came together out of necessity not because of a genuine sense of comradery. Zane, I think the more important point to take away from the French and Indian War is, "Provincials admired the courage of the redcoats, and the victories they won, but hated their brutal discipline and arrogant officers." (p. 149). The distrust of Britain is apparent. This is where the Great Awakening and the ideas of individualism, paired with questioning leaders, set the tone for the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Wow thanks

by [Kenzie Hodges](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 6:16 PM

That is really well put. It articulates, in my opinion, why the Great Awakening has to be considered in leading up to the Revolution.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0



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Re: Question and Judge All

by [Brayden Lane](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 4:38 PM

I couldn't agree more with your point and the reasoning you give. The key part I believe is the revivalists idea of "to question and judge all". As you stated it allowed them to think and question there teachings and religion. When people started to question what they were doing it became a widespread tool that changed the way individuals thought more than groups. Allowing it to spread to politics is important to when it comes to the way our country was and is shaped. The argument that Butler provides I also agree that he doesn't provide enough information and facts on why he think it wasn't key to the American revolution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1


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YES. The Great Awakening brought new individualism

by [Abigail Gierut](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:44 PM

I personally agree with professor Bonomi's position on how the Great Awakening was important in leading to the American Revolution. The great awakening caused people in the colonies to think more as an individual and less as just one of many in a congregation. To me this represents the colonies seeing themselves as separate from England and had great influence in their actual separation. Bonomi continuously refers to the Great Awakening causing people to think on their own. "As the Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America, it simultaneously elevated the individual. During the more communal seventeenth century, colonists had rarely conceived of themselves apart from a larger collectivity--the family, the congregation, or the town. But the eighteenth century revival penetrated and shattered that unitary cosmos by directing its message to the individual. (Prof. Bonomi, handout p. 4). This idea is continued in our textbook, talking about how many people left their churches and acted alone based on their own moral beliefs and rules, focusing more on citizenship than congregation. "Partly in reaction to the revivals, thousands of men became Freemasons, often instead of joining a church. They very nearly turned these voluntary associations into a religion of manliness, complete with mysterious rituals that extolled sobriety, industry, brotherhood, benevolence, and citizenship.(Textbook, p. 134)." Bonomi refers to this on page 4 again as "defiant individualism that was one of the most radical manifestations of the Awakening" she goes on to say "no longer were consensual values to prevail over individual ones, at least in matters concerning the soul. Now private judgement intuitive understanding had equal if not superior claim to the conscience.... Decision making had been internalized."(Bonomi, p.5)

Others separated from larger churches and formed their own smaller separate churches. "The revivals shattered the unity of New England's Congregational Church. Evangelicals seceded from dozens of congregations to form their own "Separate" churches." (Textbook, p. 134).

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3


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Re: YES. The Great Awakening brought new individualism

by [Gurpritam Sandhar](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 12:42 AM

Abigail, in my initial post I agreed with professor Jon Butler that the Great Awakening was not the key to the American Revolution (which I still stand with). But, you have brought up many interesting points which I agree with. The first point being, when professor Bonomi states, "As the Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America, it simultaneously elevated the individual (pg.4)." If we look at Newton's third law, it states, for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction and in my opinion life works the same. For every action we take in life there is a reaction. Now, if we go back and take a look at the Great Awakening, I agree that it broke down social cohesion and elevated the individual. But, do we ask ourselves why this happened? Like many other students in this forum i believe that the Great Awakening was a revolution in its own way. It led people to become better in terms of making decisions and choosing right from wrong which was never the case before. The actions one made (choice of what denomination of faith to go with in this case) led to a reaction which formed the way they went about there day to day life. Their faith gave them principles of life to live by, just like today and all of the other religions in the world. Jon Butler on page 6 of the handout writes," 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, though certainly not surpass, the awakening in their impact on national life." I believe that The Great Awakening was the (action) and (reaction) was the change it made in the people of that time in history. The American Revolution had its own action and its own reaction and that is why I still agree with Professor Jon Butler that the Great Awakening is not the key to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3


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Re: YES. The Great Awakening brought new individualism

 by [Brayden Lane](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 11:03 PM

I couldn't agree more with all the points you make. The point your making using the book and packet is great because it really show the importance of the great awakening and how it started with individuals. For me the key to the great awakening was the individual and not the groups as a whole. A reason that the great awakening is found to be true you stated when you said that colonies seeing themselves from England had a great influence in their actual separation. I agreed with Patricias argument and reading your post further helped me agree with why the great awakening was actually important.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1


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Bonomi

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

I would like to agree with Bonomi, however I feel quite conflicted. I would like to hear others views. One of my favorite parts was when she spoke of how Awakeners were not listening, instead, were tired of the old cliches.

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Sum of ratings:0 (1) 0

**yes the great awakening was important.**by [Brayden Lane](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 7:26 PM

Another point that I agree with that Patricia Bonomi makes is when she says "In exhorting their followers to make personal decisions for God, and then to act on those decisions regardless of their effect on the larger society, the revivalists gave sanction to a new dynamic in human relationships." (page 4). To me that's key because its not only saying people made their own decisions regardless of what the larger groups thought but they even acted upon it. It was a widespread act but made up of individuals who made their own decisions and didn't care about the effect upon larger society's. According to Patricia Bonomi it even affected human relationships, which seems to be the biggest part of the "Great awakening". Jon Butlers argument is that it wasn't wide spread enough in bigger groups but my point would be it didn't happen with larger groups it was put into works by each individual.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening the individual**by [Brenden Nesbitt](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 10:52 AM

Awakeners who searched for the religious freedom they desired still needed the support of other individuals as rebellious actions carried on. (Page 3) "revivalists found their allies among the people." Although the peoples ideals and values of religion may have not been cohesive the concept of individuality and separation from the church was a necessity in the rebellion. That is what I believe had brought the people together in the cause of separation from the church. On page 4 "The Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America, it simultaneously elevated the individual." The people started preaching messages directed at individuals rather than just focusing on the larger collectivity. The great awakening was a revolution for the individual.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Unification Through Religion**by [Amanda Francis](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 1:07 PM

After watching the web video and reading the article from the Great Awakening website, I stand even more firm with my original stance that yes, the Great Awakening was an influence to the American Revolution. In Patricia Bonomi's article she emphasizes the importance of the concept of individualism that came as a result of the Great Awakening, but more importantly, as the website article states that the revivalist's social effect on the colonies was a "unifying drive which helped to create a 'national consciousness.'" The web video also says this was the "first time people in these desperate colonies had been sort of on the same page." (Minute 5:45). One of the historians in the video says plainly that this movement in history "can be seen as a backdrop or pre-cause to the American

Revolution." (Minute 6:20). It's hard to ignore the magnitude of the Great Awakening, and its effect on the social and cultural views on the colonies.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2



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Unification Through Religion

by [Amanda Francis](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 8:44 PM

One other idea from the web article "The Significance of the Great Awakening..." that I found crucial was, "the chain of authority no longer ran from God to ruler to people, but from God to people to ruler." For the colonists, this means that they were no longer dependent on authoritative religious figures and could take their relationship with God into their own hands. "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." The Great Awakening erased the need for an interpretive middle man between God and his worshipers. This idea further backs up Bonomi's article stressing the importance of the colonists as seeing themselves as individuals for the first time in American history. The religious independence of the Great Awakening is just the first step to the American Revolution which results in total freedom from Great Britain.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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The Catalyst

by [Gurpritam Sandhar](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 9:58 PM

After reading the Great Awakening website link, I believe that the website seems to support the side of the YES group. I personally did not side with Professor Bonomi in our first readings, I felt that the Great Awakening was not the key to the American Revolution. But, In the online reading there was one thing that I thought was interesting. Under the "Shared Goals" section its quoted, "The religious fervor spawned by the Great Awakening provided the catalyst for political and military action necessary for fulfillment of religious expectations (Great-Awakening.com)." I agree with this quote. I say this because even though I initially went with Jon Butler and said no, I feel that to a certain degree, the Great Awakening was a catalyst for the political and military action that was later used in the revolution. I have said this before in other posts, that the Great Awakening was a revolution of its own kind because it shook up the way people thought about things and also it gave them an identity, which in my opinion they really didn't have before. These changes that we see occur in people during the Great Awakening was the catalyst that brought people to make more changes during this time period. For example, the French and Indian war, people began to see a future not for themselves, but for this nation. Something In my opinion would have never happened had the Great Awakening never occurred. The Great Awakening gave people the ability to believe in a god and also in themselves.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2



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**Significance of the great awakening**by [Brayden Lane](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 2:47 PM

Before reading the online web sight I believed in Bonomis point that the great awakening was key. Upon reading the online article it further helped my understanding of why it was important. The quote I got from the online article that I found to be most important was this one. "The older groups that dominated the early colonies – the Puritans and the Anglicans – eventually began a drastic downward trend in popularity. Although they accounted for about 40% of American congregations as late as 1760, that number eventually dropped to under 2.5% by 1790."(Great awakening.com). I find this so important because it shows the impact it had on a religious driven society and the drastic effect it had not necessarily in groups but individuals. Upon reading this and the paper given in class I believe even more that the great awakening was key in early American society.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Web Video Sides**by [Reed Battaglia](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 5:22 PM

After watching this and coming up with the conclusion that the historians say yes.Although I still agree with Jon Butler, when listening to the video right in the beginning the say, “for some it was a great blessing but for others is was just mass enthusiasm.”(0:42 video) . I see that this is very important because even though some did not follow the religion, they got excited for changed. At the end of the video one of the historians state, “pre-cause to the American Revolution” (6:20video). Even though I don’t see exactly eye to eye with the historians I appreciate how they used credible stats to backup their claims.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Web Video Sides**by [Gurpritam Sandhar](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:08 PM

Reed, I also sided with Jon Butler in my initial post and I agree with you that both the video and website reading were sided toward the yes group. In the reading, under the Roots of Revolution section its written, " Practices and mind-sets were changed by the Awakening like never before (Great-Awakening.com)." I personally believe that these practices and mind-sets were the only things that changed during this time. These changes that came through revivals caused people in society to think deeper and because of this need to think it made them make better choices in my opinion. Mr. Escobar in class brought up a very good point about war that made me think about religion and revivals. He said that wars=money and I couldnt agree more, but this is also true when it comes to religion in my opinion. Where there is a preacher, preaching about faith and religion, there has to be money involved somewhere. During the Great Awakening, I think people became more aware of there finances, and because of this awareness it changed people's mind-sets.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**website reading**by [Reed Battaglia](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 5:34 PM

The website support the side of the yes group. In the reading the part that I agreed with was when they said, "the crusade against the Catholics provided the necessary focal point over the course of the 18th Century until the new crusade against the British took over"(shared goals). I agreed with this because it's so true to America as a country. After reading watching the video the side I agreed with now is more in the middle I feel that there need to be more discussion about this topic.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**The Great Awakening video perspective**by [Abigail Gierut](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 7:28 PM

The historians from the First Great Awakening video seemed to support the side of the debate that the Great awakening was a key to the American revolution. These historians talk about how the first great awakening brought very different people together that wouldn't normally run in the same circles and gave all of these different people the same mindset. At 5:06 in the video historian Karen Bullock said that "the first great awakening... it was an across denominational event for Americans". Stephen Stookey continues this idea at 5:38 "Ethnic barriers, gender barriers, racial barriers were cut across the line in the awakening". Another historian goes on to say "One of the first times that people in these disparate colonies had sort of been on the same page" (Video, 5:48). These historians then refer to the spreading idea of individualism in the religious experience and now that these people were in the same mindset and coming together, they began to see themselves as the same united people. "In the first great awakening was that an event began... Many people on the path to thinking of themselves as a separate people, as a people for the first time because this was the first national event in american history" (Barry Hankins, 5:56). "And that idea of individual experience of grace began to feed into emerging ideals of American independence and American individualism"(Stephen Stookey, 6:08).

The last historian in the video then connects this great awakening as a precursor to the american revolution. "Religion can be seen as a kind of backdrop of pre-cause of the American revolution" (video, 6:35).

I wasn't able to find two of these historians names, so please let me know if you know the names of the people at 5:48 and 6:35.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**First Great Awakening Video**



by [Sharon Osicho](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 8:19 PM

While watching The First Great Awakening Video it was apparent that the historians were on the yes side of the debate as to if the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. Within the first few seconds of the video Stephen Stookey stated that the Great Awakening "for some it was a great blessing and for others it was just massive enthusiasm." That quote and one later stated by Peter Marshall "ethnic barriers, racial barriers, gender barriers , were cut across the line in the Awakening" I found that statement confirmed my decision in agreeing that the Great Awakening was influential. To imagine the divisions that had occurred before the awakening and now to have people thinking of themselves as a group despite their economic, gender, or racial differences is remarkable. The experts in the video represent the historical truth about the Great Awakening because they are a diverse group yet have the common ground as to how influential the Great Awakening was in America. It brought people together and sent a message of hope that spread like wildfire.

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

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Re: First Great Awakening Video

by [Brayden Lane](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:04 PM

I completely agree when watching the same video. I like both quotes when listening to the video But the second quote you gave by Peter Marshall stood out to me more. When listening to his point it was a different viewpoint for me cause he used racial and gender barriers as a reason and I haven focused on that in the other readings. For me it brought a different side of seeing why the great awakening was important but not just as an individual reason but for racial and gender reasons.

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

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The Great Awakening Website view: YES. Common enemy

by [Abigail Gierut](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 11:06 PM

I believe that this website supports the argument that the Great Awakening did change the mindset of Americans and helped influence the American revolution. This site talks about the recurring topic in all of my posts: the new found individualism from the great awakening that caused many to separate from the mass in regard to religion and brought people together in the mindset of not wanting to be under previously dominant churches. Under the section titled Towards an American Identity it refers to this mass of new religious denominations as not being what divided the colonies, but what unified them.

"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"(paragraph 2, Towards an American Identity). This section continues to explain that people finally started thinking for themselves when it came to their religious practices and that led to taking control of the way the thought politically as well.

“It was through the revivalism of the first half of the Eighteenth Century that the colonists were finally able to step out from under the protectorate of the established Christian churches and assert religious control over their own nation’s destiny.” (paragraph 3, Towards an American Identity).

This idea continues in the second paragraph under Government as Contract “Present in the Mayflower Compact and later forming an ideological basis for breaking from Great Britain, the notion of covenant grew to link religion and politics in the colonies.” (Paragraph 2, Government as Contract).

This article also talks about how revivalism strengthened the colonists anti-Catholic consensus. “Another shared sentiment of the chiefly Protestant nation was a fear of Catholic domination. While this feeling may have been contributed to by fear of foreign political domination, the revivalist zeal of the colonists no doubt played a part in the anti-hierarchical nature of anti-Catholic attitudes” (Paragraph 2, Shared Goals).

Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

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