

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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Too Limited for Impact

by [Lisa Schnabel](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 4:41 PM

My argument lines up with professor Jon Butler, who says there is virtually no ties between the American Revolution and the eighteenth-century colonial religious revivals, the Great Awakening. Butler says, "the prerevolutionary revivals should be understood primarily as regional events that occurred in only half the colonies" (p. 9 of 10). The revivals also "touched only certain segments of the population" (p. 7 to 10) which limits the amount of response of the Great Awakening. That is to say, the impact was minimal compared to the

population, at the time, and the amount required to incite a national revolution. The only revolution or mission perceived was that of commitment “to spreading the teachings of the Bible” (textbook 132) causing conversions among the hearers. Jonathan Edwards, in defending his position as a revivalist said, “If this be distraction, I pray God that the world of mankind may be all seized with this benign, meek, beatifical, glorious distraction” (textbook 136-137). This indicates that the attitudes of those who had converted was that of uniformity and not rebellion

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2


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Re: Too Limited for Impact

by [Lisa Schnabel](#) - Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 7:57 PM

Another interesting point brought up by Butler, is that “it is not surprising that the eighteenth-century revivals of religion failed to bring significant new power—democracy—to the laity in the congregation” (p. 8 of 10). One example of this is when Butler reiterates that the laity of the protestant churches had already had an impressive influence over their ministers by controlling the spending of church funds. The laity also had the power to attend a certain church or not. Another example, the split of the New England Congregational Church where dozens of evangelicals left and formed new congregations with “many of those that survived went Baptist” (textbook 134). The “complaints against ministers brought by the laity to the Presbytery of Philadelphia” (p. 9 of 10) and other disputes had been recorded in the seventeenth-century on into the eighteenth-century. Butler continues to assert that even after the revivals happened, no historian has ever shown an increase in laity complaints. The lay force, within a protestant church, did not grow stronger or more vocal with the occurrence of the “Great Awakening.”

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2


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The Great Awakening was the roots of the American Revolution

by [Fallon King](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 7:07 PM

The Great Awakening played a significant role as the roots of the American Revolution by awaking the American society to new ideas for government, religion and societal needs. It was a rebellion against the authoritarian religious rule, forming new ideas socially. Thus, constructing the mindset of the religiously free colonies post 1776. As said by Richard Hofstadter, “The first major intercolonial crisis of the mind and spirit in eighteenth-century America. No previous occurrence in colonial history compared with it in scale or consequences. The unitary ideal of the seventeenth century continued to be eroded in the post-Awakening years by further church separations.” (Forum 2 Handout)

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1


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Re: The Great Awakening was the roots of the American Revolution

 by [Morgan Graham](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 11:10 PM

I would have to disagree with you, Fallon. I don't believe that the Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution. In your post you say that it constructed the mindset of the religiously free colonies post 1776 but according to Jon Butler, New Hampshire, Maryland, and Georgia witnessed few revivals and revivals were only occasionally important in New York, Delaware, North and South Carolina. Evidence also points towards that the Revolution historians they refer to they presumably underwrote made only the modest contributions to social egalitarianism and democracy, of which they probably were not the sole cause (forum 2 handout pg 9). While I agree the Great Awakening was a revolution in it's own, I don't think it was key to the American Revolution. Revivals of religion was ore of a drastic part in it.

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1


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The Great Awakening was the roots of the American Revolution

 by [Fallon King](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 1:25 PM

Thank you for your thoughts on the matter. I would like to bring up the fact that The Great Awakening, whether it was a small change or not, did have an effect on the American peoples' standpoint on issues such as how they should be governed, and what they should be allowed to believe or not believe. The reason the colonies were started in the first place was to escape England's standpoint on religion, which did eventually lead to colonies forming their own government, thus forming a chain reaction eventually leading to the religious outbreaks of the colonies and a revolt against England (American Revolution) when England tried to reinforce their own version of government and religion. I did notice that you cited a page from the forum, page nine. After review of the citation, I did notice one small word that could completely change the argument/ the validation thereof. That word is "probably". It means its an educated guess within itself, therefore suggesting that the "...modest contributions to social egalitarianism and democracy, of which they probably were not the sole cause." That one word in the given statement does leave me to wonder as to maybe they had the potential to be one of the sole causes.

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2


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Re: The Great Awakening was the roots of the American Revolution

 by [Morgan Graham](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:11 PM

Hey, thanks for responding. I really like how you actually when back and looked at the citation I wrote. You're right, the word "probably" could completely invalidate or change the argument I gave. Probably a weak point to make on my end! Something Butler said made on that same page to strengthen my argument is "the revivals provided little focus for intercolonial unity in the way some historians have described. They appeared too erratically in too few colonies under too many

auspices to make such generalizations appropriate." This statement, unlike my first, is more than just an educated guess because the revivals only swept some of the mainland colonies. They occurred in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia. The revivals also touched only certain segments of the population in the colonies where they occurred (also pg 9 of packet). I just wonder how a whole revolution could be made when the said event didn't even touch all the colonies.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2


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The Partial Key of the American Revolution

by [Canaan Staley](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 7:51 PM

The Great Awakening was just one of a few reasons why the American Revolution happened. To say it was "the key" to the revolution is like saying, "college is the key to get students out of bed". Now, students CAN get out of bed for college, but some other reasons are that they're hungry, there's something going on outside, they just found out there's an inheritance tax so they get up to go protest big government, etc. The American Revolution happened partially to the Great Awakening, but the people revolted also because they were also sick of taxes and no representation. Ring any bells? I do agree with Prof. Patricia U. Bonomi that it was "A key" to the American Revolution. On page 4 of the reading, for example, in the section "WHO IS UPON GOD'S SIDE?", it is said in the last paragraph, "This last notion captures vividly the new spirit of defiant individualism that was one of the most radical manifestations of the Awakening." This was said right after quotes from a sermon basically saying, "if your not with us, your against us". Now, if that doesn't scream "JOIN, OR DIE" which sounds *vaguely* familiar, I don't know what does. That picture of the cut up snake is a part of our nations founding (right next to "don't tread on me"). I believe it's no little coincidence that the American Revolution occurred after the Great Awakening. Even in class, it's mentioned by Escobar that we need to grasp that the founders of this country were Christians who held The Bible highly and that it guided them on what to do.

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3


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Yes, the Great Awakening did have a role in the American Revolution

by [Kristal Tardiff](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 8:16 PM

I agree with Patricia U. Bonomi's position the most because like me she believes that the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution. She mentions two thoughts that shaped religious beliefs were Enlightenment rationalism and Continental pietism. She also states "the Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America." This would be a true statement because at the time there were several different religions to include Protestant and Anglican. I also believe that this tends to push my view even stronger because, I feel society as a whole even today struggles to let people have their own freedom of religion.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Yes, the Great Awakening did have a role in the American Revolution**by [Maria Cecilia Contreras Sanchez](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 6:18 PM

I do not agree with you in the sense that the Great Awakening was the main "key" of the revolution in the United States. However, I want to clarify that it was one of the reasons that contributed to the revolution. The page that the professor offered us says that the Great Awakening is more like a rebellion.

It is also mentioned that he had his effect on the different thoughts regarding English politics and religion (p.4)

Now it is mentioned in that same paragraph that the descendants of this revival were important characters in the American Revolution, but it is not said to be directly by the Great Awakening.

Rather this event helped them out of religious control and thus be more independent and thus take the destiny of the nation

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**The American Revolution Was Caused by More Than the Great Awakening**by [Lauren Rogers](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 9:00 PM

John Butler claims that "the revivals of religion in prerevolutionary America... failed to change the timing, causes, or effects of the Revolution in any significant way"(10). I agree that the Great Awakening had little effect on the Revolution.

The colonists had already started to create their own ways of doing things since the moment they arrived in the new lands; likely wishing for their separation from Britain already. They didn't all leave their land to the eldest son, and they didn't directly follow the commands of a king. The colonists, along with France and Spain, were all growing tired of Britain's rules. When Britain created the Navigation Acts, it only benefited Britain. The colonists' profits plummeted, and it made resources less available to other countries like France and Spain("Liberty, Equality, Power" page 96). With Britain's growing rules, it is not likely that the Great Awakening was the main cause for the Revolution. Britain seemed to have separated from the colonists already when it decided to make rules that hurt the colonists, just so Britain could make financial gains. Britain wanted to be the most powerful, and that greed was most likely what led to the Revolution, not the differences of religion.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Aaron Richards](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 9:38 PM

I agree mostly with Jon Butler. There was a period of time in the 18th century with religious revival, however I don't believe it to be linked to the American Revolution. The colonists survived their own personal hell to make successful settlements. What really drove the revolution was the slow assertion of dominance from England with no consent from the colonists. After the seven years war the crown imposed taxes on the colonies to refill the governments coffers. So, after fighting to survive in a new world, struggling to make a new life, fighting someone else's war, and then being told to pay for it, it's no surprise they rebelled.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

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Re: The Great Awakening

by [Aaron Richards](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:27 PM

To continue, Britain controlled the colonies through de facto federalism, giving them a sense of freedom. With the conclusion of the seven years war Britain disbanded this practice to assert more control over the colonies. This is shown by the Proclamation of 1763, with its enactment of the Proclamation Line which colonists could not settle past. This prevented colonies from expanding into the newly won lands of the French and Indian war, further angering the colonists.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

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Re: The Great Awakening

by [Aaron Richards](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:47 PM

With regards to the article, Jon Butler made some key points that shows how there is not a link between the Great Awakening and the American Revolution. The Great Awakening was not a unified movement. Several different religions had theological, political, and cultural changes at different and in different places. On page 8 of the article, Jon points out that some religions did not expand or change more rapidly in this time than in other times, specifically calling out the Presbyterians. He also points out that the expansion had many traces, "not just revivalism or "the Great Awakening".

On page 9, he points out that "the revivals provided little focus for intercolonial unity" and that "they appeared too erratically in too few colonies under too many different auspices". He continues "the eighteenth-century colonial wars are more appropriate candidates for the honor". On the top of page 149 in the text book in the Albany Congress section it says "But 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". This can show how the religious revivals did not give a greater sense of unity, but rather more division. Another point I'd like to draw focus to is the section Imperial Tensions on pages 152 and 153 where it talks about colonial volunteer soldier's unwillingness to serve under British chosen commanders, but rather deferred to colonial commanders. The British troops and the colonial militia did not get along with each other, often despising the other. This was a more feasible contribution to the American Revolution than the Great Awakening.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Religious Revival**by [Maria Cecilia Contreras Sanchez](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 10:27 PM

I agree with Jon Butler by suggesting that the Great Awakening was not a key to the American Revolution. As we know, The Great Awakening was a spiritual renewal that swept the America colonies, specially it occurred in New England. The Great Awakening was a result from the Glorious Fight, were they suppressed other religions. According to Butler, the Great Awakening was more like a demonstration on civil rights impacting the nation life (p.6). He is arguing that the Great Awakening did not have a specific date, historian used Whitefield's first appearance as a date of this "event". Butler point out that revivals swept only some of the mainland colonies, where they touched part of the population. Another important aspect is that Whitefield's play an important role in this revolution but for Butler, Whitefield's role was to be an evangelical model for its followers and promote in this way his revival of religion. As the book point out, he was an amateur actor and he was using his acting skills in his favor to convince the sinners (p.133). Also, we need to clarify that revivalism did not contribute the expansion of the colonial churches. One of the biggest importance of the Awakening was to prepare America for its independence. Colonist were preparing to confront religious authority.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Dylan Mecchi](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 10:59 PM

I agree with the Yes side of the argument made by Patricia U. Bonomi more because the American Revolution happened because everyone that set out for the New World was trying to either escape the religion they were forced into in England. The Great Awakening was a set of religious revivals spread across the colonies of America in the 1730's and 40's. The American Revolution was a revolt against England and one of the major reasons for that happening was to break away from the English religious views and start off on their own. Said in the article "the Great Awakening altered the social and political equilibrium of colonial life. Just as the revival marked a significant divide in popular thought and practice, so too it would supply the most pertinent and usable model for radical activists in the years that lay ahead. Many features of the Awakening foreshadowed what was to come." This excerpt talks about how the Great Awakening was one of the main events that turned America in the direction of a Revolution. It made Americans think about how they wanted to separate from the ideas of the british and start a whole new government that set their own rules on religion and way of life. Individualism played a huge role in breaking away from the old ruling and The Great Awakening started that up.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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**The Great Awakening, a revolution in it's own, but not key to The American Revolution**by [Morgan Graham](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:03 PM

After reading both sides I would have to agree with Jon Butler and say no it was not. The great awakening can just be described as a short-lived Calvinist revival in New England during the early 1740's. People make it seem like something much bigger then it is. "The Great Awakening" is also difficult to date so how can it be all that important if we don't even know the exact dates. In the packet, Butler says on page 7, "Yet even if one were to argue that The Great Awakening persisted through most of the eighteenth century, it is obvious that revivals only swept some of the mainland colonies. They occurred in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia..." So the this leaves out New Hampshire, Maryland, and Georgia. With a few occasionally important revivals in New York, Delaware, North Carolina, and South Carolina. This hardly seems like "The Great Awakening" that is key to the American Revolution. I think a lot of other, more important factors can be dubbed as keys to the American Revolution. In the packet it also talks about how historians have exaggerated the cohesion of leadership in the revivals. This makes me think what else could have been exaggerated. I think that this Great Awakening was a revolution in its own way, but not a key to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening, a revolution in it's own, but not key to The American Revolution**by [Lisa Schnabel](#) - Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 1:10 PM

Morgan, I concur with your account that the "Great Awakening" was a revolution in its own particular way, because of its fluid timing. Butler remarks on these ambiguous dates saying "Seldom has an 'event' of such magnitude had such amorphous (vague) beginnings and endings" (p. 6 of 10). He affirms that the revival happened around the 1740s. However, this takes me to the textbook where it states "The mainland (British colonies) also welcomed English revivalist and absorbed much of Britain's intellectual and political culture" (p. 126) which also took place in the mid-1740s. It was during this time that the British colonies were emulating the culture and values of Great Britain and also enjoying British goods. This is called Anglicization. This positive attitude toward Britain was revealed in that "the revivals created new cosmopolitan links with Britain and between colonies" (textbook 135). Furthermore, if there was such a favorable view of Britain at that time, why would the revivalist speak out against the empire's influence which happened around the same time of the "Great Awakening"?

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Great Awakening was not a key to American Revolution**by [Carlos Alvarez](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:33 PM

Jon Butler's "The Great Awakening As interpretative Fiction" has good reasons why the great awakening was not a key to the American Revolution. Jon Butler mentions that the great awakening is difficult to date when it actually began, and that revivalists were not swept through all around the colonies and were occasionally important in some states like New York, Delaware, North Carolina, and South Carolina. If the great awakening revivalists were a key to the American revolution, wouldn't revivalists be more wide spread in all of the states instead of them being occasionally important in less than half of the total 18th century states? I think in order for the great awakening to be a key to the American revolution, revivalists should have been more important to all of the states instead of a few. Jon Butler mentions that the revivalists social and political effects were kept to a minimal and usually kept local, as they created no intercolonial religious institutions and no promotion of significant involvement of unity throughout the colonies. Revivalists were blended into the social system and were somewhat widespread but did not break through the social systems structure. In my opinion, after reading Jon Butler's view whether the great awakening was a key to the American revolution, I would say that revivalists had no effects or major causes to the American revolution in any particular way.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2


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Re: Great Awakening was not a key to American Revolution

 by [Morgan Graham](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:35 PM

I agree with you Carlos. Revivals only happened in few colonies and some only in certain areas. How is that key to the American Revolution? I think that the revivalists kind of did their own thing and this was only made into a big deal later in history. I feel like in a lot of our textbooks and different things we learn about in school people take one little thing to focus on and blow it up into something bigger than it was. I feel like that is the case with The Great Awakening.

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The Great Awakening.... NO?

 by [Maggie Larson](#) - Monday, October 15, 2018, 11:47 PM

At this point in time, I am leaning towards siding with Jon Butler's opinion about the Great Awakening not being a key factor to the American Revolution. The point of his that stuck out to me the most was when he said "The relationship between prerevolutionary political change and the revivals is weak everywhere except in Virginia, where the Baptist revivals indeed shattered the exclusive, century-old Anglican hold on organized religious activity and politics in the colony. But, their importance to the Revolution is weakened by the fact that so many members of Virginia's Anglican aristocracy also led the Revolution." (Second to last paragraph, page 10) I found this interesting because I don't one hundred percent know completely if I trust that it wasn't a key to the Revolution but this makes me second guess it along with other things he mentioned. I also think Butler's written analysis is a bit more logical and makes more sense versus Patricia J. Bonomi's opinion for more reasons than one. Both articles I am reading in further detail.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Dylan Mecchi](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 7:57 PM

To further back up the claim that the First Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution is from the video about the Great Awakening and what it actually did. It speaks about how George Whitefield's sermons had great power over the American people and these sermons made the American citizens feel as though they are an individual rather than being tied with another country. "Ethnic barriers, racial barriers, gender barriers were cut across the line in the awakening" said by Stephen Stookey shows that these people finally connected across the board, no matter what skin color or gender they were. "And the first Great Awakening was that event that began many people on the path that thinking themselves as a separate people for the first time because this was a national event." said Barry Hankins. The fact that it finally got people thinking that they were actually their own nation and how it brought everyone together shows that it was one of the first steps into the idea that they could be their own nation. The First Great Awakening might not have been the sole reason why the American Revolution started, but, it definitely was a major key into the beginning of the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Lauren Rogers](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 7:08 PM

I wish that I could say I agree with you, as I too, thought that the Great Awakening had a greater role in the American Revolution after watching the video.

The video "The First Great Awakening" is very convincing, until you realize how over embellished it truly is.

The video claims that "The First Great Awakening was that event that 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"(5:56). The video also dares to say "That idea of individual experience of grace began to feed into emerging ideals of American independence"(Video 6:10). They say this as if they have great proof to how the Great Awakening was the cause of the American Revolution, but this "proof" becomes increasingly hard to believe.

While watching this video, I found it to be very informative and convincing as to the idea that the Great Awakening played a major role in the American Revolution, but after finding some hard to believe facts in the video, it makes it hard to believe that this video is at all credible. The video mentions that George Whitefield "preached over 18,000 sermons on American soil"(4:31). Which when you counter in the fact that he

supposedly didn't arrive in colonial America until 1739, and he died in 1770, he would have only held 11,315 sermons(3:25). That number comes from the idea that he held a sermon every single day.

This makes it hard to believe that the other facts in this video are what they are said to be. How much else in this video is exaggerated? Is any of what they claim the entire truth, or is it similar to the video we watched in class about John Newton, the slave trader? The video that claimed that he repented "over time" after a storm that nearly sunk his ship. That "over time" was actually over 30 years, which makes the story much less impactful and realistic.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Unification

by [Lisa Schnabel](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 8:43 PM

After reading the material on the website and watching the video of "The Great Awakening," I have been convinced that the revivalists did have an influence on the American Revolution. The greatest repercussion from the event was the "unifying drive which helped to create a 'national consciousness'"(website). Stephen Stookey in the video says "ethnic, racial, and gender barriers were cut across the line" (1:01) meaning a group of the population, represented by a variety of classes, had been united with a same purpose. Bonomi asserts "once having taken part in the dismantling of old institutions and 'the shaping of new ones' Americans at, every social level would find themselves less hesitant to do it again" (p. 5). Barry Hankins reiterates that the revivals caused "many people, on the path of thinking of themselves as a separate people, as a people for the first time because this was the first national event" (video 0:41). This concept is emphasized again with this statement: "The religious revival of the Great Awakening melded the colonists in a way that would not have been possible otherwise" (website). In conclusion, "The Great Awakening" did start a concept of nationalism among many of the colonist and began the unification of the American people.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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Re: Unification

by [Maria Cecilia Contreras Sanchez](#) - Thursday, October 18, 2018, 10:24 PM

I am partly in agreement with you, but I think the article also wants us to say that if the Great Awakening had an important participation. In the video they give us some very good reasons why this event played an important role. In the video, we mention Edward and Whitefield and their involvement in this awakening. At the end of the video it is said that this event energized the cause of the American Revolution. On the other hand, the website mentions that it was one of the factors by which the revolution began. What strikes me is that it is mentioned that the awakening was a rebellion against the

religious government. It is clear that afterwards it is mentioned that it also affected the political and cultural life of the country, which helped to change the mentality and practices of the inhabitants.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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The Great Awakening Had an Impact, but not a Great One.

by [Lauren Rogers](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 10:48 AM

After reading the article "Significance of the Great Awakening: Roots of Evolution" and watching the video, I have become more convinced that the Great Awakening played a larger role than I initially thought. The Great Awakening brought "a unifying drive which helped to create a 'national consciousness'"("Significance of the Great Awakening" article paragraph 3). With this said, I still believe that the Great Awakening is not the main reason for the American Revolution. I think that the Great Awakening brought some much needed unity and the means to separate, but I don't think it caused the American Revolution.

Although I do not believe the Great Awakening is the sole cause for the American Revolution, it did have an impact similar to the one the animals had on the relationship between the colonists and the Native Americans. In "Creatures of Empire", I learned that the animals would trample the Native American crops and never stay within the colonists land("Creatures of Empire Synopsis" page 3). This caused great tension between them, especially when the colonists wouldn't help solve the problem. This played a role in the relationship between the colonists and the Native American, but it wasn't the only thing that led to the conflict between them.

This is similar to the Great Awakening because although unity was brought and the ability to separate became more realistic, the colonists had other reasons to separate from Europe. The colonists had grown tired of their Mother Country throwing taxes at them. These taxes were for things that wouldn't even benefit the colonists such as the Navigation Acts, as well as taxes they actively opposed such as the border tax. The colonists suffered greatly when the British soldiers came to New York. New York's economy grew, but when the soldiers left, it left New York in an economic depression. The Mother Country was not being the loving mother that it should have been for the colonists, and that is what made the colonists want to separate, not just for religious freedom that they already partially had.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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Re: The Great Awakening Had an Impact, but not a Great One.

by [Maria Cecilia Contreras Sanchez](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 7:09 PM

I agree with you. First because analyzing the video specifically I felt a bit bias. Three of the people are church professors, of which two are Baptists, then there are three other people without identification. What caught my attention was one of the interviewees was an author and lecturer, and two more are history teachers.

But leaving that aside in the video mentions the following, J. Stanley Lemons says "in

part he (Jonathan Edwards) stimulate religion further .."

Which means that only part but not entirely. Likewise at the end it is mentioned that the great awakening was only a pre-cause of the revolution.

But I also have to accept that the video gives very good reasons to believe that the great awakening was the main factor for the revolution, although I still have a little doubt about the video.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Awakening an important factor.

by [Maria Cecilia Contreras Sanchez](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 6:44 PM

After having read the two new materials in which it is said that The Great Awakening was one of the main reasons for the American Revolution. In the article it is mentioned that this event not only had repercussions in the religious sphere but also in the cultural and political aspects (4). Mention is also made about a change of mentality in people. Mention is also made of the priority of the great awakening was to go against the English thoughts and religion, to be able to exert a religious control. While their religious interest was not complacent they would remain strong. These feelings helped in the revolution as well as their feelings of self-government (p.7)

Now focusing on the video which speaks mainly in two characters, Jonathan Edwards and John Whitefield. At the beginning we talk about Edwards and as an impact to the unconverted people. He taught three exciting things; The grace, personal responsibilities and renewal conversions. Then talk about Whitefield and its impressive way of attracting crowds. Which is also mentioned in the book. Both the book and the video mention the following: "He could seduce crowd just by the way to pronounce" Mesopotamia "(book page 133) (Video 3:58) Another important aspect mentioned in the video is that thanks to the great The slaves were free and white / black were educated, as well as the barriers of ethnicity and gender were cut across the awakening. Many people were treated as people for the first time, which made them feel energized.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2



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Re: The Great Awakening

by [Lisa Schnabel](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 8:47 PM

Another area that changed my mind to agree with Bonomi, was the evidence that the first "Great Awakening" might have happened as a reaction against the English Enlightenment movement. "The two major streams of thought shaping western religious belief in the eighteenth-century—Enlightenment rationalism and Continental pietism were by the 1720s reaching increasing numbers of Americans through the world of print" (p. 2). This rebellious spirit was stirred up by a few of the religious leaders during that time. This was seen "in 1722, [when] the entire faculty [Yale], except for 19-year-old Jonathan Edwards, converted to the Church of England" (p. 129). Edwards, a "great intellectual" (lecture 10/18) still stood his ground in his protest against the English Enlightenment. Edwards later "touched off a revival in 1734 and 1735 that rocked dozens of Connecticut Valley towns" (p. 132)

highlighting him as one of the leaders who “played a critical role in the first Great Awakening” (lecture 10/18). This “major effect of the Awakening was a rebellion against authoritarian religious rule which spilled over into other areas of colonial life” (website) manifesting the spirit of individualism. That spirit would find its voice, not only through personal conversion but, also through the belief that the colonies could be governed by their own leaders.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**The Great Awakening - NO.**by [Maggie Larson](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 11:19 PM

To follow up my previous post that I believe the Great Awakening was not a key to the Revolutionary war, I'd like to add that I believe the war would have started with or without the revivals. The revivals didn't change the fact that the British wanted money from the colonists to compensate them for the French & Indian war and it certainly didn't do anything to put a representative for the colonists in parliament. In his essay Butler says historians should do away with the term "Great Awakening " altogether because it doesn't paint an accurate picture of what religion was like in 18th century America. He clarifies that by saying that the term itself misinterprets it's relationship to pre-revolutionary american society and politics. That from a religious standpoint it brought together all these groups that had different viewpoints and politically tries to indicate that they all came together with the purpose of planning and preparing for the Revolutionary war. Mr Butler also made note of the fact that saying the revivals "swept" through the colonies is completely inaccurate because in reality there were states that only saw a few revivals and even in the states where there were more held, such as Connecticut, Rhode island, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and New Jersey there were still only so many people in each. I am sure the Great Awakening impacted people in ways that religion always influences people's lives and decisions but as for it playing a key factor, I just can't agree. Whether or not people newly embraced the Lord or their religion doesn't change the fact that when it came right down to it the colonists left Britain for the new land because they wanted a new life that better reflected their hopes and dreams.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2

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Re: The Great Awakening - NO.

 by [Morgan Graham](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:31 PM

I agree with you in saying that the war would have happened with or without the revivals. There were many other reasons that the colonists wanted to break away from the British, such as economic gain and the British still wanted compensation for the French and Indian war. To condense the American Revolution into one key factor is silly to me. The founding of America is usually described as people escaping religious prosecution but I think it boils down to a lot more than that. They wanted a new country that was run differently than Britain and not just religion wise.

 Sum of ratings: **0 (1)**

0


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the great awakening, why it's not a key, revivalism didn't expand churches

 by [Morgan Graham](#) - Friday, October 19, 2018, 11:28 PM

Another point to add onto why I agree with Jon Butler in why The Great Awakening wasn't the main key to the American Revolution is because according to the textbook, the movement peaked DURING the American Revolution and for a few decades after that (chapter 4 pg 112). If it wasn't even in its peak before the American Revolution how could it be the key that started it? Another thing that Butler says is "revivalism never was the key to the expansion of colonial churches" (handout from class pg 8). This says to me that the revivals were not all that important in the expansion of the churches because The Great Awakening can be described as a series of revivals. If that wasn't even a key part to expanding the colonial churches how can it be key to the American Revolution? Also, many new colonists settled in communities that lacked religious institutions. If communities lacked the very thing that is said to start the American Revolution it wasn't much of a key. I think colonists were occupied with a lot more stuff than just religion.

 Sum of ratings: **1 (1)**

1


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Re: the great awakening, why it's not a key, revivalism didn't expand churches

 by [Canaan Staley](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 8:23 PM

I disagree with you saying it's "not a key". Saying it's not "a" key is false. Of course it had impact on the American Revolution, religion has an impact on people's hearts and causes them to do different things. Even in the constitution, it says "God given rights". It definitely had an effect on the people's decisions. It doesn't have to be at its peak for it to be a key; the same way a spark plug is to a car (or even a key). It's a very small part of the car, but has a big impact on how well it's going to start or work.

 Sum of ratings: **1 (1)**

1


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Re: the great awakening, why it's not a key, revivalism didn't expand churches

 by [Morgan Graham](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10:16 PM

Hey Canaan, thanks for responding. In this argument I made, I actually said it wasn't a "main key." I guess towards the end of this post I can see where it looks like I'm saying it's not a key at all. Also in my title I meant to write "main key" I guess I missed that (whoops!) In other posts on this forum I've actually said that I do think The Great Awakening was a key, just not the main one.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Dylan Mecchi](#) - Saturday, October 20, 2018, 8:05 PM

To back up Patricia U. Bonomi's claim that the First Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution is that the colonies did not view their form of government to be from God to the king and then to the people but more as God to the people and then the authority. "The effect of Great Awakening unity was an attitude that went against the deferential thinking that consumed English politics and religion. 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 chain of authority no longer ran from God to ruler to people, but from God to people to ruler." said in the Great Awakening website. This explains how the way of thinking in the colonies was different to the way of thinking was in England and that people would listen to a God and base their lives off of that instead of listening to a king and following the rules of that king. Another point is that many people in the American colonies did not like the idea of having to follow one religion and not having the freedom to practice other religions was not apart of their agenda. Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Delaware, and New Jersey had no established church and that made it so the population could practice religion freely. This was a major factor for making the American people see themselves as an individual people and break away from British control. Religious diversity played a major role in the process towards the American Revolution because it completely did the opposite of what England was doing. In England there was a king that established a church and that's what the people had to follow. There was no choice in practicing a religion. The fact that one could not choose their own religion in England in these times meant that the king had full control on how people lived.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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