

HST 201: US History F19 (Escobar)

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The Debate Continues

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 11:02 AM

NEW MATERIALS, short videoclips and a website, are now available on the [Forum Materials and Questions webpage](#).

To make your POSTS using these new materials, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which specific historian or source you are using and whether they support the YES or NO position in the debate. Do NOT simply leave it RE: The Debate Continues

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Certainly a "pre-cause" but not the Key

by [Eric Runes](#) - Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 6:52 PM

After watching the supplementary videos on the Great Awakening I stand by my original opinions that The Great Awakening was not the "key" to the American Revolution. The historians in the seven minute video point out that the Great Awakening was the first national event in American history, and the first time that people from the separate colonies felt united as one people (6:10). They go on to describe this new era of revivals creating an "idea of individual experience that began to merge into ideals of American

independence, and American individualism"(6:20). Finally the documentary clip ends with the emphatic statement that "Religion can be seen as a pre-cause of the revolution". While it would be hard to disagree that the revivals had a major impact on the American population at the time, I see this as only the very first step. To use an analogy , the revivals were equivalent to a boxer changing their diet in order to begin training for a fight. In order to get the most out of the training, and therefore win the fight, a proper diet has to be maintained. However, in this case the Great Awakenings were neither the training itself, and certainly not the fight. One of the first sentences of the final documentary about an unfinished nation points out that the spirit of enlightenment competed with the spirit of awakening. The point is then made that this was a group of people very concerned with progress, prolonging societal growth, and very conscious of preventing decline (3:00). It wasn't just one area of religious progress that gave America its identity leading into the revolution. As the video clip points out it was a constant struggle to grow, culturally, politically, economically, educationally, as well as spiritually. To use my analogy again these other areas of progress America was going through at the time, filled out the training regime. It was not one single area of growth that shaped America into the fighter it needed to be for the upcoming American revolution.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Yes**by [Patryce Miller](#) - Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 9:08 PM

It seems to me that all of the historians in these videos are supporting that the Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution. Especially historians in the First video called The First Great Awakening. One of the professors said that "Religion can be seen as a kind of backdrop or pre-cause of the American Revolution"(web video The First Great Awakening 6:33). This comment right there shows that they support the idea because it was at the end of the video. But it wasn't the only one, it happens throughout the video not just at the end. When Barry Hankins (Assoc. Professor of History and Church-State Studies) said, " the First Great Awakening was that event began, many people on the path, **to thinking themself as a separate people as a people for the first time** because **this was the first national event in American history**"(web video The First Great Awakening 5:55). He was saying that the revival got the Idea going of independence and help us move forward towards the event of our independence from England. Making me agree more with Professor Patricia U. Bonomi then I was at the beginning of this form.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: textbook historian and the great awakening**by [Patryce Miller](#) - Saturday, October 26, 2019, 7:33 PM

The historian barely talked about the American Revolution when they were talking about the Great Awakening. They mention only two times about the Revolution during the Great Awakening section of the textbook. one of them is "the movement peaked during the American Revolution and for a few decades after it"(textbook p.134). And the other one is "the Methodists, who grew at an astonishing rate as heirs of the collapsing Church of England during and after the Revolution"(textbook p.137). Both don't give a lot of information on the American Revolution and how the Great awakening affected it. With this information in mind, I will have to say the Historians of the textbook agrees with professor Jon Bulter on that the Great awakening is not a key point in the American revolution.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) 1[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Historical facts and truth**by [Patryce Miller](#) - Saturday, October 26, 2019, 8:37 PM

In my opinion, I will have to say the experts in the web video First Great Awakening. They talked about how the great awakening affected the revolution will the other skimmed or just went over it. Stephen Stookey mention "the idea of an individual experience of grace began to feed into the emerging ideals of American independence and American individualism"(web video First great awakening 6:09-6:19). While others don't even mention the relationships they have with each other they talk about one or other. like the textbook, the historians said that "the revivals transformed American religious life" and that "the movement peaked during the American Revolution and for a few decades after it"(textbook p,137). This is true but they never explain more about what happened to the Awakening in the American revolution and why. Like religion had nothing to do with it, in a time where religion was a big part of their life still.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) 1[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**No it was not a key to the American Revolution**by [Sebastian Mertens](#) - Thursday, October 24, 2019, 8:21 PM

Although in my last post I had agreed that the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution, after reading over more of the posts that had been posted watching more videos and looking more in depth at the second article I have come to change my view on the Great Awakening and its influence on the American Revolution. I do think the Great Awakening was a significant part of American history however, I don't believe it was large enough to have had a big enough effect as to impact or be a key to the American Revolution. I did not really take much of the information from the second article into thought after reading the first one, as the points that Patrica U. Bonomi made seemed to have made more sense to me, but now that I look at it it doesn't seem that the Great Awakening had as large of an effect on every colony and instead just on some "Yet even if one were to argue that the Great Awakening persisted through most of the eighteenth century, it is obvious that revivals "swept" only some of the mainland colonies."(second article page 7). The also large jump in population between 1700 and 1770 and where the new colonists settled was another key point that I over looked when first reading over the second article, "The growth of the colonial from fewer than three hundred thousand in 1700 to over two million in 1770 made the expansion of even the most modestly active denominations highly likely. This was especially true because so many new colonists did not settle in established communities but in new communities that lacked religious institutions."(article 2 page 8). The Great Awakening may have changed a lot of colonists views and ideas on religion and made them more willing to stand up and push for change but I no longer believe it had a big enough impact that affected enough people or even lasted long enough to have made as big of an impact to have been a key to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#) 2[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**First Great Awakening Video: Yes, Textbook Historians: No**by [Connor Eden](#) - Friday, October 25, 2019, 10:44 AM

In this video historians seem to find themselves on the side of The Great Awakening being a precursor to the American Revolution. Towards the end of the video Barry Hankins associate professor at Baylor states that the Great Awakening was the event that sent many people on the path to thinking of themselves as a separate people for the first time. Stephen Skooly, an associate professor at Southwestern Baptist says that the idea of individual religious experience began to bleed over into ideals of american independence and american individualism. The last historian, whose name wasn't given, then says that this movement energized people and encouraged them to speak up and overthrow ministers they didn't like and that because of the social factor religion played at this time that it could be seen as a precursor to the american revolution. All of these show a pretty obvious pro great awakening as a precursor bias, the bit from the last historian influenced my answer most because he made it perfectly clear about how he felt. In the textbook section 4-4d, titled Long-Term Consequences of the Revivals it makes no mention of it being a precursor to the american revolution. This is a large divergence of opinion from the video to textbook so it begs questions such as, does the video predate some new information about the Revivals? Does our current cultural view of religion in association to politics affect the textbook historians analysis?

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I believe that Professor of history Patricia U. Bonomi is right she likes the idea of having the people figure out what they believe and that is what concept we use today. She seems to think that by giving the people the option to choose who and what they believe will create less conflict.

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Towards the end of Thursdays class Professor Escobar put up a slide, and touched on two rivaling schools of thought during the time period. The first was the "Great Awakening" which we have been studying and debating all week, the second was referred to as "The Enlightenment" which was an equally important yet fundamentally different area of growth. Where the Awakening led to the rise of individualism and re-invigorated religion, the Enlightenment led to new schools of thought on politics, economics, and education. One of the most poignant pieces of Jon Butlers essays to me was his point that it was difficult to link the revivals of the awakening to anti British sentiment (pg.9). I took Jon Butlers point and linked it to the video clip from the unfinished nation divergent path video where the historian references the mindset of the enlightenment by stating "These were people very concerned with progress, prolonging growth, and preventing decline"(3:00). Finally after reading chapter 5 and having a better understanding of the actions Britain took in the last 10 years before the American revolution, I have full confidence in my belief the Great Awakening was not the key. Throughout chapter 5 there is one incident after another where Britain attempted to impose new taxes and regulations, and tighten control over the colonies. Continuously the colonists find new ways to "fight back" whether it be through economic protest, political legislation, active resistance, or even property destruction. However, through it all the goal was to restore the colonies to the way they were before 1766 not to leave Britain, and start a new country. To me the actions of the colonists

between 1766 and 1776 demonstrate the mindset of the enlightenment where economic progress, and preventing decline influenced decisions far more then the Great Awakening where a religious fervor spread and led to decisions based on individualism.

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Historians Agree

by [Riley McQueen](#) - Saturday, October 26, 2019, 3:55 PM

The historians in the first video are supportive of the idea that the Great Awakening was key. They state that the events of the Great Awakening brought in people who were influenced by George Whitefield and others and made them feel like one. Historian Barry Hankins, an associate professor at Baylor University, says that the Great Awakening was where "many people began the path of thinking of themselves as a separate people, as a people for the first time" (video 5:58). This was one of the first times that these colonists saw themselves differently, it brought them together for a cause they believed in. The same thing happened in the 1760's and 70's for the American Revolution. The historians in the video are mainly talking about the religious impacts and influential people in the Great Awakening movement but they make sure to point out that it had an influence on those colonists fighting for independence.

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Review of the website page

by [Sebastian Mertens](#) - Saturday, October 26, 2019, 4:30 PM

After looking at the website page I have come to the conclusion that the website seems to support the Great Awakening being a key to the American Revolution. It really emphasizes how the Great Awakening really brought together the colonists "The religious revival of the Great Awakening melded the colonists in a way that would not have been possible otherwise." (<http://www.great-awakening.com/roots-of-revolution/>) and how overall it was a moajor cause of the colonists eventual need to break away from King George III "The children of revivalism later echoed this radicalism and popular self-righteousness in the American Revolution" (<http://www.great-awakening.com/roots-of-revolution/>). This article did make me think more of the Great Awakening and I now think it could have had some impact on the events leading to the American Revolution. However even after reading this page of the website it was still not enough to completly change my belief that the Great Awakening wasn't a key to the American Revolution. I still feel that it just did not impact enough of the colonists or have even a great enough impact on the colonists it did to trigger or be a key to soemthing as big as the American Revolution.

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Great Awakening Website

by [Riley McQueen](#) - Saturday, October 26, 2019, 9:51 PM

The Great Awakening website takes the stance that the Great Awakening was key to the American Revolution. It starts by saying "Though a religious movement, the Awakening had repercussions in cultural and political spheres as well" (<http://www.great-awakening.com/roots-of-revolution/>). The Great Awakening started a movement that was able to be used for different causes. The movement "melded the colonists in a way that would not have been possible otherwise" (<http://www.great-awakening.com/roots-of-revolution/>). Before the Great Awakening American colonists believed that they were all bound together and that they needed to self-sacrifice, when the movement started that thinking changed. The website also said "the children of revivalism later echoed this radicalism and popular self-righteousness in the American Revolution" (<http://www.great-awakening.com/roots-of-revolution/>). They took the ideas that helped start the movement and used them in the Revolution. After I read this page it just confirmed my thinking on this issue. The Great Awakening was a key part in the American Revolution, it was a small movement that led to major changes in the colonists' way of life.

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