

HST 201: US History F19 (Escobar)

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The Discussion Continues

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 9:43 PM

NEW MATERIALS, quotes from other historians and 2 short videoclips, 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 Discussion Continues

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Yes Again

by [Connor Eden](#) - Thursday, November 21, 2019, 2:50 PM

The informed opinions of these historians helped to make me more sure of my original opinion on whether or not the War for Independence was a conservative movement. Daniel Boorstin and Clinton Rossiter made the most sound arguments to me. They reaffirmed my conclusion from the previous post that the colonists were incredibly fond of British institutions listed by Mr. Boorstin "trial by jury due, due process of law, representation before taxation, habeas corpus, freedom from attainder, independence of the judiciary and

rights to free speech, petition and assembly." The colonists were protecting the rights they had enjoyed their whole lives from what they saw as encroachment upon them by the crown. This encroachment became egregious enough for the Patriots to justify war to retain their liberties.

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Still think the Revolution was not conservative

by [Sebastian Mertens](#) - Thursday, November 21, 2019, 9:37 PM

After reading over the documents and watching the two video clips I have come to decided that I still believe that the American Revolution was still far more radical than it was conservative. Although some of the documents did start to make me lean more towards the revolution being conservative after I watched the videos it reassured me that the Revolution was in my opinion more radical. In the first video Jon Butler goes to say that without almost any planning the Americans had started a Revolution "that transformed the nature of the old 17th century colonies, first of all Americans had developed a new political order they effectively developed legislatures" (video one 1:59 seconds in). Although I do agree that we kept some things from the old colonies in terms of some forms of government and individual rights I believe that just those alone are not enough to consider the American Revolution a conservative revolution.

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John Richard Alden

by [Logan Yetts](#) - Thursday, November 21, 2019, 10:22 PM

After reading these historians, I am more sure of my original position that the American Revolution was not a conservative revolution. I think the historian that made the most convincing argument of the American Revolution being a "real" revolution was the historian John Richard Alden. He argues the American Revolution was not a conservative revolution because of how profoundly it "affected the course of the future, not only for the Americans, but for all other peoples." It was the first break in the European colonial model and inspired many other colonials to seek freedom. Although some of the improvements on true equality and Democratization for all people would actually take much longer to achieve, they "made a good start on the long road toward establishing and securing 'the rights of mankind.'" I agree with this argument and think that the major long-lasting changes politically and culturally deem the American Revolution worthy of being called a "real" revolution.

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Not a conservative movement: New developments

by [Sara Montiel](#) - Thursday, November 21, 2019, 11:18 PM

Another historian that added onto my decision that the American Revolution was not a conservative movement was Jon Butler from Yale University. In the video clip "American Revolution #1," He goes on to say how so much change was occurring even during the revolution. He stated that the "Americans had developed a new political order, they had effectively developed legislature. When you add together a new kind of political order and american materialism and the development of a widely broadcast new world

economy and when you add to that different nationalities you had a society that looked utterly unlike old world society. This was a revolutionary society, not yet revolutionary in political principle but revolutionary in social contact, revolutionary in its economy, revolutionary in its politics it was a modern society" (Jon Butler, Yale University). America was beginning to develop new practices and things were beginning to change. The revolution was not a conservative movement and that is shown through all the change that was being brought about during the war. Not only was America changing politically during the war but even after the American Revolution political ideas and views changed. Since they were no longer ruled by Britain, they were free to create their own kind of central government & even women gained more rights after the revolution.

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Conservatism at the Heart of the Revolution

by [Abraham Millan](#) - Friday, November 22, 2019, 1:49 PM

The dynamics of the Revolution from point of view still remains conservative. "However radical the principles of the Revolution may have seemed to the world, in the minds of the colonists they were thoroughly preservative and respectful of the past", as Professor Kemp said the video the colonists were proud to be British. Colonists that learned about the Magna Carta and grow up with philosophy of John Locke's ideals of rights.

The rights that the colonists were fighting for weren't "new" rights. As the historian Daniel Boorstin says "The Revolution itself had been a kind of affirmation of faith in ancient British institutions." The ideals the historian also provides as "British" weren't foreign or new ideas of rights, colonists hadn't seen before. Ideas such as, trial by jury, due process of law, representation before taxation, and freedom of speech. These rights weren't brand new or ideals the colonist had never experienced but instead British rights that colonist had learned to embrace.

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Hamilton's Plan- The Impulse of Hamilton and Jefferson

by [Tuyen Thanh Diep](#) - Friday, November 22, 2019, 3:02 PM

The short clip "Hamilton's Plan" (Web Video 8:40) shows a heated debate between the pro-federalist faction and the anti-federalist faction, Hamilton and Jefferson. As I see it, Hamilton requires the central government to be strong enough to act in the interests of commerce and industry. He brought to everyone the sympathy for efficiency and organizational order. In addition, he introduced and supported principles not only of the state economy, but also of strong and effective government.

Despite this, Hamilton made it clear that the United States must have a budget for industrial development, commercial activities and government activities. The United States must also have the full faith and support of the people. There have been many who wish to reject national debt or pay only a portion of it. However, Hamilton was determined to demand full repayment of the debt and also demanded a plan by which the federal government took over the unpaid debts of the states suffered during the revolution.

As I researched, Hamilton argued that the constitution gave the national government the power to set and collect taxes, pay debts and borrow money. The national bank will provide material assistance in performing

these functions effectively. Therefore, according to the implied powers, Congress was given the right to establish such a bank. Washington and Congress were ready to accept at Hamilton's position and thus a premise for an expanded explanation of the power of the federal government.

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The Revolution Still Revolutionary

by [Curtis Nordquist](#) - Saturday, November 23, 2019, 5:02 PM

No, the Revolution was not a conservative movement; I still think it was revolutionary. The Revolution DID still make a lot of severe, new, and un-"usual" moves, changing history forever for many countries. Society changed the most, as **John Richard Alden** ("The American Revolution," 1954) suggests, the Revolution "...brought the first break in the European colonial system". We were the first country to separate from the so-called "protection" (neglect) of the king (Alden). This movement allowed everyone of all races and genders to "seek freedom from European domination" by this historical change in its governing system (Alden). The Revolution brought about "for the first time in modern history, [a] republican system of government" (Alden), so essentially, we *divorced* King George and created our own fully functioning completely different governing system. The Revolution helped patriots acquire the "rights to mankind" (Alden), which no one truly had under King George. Even though **Franklin Jameson** ("The American Revolution Considered as a Social Movement," 1940) considers the Revolution to have "fall[en] far short of complete democracy," he did admit that movements, such as the "right to suffrage (vote) was much extended," and that special rights were even given to "all owners of either land or personal property" instead of the European model of land lords and barons, etc. This is a severe social change, and done so by force by a people that was lower than the king.

("The American Revolution Considered as a Social Movement," 1940)

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by [Taylor Hunter-Rogers](#) - Saturday, November 23, 2019, 6:54 PM

In the first video, Jon Butler said "This was a revolutionary society, not yet revolutionary in political principal, but revolutionary in social context, revolutionary in it's economy, in it's politics it was a modern society" This I believe strenthens my point of the American Revolution not being a conservative movement. Also, in the second video Gordon Wood says "The American Revolution was the most important event in American history, it not only legally created the nation in 1776, but it infused into our culture all of our noblest ideals, our highest aspirations, our belief in equality, our belief in liberty, our belief in happiness in ordinary people, our belief in constitutionalism all these things came out of the revolution." and I believe that to be true as well. Both of these gentlemen give great example onto why the America revolution was in fact not a conservative movement but rather a extreme change in the 18th century that changed history completely. (More quotes from Gordon Wood in my original Forum Post.)

Thank you for reading, feedback is always appreciated.

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Why the Revolution is still not a conservative movement

by [Gabe Waisanen](#) - Saturday, November 23, 2019, 7:35 PM

When reading the historians quotes, and watching the videos, I believe the revolution is still not a conservative movement, and was as radical as ever. Reading the quotes actually further persuaded me to agree with Gordan S. Wood on his take of why the American Revolution was not conservative. A quote that better exemplifies why the American Revolution was a social movement that caused a radical war, was when J. Franklin Jameson said, "The status in which the electoral franchise was left at the end of the Revolutionary period fell far short of complete democracy. Yet during the years of we are the considering, the right to suffrage (vote) was much extended. The Freeholder, or owner of real estate, was given social privileges in four of the new states constitutions, two others widened the suffrage to include all owners of either land or personal property to a certain limit, and two other conferred it upon tax-payers." These rights that occurred during the Revolution that changed how people developed socially, led to many social changes in the revolutionary war, sparked a uprising, and a more radical movement.

When watching video clip #1 in the forum 3 materials, Jon Butler from Yale University, said "First of all, American's had developed a new political order, that effectively developed legislatures, and the American politics was marvelously participatory in it's character" (2:11-2:25). When I viewed this clip, Butler said it in a convincing and effective way, he wants me to believe that America developing this new system to pass laws, effected social groups/customs in the Revolution that sparked a new economy in America, and changed the way America would be run in the future.

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