

HST 201: US History F19 (Escobar)

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The Great Awakening

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The Great Awakening

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, October 18, 2019, 12:29 PM

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IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

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Religion is a Likely Agent of Radicalism

by [Brontae Sodeman](#) - Monday, October 21, 2019, 11:21 AM

I agree most with Bonomi's perspective. The Great Awakening seemed to have enforced a sense of individualism in the colonists that wasn't present in European society. The Second Great Awakening has some to do with the colonists becoming aware of how intertwined the church and government are. That creates an obviously corrupt system, or an overly advantaged one. Bonomi mentions how the eighteenth century started with a number of religious controversies, leading up to the change of consciousness.

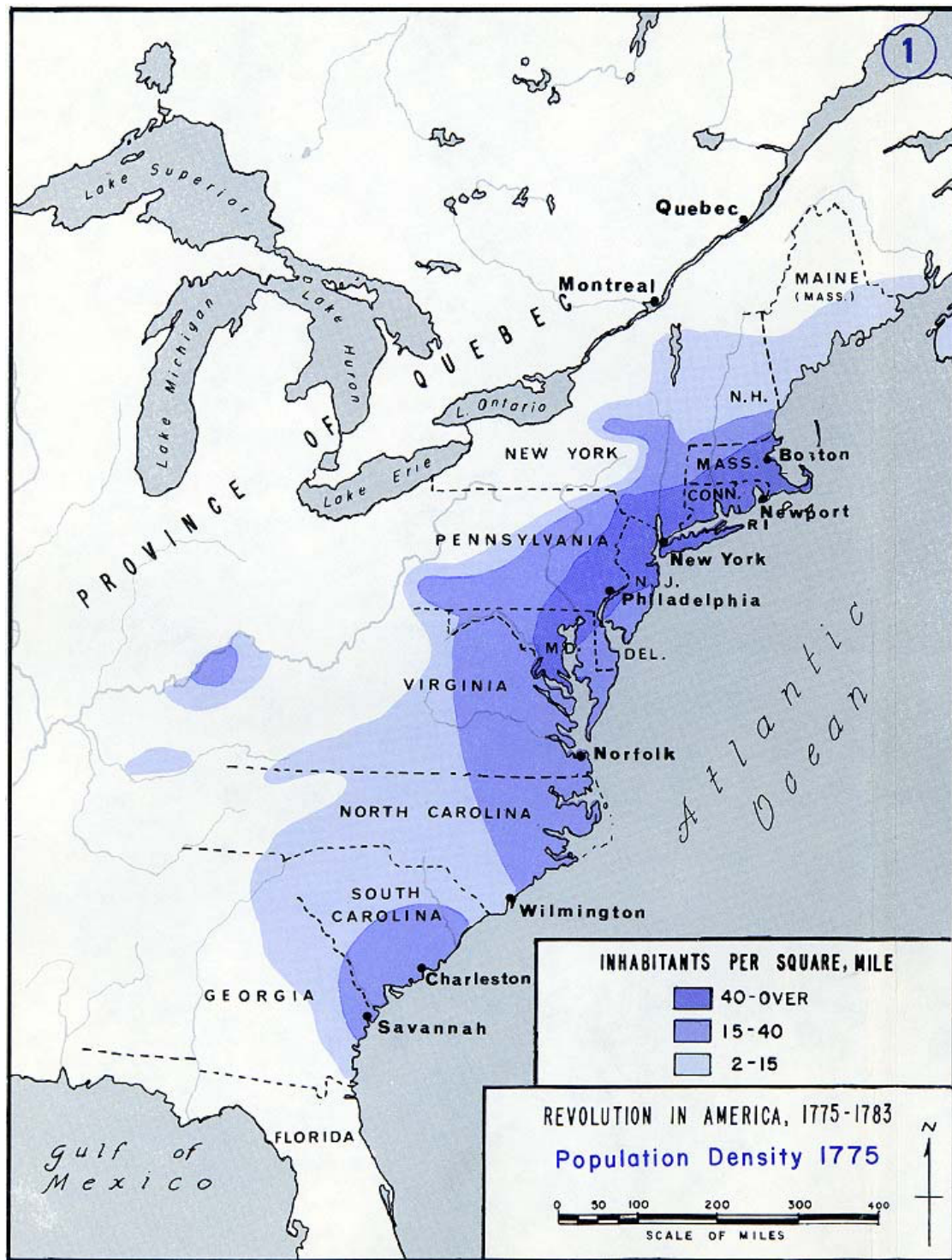
The accelerating market, new environment, land opportunities and diversity created an unprecedented climate for combative personalities. "The Great Awakening created conditions uniquely favorable to social and political, as well as religious, reform by piercing the façade of civility and deference that governed

provincial life to usher in a new age of contentiousness." (Bonomi 4). Shifting values supported the separatists and they found their allies among the people, very similar to the American Revolution's argument. Parallel churches created a sense of old versus new that would reappear in the 1760s-70s. Through community churches, their followers were encouraged to make personal decisions creating a new air of defiant individualism. Religion is often an agent of radicalism and towards the 1750s, ministers were stripped of their connection with God and it was decided only the creator can see into the heart. This gave power to the people that would later encourage them to separate from England entirely.

Sum of ratings: [3 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**No**by [alex Henshen](#) - Monday, October 21, 2019, 11:38 AM

I agree with Jon butler's opinion that the great awakening was not a key part of the American revolution. I don't find the great awakening important because it only accrued during 1740-1743(essay) and only effected some of the colonies. Also "the prerevolutionary revivals should be understood primarily as regional events that occurred in only half the colonies."(essay). In other words before the revolution the colonies accrued in small parts of the colonies. Therefore the great awakening was not as important as some think.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Jon Butler's "half the colonies"**by [Brontae Sodeman](#) - Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 7:05 PM



I attached the image above (<https://brilliantmaps.com/population-density-1775/>) to prove that where the Second Great Awakening took place, is related to population density and literacy. Northern states are proven to be more literate because Bible's were more accessible (Escobar), making most educated persons being involved in the change of perspective. The revolutionary war began in New England because of the denser population and effective spread of religious radicalism. Jon Butler states, "the prerevolutionary revivals should be understood primarily as regional events that occurred in only half the colonies." but most of the educated population are located in those colonies. Saying there's no relation at all, seems like a reach.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: No**by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 10:30 AM

You make a great point that The Great Awakening was a bit scattered in timing and location. I would argue that religion is very profound in all the Colonist's lives and the spark of The Great Awakening did in turn help start the events of the American Revolution. Sure there was a time gap, but it never cooled down. After the events of the French and Indian War (1754-63), the British taxed the Colonists to the point of rebellion. With the idea to communicate this revolutionary ideology from The Great Awakening still present in the minds of many, Colonists (mostly from the North) decided to rebel the Crown. The Great Awakening helped spark the idea of rebellion.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: No**by [Bryce Turney](#) - Saturday, October 26, 2019, 4:02 PM

The Great Awakening wasn't huge in the other colonies like it was with Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia, but Butler still mentions how New Hampshire, Maryland and Georgia witnessed some revivals (p. 7 Butler). I think for it to still reach this many colonies shows that the Awakening had a domino effect leading up to the American Revolution.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening**by [Clay Noteboom](#) - Monday, October 21, 2019, 1:12 PM

One quote of Bonomi's immediately stood out to me: "Religion has always been considered a likely agent of radicalism." It does seem true even today that folks are more willing to do something radical in the name of religion more than any other ideal. She goes on to discuss how the "insurgent minority" must fight to overcome the "orthodox majority." I'm not quite ready to take a stand on the main question, but I definitely view religion as a motivator that gets people to do extraordinary acts, including acts of violence.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**The Great Awakening- Yes, Patricia U. Bomoni**by [Taylor Hunter-Rogers](#) - Monday, October 21, 2019, 8:27 PM

Q: Was the Great Awakening a Key to the American Revolution?

A: Yes, I have to agree with Patricia in this argument. Many events happened due to the Great Awakening and caused tension in communities, and governments. Patricia says on page 2 "The Great Awakening created conditions uniquely favorable to social and political, as well as religious, reform by piercing the

facade of civility and deference that governed provincial life to usher a new age of contentiousness" and "Before it subsided, the revival had unsettled the lives of more Americans and disrupted more institutions than and other single event in history." I believe both of those statements to be true especially the second quote, The Great Awakening opened up peoples minds and caused this great deal of intimidation, she continues on page 3 with, "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."

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(YES) The Great Awakening did help start the American Revolution

by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Monday, October 21, 2019, 9:09 PM

I agree with Patricia J. Bonomi that the Great Awakening help start the events that started the American Revolution. Bonomi stated that, "The Great Awakening created conditions uniquely favorable to social and political, as well as religions,..." (page 2, paragraph 4). Religion was a big part in what made The Great Awakening what it was. It made the American Colonists believe that God was working within what would later become the United States. The Awakening provided a way for the colonist to communicate this revolutionary ideology that would later become the American Revolution.

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manifest destiny

by [Brontae Sodeman](#) - Friday, October 25, 2019, 11:41 AM

The way you worded "that God was working within" reminded me of how the colonists viewed western expansion. The whole point of the Manifest Destiny is that God told them western expansion is justified and inevitable. Though expansion wasn't necessarily their first goal in the 1730s but the religious perspective is very similar.

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Re: (YES) The Great Awakening did help start the American Revolution

by [Bryce Turney](#) - Friday, October 25, 2019, 2:31 PM

I do agree with you on the impact that the Great Awakening had on the American Revolution but I disagree with what you said about religion being a big part in making the Great Awakening what it is. In my opinion, the Great Awakening went away from religion in was more focused on the idea of having a personal relationship with God. It was focused upon a conversion experience that touches the heart, and the awakeners believed that this change in the heart was the only road to salvation (p. 2 Bonomi).

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Re: (YES) The Great Awakening did help start the American Revolution



by [Gabe Waisanen](#) - Friday, October 25, 2019, 6:30 PM

I do agree with you Jarod, that religion was a tremendous part in The Great Awakening. I think to get the reader to understand what you were saying better, you could of backed your claim with more evidence. For example, when writing the quote on how The Great Awakening had political, as well as religious effects, you could of provided a piece of the text that would help the reader understand your claim more. Something like, "Patricia further backed up this claim, when she stated, 'By promoting church separations and urging their followers....'(Page 2, Paragraph 4). This quote informs the reader that church separation was tied in with the religious aspect of how The Great Awakening started The American Revolution.

I really enjoyed your post Jarod! Let me know if you have any questions about my reply!

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Re: (YES) The Great Awakening did help start the American Revolution

by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Saturday, October 26, 2019, 1:16 PM

Hi Gabe,

I'm glad that you liked my post. Your quote that you used is perfect for The Great Awakening. I thought about using it, but I felt what I used was better at the time. I will say that church separation was always a part of the The Great Awakening, since it gave the Colonists something to believe in for the American Revolution. So I thank you for responding and adding your own response to the discussion.

Thank you for your time,

Jarod Doerner

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Jon Butlers View on the Great Awakening

by [Carter Ranck](#) - Monday, October 21, 2019, 9:14 PM

I've learned about the great awakening through previous history classes and in regular discussions with other classmates in the past and currently, I'm siding with Jon Butler's view on the great awakening. Jon Butler shared many details that swayed my perspective on the entire subject. Jon noted that Calvinism never dominated the 18th-century religious revivals under the Great Awakening title which I thought was interesting. As I continued to read I learned more. In arguments agreeing that the Great Awakening made a large impact, it is often said that the great awakening dominated and persued throughout the 18th century; however, according to Jon, it's incredibly hard to put a date to the different revivals. Revivals only affected certain states, and some affected were minimally changed. Some years there were states that were affected by the revivals and other states the same years weren't touched by them, which makes it hard to say that the great awakening swept across the colonies. Especially when it was so on and off in general. A great point and one of my favorites pointed out by Jon were that Revivalism was not really a key to expanding colonial

churches. Presbyterianism expanded just as quickly in the middle colonies on two separate occasions which makes me think, why is revivalism so special? Overall I think Jon had great viewpoints and solid evidence and deduction that has swayed my view of the debate to his side.

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Re: Yes to Patricia Bonomi on the Great Awakening being a key to the American Revolution

by [Bryce Turney](#) - Monday, October 21, 2019, 9:25 PM

I agree with Patricia Bonomi that the Great Awakening was a key to the American Revolution because it was a major shift in public practices and attitudes. The awakeners wanted radical change and more freedom in their religious practices, so promotion of separating churches was pushed. The church goers were pressured to make decisions that would have an impact on political and religious changes. Bonomi brings up how evangelical preachers exhorted their followers not to shrink from painful choices between alternative religious doctrines and to act rather on decisions by separating from the unregenerate church (p.3). The Great Awakening was about religious tolerance and freedom and this can be seen as a foreshadow for being free from Great Britain and gaining independence. This awakening was radical, and preachers were changing the way religion was looked at by the way they taught from the bible. Evangelicals were committed to spreading the teachings of the bible in an emotional style that resulted in conversion experiences (textbook p.113).

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I think the Great Awakening effected the American Revolution

by [Jason Stratis](#) - Monday, October 21, 2019, 9:31 PM

I agree with Patricia U. Bonomi. Before the emergence of the great awakening British colonist were chained down by not only the Lord and church but also politically to Great Britain as religion was any leaders biggest ally in political affairs before the great awakening. The colonist grew above traditional ways of thinking and developed a new and better way to think.

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The Great Awakening was a precursor to the American Revolution

by [Benjamin Blythe](#) - Monday, October 21, 2019, 10:51 PM

I'm leaning towards Bonomi's stance that The Great Awakening was an important precursor to the American Revolution. For one, I found that her argument that both had similar motivations was hard to ignore. Having the freedom to separate from old institutions and create new ones was a central idea in both movements. Bonomi specifically mentions the common quotation of Corinthians 6:14--17 as an example of this mindset. She also quotes the term "spiritual tyranny" which is an interesting link to views on England leading up to the revolution.

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1

[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Supporting the YES article**by [McKenna Wilson](#) - Monday, October 21, 2019, 10:55 PM

HST 201

Forum 2

After reading both of the articles by both historians I found that I agreed more with Patricia U. Bonomi and her opinion that the Great Awakening was in fact a Key to the American Revolution. While her writing had many compelling points, I was most intrigued by her evidence that used Samuel Finley's quotes saying " I look upon all Neutrals, as Enemies, in affairs of religion. Away with your carnal prudence! And either follow God or Baal. He that is not actually with us is against us..." Thus were parishioners exhorted to act in support of their decisions, though " your Neighbors growl against you, and reproach you." To me when Bonomi explained this quote as "...captures vividly the new spirit of defiant individualism..." it stuck with me that because of those manifestations the Awakening was able to become what it was inspiring more radicalism for the American Revolution. This was a time of enlightenment after all and The Great Awakening was "the first major intercolonial crisis of the mind and spirit..." (Richard Hofstadter). After reading through both Bonomi's article and historian Butler i felt as if Bonomi's argument was more well rounded whereas Butler just seemed to attack the timeline that events took place. In class, Professor Escobar talked about how simply going by dates and disagreeing with the given timeline doesn't mean something didn't happen and when reading Butler's argument that is all I felt he was doing.

Sum of ratings: [3 \(1\)](#)

3

[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Time gap & the sweep of the mainland colonies**by [Sara Montiel](#) - Monday, October 21, 2019, 11:30 PM

After reading both points of view from both historians, I felt very convinced that the Great Awakening was not a key to the American Revolution. Historian Jon Butler made a lot of interesting and good points on why it was not a key to the American Revolution. One point, of the few, that led me to this decision was when he stated that "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. They occurred in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia with some frequency at least at some point between 1740 and 1770. But New Hampshire, Maryland, and Georgia witnessed few revivals in the same years, and revivals only occasionally important in New York, Delaware, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The revivals touched only certain segments of the population in the colonies where they occurred ..." (handout, pg 7) If I understood it correctly, He goes on to state that the revivals had very little impact or affect on some people in some colonies and groups and others simple opposed them. If they had such little impact that "The Baptists, who were so important to the New England revivals, paid little attention

to them until the 1760's, and the colony's taciturn Quakers watched them in perplexed silence. Not even Germans imbibed them universally," (handout, pg 7) then how could they have even been linked to the American Revolution that happened so long after. It seemed like what has been argued by other historians may have been stretched. The revivals didn't seem to be well liked or to be so important to have much to do with the Great Revolution so much later. The time gap was already something I thought to be an issue in why they wouldn't even be linked, and this just added onto my opinion.

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Yes, the Great Awakening did affect the Revolution.

by [Clay Noteboom](#) - Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 6:43 PM

Yes, the GA affected the Revolution . . . and beyond

I have to side with Bonomi in answering the question. What Whitefield and the others were preaching encouraged settlers to move away from their collective decision-making and towards independence. This independence eventually translated into revolution. Bonomi says "As the Great Awakening broke down social cohesion in America, it simultaneously elevated the individual." Early Americans were not just fighting for religious freedom; they were also fighting for individual freedom.

In fact, I see this as very much still in play and uniquely American. We are very serious about our individual rights. Look at the proliferation of "Don't Tread on Me" flags. If one were to describe American culture, this fierce defense of our independence must be part of that description.

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Re: Yes, the Great Awakening did affect the Revolution.

by [Bryce Turney](#) - Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 11:15 PM

I agree with you on how the Great Awakening had an impact on the American Revolution; fueling the minds of the american people with different mindsets and an ambition for more freedom. George Whitefield's impact could be compared to what George Washington would end up doing years later in the American Revolution. Both brought radical change and were great leaders who went against the grain and led their people to more individual freedoms. The Great Awakening just paved the way for a bigger event to happen. It only takes one person to start a drastic change and once people jump on board with the ideas of that leader or individual the momentum can create a new path for the future.

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Re: Yes, the Great Awakening did affect the Revolution.

by [Brandon Gericke](#) - Friday, October 25, 2019, 8:48 PM

Agreed! Religious independence and american independence go hand in hand. The ability to individualize wants and needs, would make it easier to rebel against a religion or a government.

Sum of ratings: 0 (1) 0[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**The Great Awakening had an impact on the revolution**by [Benjamin Blythe](#) - Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 9:51 PM

I'd like to add that while I mostly agree with Bonomi, Butler makes some points that should be considered. His main argument is that the revivals of The Great Awakening were too scattered in timing and location to have had an impact on the Revolution. Butler notes that not all colonies were affected by the revivals (most were in the North) and many colonists weren't directly involved. However, I think it's reasonable that the movement was still felt by many non-Christian colonists. Also, as we learned in class, the Revolution was mainly a Northern war to begin with. This was all due to a list of reasons we learned in lecture, including how trade laws favored the more profitable south.

I think it's likely that the wide time gap between the Awakening and the Revolution cooled the enthusiasm behind these new ideas of individualism. Although, since individualism was a core message of the new denominations it wouldn't have been forgotten.

For these reasons, The Awakening shouldn't be given sole credit for starting the Revolution, but it shouldn't be discounted either. The Great Awakening was at most, an important factor, at the least, a good sign of what was coming.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: The Great Awakening had an impact on the revolution**by [Sara Montiel](#) - Thursday, October 24, 2019, 6:42 PM

I too looked at the point that was made by Butler that not all the colonies were affected by the revivals and I went on to think that if it didn't really affect very many people (all the colonies) then how could it be the key to such an important event in U.S history. But I was looking at it all wrong and I read your comment and I must say, I fully agree with the point you've made that "the gap between them cooled the enthusiasm behind the new ideas of individualism." I was very much with the idea that the Great Awakening could not have been a key to the revolutionary war not only because not all colonies were affected but also because of the large time gap between the two events. But your point makes a lot of sense. Yes it cooled down, but it didn't die out, if anything it continued and we can see that through many historic events leading up to the revolution. A perfect example of this new idea of individualism continuing on over time is the Boston Tea Party. So your comment on not giving the Great Awakening sole credit but not discounting it either is a perfect way of putting it.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**A New Identity Not The Great Awakening May Be The Cause For Revolutionary War**by [Devyn Crummett](#) - Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 2:11 PM

My first post on this forum is going to be mainly an opinionated post. Without fully reading both articles, but I am not going to write this post blindly. I did do some research online about The Great Awakening.

My conclusion is:

I believe that the Great Awakening did not have an impact on the American Revolutionary War. The Great Awakening helped create an entirely different identity for the Colonists. Which over time became a completely different identity from the British. So by the time the Revolutionary War comes around the Colonists are much different people than from the ones who originally came to The New World. A new identity mixed with what could be considered oppression by the British could have been the cause for the Revolutionary War. There are always more factors at play. You just have to know where to look and how deep you have to go to find it.

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Agree, but . . .

by [Clay Noteboom](#) - Thursday, October 24, 2019, 9:44 AM

I totally agree that it was not the only impact, there were numerous factors that contributed. But I find it hard to believe that Whitfield, for example, who preached over 18,000 sermons, had no impact on people's desire for independence. Or maybe it's the idea that his, and the other religious leaders, were not influential enough? Or perhaps that influence did not translate to revolution.

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Great Awakening and American Revolution

by [Melissa Kimp](#) - Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 9:19 PM

I agree with Jon Butler. I do not believe that the Great Awakening played a major role in the American Revolution. We have discussed many times in lecture about how historians exaggerated. There was a large population growth in the colonies from 1700-1770 from under 300,000 to over two million. This could easily explain the expansion of the denominations (yes or no debate pg 8). Butler mentions that it is commonly stated that the Great Awakening "swept" across the colonies but the revivals had taken place over many years. Many colonies saw few revivals between 1740-1770. The revivals did not bring new people into power. There was no real connection between the Great Awakening and politics except for Virginia. There were many causes of the American Revolution but I believe that the Great Awakening is not one of them. I think a lot of the confusion has to do with the historians exaggerating different things.

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Bonomi Article

by [McKenna Wilson](#) - Thursday, October 24, 2019, 7:21 PM

After spending some more time looking over the article that historian Bonomi wrote, I think it is important to note the explanation she gives on Presbyterian and Congregational separatists creating a "defense". They did this in order to help the minorities against the majorities as stated on page 4. This led to the forming of new societies and Americans not holding back to shape and create new institutions. Up until this point as far

as religion was concerned no one had ever broken from tradition and this sparked something in the 1740's. This was a time about "elevating the individual" and paved the way for that continue down the road with the Revolution. "Now private judgement and intuitive under-standing had equal if not superior claim on the conscience. In a word, decision making had been internalized." (Page 5). In my opinion this quote shows that the Great Awakening was a moment of clarity for people that they needed to be able to become their own person and make decisions based on themselves and not being a part of a group.

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1

[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: Bonomi Article**by [Brandon Gericke](#) - Friday, October 25, 2019, 8:39 PM

I agree with you wholeheartedly. I think the ability to think of themselves as a individual when it came to religion, also allowed them to think of themselves as a individual when it came to government. Being separate from the main church of England or religion of England, allowed the colonists to think of themselves as separate from the government of England as well.

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

1

[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**The Great Awakening Website**by [Benjamin Blythe](#) - Thursday, October 24, 2019, 10:40 PM

You don't have to read past the title to see where the website stands on this issue. 'Significance of The Great Awakening: Roots of Revolution' makes it clear that this article is more in line with Bonomi's point of view. Maybe this is to be expected from a website dedicated to the impact of The Great Awakening, but this article adds some new perspectives we didn't hear from Bonomi. One of the most interesting points of the article is a statistic given in the second paragraph. They make the claim that Puritans and Anglicans made up 40 percent of congregations in 1760, but only 2.5 percent by 1790. This is a very significant change, and in a timeframe that includes the revolution. Later in the article they also argue that The Awakening unified religion in the colonies and anti-Catholicism became a shared sentiment. I don't remember this last point being made by Bonomi, but it matches well with some of the things we've heard in class. I'd say that the website makes some strong arguments, and it's reinforced my belief that the Great Awakening did influence the Revolution.

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[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**The Great Awakening WAS key to the American Revolution**by [Brandon Gericke](#) - Friday, October 25, 2019, 2:04 AM

I believe that the Great Awakening played a vital role in how Americans dealt with English rule. Patricia U. Bonomi says " By promoting church separations, and urging their followers to make choices that had political as well as religious implications, the Awakeners wrought permanent changes in public practices and attitudes". I think this is a great point because the ability to separate from the churches that dominated some of these peoples everyday life, allowed them to also make personal decisions as far as bowing to English rule. By increasing the importance of a personal relationship with god, the colonizers were instilled with a

sense of self importance that had been missing. I also think that if people can separate from a church or ideal that had been key to their daily life, then it would be easier to separate from a government that's was an ocean away.

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Re: The Great Awakening WAS key to the American Revolution

by [Bryce Turney](#) - Friday, October 25, 2019, 8:32 PM

I like the comparison you made to seperating from the church and how that would help the colonists overcome the British government. I don't think it would be necessarily easier to separate from the government because of what happened during the Great Awakening but it definitely changed the mindset of the colonists. The quote that you used from Bonomi about the Awakeners wanting changes in public practices and attitudes is what led to a further development in independence.

Sum of ratings: 0 (1) 0

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Re: The Great Awakening WAS key to the American Revolution

by [Brandon Gericke](#) - Friday, October 25, 2019, 8:43 PM

Agreed. The ability to individualize their wants and needs religiously, might have made it possible to individualize their wants and needs politically. American independence and religious independence seem to go hand in hand.

Sum of ratings: 0 (1) 0

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At this point my answer is stil no.

by [Devyn Crummett](#) - Friday, October 25, 2019, 12:01 PM

After reading both articles I have to side with Jon Butler on this issue.

The fact that in the article it says that revivals occurred mainly in specific colonies, not all of them. Also that in the article on page 6 The Great Awakening is described as being more "like the civil rights demonstrations, the campus disturbances, and the urban riots of the 1960s".

I still stand on my earlier stance that The Great Awakening did have an impact on the lives of the colonists.

In this situation I would say that The Great Awakening was a cause but the effect was a more religious attitude in the colonists. That religious attitude soon gave them a sense of identity which combined with other factors led to the Revolutionary War.

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The Great Awakening and It's Influence On the American Revolution

by [Gabe Waisanen](#) - Friday, October 25, 2019, 5:18 PM

The Great Awakening greatly impacted the American Revolution in many different ways. The one impact that I think is by far the most important of them all, as stated by Patricia U. Bonomi, was when she wrote, "The Great Awakening created conditions uniquely favorable to social and political, as well as religious, reform by piercing the facade of civility and deference that governed provincial life to usher in a new age of contentiousness." (Page 2). In simpler terms, she believes that social, political, and even religious change in the mid-eighteenth century, was one of, if not the most important event that would cause The Great Awakening. In my opinion, I think that these changes wouldn't of been a cause in The American Revolution, then it wouldn't of had as a great of an effect.

I hope you enjoy reading my post, let me know if you have any questions 😊 .

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Bonomi

by [alex Henshen](#) - Friday, October 25, 2019, 8:00 PM

While reading professor Bonomi's take on the great awakening one line stood out to me. "Many new congregations were organized as a result of irremediably schisms between "Old Lights" and "New Lights." Skepticism about the desirability of an educated clergy sparked a strong strain of anti-intellectualism. Also, the emphasis on the conversion was a message to which virtually everyone could respond, regardless of age, sex, or social status." (article) I feel these couple sentences really show what the great awakening was to the people in that time. It explains what got these mass group together and what they were talking about.

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Somewhere in the middle

by [Nathan Mattox](#) - Saturday, October 26, 2019, 9:09 PM

I honestly fall almost in the middle of the argument on this one, which is essentially the two most extreme viewpoints on the subject, with one side stating that the Great Awakening was not only minimally responsible for the American Revolution, but in fact was historically insignificant overall, and the other asserting that it was almost solely responsible for it. If I had to pick a side of the argument to be on, I would have to say that I lean more towards the 'no' column, simply because I believe that while the Awakening was a contributing factor to revolutionary sentiment in the colonies, and perhaps a large one, it was certainly not the only one, nor the most significant, the title that I believe belongs to the French and Indian War, and the economic stresses which England placed on the colonies in the form of legislation such as the Navigation Acts and the Stamp Act. Butler, in his article, specifically mentions the French and Indian War as a more direct cause of the Revolution than the Awakening, stating that "The eighteenth-century colonial wars are more appropriate candidates for the honor. They raised significant legislative opposition to the crown in many colonies and cost many colonists their lives, especially in the last and most "successful" contest, the French and Indian War" (p.9).

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**Textbook vs. Video Views on The Great Awakening**by [Benjamin Blythe](#) - Saturday, October 26, 2019, 11:54 PM

The textbook and the First Great Awakening video seem to have opposing views on whether the Awakening impacted the revolution. The video concludes with a historian saying "In that deeper... more cultural or social way, religion can be seen as a kind of backdrop or pre-cause of the American Revolution" (6:30). The textbook doesn't make a connection between the two, but on the relationship between the colonies and Britain it states "The revivals created new cosmopolitan links with Britain and between colonies" (pg 112). While not directly contradicting the video, the textbook authors imply that the revivals in Britain and its colonies had more of a unifying effect, at least when it came to the public.

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