

# George Whitefield And The Creation Of America: Unveiling the Revolutionary Role of an Influential Preacher

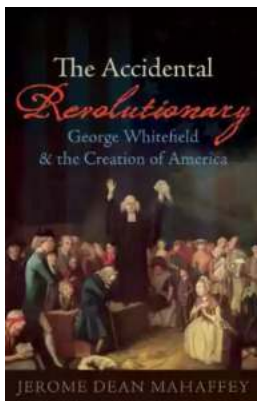


When talking about the creation of America, we often hear about the founding fathers, their remarkable vision, and their tireless efforts in shaping the nation we

know today. However, there is one influential figure whose contributions often go unnoticed - George Whitefield. This renowned preacher not only played a pivotal role in the Great Awakening, but also ignited the flames of revolution that ultimately led to the birth of the United States. In this article, we delve into the life and impact of George Whitefield and explore how his fervor for religion transformed into a catalyst for independence.

## The Early Years of George Whitefield

George Whitefield was born on December 27, 1714, in Gloucester, England. From a young age, he displayed an exceptional inclination towards spirituality and religious fervor. At the age of 15, he entered Oxford University, where he became heavily involved with the Holy Club, a group of individuals that aimed to lead a devout and disciplined life.



## The Accidental Revolutionary: George Whitefield and the Creation of America

by Jerome Dean Mahaffey (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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It was during his time at Oxford that Whitefield began honing his skills as an orator. His powerful and emotional sermons captured the hearts and minds of those who listened to him. His words had an indescribable effect on his audience - they felt a spiritual awakening so profound that it would eventually ripple across continents.

## **The Transatlantic Journey**

Whitefield's transformative impact on America can be traced back to his numerous trips across the Atlantic. In 1738, Whitefield embarked on his first journey to America, where he quickly gained popularity as an electrifying preacher. It was during this time that he became associated with the influential preacher Jonathan Edwards, who shared his passion for religious revival.

Over the next several years, Whitefield embarked on seven transatlantic voyages, covering thousands of miles and spreading the message of the Great Awakening to both the British colonies and the Native American tribes. With his lustrous voice and unwavering conviction, Whitefield resonated with the masses, inspiring thousands to reevaluate their relationship with religion and society.

## **The Great Awakening and the Revolutionary Spirit**

The mid-18th century witnessed a significant religious revival in America that is now known as the Great Awakening. George Whitefield was at the forefront of this transformative movement. His sermons, which emphasized personal salvation and spiritual introspection, struck a chord with the American colonists.

Whitefield's impact was not confined to religious matters alone. His speeches advocated for a profound sense of individualism and personal freedom, which eventually primed the American colonies for a greater cause. As a consequence,

Whitefield's sermons planted the seeds of revolution in the hearts and minds of the people.

## **The Influence on Founding Fathers**

The fervor for independence that Whitefield ignited did not go unnoticed by the founding fathers of the United States. Influential figures like Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams admired Whitefield's eloquence and his unwavering dedication to his cause. Franklin, a close friend of Whitefield, even noted that he had "never heard anyone preach like him before."

The enlightenment and revolutionary spirit that Whitefield embodied became entwined with the values that shaped the United States. His influence can be seen in the language of the Declaration of Independence and the passionate pursuit of religious freedom that America was built upon.

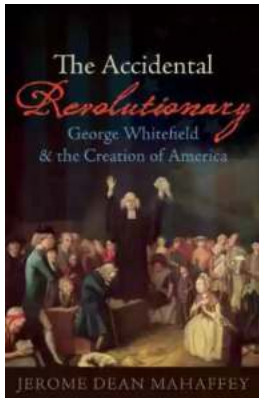
## **Legacy and Lasting Impact**

George Whitefield passed away on September 30, 1770, but his impact on America's creation and subsequent history is unparalleled. He was a pioneering force in challenging the existing religious and social order, sparking a fire within society that would eventually lead to the American Revolution.

Whitefield's legacy can be observed in the numerous religious denominations that trace their roots back to his teachings. Furthermore, his methodology of using media and technology to spread his message laid the groundwork for future religious movements, emphasizing the power of communication and persuasion.

George Whitefield, often overlooked in discussions surrounding the creation of America, played a profound and revolutionary role in shaping the nation's destiny. His passionate sermons and tireless efforts to spread the message of the Great

Awakening fundamentally altered the religious landscape of the American colonies. Moreover, his emphasis on individual freedom and spiritual introspection laid the groundwork for the revolutionary ideals that eventually led to the birth of the United States. It is time we recognize the remarkable contributions of this influential preacher and his crucial role in the creation of America.



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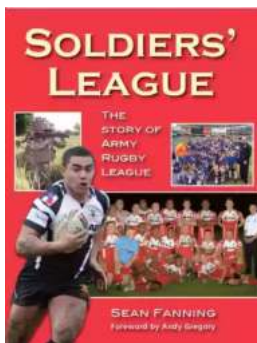


Patriots. Founding Fathers. Revolutionaries. For many Americans, the colonial heroes deserve special celebratory reverence. Yet while Washington's leadership, Franklin's writings, and Revere's ride captivate us, the inspiration and influence George Whitefield instilled within the revolutionary spirits of early Americans is regrettably unknown.

In this refreshing biography, Jerome Dean Mahaffey deftly moves beyond Whitefield's colonial celebrity to show how his rhetoric and ministry worked for freedom, situating Whitefield alongside the most revolutionary founders. As this

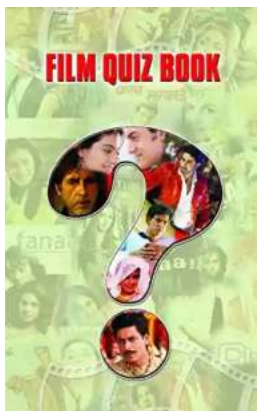
Anglican revivalist traveled among the colonies, he delivered exhilarating sermons deeply saturated with political implications—freedom from oppression, civil justice, communal cooperation. Whitefield helped to encourage in his listeners a longing for a new, uniquely American nationalism.

The Accidental Revolutionary tells the story of this forgotten founder, who may not have realized the repercussions of his words as he spoke them. Now, Mahaffey delicately shows that Whitefield converted colonists not just to Christianity but to a renewed sense of unification that ultimately made possible the American Revolution.



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