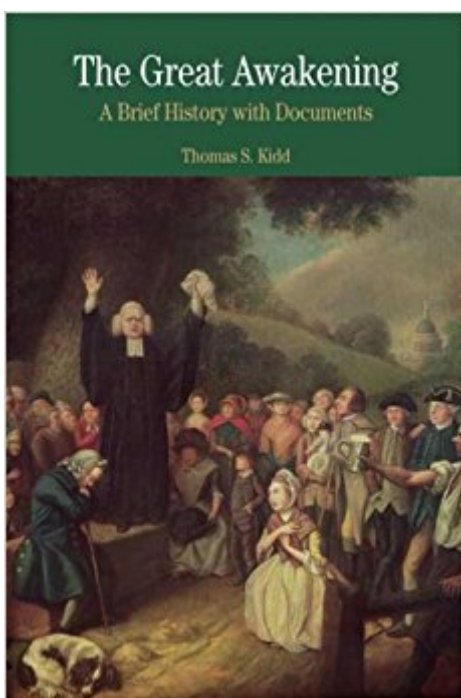


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# The Great Awakening: A Brief History With Documents (Bedford Series In History & Culture)



## Synopsis

A detailed examination of the First Great Awakening, this volume presents a valuable study of the spiritual movement that profoundly shaped colonial American cultural and religious life. Thomas Kidd's comprehensive introduction relies on recent scholarship to describe three contemporary views of the revivals: those of radicals in favor of them, moderates supporting them, and antirevivalists attacking them. The views and experiences of these participants and critics emerge through nearly 40 documents organized into topical sections. By expanding coverage of the radicals and the ordinary people, including women, African Americans, and Native Americans, who joined the revival movement, Kidd gives students an opportunity to hear a broader collection of voices from colonial American society. The volume also includes illustrations, headnotes to the documents, a chronology of the Great Awakening, a selected bibliography, questions to consider, and an index.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An informed and much-needed synthesis of the events that comprise the 'Great Awakening.' Judiciously describes evangelical efforts from Nova Scotia to Georgia over the entire eighteenth century and demonstrates the centrality of these revivals to an understanding of the American mind. Kidd's book will become the standard introduction to its subject." -- Philip F. Gura, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill "It has been fifty years since Edwin Gaustad told the history of New England's Great Awakening, and, since then, the revivals themselves have at times been almost lost sight of in debates about the fictions of memory and the invention of tradition. Thomas Kidd's

narrative, returning squarely to the formative events and factions that shaped early evangelicalism, offers a valuable synoptic account of the beginnings of this continuously important movement." -- Leigh E. Schmidt, Princeton University

"With this deeply researched and beautifully focused study of the origins of American evangelicalism, Thomas Kidd gives us nothing less than a fresh, post-revisionist understanding of the Great Awakening. But that is not all. By casting a powerful light upon the controversies at the outset of the evangelical movement, particularly those revolving around the third person of the Trinity, he illuminates the rest of that movement's conflicted history, providing insight into its enduring complexities, and its likely manifestations in the century ahead." -- Wilfred McClay, author of "The Masterless: Self and Society in Modern America"

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"Well researched, clearly written and authoritatively argued. There is no book of comparable breadth, either chronologically or geographically."--Mark Noll, University of Notre Dame

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"Despite the prodigious attention to the 'Great Awakening' in eighteenth-century America, there has been, amazingly, no modern comprehensive account that looks at all regions from Nova Scotia to Georgia. The result is a highly fragmented series of vignettes and biographies with no overarching narrative. That void has now been more than filled by Thomas Kidd's masterful analysis of the eighteenth-century revivals and the 'evangelical' movement they spawned. Thoroughly researched and beautifully written, this book is must reading not only for early American historians, but for anyone concerned to understand the

origins of modern evangelicalism."--Harry S. Stout, Yale University

THOMAS S. KIDD (Ph.D., University of Notre Dame) is associate professor of history at Baylor University. He has focused his research on American religion and has published several articles on the subject, especially on the colonial period. He has authored the books *The Protestant Interest: New England after Puritanism* and *Awakenings: The First Generation of American Evangelical Christianity*. Professor Kidd has led a Baylor conference on the global challenges facing Christianity, served on the university's advisory presidential search committee, and works as a mentor to the university's Crane Scholars Program.

I've never read a book that is laid out the way this one is. It has a "brief history" and then the text of the original documents referred to in the "brief". This book discusses the changing attitudes regarding the way religion was being taught in the mid 1700's- opposing the traditional "preach from the pulpit" versus a trend toward large outdoor "revivals". The traditionalists felt the revival was too casual and way too raucous to teach the respect and responsibility "the church" deserved. The revivalists saw a needed niche for bringing the gospel to workers who lived away from the town centers. Some also found that the "revival" experience of these Americans was no less "religious" but had a more real and lasting influence. After a period of waning interest in "the Church", Americans were coming back to the fold through the revival. The words of the likes of George Whitefield spoke to the individualism that came to be the hallmark of the colonial American.

Very good book on the leaders of the Great Awakening. The controversies within the churches is very interesting. It does not cover the spiritual impact of the Awakening on the colonies in an in-depth way. The book is centered on the people who supported, and criticized, the revivals that swept the country. I like the supporting documents.

Great addition to my class resources for our study on the Great Awakening.

Good book, very pleased.

Excellent for a class text in the study of Colonial America.

Came quickly as described

I'm glad I no longer have to read this book. I consider it to be 90 percent dry. I find history fascinating but this book just didn't "flow". Great history mediocre delivery.

Great

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