

1. At the time of the War of Independence:

- a. Anglicans: all the Church of England work was under the direction of the Bishop of London. I have mentioned the various commissaries and missions that implement his work. The Anglican church was tightly tied together.  
--The Methodists were still a division in the Church Of England. Wesley resisted any move that called for him to leave the parent body eventhough it had discontinued ordaining his workers and he had been forced to promote the apostolic succession out of his own ordination.
- b. The Dutch Reformed were technically in fellowship and under the direction of the Classis of Amsterdam.
- c. Roman Catholics were under the supervised see of the Vicar Apostolic of London.
- d. Presbyterian and Baptist bodies maintained a fellowshipping role with their forebears but no organizational ties.
- e. The Quakers likewise enjoyed a free style although the London meeting of Friends enjoyed considerable influence.
- f. Moravians had been pushed from Europe and their native habitat... they had, in some ways, become a new world church.
- g. The Congregationalists had long left any connection with their point of origination and were, in all parts, an entity in themselves, albeit a non-organized entity.
- h. The Lutherans had their own synods and maintained a fraternal relationship with the European bodies but not a dictated status.

As a general rule the Anglicans favored Britain in the War, the Congregationalists, Baptists, and Presbyterians favored the colonial side, the Quakers, Moravians and Mennonites favored non-aggression although the Quakers put a lot of money into it. The vital point is that the revolution was not a class struggle but a political/economic affair. It would have severe effects on the churches but not as a class or work group.

And you need to remember that the vast majority of the American populace at this time was hardly religious at all...thus the revolution was promoted quite apart from what churchmen may have thought, said or done.

2. The disestablishmentism:

Following the war of independence the political establishment of religious bodies was a logical conclusion. The progress went something like this:

- a. Virginia, a series of acts, 1776, 1779, 1786 to set aside the preferred status of the Episcopal church and to allow the legal propagation of any religious form.
- b. New Hampshire, 1817...congregationalism
- c. Connecticut, 1818...congregationalism