
Antebellum Society and Reform

AP US History

A11W | 10.11.01

Motivations and Sources for Antebellum Reform

1. Second Great Awakening
2. Social Changes due to the rise of the market economy (anxiety over changing relationships between men and women, masters and workers, social classes)
3. Social Changes resulting from immigration
4. Puritan and revolutionary traditions of America to remake the world
5. Republican and Enlightenment ideology of virtue and good citizenship
6. Transcendentalism and other Romantic literary influences

A. RELIGION

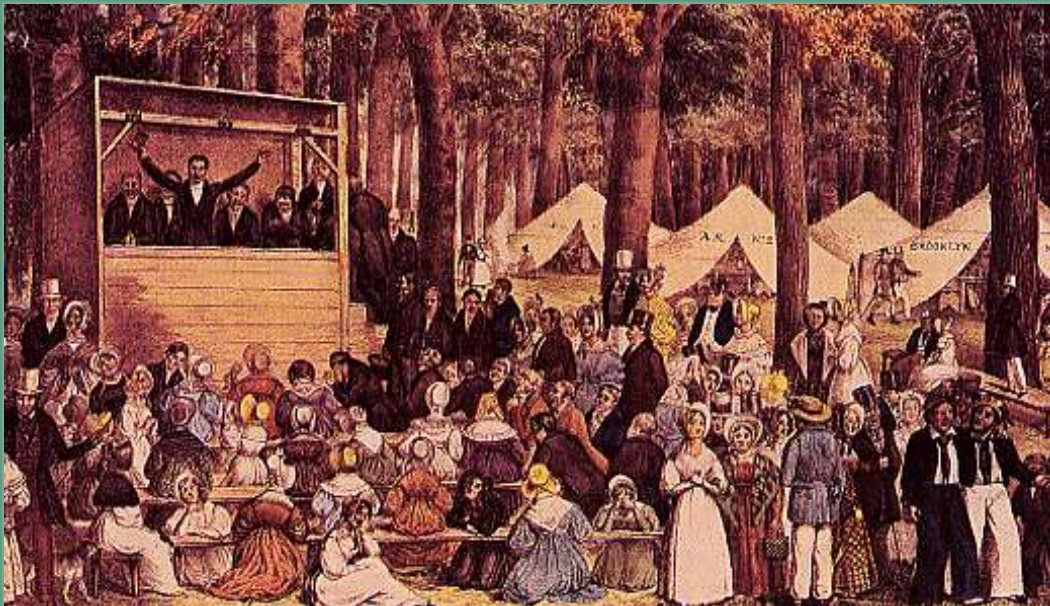
EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT
REVIVALISM & THE SECOND
GREAT AWAKENING

GUIDING QUESTION

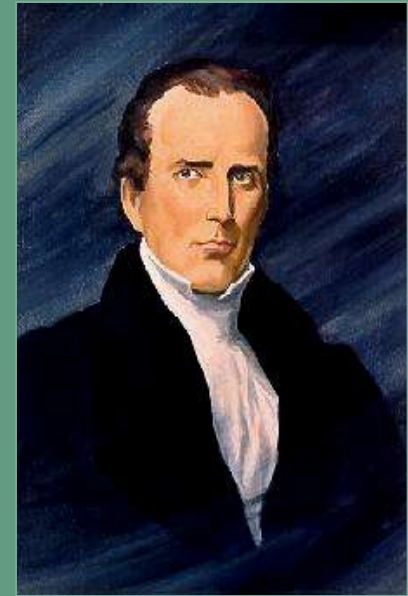
- **How did the Second Great Awakening influence the development of American society during the nineteenth century?**

RELIGION

- Second Great Awakening (1806-40s) *(Who? Where?)*
- Charles Grandison Finney



Second Great Awakening Revival Meeting

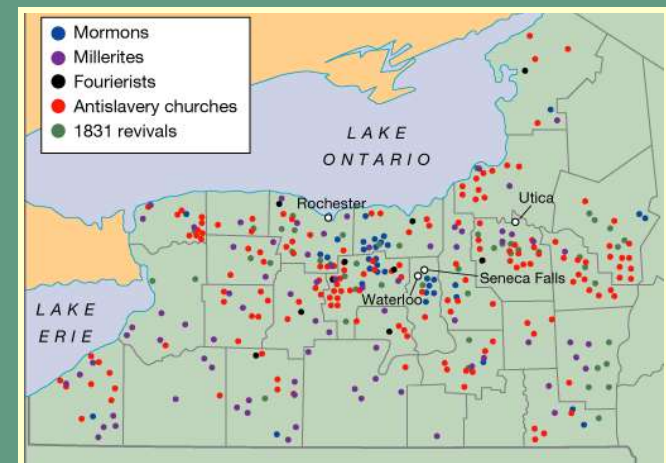


Charles G. Finney
(1792 – 1875)

RELIGION



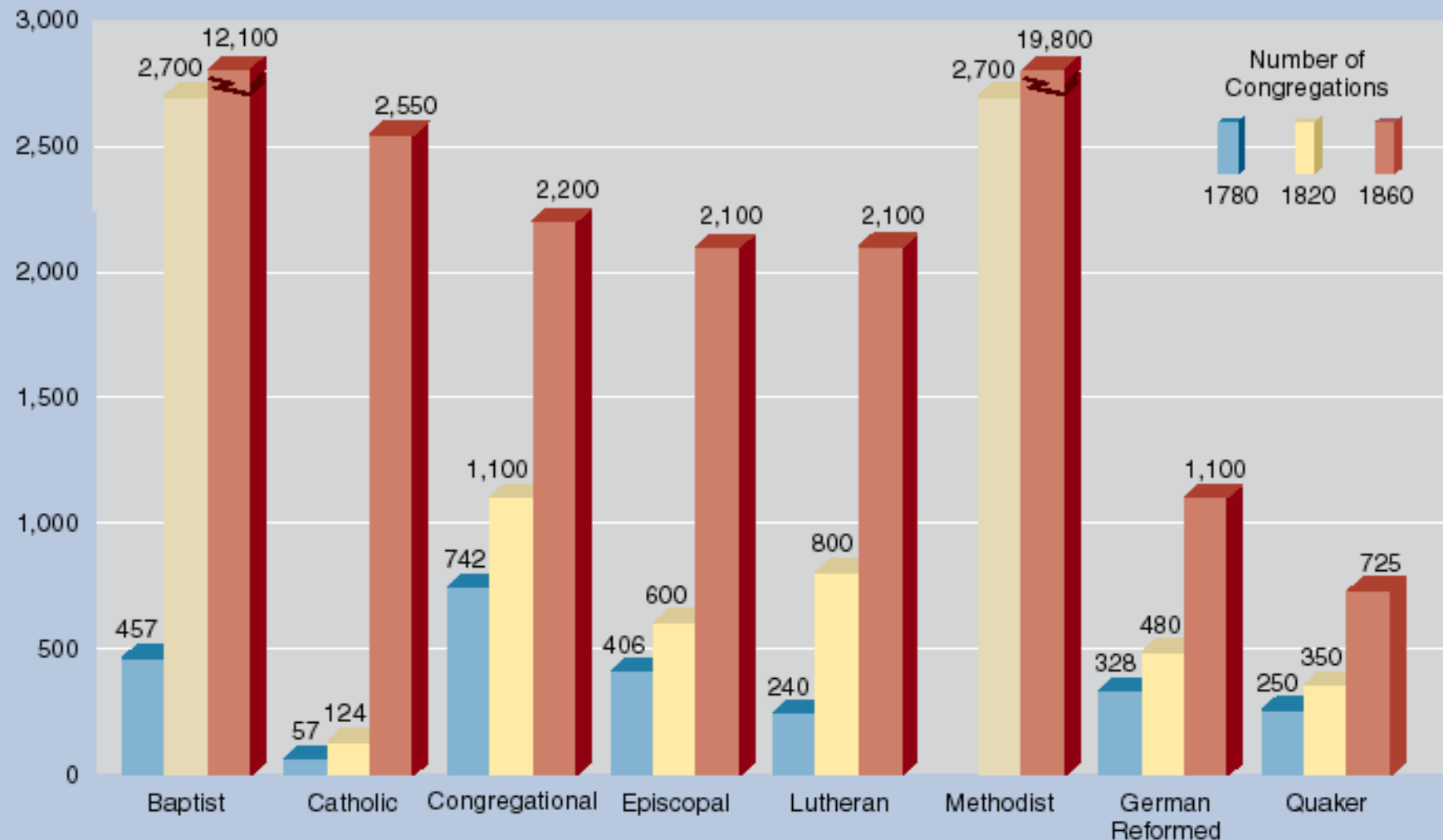
- New Lights
- “burned over district”



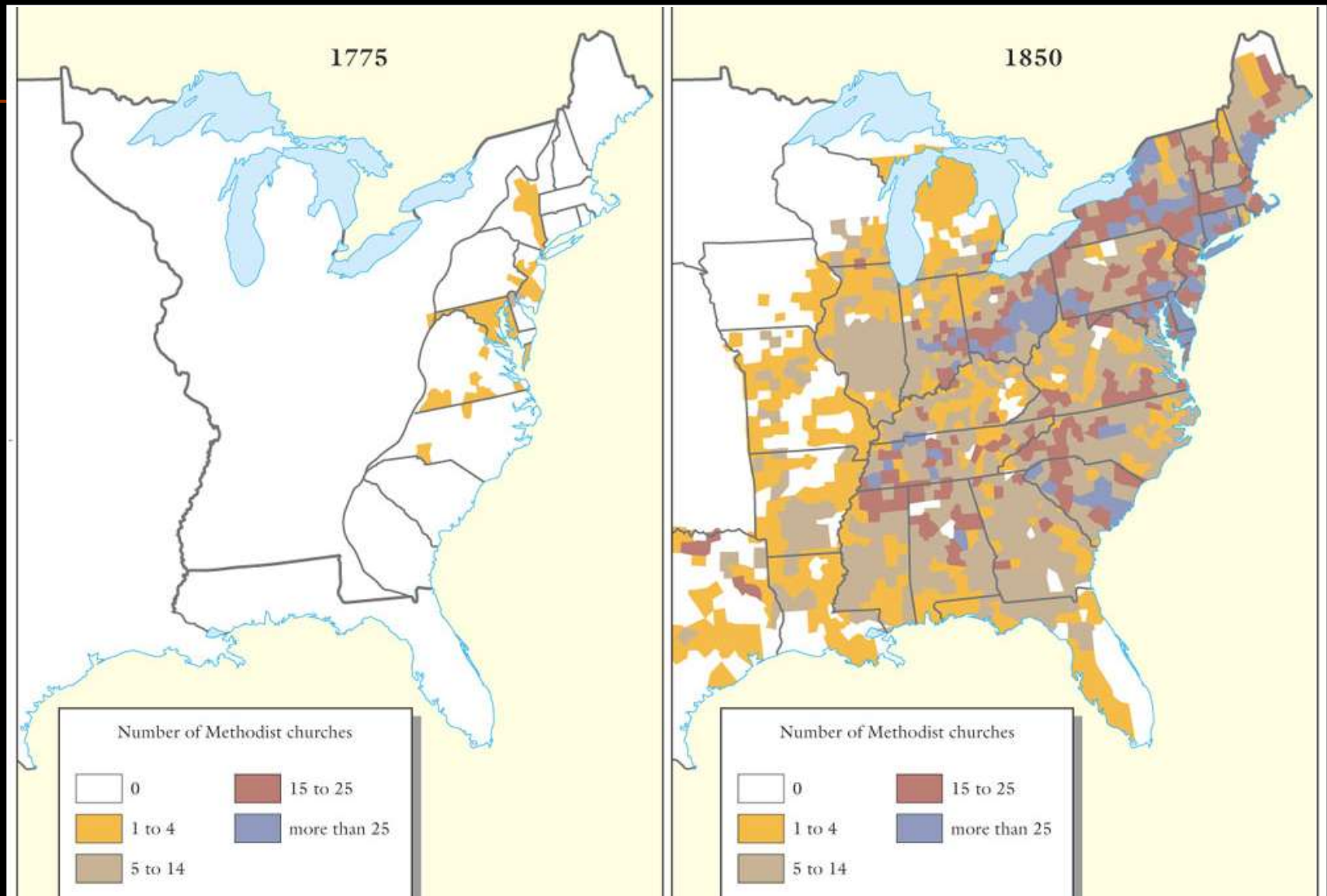
Reform Movements in the Burned-Over District

Denominational Growth, 1780–1860

As this bar graph makes clear, the early nineteenth century was a time of explosive religious growth. What were the decades that saw the greatest growth? Which denominations expanded most quickly and which most slowly?



Growth of American Methodism 1775-1850



The Second Great Awakening

“Spiritual Reform From Within”
[Religious Revivalism]

**Social Reforms & Redefining the Ideal
of Equality**

Temperance

**Asylum &
Penal Reform**

Abolitionism

**Women's
Rights**

Education

RELIGION – Non-2GA

- Society of Friends
- Unitarianism

RELIGION

■ Shakers



Shaker
Meeting

Shaker Simplicity & Utility



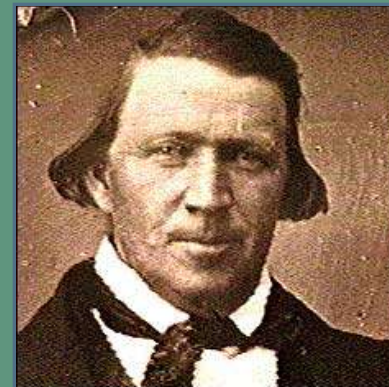
RELIGION

■ Church of Jesus Christ of LDS (“Mormons”)

- Joseph Smith
- Brigham Young



Joseph Smith
(1805-1844)



Brigham Young
(1801-1877)



B. SOCIAL REFORMS

ABOLITIONISM,
TEMPERANCE, EDUCATION,
PENAL REFORM

GUIDING QUESTION

- **In what ways and to what extent did social reform movements significantly change American society between 1820 and 1860?**

Consider the following: temperance, education, prison reform, antislavery /abolitionism, women's rights, utopian experiments/communitarianism.

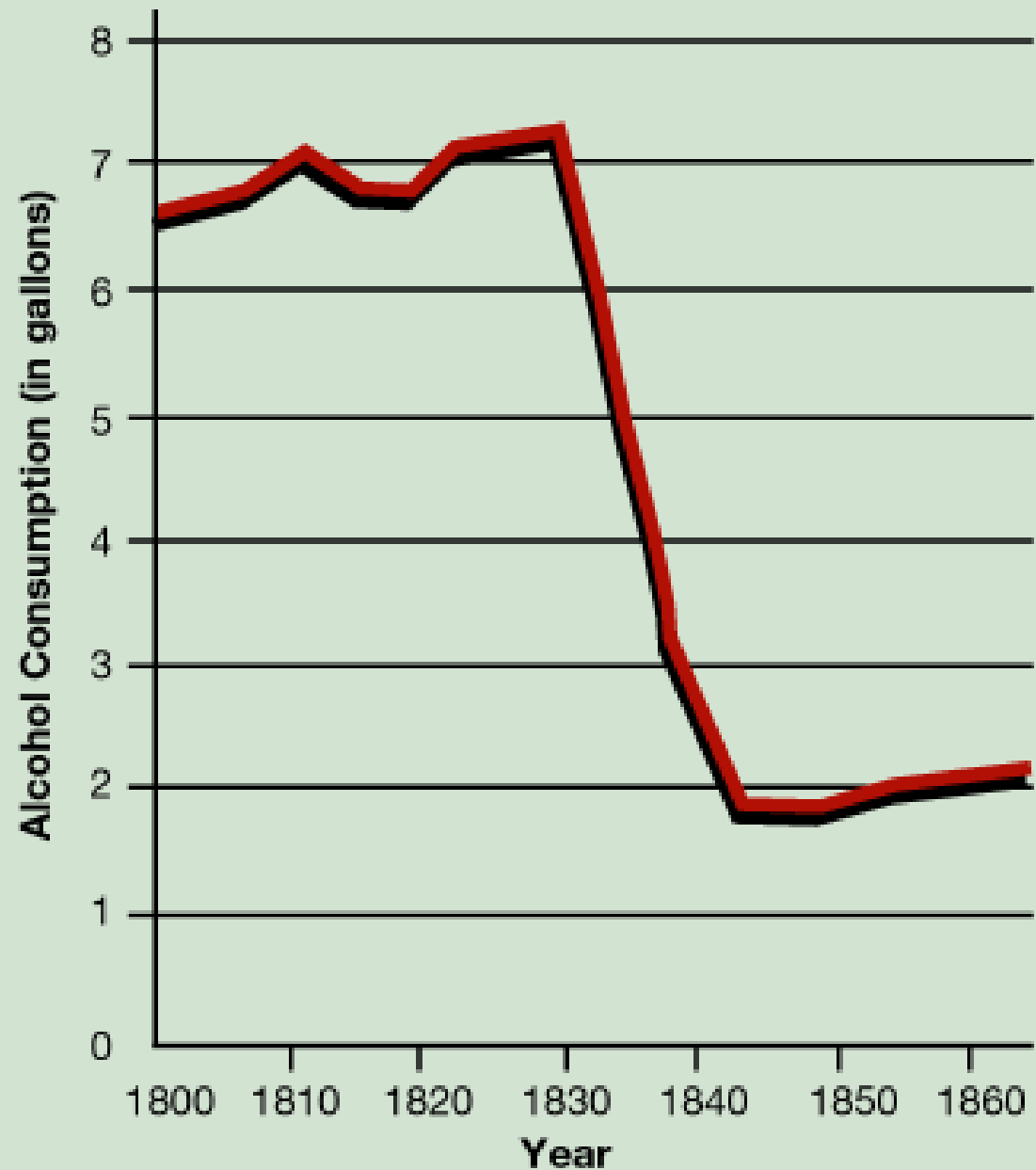
1. Temperance Movement

- American Temperance Society (1826) — “Demon Rum”



“The Drunkard’s Progress” (1846) *“From the first glass to the grave”*

Per Capita Consumption of Alcohol, 1800–1860

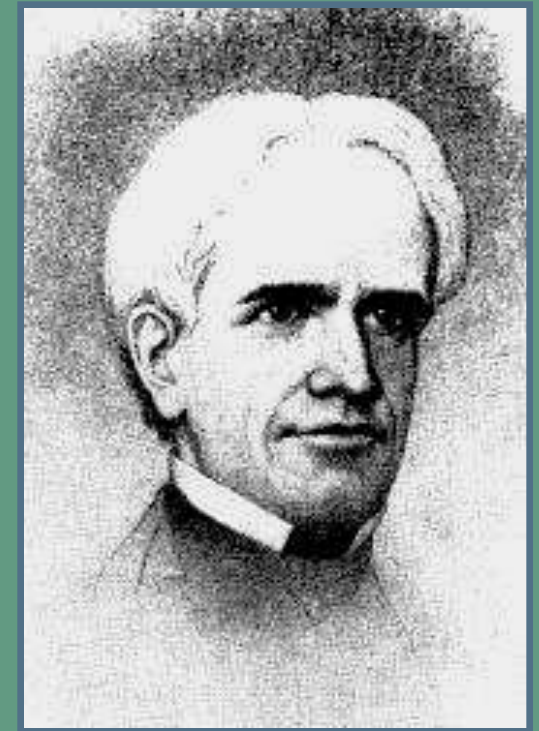


ANTEBELLUM REFORM MOVEMENTS

2. Education

- Modern public school movement
 - Religious Training → Secular Education
- Massachusetts - forefront of public educational reform
 - 1st state to establish tax support for local public schools.
 - Horace Mann

- Universal public education:
 - By 1860 every state offered free public education to whites.
 - US had one of the highest literacy rates in the world (80%).



Horace Mann (1796-1859)
“Father of American Education”

ANTEBELLUM REFORM MOVEMENTS

3. Penal Institutions

- Benevolent Empire
- Early Penal Institutions
- Asylums
- Penitentiaries
- Dorothea Dix



Dorothea Dix
(1802-1887)



ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS



OUTRAGE.

Fellow Citizens,

AN

ABOLITIONIST,

of the most revolting character is among you, exciting the feelings of the North against the South. A seditious Lecture is to be delivered

THIS EVENING,

at 7 o'clock, at the Presbyterian Church in Cannon-street.

You are requested to attend and unite in putting down and silencing by peaceable means this tool of evil and fanaticism.

Let the rights of the States guaranteed by the Constitution be protected.

Feb. 27, 1837. *The Union forever!*

ABOLITIONISTS BEWARE.

THE Citizens of Cincinnati, embracing every class, interested in the prosperity of the City, satisfied that the business of the place is receiving ~~much~~ ^{great} ~~loss~~ ^{injury} from the wicked and mis-guided operations of the abolitionists, are resolved to arrest their course. The destruction of their Press on the night of the 12th Instant, may be taken as a warning. As there are some worthy citizens engaged in the unholy cause of annoying our southern neighbors, they are appealed to, to pause before they bring things to a crisis. If an attempt is made to re-establish their press, it will be viewed as an act of defiance to an already outraged community, and on their heads be the result which will follow.

Every kind of expostulation and remonstrance has been resorted to in vain--longer patience would be criminal. The plan is matured to eradicate an evil which every citizen feels is undermining his business and property.

*Shut up on the corner of the
streets just before the night of July 1836*

ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS



1836: DESTROYING BIRNEY'S PRESS; Illustration from *The Anti-Slavery Record*, Vol. 2, No. 9 (September 1836)

1830

CANADA

MAINE

L. Superior

MICH.
TERR.

L. Huron

MICH.
TERR.

L. Ontario

NEW
YORK

Hudson R.

VT.

N.H.

MASS.

R.I.
CONN.

PA.

MD.

DEL.

UNORG.
TERR.

ILLINOIS

IND.

OHIO

VIRGINIA

NORTH
CAROLINA

SOUTH
CAROLINA

TENNESSEE

KENTUCKY

GEORGIA

MISS.
ALABAMA

MISS.

ARK.
TERR.

LA.

FLA.
TERR.

Gulf of Mexico

ATLANTIC
OCEAN



0 250 500 miles

0 250 500 kilometers

- Areas without slaves
- Under 10 percent
- 10 to 30 percent
- 30 to 50 percent
- 50 percent and over

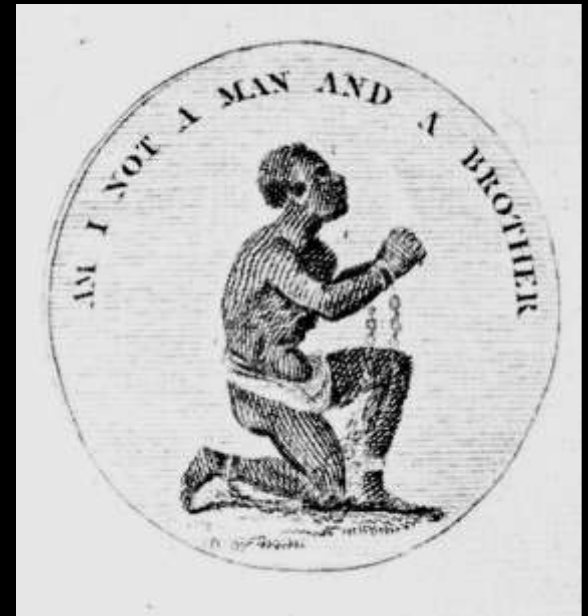
Distribution of the Slave Population, 1830

Distribution of the Slave Population, 1860



ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS

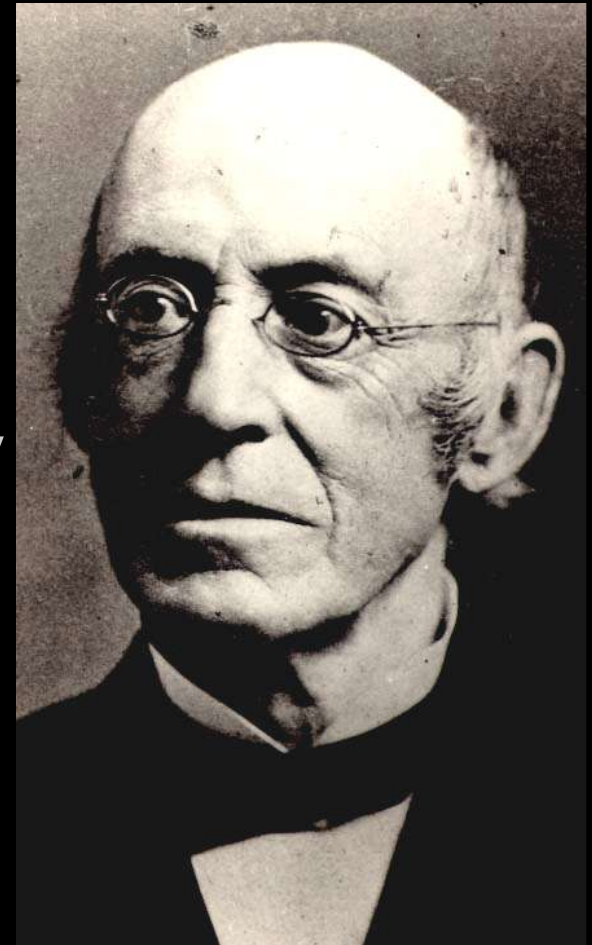
- Colonization
- American Colonization Society (1816)
 - Create a free slave state in Liberia, West Africa.
 - No real anti-slavery sentiment in the North in the 1820s & 1830s.



British Colonization Society symbol

ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS

- Abolition Movement
 - gradualist
 - Radical (immediatist)
- William Lloyd Garrison
- *The Liberator*
- American Antislavery Society
 - **Slavery & Masonry undermined republican values.**
 - **Slavery was a moral, not an economic issue.**
 - **Immediate emancipation with NO compensation.**



William Lloyd Garrison (1801-1879)

The Liberator



ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS

- David Walker (1785-1830) - *Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World* - Fight for freedom rather than wait to be set free by whites.
- Frederick Douglass (1817-1895)
 - 1845 - *The Narrative of the Life Of Frederick Douglass*
 - 1847 - “The North Star”

Frederick Douglass
(about 1866)



Anti-Slavery Convention

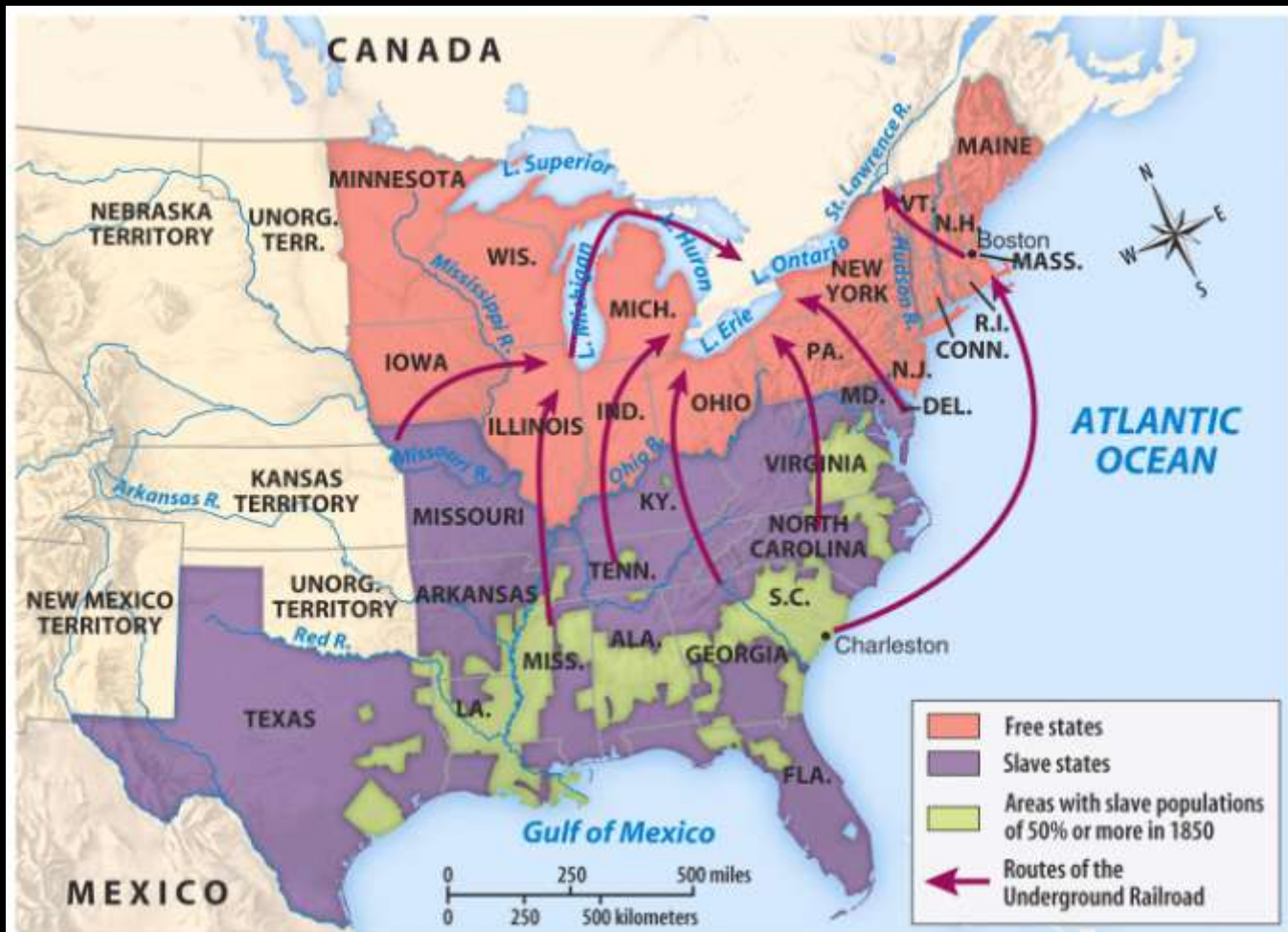
Around 1845,
probably held in
Cazanovia, New
York.

Frederick Douglass
at center right



ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS

■ Underground Railroad





Charles T. Webber, *The Underground Railroad*, 1893, depicting fugitives arriving at Levi Coffin's Indiana farm

Underground Railroad

John Parker House – Ripley, OH



Underground Railroad

John Rankin House – Ripley, OH



Underground Railroad

Samuel & Sally Wilson House – College Hill



National Underground Railroad Freedom Center



National Underground Railroad Freedom Center



ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS:

Reaction to Abolition movement

- South
- North
- Elijah Lovejoy

OUTRAGE.

Fellow Citizens,

AN

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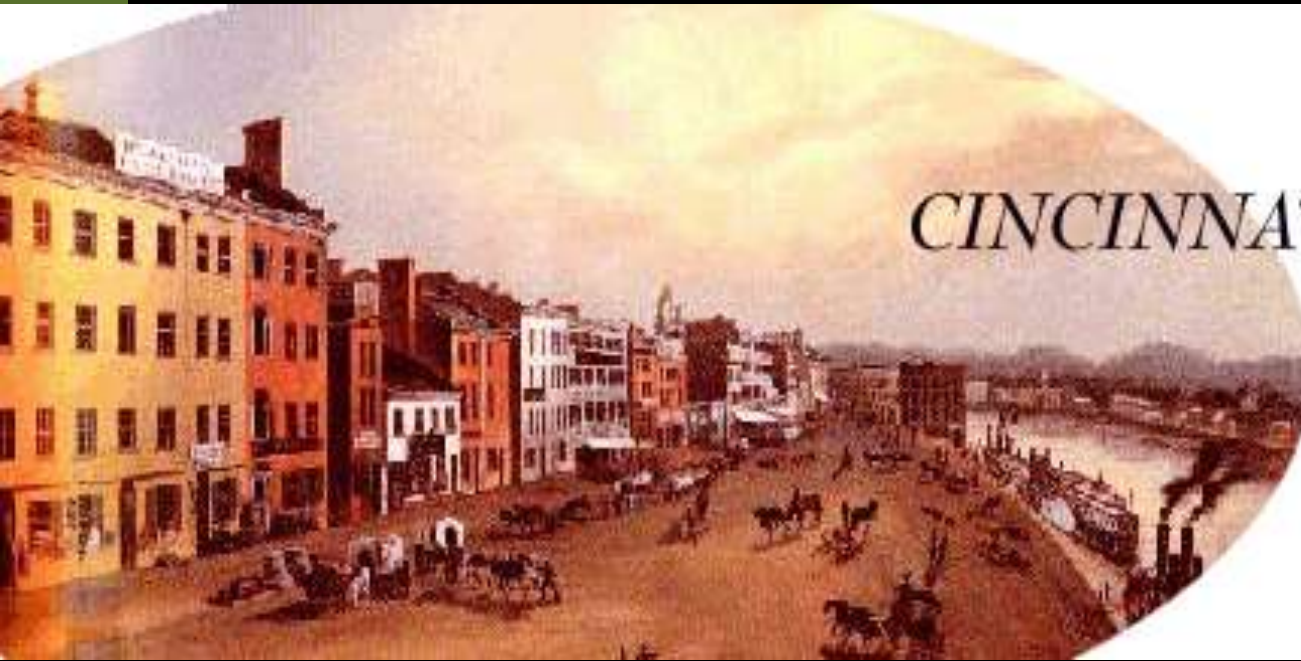
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ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS



CINCINNATI IN THE 1830s

ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS

- Fugitive slaves
- “personal liberty laws”
- “free soil”



Kidnaping. Page 120.

“Kidnapping a Free Negro to Be Sold into Slavery,” 1834

A MAN KIDNAPPED!

A PUBLIC MEETING AT

FANEUIL HALL!

WILL BE HELD

THIS FRIDAY EVEN'G,

May 26th, at 7 o'clock,

To secure Justice for A MAN CLAIMED AS A SLAVE by a

VIRGINIA KIDNAPPER!

And NOW IMPRISONED IN BOSTON COURT HOUSE, in
obedience of the Laws of Massachusetts. Shall he be plunged into the Hell of
Virginia Slavery by a Massachusetts Judge of Probate?

BOSTON, May 26th, 1854.

Antislavery Movements

Varieties of Antislavery Reform Movements

Type	Definition	Examples/Leaders	Notes
Gradualist	Accepts black inferiority and seeks to end slavery in a gradual way by freeing slaves and in some cases, then establishing colonies in Africa	American Colonization Society. Henry Clay, James Madison, and James Monroe were early leaders.	Colonization never succeeds, sending only 1400 freed slaves to Africa in the 1920s while the American slave population grew by 700,000 in the same decade..
Immediatist (abolitionist)	Denounces slavery as a sin. Demands immediate steps to end slavery.	American Anti-Slavery Society., Liberty Party. William Lloyd Garrison, Arthur & Lewis Tappan, Theodore Weld, Angelina Grimké, Frederick Douglass	Few organizational and financial resources. Membership grows to of 200,000 by 1840. Split occurs over issue of antislavery women being treated as equals.
Political antislavery forces	Practices containment: recognize slavery where it exists in Southern states but prevent its spread to the territories	Conscience Whigs. Free Soil Party. In the mid-1850s the new Republican Party became the voice for free soil advocates.	Former Whigs rally to cries of "free soil, free speech, free labor, free men"

*Based on *The American Journey: A History of the United States* by Goldfield, et al.

ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS

■ *Uncle Tom's Cabin*



C. WOMEN

**AND IDEALS OF
DOMESTICITY**

6. Women's Rights

Women's Position in 18th Century Society

- Unable to vote.
- Legal status of a minor.
- Single – could own her own property (*“femme seule”*)
- Married - no control over her property or her children (*“Femme covert”*)
- Could not initiate divorce.
- Could not make wills, sign a contract, or bring suit in court without her husband's permission.

6. Women's Rights

1840 - split in the abolitionist movement over women's role in it.

■ World Anti-Slavery Convention - London



Lucretia Mott



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

1848 - Seneca Falls Convention

■ Declaration of Sentiments

D. TRANSCENDENTALISM & UTOPIAN COMMUNITIES

ANTEBELLUM REFORM MOVEMENTS

1. Transcendentalists

■ Transcendentalists

- “Liberation from understanding and the cultivation of reasoning.”

ℳ “Transcend” the limits of intellect and allow the emotions, the SOUL, to create an original relationship with the Universe.

ANTEBELLUM REFORM MOVEMENTS

1. Transcendentalists

■ Transcendentalists

■ Ralph Waldo Emerson

- ***Nature* (1832)**
- *Self Reliance* (1841)

Ralph Waldo
Emerson



ANTEBELLUM REFORM MOVEMENTS

1. Transcendentalists

- Henry David Thoreau
 - *Resistance to Civil Disobedience* (1849)
 - “civil disobedience”
“passive resistance”
 - *Walden* (1854)



Henry David Thoreau

The Anti-Transcendentalist: Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864)



m, pursuit of the ideal led to a distorted view of human nature and possibilities:

* *The Blithedale Romance*

m, accept the world as an imperfect place:

* *Scarlet Letter*

* *House of the Seven*

ANTEBELLUM REFORM MOVEMENTS

2. Utopian Communities

- Utopian Communities
- Brook Farm
- Robert Owen
 - New Harmony
- Margaret Fuller



Major Communal Experiments before 1860

George Ripley (1802-1880)



Brook Farm
West Roxbury, MA

The Hive at Brook Farm



"THE HIVE"

The Oneida Community

New York, 1848



John Humphrey Noyes
(1811-1886)

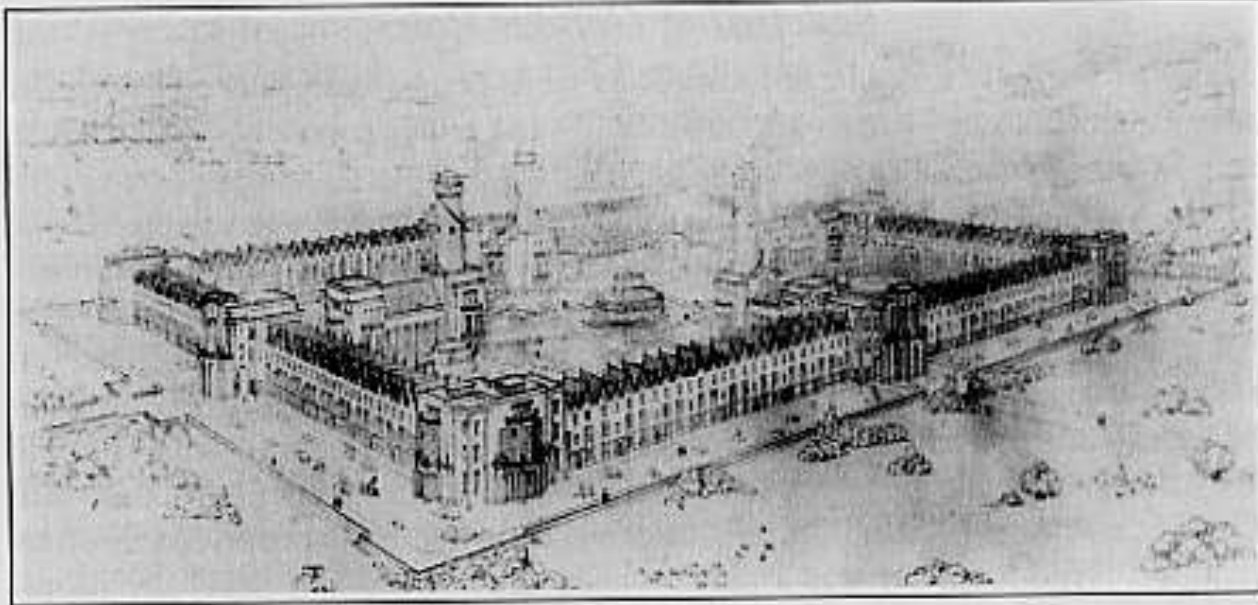
- ↳ **Millenarianism** - the 2nd coming of Christ had already occurred.
- ↳ Humans were no longer obliged to follow the moral rules of the past
- all residents married to each other.
 - carefully regulated "free love."

Robert Owen (1771-1858)



Utopian Socialist

Original Plans for New Harmony, IN



New Harmony, IN



David Lenz House, with Bake Oven
(photo by Ruth Reichmann)



New Harmony Inn
(photo by Ruth Reichmann)



Labyrinth
(Historic New Harmony photo)

Secular Utopian Communities

Individual
Freedom



Demands of
Community Life



↳ spontaneity

↳ self-
fulfillment

↳ discipline

↳ organizational
hierarchy

REVIEW: Guiding Question

- **Analyze the causes and effects of American economic growth in the first half of the nineteenth century.**

Include: developments in transportation, manufacturing and agriculture.

REVIEW: Essential Question

- **To what degree was the South developing as a distinctively different region from the rest of the United States during the period 1820 to 1860?**
- **(To what degree did slavery shape life in the South during this period?)**

(Consider political, economic, social and intellectual aspects of life in the South)

REVIEW: GUIDING QUESTION

- **In what ways and to what extent did social reform movements significantly change American society between 1820 and 1860?**

Consider the following: temperance, education, prison reform, antislavery /abolitionism, women's rights, utopian experiments/communitarianism.