

THE AGE OF REFORM

Video & Textbook Notes

APUSH  
1790-1860  
THE AGE OF REFORM  
REVIEWED!

American Pageant (Kennedy) Chapter 15  
American History (Brinkley) Chapter 12  
America’s History (Henretta) Chapter 11  
OR ANY APUSH BOOK COVERING THIS TIME PERIOD

KC-4.1.II.B: A new national culture emerged that combined American elements, European influences, and regional cultural sensibilities.

BIG IDEAS

- The Second Great Awakening, liberal social ideas from abroad, and Romantic beliefs in human perfectibility fostered the rise of voluntary organizations to promote religious and secular reforms, including abolition and women’s rights.
- Various groups of American Indians, women, and religious followers developed cultures reflecting their interests and experiences, as did regional groups and an emerging urban middle class.

NEW IDEAS: Liberalism in Religion

DEISM

- Less revelation, more reliance on reason
- Less Bible, more science
- But they believe in God
  - Gave human beings capacity for moral behavior

UNITARIANISM

- Spinoff from less extreme Puritanism of the past
- Humans have free will and the possibility of salvation by good works
  - God not as stern Creator, but loving father
- Contrast with hellfire doctrines of Calvinism
  - Reject Predestination and human wickedness

# SECOND GREAT AWAKENING

## Reasons:

- Concern over lack of religious zeal
- Ideas of Deism and Unitarianism
- Wave of revivals spread across the country
  - Frontier "camp meetings"
  - **Charles Finney**- revival preacher who leads revivals in New York area in 1830s
    - Against slavery and alcohol
  - Numerous citizens **converted**
    - "Born again Christians"
    - Boosted church attendance
  - **New religious sects** formed
- **Methodists** and **Baptists** huge increase in numbers
- Stressed personal conversion (not predestination)
- **Democratic** control of church affairs
- **Emotionalism** in worship



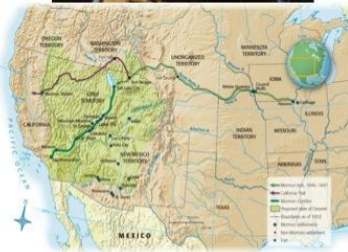
KC-4.1.II.A.i: The rise of democratic and individualistic beliefs, a response to rationalism, and changes to society caused by the market revolution, along with greater social and geographical mobility, contributed to a Second Great Awakening among Protestants.

# SECOND GREAT AWAKENING

- Increase in **evangelicalism** inspire reform efforts- **Age of Reform**
  - Prison Reform
  - Temperance
  - Women's movement
  - Anti-slavery
- Key part of Second Great Awakening was the **key role of women in religion**
  - Majority of new church members
  - Women role of bringing family back to God
  - Inspired involvement in various other reform efforts

# MORMONS

- **Joseph Smith**- Creates Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
  - Travels to Illinois
  - Murdered in 1844
- **Brigham Young** leads the followers to Utah in 1846-47
  - Develops a separate community ("New Zion")
  - Prosperous **cooperative** frontier community
  - Settlement increases by birthrate and immigrants from abroad (Missionary)
- Will not be admitted into the union until 1896
  - **Issue of polygamy**



# AGE OF REFORM

KC-4.1.II.A.ii: The rise of democratic and individualistic beliefs, a response to rationalism, and changes to society caused by the market revolution, along with greater social and geographical mobility, contributed to moral and social reforms and inspired utopian and other religious movements.

## Dorothy Dix

Dorothy Dix- worked tirelessly to reform **mental health** treatment

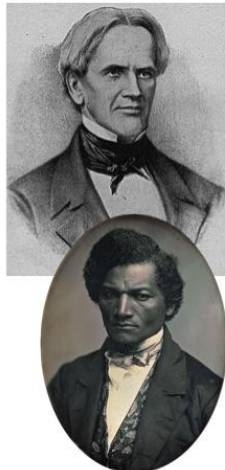
- Traveled the country to document the problem
  - Leads to professional treatment for the mentally ill



KC-4.1.II.A.ii: The rise of democratic and individualistic beliefs, a response to rationalism, and changes to society caused by the market revolution, along with greater social and geographical mobility, contributed to moral and social reforms and inspired utopian and other religious movements.

## EDUCATION REFORM

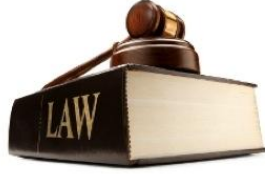
- Tax supported schools were rare in early years of the republic
- **Benefits of Public Education**
  - Instill **republican values**
  - Instill **values**: discipline, hard work, etc.
  - **Americanize immigrants**
- **Horace Mann**- Secretary of Mass. Board of Education
  - Longer school terms
  - Compulsory attendance
  - Expanded curriculum
  - More schools
- **North** benefitted far more from education reforms
  - **Illegal for black slaves** to learn to read and write





# TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT

- **Drinking Problems**
  - **Factory system** needed efficient labor
  - **Family life**
  - Seen as **immigrant** issue (Irish and Germany drinking)
- **American Temperance Society** created in 1826
  - Urged members to stop drinking
  - Created propaganda to spread their "dry" message
- Move from temperance to **legal prohibition**
- **Maine Law of 1851**
  - Prohibited the manufacture and sale of liquor
  - Nationwide with **18<sup>th</sup> Amendment**



KC-4.1.III.A: Americans formed new voluntary organizations that aimed to change individual behaviors and improve society through temperance and other reform efforts.

## WOMEN RESIST

- **Women were treated like second class citizens**
  - Democratization did not apply to women
    - "Age of Common Man"
- **"Cult of domesticity"** the home was a woman's special sphere
- **Idea of "republican motherhood"**
  - Mothers should raise children to be good citizens



KC-4.1.III.C: A women's rights movement sought to create greater equality and opportunities for women, expressing its ideals at the Seneca Falls Convention.

## WOMEN RESIST

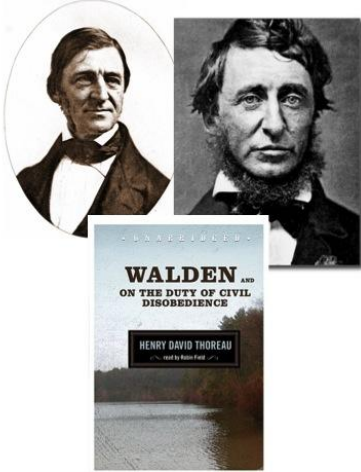
- **Women Reformers:**
  - Inspired by Second Great Awakening
  - Demand rights for women, temperance movement, and the abolition of slavery
- **Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton** both advocated for suffrage for women
- **Women's Rights: Seneca Falls Convention (1848)**
  - Stanton read "Declaration of Sentiments"
  - "All men and women are created equal"
  - Demand right to vote for women
  - Launched the modern women's rights movement



**Women's rights was overshadowed by abolitionist movement**

# Transcendentalism

- Truth, “transcends” the senses
  - Not just found by observation alone
- Every person possess an **inner light** that can illuminate the highest truth
- **Ralph Waldo Emerson**- stress self reliance, self improvement, and freedom.
  - “The American Scholar” in 1837 at Harvard challenged Americans to make their own art and culture
- **Henry David Thoreau**- “On the Duty of Civil Disobedience” (1849) & “Walden” (1854)



KC-4.1.II.C: Liberal social ideas from abroad and Romantic beliefs in human perfectibility influenced literature, art, philosophy, and architecture.

# UTOPIAN COMMUNITIES

- Various movements to move away from conventional society and create a utopian community.
- **Mormons**: religious communal effort
- **Brook Farm**: communal **transcendentalist** experiment in Mass.
  - Secular, humanistic
- **New Harmony**: create a socialist type community that would be an answer to the problems presented by **industrialization**.

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