

Reforming American Society

A religious revival sparks reform movements, including calls to outlaw slavery. Factory laborers begin to demand better working conditions. A women's rights movement forms.

Reforming American Society

SECTION 1 Religion Sparks Reform

SECTION 2 Slavery and Abolition

SECTION 3 Women and Reform

SECTION 4 The Changing Workplace

Section 1

Religion Sparks Reform

A renewal of religious sentiment—known as the Second Great Awakening—inspires a host of reform movements.

SECTION

1 Religion Sparks Reform

The Second Great Awakening

Religious Activism

- **Second Great Awakening**—religious movement, sweeps U.S. after 1790
- Individual responsible for own salvation, can improve self, society
- Preacher **Charles Grandison Finney** inspires emotional religious faith
- Large gatherings; some preachers get 20,000 or more at outdoor camps

Revivalism

- **Revival**—gathering to awaken religious faith; lasts 4 to 5 days
- Revivalism greatly increases church membership

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

1

continued **The Second Great Awakening****The African-American Church**

- Camp meetings, Baptist, Methodist churches open to blacks and whites
- Southern slaves interpret Christian message as promise of freedom
- In East, free African Americans have own churches
- African Methodist Episcopal Church—political, cultural, social place
- African-American church organizes first national convention (1830)



SECTION

1

Transcendentalism and Reforms

Transcendentalism

- **Ralph Waldo Emerson** leads group practicing **transcendentalism**:
 - literary and philosophical movement
 - emphasizes simple life
 - truth found in nature, emotion, imagination
- **Henry David Thoreau** puts self-reliance into practice, writes *Walden*
- Thoreau urges **civil disobedience**, peaceful refusal to obey laws

Unitarianism

- Unitarians stress reason, appeals to conscience in religion
- Agree with revivalists: individual, social reform important



SECTION

1

Americans Form Ideal Communities

Utopias

- **Utopian communities**—experimental groups, try to create perfect place
- In 1841, transcendentalist George Ripley establishes Brook Farm
- Most utopias last only a few years

Shaker Communities

- Shakers share goods, believe men and women equal, refuse to fight
- Do not marry or have children; need converts, adoption to survive

SECTION

1

Schools and Prisons Undergo Reform

Reforming Asylums and Prisons

- **Dorothea Dix** gets 10 states to improve conditions for mentally ill
- Reformers stress rehabilitation to obtain useful position in society

Improving Education

- In early 1800s, school not compulsory, not divided by grade
- Pennsylvania establishes tax-supported public school system in 1834
- Horace Mann establishes teacher training, curriculum reforms
- By 1850s, all states have publicly funded elementary schools





Section 2

Slavery and Abolition

Slavery becomes an explosive issue, as more Americans join reformers working to put an end to it.



SECTION

2 Slavery and Abolition

Abolitionists Speak Out

The Resettlement Question

- 1820s over 100 antislavery societies advocate resettlement in Africa
- Most free blacks consider themselves American; few emigrate
- Whites join blacks calling for **abolition**, outlawing of slavery

William Lloyd Garrison

- **William Lloyd Garrison**—radical white abolitionist; founds:
 - New England Anti-Slavery Society
 - American Anti-Slavery Society
- *The Liberator* calls for immediate **emancipation**—freeing of slaves

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

2

continued **Abolitionists Speak Out****Free Blacks**

- **David Walker** advises blacks to fight for freedom, not wait to get it
- Southern free blacks work as day laborers, artisans
- Northern free blacks given only lowest-paying jobs

Frederick Douglass

- As a slave, **Frederick Douglass** taught to read, write by owner's wife
- Douglass escapes; asked to lecture for Anti-Slavery Society
- Douglass's *The North Star*: abolition through political action



SECTION

2

Life Under Slavery

The Slave Population

- Population increases from 1810 (1.2 million) to 1830 (2 million)
- 18th century, most slaves recent arrivals, work on small farms
- By 1830, majority are American, work on plantations or large farms

Rural Slavery

- On plantations, men, women, children work dawn to dusk in fields
- Slaves are whipped, have little time for food, no breaks for rest

Continued . . .



SECTION

2

continued Life Under Slavery**Urban Slavery**

- Demand in southern cities for skilled black slaves
- Enslaved blacks can hire themselves out as artisans
- Slave owners hire out their workers to factory owners
- Treatment of slaves in cities less cruel than on plantations

Nat Turner's Rebellion

- **Nat Turner**, preacher, leads slave rebellion; about 60 whites killed
- Turner, followers, innocent are captured; 200 killed in retaliation



SECTION

2

Slave Owners Defend Slavery

Virginia Debate

- Virginia legislature debates abolition; motion not passed
- Ends the debate on slavery in **antebellum** (pre-Civil War) South

Backlash from Revolts

- Southern states create slave codes to tighten limits on blacks
- Free African Americans as well as slaves lose rights

Continued . . .



SECTION

2

continued **Slave Owners Defend Slavery****Proslavery Defenses**

- Slavery advocates use Bible, myth of happy slave as defense
- Southern congressmen secure adoption of **gag rule**:
 - limits or prevents debate
 - used on issue of slavery
 - deprives citizens of right to be heard

Section 3

Women and Reform

Women reformers expand their efforts from movements such as abolition and temperance to include women's rights.

SECTION

3 Women and Reform**Women's Roles in the Mid-1800s****Cultural and Legal Limits on Women**

- **Cult of domesticity**—only housework, child care for married women
- Single white women earn half of men's pay for doing same job
- Women have few legal rights; cannot vote, sit on juries
 - do not have guardianship of own children
- A married woman's property, earnings belong to her husband
- Women delegates at World's Anti-Slavery Convention rejected
- **Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott** form women's rights society



SECTION

3

Women Mobilize for Reform

Women Abolitionists

- Middle-class white women inspired by religion join reform movements
- **Sarah** and **Angelina Grimké**— work for abolition
- daughters of Southern slave owner
- Some men support women reformers; others denounce them

Working for Temperance

- Many women in **temperance movement**—prohibit drinking alcohol
- Widespread use of alcohol in early 19th century
- American Temperance Society founded 1826;
6,000 local groups by 1833

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

3

continued **Women Mobilize for Reform****Education for Women**

- Until 1820s, few opportunities for girls past elementary school
- Academic schools for women become available:
 - 1821, Emma Willard opens Troy Female Seminary
 - 1837, Mary Lyon founds Mount Holyoke Female Seminary
 - 1837, Oberlin College admits 4 women; first coeducational college
- African-American girls have few opportunities to get good education

Continued . . .

SECTION

3

continued **Women Mobilize for Reform****Women and Health Reform**

- Elizabeth Blackwell, doctor, opens clinic for women, children
- Catharine Beecher's national survey finds most women unhealthy
- Amelia Bloomer rebels, designs loose pants; popular with other women

SECTION

3

Women's Rights Movement Emerges

Seneca Falls

- Reform encourages women's movement, give opportunities outside home
- 1848, Stanton, Mott hold **Seneca Falls Convention** for women's rights
- "Declaration of Sentiments" modeled on Declaration of Independence
- Attendees approve all but one resolution of Declaration unanimously:
 - men and women are equal
 - urge women to participate in public issues
 - narrowly pass women's suffrage

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

3

continued **Women's Rights Movement Emerges****Sojourner Truth**

- Former Northern slave **Sojourner Truth** travels country preaching
- Later argues for abolition, women's rights

Section 4

The Changing Workplace

A growing industrial work force faces problems arising from manufacturing under the factory system.

SECTION

4 The Changing Workplace

Industry Changes Work

Rural Manufacturing

- **Cottage industry**—manufacturers supply materials, goods made in homes
- Entrepreneurs like Francis Cabot Lowell open weaving factories in MA
 - by 1830s Lowell and partners have 8 factories, 6,000 employees

Continued . . .



SECTION

4

continued Industry Changes Work**Early Factories**

- Early 1800s, artisans produce items people cannot make themselves:
 - **master**—highly experienced artisan
 - **journeyman**—skilled worker employed by master
 - **apprentice**—young worker learning craft
- Factories revolutionize industry: cost of household items drops
- With machines, unskilled workers replace artisans

SECTION

4

Farm Worker to Factory Worker

The Lowell Mill

- Most mill workers are unmarried farm girls
 - under strict control of female supervisor
- Owners hire females who can be paid lower wages than men
- Factory pay better than alternatives—teaching, sewing, domestic work
- Most girls stay at Lowell only for a few years
- Mill girls take new ideas back to their homes

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

4

continued **Farm Worker to Factory Worker****Conditions at Lowell**

- Work 12 hours in heat, dark, poor ventilation:
 - cause discomfort, illness
- Conditions continue to deteriorate; 800 mill girls conduct a **strike**:
 - work stoppage to force employer to respond to worker demands

Strikes at Lowell

- 1834, strike over pay cut; 1836, strike over higher board charges
- Company prevails both times, fires strike leaders
- 1845, Lowell Female Labor Reform Association founded

SECTION

4

Workers Seek Better Conditions

Workers Unionize

- Artisans form unions; begin to ally selves with unskilled workers
- 1830s–1840s, 1–2% of workers organized, dozens of strikes
 - employers use immigrants as strikebreakers

Immigration Increases

- European immigration to the U.S. increases 1830–1860
- German immigrants cluster in upper Mississippi Valley, Ohio Valley

A Second Wave

- Irish immigrants settle in large Eastern cities
- Disliked because Catholic, poor; resented because work for low pay

Continued . . .



SECTION

4

continued **Workers Seek Better Conditions****National Trades' Union**

- 1830s, unions for same trade unite to standardize wages, conditions
- 1834, organizations from 6 industries form **National Trades' Union**
- Bankers, owners form associations; courts declare strikes illegal

Court Backs Strikers

- In 1842, Massachusetts Supreme Court upholds right to strike
- In 1860, barely 5,000 union members; 20,000 people in strikes