Antebellum Society and Reform
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

- Based on Nash, The American People, 6th ed.
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
- Education
- Women’s Rights

Ms. Susan Pojer, Chappaqua H.S., Chappaqua, NY
RELIGION – Non-2GA

- Society of Friends
- Unitarianism
RELIGION

Shakers

Shaker Meeting
Shaker Simplicity & Utility
RELIGION

- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) ("Mormons")
  - 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%).
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 baseness of the place is receiving ... stab from the wicked and misguided 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 results 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.

Sheds at the corner of the streets, south of the Market, July 1836.
ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS

1836: DESTROYING BIRNEY'S PRESS; Illustration from The Anti-Slavery Record, Vol. 2, No. 9 (September 1836)
Distribution of the Slave Population, 1830
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)
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”
Anti-Slavery Convention

Around 1845, probably held in Cazanovia, New York.
Frederick Douglass at center right
ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS

- Underground Railroad
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
ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS

CINCINNATI IN THE 1830s
ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENTS

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Examples/Leaders</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gradualist</td>
<td>Accepts black inferiority and seeks to end slavery in a gradual way by freeing slaves and in some cases, then establishing colonies in Africa</td>
<td>American Colonization Society, Henry Clay, James Madison, and James Monroe were early leaders.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Political antislavery forces</td>
<td>Practices containment: recognize slavery where it exists in Southern states but prevent its spread to the territories</td>
<td>Conscience Whigs, Free Soil Party. In the mid-1850s the new Republican Party became the voice for free soil advocates.</td>
<td>Former Whigs rally to cries of “free soil, free speech, free labor, free men”</td>
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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

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.”

- “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)
ANTEBELLUM REFORM MOVEMENTS

1. Transcendentalists

- Henry David Thoreau
  - *Resistance to Civil Disobedience* (1849)
  - “civil disobedience”
    - “passive resistance”
  - *Walden* (1854)
pursuit of the ideal led to a distorted view of human nature and possibilities:

* The Blithedale Romance

accept the world as an imperfect place:

* Scarlet Letter
* House of the Seven

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

[Village of Cooperation]
Original Plans for New Harmony, IN
New Harmony, IN

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

Labyrinth
(Historic New Harmony photo)

New Harmony Inn
(photo by Ruth Reichmann)
Secular Utopian Communities

Individual Freedom

- spontaneity
- self-fulfillment

Demands of Community Life

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

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