

Chapter 15 - The Ferment of Reform and Culture

1790-1860

Reviving Religion

Thomas Paine promoted the doctrines of **Deism**. Deists relied on science rather than the Bible and they denied the divinity of Christ. They did believe in a Supreme Being who had created a universe and endowed human beings with a capacity for moral behavior.

Unitarianism was derived from Deism. Unitarians believed that God existed in only one person, and not the Trinity. It appealed to mostly intellectuals.

The **Second Great Awakening** began in **1800**. A wave of religious fervor swept over the country. Women became more involved in religion during the Second Great Awakening.

Peter Cartwright: a revivalist, traveling preacher who converted thousands to Christianity.

Charles Grandison Finney: one of the greatest revivalist preachers.

Denominational Diversity

The Second Great Awakening widened the gap between the societal classes and regions. The more prosperous and conservative denominations in the East were little touched by revivalism. Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Unitarians derived its members from the wealthier parts of society, while Methodists and Baptists came from less prosperous communities in the South and West.

The issue of slavery split the churches apart.

A Desert Zion in Utah

Joseph Smith: formed the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)** in **1830** when he deciphered the Book of Mormon from some golden plates given to him by an angel; led the Mormons to Illinois.

After Joseph Smith was killed **1844**, Brigham Young led the Mormons to Utah to avoid persecution.

Free Schools for a Free People

Tax-supported **public education** came about between **1825-1850**. Americans eventually saw they had to educate their children because the children were the future. The teachers of the schools were mostly men and did not know how to teach. There were not very many schools in the U.S. because of their high costs to communities.

Horace Mann: campaigned effectively for a better school system.

Higher Goals for Higher Learning

The first state-supported **universities** showed up in the South in **1795**.

The University of Virginia was founded by Thomas Jefferson.

Women's schools at the secondary level came in the 1820s because of Emma Willard. At the time, it was still widely believed that a women's place is in the home.

An Age of Reform

States gradually abolished debtors' prisons due to public demand. Criminal codes in the states were being softened. The number of capital offenses was being reduced. Society began to think that prisons should **reform** as well as punish.

Dorothy Dix: traveled the country, visiting different asylums; released a report on insanity and asylums; her protests resulted in improved conditions for the mentally ill.

In **1828**, the **American Peace Society** was formed. It was led by William Ladd.

Demon Rum - The "Old Deluder"

In the early 1800s, many people developed drinking problems due to social norms and hard/monotonous life. This included women, clergymen, and members of Congress. The **American Temperance Society** was formed in **1826**. Its members persuaded people to stop drinking.

Drinking decreased worker efficiency and threatened the family structure.

Neal S. Dow: thought that alcohol should be outlawed; "Father of Prohibition"; supported the **Maine Law of 1851** which banned the manufacture and sale of liquor in Maine. (The country banned the sale of alcohol with the 18th amendment in 1918.)

Women in Revolt

In the early 19th century, the **role of women** was to stay at home and be subordinate to her husband. Women could not vote and when married, she could not retain her property. Because of these things, women actually started to avoid marriage.

Gender differences were emphasized in the 19th century because the market economy was separating women and men into distinct economic roles (women were viewed as artistic and the keepers of society's conscience, while men were viewed as strong but crude).

Feminists met at **Seneca Falls**, New York in a **Woman's Rights Convention** in **1848** to rewrite the Declaration of Independence to include women.

Wilderness Utopians

Several **utopian communities** were created in the early 1800s, but all of them ultimately failed.

Robert Owen: founded a communal society in **New Harmony**, Indiana in **1825** to seek human betterment.

The Dawn of Scientific Achievement

Americans were more interested in **practical gadgets** than in **pure science**. Americans invented practical gadgets, but they borrowed and adapted scientific findings from the Europeans.

Medicine in America was still primitive by modern standards. In the early 1840s, several American doctors and dentists successfully used **laughing gas** and ether as **anaesthetics**.

Artistic Achievements

Early American architects used a **Federal Style** that emphasized symmetry, balance, and restraint (columns, domes, pediments).

Between 1820 and 1850, a **Greek revival** in architecture came to America. Most of the ideas of art and painting were taken from Europe.

"**Dixie**" was the battle hymn of the Confederates and was written in **1859**.

The Blossoming of a National Literature

Before the mid-1800s, most literature in America was imported from Britain.

Following the War of 1812, American literature received a boost from the wave of nationalism and the arrival of **romanticism** to America.

Washington Irving: the first American to win international recognition as a literary figure.

James Fenimore Cooper: the first American novelist to gain world fame.

Trumpeters of Transcendentalism

The **transcendentalist movement** came about in the 1830s. The transcendentalists believed that knowledge transcends the senses and can't be found just by observation; knowledge comes from within the person. Associated traits included self-reliance, self-culture, and self-discipline.

Ralph Waldo Emerson: transcendentalist poet and philosopher; urged American writers to forget European traditions and write about American interests; wrote "The American Scholar," which was an intellectual declaration of independence.

Henry David Thoreau: transcendentalist who believed that people should ignore bodily desires and pursue truth through study and meditation.

Glowing Literary Lights

Not all poets and writers of the time were transcendentalists.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: one of the most famous poets to come from America; wrote for the wealthy class; was adopted by the less-cultured class.

Literary Individuals and Dissenters

Edgar Allan Poe: wrote with a pessimistic tone, unlike the literature at the time.

Herman Melville: wrote the novel **Moby Dick**.

Portrayers of the Past

In the mid-1800s, **American historians** began to emerge

Chapter 16 - The South and the Slavery Controversy

1793-1860

In the late 1700s, slavery was starting to die out, but the invention of the cotton gin prompted plantation owners to keep their slaves to support the larger cotton harvests.

"Cotton is King!"

Cotton accounted for half the value of all American exports after 1840. In the 1850s, Britain's most important manufactured item was cotton cloth. Britain imported 75% of its raw cotton from the South. Because of this, the South had a significant influence in Britain.

The Planter "Aristocracy"

The South was more of an **oligarchy**, a government ran by a few. The government was heavily affected by the planter aristocracy. Southern aristocracy widened the gap between the rich and poor because the aristocrats made governmental decisions in their favor.

The Southern plantation wife commanded the female slaves.

Slaves of the Slave System

The economic structure in the South became increasingly **monopolistic**. The Southern economy was very dependent on cotton, which made the economy unstable. Many plantation owners **over-specified** in land and slaves, causing them fall into debt.

The White Majority

The white population of the South was as follows (from smallest to largest): a) Wealthy slave owners. b) Less wealthy slave owners. These people didn't own a majority of the slaves, but they made up a majority of the masters. c) Non-slave-holding whites (3/4 of South white population). These whites supported slavery because they wanted to eventually own slaves and achieve the "**American dream**" of moving up in society. The less prosperous non-slave-holding whites were known as "poor white trash" and "hillbillies." Civilization hadn't reached mountain whites who lived in the valley of the Appalachian range. They supported Abraham Lincoln's Union party.

Free Blacks: Slaves Without Masters

Many free blacks settled in **New Orleans**.

Free blacks were generally not liked in the North and South. In the **South**, free blacks were prohibited from having certain jobs and forbidden from testifying against whites in court. They were known as the "**3rd Race**."

White southerners liked the black as an individual, but they hated the race. The white northerner professed to like the race, but disliked the individual.

Plantation Slavery

Because the price of "**black ivory**" (slaves) was so high, slaves were smuggled into the South even though legal importation of African slaves into America ended in **1808**. Most slaves were the offspring of slaves already in America. Planters regarded slaves as major **investments**.

Life Under the Lash

"Black Belt": region of the South where most slaves were concentrated; stretched from South Carolina and Georgia into Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Blacks managed to sustain family life in slavery.

Blacks formed their own religions from a mixture of Christian and African elements.

Responsorial: style of preaching in which the congregation responds to the preacher with remarks of "amen."

The Burdens of Bondage

Slaves were not permitted to **read** because reading brought ideas and ideas brought discontent.

Slavery in the South was known as the "**peculiar institution**."

Nat Turner's Rebellion: southern rebellion against slavery led by Nat Turner; the rebellion was defeated.

Enslaved Africans aboard the slave ship **Amistad** rebelled and took control of the ship in 1839. The ship landed in Long Island, but the Africans were eventually returned to Sierra Leone.

Early Abolitionism

American Colonization Society: founded in 1817; focused on transporting blacks back to Africa.

Republic of Liberia: founded in 1822 as a place for former slaves.

By 1860, all southern slaves were born in America, and many did not have a desire to return to Africa.

The Second Great Awakening inspired many abolitionists to speak out against the sins of slavery.

Theodore Dwight Weld: abolitionist who spoke against slavery; wrote the pamphlet *American Slavery As It Is* (1839) which made arguments against slavery; went to Lane Theological Seminary.

Radical Abolitionism

William Lloyd Garrison: wrote a militantly anti-slavery newspaper ***The Liberator***; publicly burned a copy of the Constitution.

American Anti-Slavery Society: founded in 1833 to oppose slavery.

Sojourner Truth: freed black woman who fought for black emancipation and women's rights.

Frederick Douglass: black abolitionist who lectured for abolitionism; looked to politics to end slavery; published his autobiography, ***Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass***.

The South Lashes Back

From 1831-1832, Virginia defeated numerous emancipation bills. Other states followed suit, prohibiting all forms of emancipation. This series of emancipation setbacks was known as the **nullification crisis of 1832**. It silenced the voice of white southern abolitionism.

The Southerners argued that slavery was supported by the Bible, and that slavery was good for the Africans because it introduced them to Christianity.

The **Gag Resolution** required all anti-slavery appeals to be tabled without debate in the House of Representatives.

In **1835**, the government ordered the southern postmasters to destroy abolitionist material due to anti-abolitionist mobbing and rioting at a postal office in Charleston, South Carolina.

The Abolitionist Impact in the North

Abolitionists were, for a long time, unpopular in many parts of the North. The southern planters owed much money to the northern bankers. If the Union collapsed, these debts would not be repaid. Additionally, New England textile mills were supplied with cotton raised by the slaves. If slavery was abolished, then the cotton supply would be cut off, resulting in unemployment.

"Free soilers" opposed extending slavery to the western territories.