2nd Great Awakening

A chapter of “Jacksonian Democracy” (1790-1840)

Democracy shows not only its power in reforming governments, but in regenerating a race of men and this is the greatest blessing of free governments.

(Andrew Jackson)
Who has the power to change voting qualifications?
Charles Finney

“If we are to have an impact upon our culture, the beginning point must be to take our stand united in Christ, making an effort among all true believers to come together across racial, ethnic, and confessional lines.”

- Named the “Father of Modern Revivalism” and leader in the 2nd GA
- Pioneer in social reforms in favor of women and blacks
- Religious author and president of Oberlin College (1st school to accept blacks and females)
-2nd GA: Protestant revival of faith that led to increased membership in Baptist and Methodist and other denominations
-Focused on “spiritual reform”
-Led to the increased involvement of women in religion
New York, the “Burnt Over District”

- New transportation also spread religion that started along the Erie Canal.

-The name was inspired by the notion that the area had been so heavily evangelized as to have no "fuel" (unconverted population) left over to "burn"
Reform?

To make changes in (something, typically a social, political, or economic institution or practice) in order to improve
5 Reform Movements resulting from the Great Awakening

1. Abolition of Slavery
2. Women’s Rights
3. Temperance
4. Prisons and Mental Health
5. Public Education
1. Abolition

A CRUSADE AGAINST SLAVERY

Counterfeit Christianity,

BY A SPECTATOR. No. 1.

What has Slavery done in the U.S. States for the last two hundred years? Yes, what has it done? IT HAS BLASTED AND CURSED THE LAND!
Underground Railroad

- Post Revolution and continued until emancipation
- Escape network for slaves
- Harriet Tubman, compared to and known as “Moses”

100,000 slaves escaped through this system by 1850
The American Colonization Society established in 1816 by Robert Finley of NJ; supported the return of free blacks to what was considered greater freedom in Africa. -Helped to found the colony of Liberia in 1822-1865 to up to 20,000 black Americans.
David Walker’s Appeal

- Whites and blacks can build America together
- Slavery is a violent institution, so slaves are justified to use violence to “regain their humanity”

Appeal (1829) sought to:
- Undermine racist ideology by using DoI and biblical support
- Encourage black self-help through education and religion
- Urge black readers to take an active role in fighting their oppression
- Press white Americans to uphold the self-evident truth that all men are created equal
- Attacked the ACS – argued blacks have the right to the U.S. as their home
- Advocate for immediate abolition

Now, I ask you, had you not rather be killed than to be a slave to a tyrant, who takes the life of your mother, wife, and dear little children? Look upon your mother, wife and children, and answer God Almighty; and believe this, that it is no more harm for you to kill a man who is trying to kill you, than it is for you to take a drink of water when thirsty.

— David Walker —
Frederick Douglass

-Friends with William Lloyd Garrison (The Liberator) and later author of abolitionist newspaper The North Star
-Advocate for women’s rights and active in their movement
-Would advise Lincoln during Civil War
William Lloyd Garrison

- 1832: helped form the New England Anti-Slavery Society
- Joined the American Colonization Society but left upon discovering its “true objective” being to minimize the amount of free blacks in America
- Author of *The Liberator*
- Pacifist (caused some abolitionists to criticize)
- Believed slavery was protected in the U.S.C. and therefore the Union would have to be dissolved (caused further divide among abolitionists)
“I am aware that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice. On this subject, I do not wish to think, or to speak, or write, with moderation. No! no! Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hands of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen; — but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am in earnest — I will not equivocate — I will not excuse — I will not retreat a single inch — AND I WILL BE HEARD.”
Angelina and Sarah Grimke

“I know you do not make the laws, but... if you really suppose you can do nothing to overthrow slavery, you are greatly mistaken... try to persuade your husband, father, brothers and sons that slavery is a crime against God and man.”

— Angelina Grimke

— Quakers, abolitionists and suffragettes born into a Charleston, SC slaveholding family
- Would move to the North to champion abolition, some of the first women to speak to co-ed crowds (heavily criticized)
- Wrote *American Slavery As It Is* in 1839, giving a real-life look into slavery
“Women ought to feel a peculiar sympathy in the colored man’s wrong, for, like him, she has been accused of mental inferiority, and denied the privileges of a liberal education.”

Angelina Grimke

- Believed slavery should be abolished before women worked for voting rights
"The best protection any woman can have... is courage."

—Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Freed NY slave
- Renamed herself “Sojourner” because it means “to journey”
- Made a rebuttal at the 1852 Women’s Conference in Akron, Ohio, that became known as the “Ain’t I a Woman?” speech
- Called out the hypocrisy of the male argument of female capability
THE CULT OF DOMESTICITY – A “True Woman”:

Piety – Religion was valued because unlike intellectual pursuits it did not take a woman away from her "proper sphere," the home, and because it controlled women's longings.

Purity – Virginity was seen as a woman's greatest treasure which she had to preserve until her marriage night.

Submission – True Women were required to be as submissive and obedient "as little children" because men were regarded as women's superiors "by God's appointment."

Domesticity – A woman's proper sphere was the home where a wife created a refuge for her husband and children; Needlework, cooking, making beds, and tending flowers were considered proper feminine activities whereas reading of anything other than religious biographies was discouraged.

-Early feminist opposition to the values promoted by the Cult of Domesticity culminated in the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848.
“Separate Spheres”

- Emerged as a result of American move towards industrialization
- Notion of a “woman’s place” being the domestic sphere (later seen as “public housekeeping”)
- Not just gender-based, but also age and class
- Some regions formed different opinions of the roles within those spheres (e.g. women in the South)
Seneca Falls Convention (1848)
- Organized by Lucretia Mott
- First women’s rights convention
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton gave the “Declaration of Sentiments” speech:
  “We hold these truths to be self-evident that ALL men AND women are created equal”
- Frederick Douglass was in attendance

Susan B. Anthony
- Moved to Seneca Falls
- Paired up with Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Would be arrested for trying to vote
3. Temperance
Women’s Christian Temperance Union

- Alcohol abuse was common, which many believed led to societal problems like poverty, crime, domestic violence, family neglect, etc.

- Wanted to promote moderation and then total prohibition of alcohol

(18th Amendment will be passed in the future, accomplishing this goal)
Carrie Nation

-Briefly married to an alcoholic, Carrie developed a strong sense she was called by God to destroy “The Drink”

-Between 1900 and 1910 she was arrested 30 times after leading her followers into saloons and destroying kegs and bottles of liquor

-Became the most well-known and infamous member of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union

Men are nicotine soaked, beer besmirched, whiskey greased, red-eyed devils.

~ Carrie Nation

destroy bottles of liquor. She occasionally greets bartenders with a cheery “Good morning, destroyer of men’s souls.”
4. Prison & Mental Health Reform

-Dorothea Dix started teaching Sunday school at the women’s prison in 1841.
-After seeing the appalling conditions they were living in and the lack of rehabilitation given - called for state legislatures to build asylums.
-Dorothea Dix Hospital dedicated in Raleigh.
5. PUBLIC EDUCATION
- Increased democracy led to a call for compulsory school attendance laws
- Led by Horace Mann, MA HoR (Whig Party) – “Father of Public Schools”
- Free, tax-supported primary education
- Teacher colleges and graded textbooks
- McGuffey’s Reader reading textbook
- Noah Webster’s Dictionary with American spelling of words
Literature and Art Movements
Romanticism

- Wrote about people’s emotions such as love and terror
- Reaction to the Industrial Revolution
- Intuition and emotion over rational thinking
- Individualist, artists and loners

The movement validated strong emotion as an authentic source of aesthetic experience, placing new emphasis on such emotions as apprehension, horror, terror, and awe

—Untamed nature and its picturesque qualities
Hudson River School of Art

- Influenced by Romanticism
- Paintings of American landscapes
- Promoted Manifest Destiny
- Three themes of America in the 19th century: discovery, exploration, and settlement
- Human beings and nature coexist peacefully
Hudson River School of Art
Nathaniel Hawthorne

- Themes often centered on the inherent evil and sins of humanity.
- Often had moral messages and deep psychological complexity.
Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)

- Wrote poetry, science-fiction, mysteries
- Most famous poem, “The Raven”
- “The Father of the Detective Story”

There is no exquisite beauty without some strangeness in the proportion. — Edgar Allan Poe
- Early career as a midshipman influenced his novels & short stories about the sea
- Famous for historical romances of frontier and Indian life in the early American days
- Created a unique form of American literature
Transcendentalism

- Based on American ideals of equality, freedom, and reform through peaceful change
- Everyone has an "inner light of goodness"
- Transcendentalists hung out at Brook Farm, a Transcendentalist Utopia
- Society and its institutions - particularly organized religion and political parties – are ultimately corrupted the purity of the individual

To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch... to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded! - Emerson

WHAT LIES BEHIND US AND WHAT LIES BEFORE US ARE SMALL MATTERS COMPARED TO WHAT LIES WITHIN US

-Ralph Waldo Emerson-
Transcendentalism’s Principles
- Individual worth over conformity
- Living in harmony with nature
- Great dignity in manual labor
- Fostering your relationship with God where you find your faith is strongest
- Civil Disobedience is a citizen’s duty

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.

– Henry David Thoreau