



The Ferment of Reform and Culture

1790-1860

AP U.S. History

Essential Question

- How was the Second Great Awakening a reflection of the changing American society?

Reviving Religion

- The ideas from the Age of Enlightenment, such as logic, scientific reasoning, and philosophy, began to erode the public's beliefs in old church orthodoxy.

Even the Founding Fathers, like Jefferson and Franklin, embraced liberal ideas.

Deists, while believing in a Supreme Being, believed in reason rather than faith; on science rather than the Bible.

Maybe Jesus is not the son of God.



Franklin

Churches are set up to enslave mankind.



Paine

Maybe God isn't who we think he is.



Jefferson

Deism inspired the Unitarian faith. Unitarians did not believe in the Holy Trinity (Jesus was not God), stressed the goodness in people (unlike the Calvinists), and believed in salvation through good works.

Reviving Religion

- The tendency toward rationalism and indifference in religion was reversed about 1800 by the revivalist movement called the Second Great Awakening.



Religious Camp Meeting by J. Maze Burbank, 1839

The Second Great Awakening was spread to the masses on the Western frontier by large “camp meetings.”

How does this painting symbolize the changes in American society, as reflected in religious camp meetings out West?

Reviving Religion

- Two denominations that especially gained adherents among the common people of the West and South were Methodists and Baptists.

The Second Great Awakening derived its religious strength especially from the popular preachings of evangelical revivalists in both the West and eastern cities.

My people fled to Utah territory because we were persecuted for our actions.

Dude, Joseph – you practiced polygamy. What did you expect?

You are not predestined for heaven or hell.



Charles Grandison Finney



Peter Cartwright, Methodist preacher



Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon faith, began his church in the Burned-Over District.



Western New York had so many intense camp revivals that it was called the "Burned-Over District"

Reviving Religion

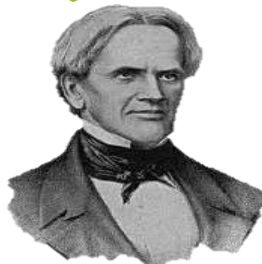
- Evangelical preachers like Charles Grandison Finney linked personal religious conversion to the Christian reform of social problems.

Abolition and temperance!



Charles Grandison Finney

Tax-supported public education!



Horace Mann

Better treatment of the mentally ill.



Dorothea Dix

Women's suffrage!



Susan B. Anthony

A key feature of the Second Great Awakening was the number of middle-class women (the wives and daughters of businessmen) who stayed true to church doctrine and turned to saving the rest of society after helping bring their families back to God.

Denominational Diversity

- The major effect of the growing slavery controversy on the churches was the split of Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians into separate northern and southern churches.



The wealthier and better educated people of New England were less influenced by the religious revivals.

The less educated Methodists, Baptists, and other new sects of the Western and Southern frontiers were really caught-up in the religious fervor. Is this a reflection of class conflict or sectionalism?

First the churches split.

And eventually the Union split.

Charles Grandison Finney



Peter Cartwright, Methodist preacher



Women in Revolt

- One cause of women's subordination in nineteenth-century America was the sharp division of labor that separated women at home from men in the workplace.

THE
SENECA FALLS
CONVENTION
July 19–20, 1848

The Seneca Falls Convention launched the modern Women's Rights Movement with its call for equal rights, including the right to vote.

Everyone used to work at home. Now, men go to work in a business or factory, but what should women do?



Equality in the workplace!



Susan B. Anthony

Equality in the courts!



Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Lyman Beecher

Wilderness Utopias

- Continuing with the utopian spirit of the times, many of the American reformers of the early nineteenth century focused on communal economics and alternative sexual arrangements.

We share everything – and I mean EVERYTHING



John Humphrey Noyes



The Oneida Community saw perfect Christianity as abandoning selfishness, which included owning no property and sharing sexual partners.

Freaks.



Charles Grandison Finney

Glowing Literary Lights

- A blossoming of American literature accompanied the reform movements of the Second Great Awakening.

Leading female imaginative writers who added to New England's literary prominence were Louisa May Alcott and Emily Dickinson.

The Knickerbocker Group of American writers included Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, and William Cullen Bryant.

Hey.



Louisa May Alcott

What's up?.



Emily Dickinson

You ever hear of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow? Yeah, that's me.



Washington Irving

Last of the Mohicans is one of mine.



James Fenimore Cooper

Thanatopsis is an awesome poem.



William Cullen Bryant

Trumpeters of Transcendentalism

- Part of the liberalizing movement from the age of reason was transcendentalism, which stressed the ideas of inner truth and individual self-reliance. This is the type of idea the Second Great Awakening sought to stamp out.

It's not what you look
at that matters, it's
what you see.



Henry David
Thoreau

Nobody can bring you
peace but yourself



Ralph Waldo
Emerson

Truth is found in the Bible.
Come to a camp
meeting for goodness
sake!



Charles Grandison
Finney

Questions to Consider

1. How did a growing middle class shape the reform movements of the Second Great Awakening?
2. What were the motives of those participating in the Second Great Awakening, especially women?
3. How does the Second Great Awakening reflect changes in American society?