

19th century America

- Social Changes

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- Numerous social changes and reforms occurred in the new nation
 - Relations with Native Americans
 - Women's Rights movement
 - Second Great Awakening
 - Reform Era: education, institution, temperance
 - Growing abolition

INDIAN REMOVAL, 1830s–1840s



Native America Policies

- American settlers were interested in land occupied by Native Americans, especially in the Southeast
- President Jackson's solution was the Indian Removal Act- this law called for the relocation of Native Americans west of the Mississippi River
- The march of tribes to their new locations was known as the Trail of Tears- miserable conditions, numerous Native Americans died.

Seneca Falls Declaration

“ The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her.....

He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise....

He has compelled her to submit to laws, in the formation of which she had no voice....

He has denied her the facilities for obtaining a thorough education, all colleges being closed against her....”

Women's Movement

- Early 19th century saw the drive for greater rights for women, especially in politics.
- **Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton** organized the Seneca Falls Convention in July 1848
 - 240 people attended (including men)
 - Drafted a declaration that resembled Declaration of Independence "we hold these truths to be self evident that all men *and women* are created equal"
 - Called for women's suffrage and the reform of marital and property laws
 - Little resulted from the convention, but set the stage for things to come...(1920 19th Amendment Ratified)
 - <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/seneca-falls-convention-begins>

“There is so little principle in the church, so little firmness and stability of purpose, that unless the religious feelings are awakened and kept excited, counter wordly feeling prevail, and men will not obey God....-
Charles Grandison Finney

Backslidden Christians will be brought to repentance. A revival is nothing else than a beginning of obedience to God.”

Second Great Awakening

- A religious revival in 1820s and 1830s
- Sermons by Protestant preachers attracted large numbers
 - Preachers told people that destiny lay in their own hands...live well and work hard
 - Also told they had the opportunity to do God's work on earth

“When the churches are thus awakened and reformed, the reformation and salvation of sinners will follow...very often the most abandoned and profligates are among the subjects. Harlots, drunkards, and infidels, and all sort of abandoned characters, are awakened and converted. ”

Revival is “...A deliberately orchestrated event that deployed a variety of spiritual practices to provoke conversions especially among the unconverted "youth" (men and women between 15 and 30) in the community.”

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/nineteen/nkeyinfo/nevanrev.htm>

Religious Revival leads to Reform

- The Second Great Awakening helped launch a remarkable period known as the Reform Era.
- 1830-1860
- Americans made attempts to reshape American society
- Three main areas of focus:
 - Temperance Movement
 - Education reform
 - Prison reform

"*Lincoln*, a woman in a cage. *Brookfield*, one man caged. *Granville*, one often closely confined, now losing the use of his limbs from want of exercise. *Dedham*, the insane disadvantageously placed in the jail. Two women in stalls, lie in wooden bunks filled with straw, always shut up"

-Dorothea Dix presentation on asylum, poor-house conditions to the MA Legislature 1843

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/courses/jackson/revival/dix.html>

Education & Institutional Reform

● Institutional Reform

- Dorothea Dix, a school teacher, spent two years visiting jails and institutions in Northeast.
- Patients with mental illness were confined with violent criminals in crowded and inhumane conditions
- Dix launched a major reform campaign to improve treatment of the mentally ill

● Educational Reform

- Increase in childhood education

Temperance Movement



Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, Feb. 21, 1874.

Temperance Movement

- Led by women
- Temperance means moderation
- Reformers linked the overuse of alcohol with sickness, poverty, and the breakup of families
- Called for the elimination and lessening of alcoholic beverages.

“We will prove that the slaves in the United States are treated with barbarous inhumanity; that they are overworked, underfed, wretchedly clad and lodged, and have insufficient sleep; that they are often made to wear round their necks iron collars armed with prongs, to drag heavy chains..”

Abolitionist Movement

- Abolitionist – an individual who wishes to *abolish*, or end, slavery.
- 1830s abolitionists (most evangelical protestants) gained momentum in their battle to end slavery by declaring that it was a sin
- Famous Abolitionists
 - William Lloyd Garrison
 - American Anti-slavery Society
 - Frederick Douglas
- Underground Railroad- informal network of escape routes out of the South
 - Sympathetic whites in South provided food, shelter, and directions to the next hiding place in the route to the free North