Chapter 15

The Spirit of Reform
Religion and Reform

• A wave of religious interest swept across the nation in the mid 1800s
• Became known as the Second Great Awakening
• Spurred changes in society
Religion and Reform

“Spiritual Reform From Within”
[Religious Revivalism]

Social Reforms and Redefining the Ideal of Equality

- Temperance
- Asylum and Penal Reform
- Women’s Rights
- Abolitionism
- Education
Religion and Reform

• Notable events and moments
  - Utopianism: the idea of a perfect society
  - Shakers: believed in utility and simplicity
  - Revival meetings
  - Revivalist = anyone can choose salvation
  - Self-determination: control over one's destiny
  - Burned-Over District: region in NY state lots of circuit riders
Transcendentalism

- Liberation through understanding and reasoning
- Transcend the limits of intellect to create a relationship with the universe

"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." - Thoreau
Transcendentalism

- Man must acknowledge moral truths that were intuitive and transcend proof:
  - The Infinite benevolence of God
  - The infinite benevolence of nature.
  - The divinity of man
- They rejected all secular authority and the authority of organized churches and Scriptures, of law, or of conventions
Transcendentalism

• Goals:
  - Freedom to slaves
  - Give well-being to the poor and the miserable
  - Give learning to the ignorant
  - Give health to the sick
  - Give peace and justice to society
Temperance Movement

- American Temperance Society formed in 1826
- Wanted to get rid of “Demon Rum”
- Pushed for outlawing the manufacture and sale of alcohol
- Some success in states like Maine
Temperance Movement

• Key figures include
  - The Beecher Family
  - Frances Willard
• Published pamphlets, held lectures, planned rallies
• Eventually succeed in 1920 with the 20th amendment which established Prohibition
Education Movement

- Schools have little money, teachers lack training
- Girls often kept at home
- African Americans have no right to attend schools
- Many schools were religious schools
Education Movement

- Horace Mann of Massachusetts helps lead the movement
- Believed:
  - Children were clay to be molded
  - Discouraged corporal punishment
  - Helped establish state trainings for teachers
Education Movement

• Massachusetts in first state to tax for school funds
• By 1860 – every state offered free public education to whites
• Colleges open – Oberlin College admits women and African Americans
Helping People With Disabilities

• Thomas Gallaudet – develops a method to teach those who are hearing impaired
  - Opens Hartford School for the Deaf in Connecticut in 1817

• Samuel Gridley Howe help teach those with vision impairments
  - Print books using an alphabet created by Louis Braille

• Dorothea Dix visited prisons found conditions unsafe
  - Helped to fight for right for the mentally ill
Women’s Movement

• Response to ideas of equality from the revolution
• Separate Spheres concept emerges
  - Women’s Sphere was the home: refuge from the cruel world
  - Men’s Sphere was in the public: politics and work
• Role of women to “civilize” her family
• Known as the Cult of Domesticity
Women’s Movement

- In the 1800s women;
  - Unable to vote
  - Legal status of a minor
  - Could only own property when single
  - Could not initiate a divorce which were not east to get
  - Couldn’t make wills, go to court without husband’s permission, or sign contracts
- Many compare their situation to slavery
Women’s Movement

- Movement grows out of the Abolitionist movement
- 1840 Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton meet in London – World Anti Slavery Convention
- 1848 – Meeting in Seneca Falls of about 300 people, mostly women.
Women’s Movement

• Seneca Falls convention creates the Declaration of Sentiments
• Modeled after the Declaration of Independence
• Called for end to discriminatory laws
• Insisted on right to enter “male” professions
• Demanded women suffrage
Women’s Movement

• Movement expands after Seneca Falls
• Susan B. Anthony works closely with Elizabeth Cady Stanton
• Movement becomes split over the Abolition movement
  - Some demanded white women get the vote first
  - Others see the movement as linked and can work together
• Women do not achieve suffrage until the 19th amendment in 1920
Abolition Movement

- Abolitionist wanted an end of slavery
- Generally believed that it should be ended gradually
  - Stop the international slave trade
  - Contain slavery from spreading
  - Phase out slavery: gradual emancipation
- Some wanted immediate emancipation
- Compensation for freed slaves – many saw it as an economic issue
Abolition Movement

• The Colonization Plan
• Many feared free slaves entering society
• Wanted to create a free state in Liberia, Africa – send the freed slaves there
• Colonization society formed in 1816
• 1847 Liberia declared independence
- Only 10,000 relocate
- Most freed slaves wanted to stay in America
Abolition Movement

- Movement gains strength in 1830s
- Begin pushing for immediate emancipation
- William Lloyd Garrison one of the main leaders
  - Slavery goes against republican values
  - Slavery was a moral issue
  - Should be no compensation – immediate emancipation
- Began *The Liberator* newspaper 1831
- Helped form the American Anti-Slavery Society
Abolition Movement

• Other white abolitionists include:
  - James Birney
  - Lewis Tappan
  - Arthur Tappan
  - The Beecher Family
  - Lucy Stone
  - Sarah and Angelina Grimke
• Many were writers and actively worked to end slavery
• Harriet Beecher Stowe – abolitionist writer
  - Writes Uncle Tom's Cabin
  - Portrays slavery as a cruel and brutal system
  - Sale of book banned in the south
Abolition Movement

- African Americans were major leaders in the movement.
- Frederick Douglass – best known, was an escaped slave.
- Faced the danger of being returned as a fugitive slave – fugitive slave act in the constitution.
Abolition Movement

- Sojourner Truth – born as a slave
- Gained freedom when New York banned slavery in 1827
- Wrote a book on her life
- Traveled the country speaking out against slavery
- Also a major figure in the women suffrage movement
Abolition Movement

• Harriet Tubman a well known worker on the underground railroad
• Helped bring over 300 former slaves to freedom
• Had a bounty of 40,000 on her head
• Served as a union spy during the civil war
Abolition Movement

Underground Railroad Code

- Conductor – leader of the escape
- Passengers – escaping slaves
- Tracks – routes
- Trains – farm wagons transporting the escaping slave
- Depots – safe house to rest/sleep
White South Reacts

- White Southerners fight abolitionism with arguments in defense of slavery
- Sen. Hammond states “In all social systems there must be a class to do the menial duties, to perform the drudgery of life... Such a class you must have, or you would not have the other class which leads progress, civilization, and refinement”
Response to the Abolition Movement

• Southerners saw this as a threat to their society and way of life – slavery was more than just economic
• Whites in the North didn’t support emancipation – believed they could never blend into society
• Led to violence – bloody riots in Philadelphia, burning of abolitionist offices, Elijah Lovejoy murdered and printing presses destroyed
• Senator Charles Sumner (Mass) beat with a cane on the Senate floor – 1856 (Preston Brooks-SC)
Response To The Abolition Movement

- Southerners argue:
  - Slaves are treated well
  - Better off as slaves than on their own
  - Slavery necessary for the economy
  - Many arguments were based in racism
  - Fear interracial marriage
- Slave Society v. society with slaves
  - Southern social order based on slavery
  - Even those who own no slaves benefit
  - Many poor whites can not stand the idea of former slaves being better off than them