

SPIRITUAL REAWAKENING & ANTEBELLUM REFORM (1820-1850)

Introduction & Summary

In the early 19th century, the challenges of independence and forming a new nation combined with the forces of expansionism and industrialization were putting tremendous stress on American society. It seemed everything was in flux. Many Americans felt American society was overly rationalist and turned to renewed spiritualism. Some Americans sought a return to religion but one that rejected Calvinist predestination in favor of individual agency. This 2nd Great Awakening was at once a conservative traditionalist movement in that adherents wanted to get back in touch with religion but also a force of change as they did so in a new way. Others found a more secular spiritualism in Transcendentalism—a movement that emphasized truth found in nature and in personal emotion and imagination. The reawakened spiritualism, religious or secular, emphasized individual responsibility to do right and launched an age of reform in which many traditional social arrangements and institutions were challenged.

Theme Focus & Essential Question

- *Change & Tradition*—What causes societies to change? How do societies respond to forces of change?

Values Focus & Essential Question

- *Equality & Hierarchy* -- How do differing understandings of equality ↔ hierarchy shape history? How does history affect the relationship between equality ↔ hierarchy specifically and among all the values?

Sources

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| __ PPT: Intro to Antebellum Reform | __ Garrison, “Opening Editorial of <i>The Liberator</i> ” |
| __ Textbook: 8.1 Religion Sparks Reform | __ Video: “Frederick Douglass bio” |
| __ Finney, “Sinners Bound...” | __ Douglass, “On the Fourth of July” |
| __ Emerson, “American Scholar” | __ Beecher “Duty of American Females” |
| __ Video: “The Abolitionists” | __ Grimké, “On Women’s Rights” |
| | __ “The Declaration of Sentiments” |

Decision-Making Lessons

- __ 2. Antebellum Reforms 1820-1850
- __ 5. Abolitionism 1830-1850

Content Questions

1. How did the profound changes of the 1st half of the 19th century give rise to a spirit of reform?
2. In what ways did American society experience spiritual reawakening, both religious and secular, in the first half of the 19th century?
3. How did this spiritual reawakening manifest itself in a variety of reform movements?
 - a. What were the key arguments, controversies and methods of abolitionism?
 - b. What were the key arguments, controversies and methods of the Women’s rights

movement?

Terms, Concepts & People:

1. antebellum
2. Antebellum Period
3. Republicanism
4. Franchise
5. Expansionism
6. Industrialization
7. 2nd Great Awakening
8. Charles Grandison Finney
9. Disinterested Benevolence
10. Transcendentalism
11. Ralph Waldo Emerson
12. Henry David Thoreau
13. Civil Disobedience
14. Unitarianism
15. Utopianism
16. Abolitionism
17. Colonization
18. Gradualism
19. Immediatism
20. William Lloyd Garrison & *The Liberator*
21. Moral Suasion
22. Emancipation
23. Frederick Douglass
24. Plantation System
25. Slavocracy
26. Patriarchy
27. Republican Motherhood
28. Separate Spheres
29. Cult of Domesticity
30. Sarah & Angelina Grimké
31. Temperance Movement
32. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
33. Lucretia Mott
34. Seneca Falls Convention
35. *Declaration of Sentiments*
- 36.
- 37.