**An Age of Reform, 1820–1860**

**The 2nd Great Awakening**

**Revivalism and the Social Order**

* **Society during the Jacksonian era was undergoing deep and rapid change**
	+ **The revolution in markets brought both economic expansion and periodic depressions.**
* **To combat this uncertainty reformers sought stability and order in religion**
	+ **provided a means of social control in a disordered society**
	+ **Churchgoers embraced the values of hard work, punctuality, and sobriety**
	+ **Revivals brought unity and strength and a sense of peace**

**Second Great Awakening**

* **As a result of the Second Great Awakening (a series of revivals in the 1790s-early 1800s), the dominant form of Christianity in America became evangelical Protestantism**
	+ **Membership in the major Protestant churches soared**
		- **Congregational, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist**
		- **By 1840, 50% of the adults were connected to some church, with the Methodists emerging as the largest denomination in both the North and the South**
		- **Like 1st, 2nd Awakening widened gaps between classes and religions**

**Charles Finney**

* **Charles Finney conducted his own revivals in the mid 1820s and early 1830s**
* **He rejected the Calvinist doctrine of predestination**
	+ **adopted ideas of free will and salvation to all**
	+ **People choose to be corrupt or not**
* **Really popularized the new form of revival**

**Charles Finney and the Conversion Experience**

* **New form of revival**
	+ **Meeting night after night to build excitement**
	+ **Speaking bluntly**
	+ **Praying for sinners by name**
	+ **Encouraging women to testify in public**
	+ **Placing those struggling with conversion on the “anxious bench” at the front of the church**

**The Rise of African
American Churches**

* **Revivalism also spread to the African American community**
* **The Second Great Awakening has been called the "central and defining event in the development of Afro-Christianity“**
* **During these revivals Baptists and Methodists converted large numbers of blacks**

**Burned Over District**

* **District in Western NY -got its name from a “wild fire of new religions”**
	+ **Gave birth to Seventh Day Adventists**
		- **believed the 2nd coming of Christ would occur on October 22, 1843**
		- **Members sold belongings, bought white robes for the ascension into heaven**
		- **Believers formed new church on October 23rd**

**Remaking Society Through Faith**

* **Some revivals sought to reform individual sinners, others sought to remake society**
* **Mormons – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**
* **Founded by Joseph Smith in western NY**
	+ **In 1827, Smith announced that he had discovered a set of golden tablets on which was written the Book of Mormon**
	+ **Proclaimed he had a commission from God to reestablish the true church**

**Mormons**

* **Mormon culture upheld the middle-class values of hard work, and self-control**
* **He tried to create a City of Zion: Kirkland, Ohio, Independence, Missouri, then to Nauvoo, Illinois.**
* **His unorthodox teachings led to persecution and mob violence.**
* **Smith was murdered in 1844 by an anti-Mormon mob in Carthage, Illinois.**
* **Church in conflict**

**The Shakers**

* + **Mother Ann Lee – 1774**
	+ **The Shakers used dancing as a worship practice**
	+ **Shakers practiced celibacy, separating the sexes as far as practical**
	+ **Shakers worked hard, lived simply (built furniture), and impressed outsiders with their cleanliness and order**
	+ **Lacking any natural increase, membership began to decline after 1850, from a peak
	of about 6000 members**

**Utopian Communities**

* **From the 1790s-1850’s, more than 40 co-operative, communist communities were set up in the Eastern US**
* **Most will fail within 5 yrs, Oneida & Shakers will last the longest**
* **Robert Owen, 1825 –New Harmony, IN**
	+ **Shakers in NY, VT & MA (celibacy)**
	+ **Oneida, NY (complex marriage)**
	+ **Brook Farm, MA**
* **The Oneida Community
New York, 1848**
	+ **Millenarianism --> the 2nd coming of Christ had already occurred.**
	+ **Humans were no longer obliged to follow the moral rules of the past.**
	+ **all residents married to each other.**
	+ **carefully regulated “free love.”**
* **George Ripley (1802-1880)**
	+ **Brook Farm West Roxbury, MA**

**Transcendentalism**

* **“Liberation from understanding and
 the cultivation of reasoning.”**
* **“Transcend” the limits of intellect
 and allow the emotions, the SOUL,
 to create an original relationship
 with the Universe.**

**Temperance Movement**

* **The most significant reform movements of the period sought not to withdraw from society but to change it directly**
* **Temperance Movement — undertook to eliminate social problems by curbing drinking**
	+ **Led largely by clergy, the movement at first focused on drunkenness and did not oppose moderate drinking**
	+ **In 1826 the American Temperance Society was founded, taking voluntary abstinence as its goal.**
* **Lyman Beecher**
* **Neal Dow**
* **Lucretia Mott**
* **Anti-Alcohol movement**
* **American Temperance Society formed at Boston-----1826**
* **sign pledges, pamphlets, anti-alcohol tract
*10 nights in a Barroom and What I Saw There***
* **Demon Drink adopt 2 major line attack**
* **stressed temperance and individual will to resist**
* **During the next decade approximately 5000 local temperance societies were founded**
* **As the movement gained momentum, annual per capita consumption of alcohol dropped sharply**