AGE OF REFORM: Antebellum America

• Democratic reform due to Jacksonian Democracy (see above)

o “New Democracy”: lower voting requirements

o National nominating conventions (end to caucus system)

• Second Great Awakening reforms inspired by "perfectionism" (Puritan ideal)

o Abolitionism “A

o Temperance Totally

o Women's suffrage Wicked

o Education Elephant

o Mental institutions Made

o Prison reform Pigs

o Debtor's prisons Devour

o War (pacifism, prevention) Worms”

• Abolitionism: most important & successful of the reform movements (see slavery section below)

• Temperance

• America as an "alcoholic republic"

• American Temperance Society

• Neal Dow: Maine Law, 1851

• T.S. Arthur’s Ten Nights in a Barroom and What I Saw There (1854)

• Results:

• Reduction in drinking among women

• Less per capita consumption of alcohol

• Several states passed prohibition laws but most laws were eventually overturned2005

• Women's Rights

• Issues:

• Women were legally subject to their husbands

• Husbands could beat their wives.

• Feme covert: women could not own property or sue or be sued in court

• Lack of suffrage

• Traditional views of women's role: "Republican Motherhood"; "cult of domesticity":

piety, purity and submissiveness; (Catharine Beecher), Godey's Lady's Book

• Seneca Falls Convention, 1848

• Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott

• Susan B. Anthony

• Lucy Stone

• Amelia Bloomer

• Sarah Grimke

• Overshadowed by slavery issue

• Results

• Increase in women admitted to colleges

• Some states began allowing women to own property after marriage (end to feme covert)

• Mississippi was the first state to do so in 1839

• Education

• Public education

• Horace Mann

• Tax-supported public education triumphed between 1825 and 1850

• Workers increasingly demanded education for their children

• Increased suffrage led to demands for improved education

• Yet, by 1860, only about 100 secondary public schools; 1 million people illiterate

• Noah Webster; William McGuffey

• Lyceum movement (not really a reform movement)

• Higher education

• Creation of many small, denominational, liberal arts colleges, mostly in South and West

• Women's schools in secondary education gained some respectability in 1820s.

• Emma Willard est. in 1821, the Troy (NY) Female Seminary.

• Oberlin College opened its doors to both men and women in 1837; and blacks.

• Mary Lyon est. Mt. Holyoke Seminary in South Hadley, Mass.

• Dorthea Dix: Fought for improvements in caring of mentally handicapped

• 15 states created new hospitals and asylums as a result

• Prison reform: rehabilitation instead of punishment

• Men and women should be separated in prison; prisoners should not be denied religion

* American Peace Society: sought to end war; foreshadowed collective security ideas of 20Th century

• Crimean War in Europe and Civil War killed the movement

• Change in religion

• Second Great Awakening a reaction to liberalism: deism, Unitarianism, Transcendentalism

• Fundamentalism/ born-again Christianity

• Circuit riders--Peter Cartwright; Charles Grandison Finney (most important)

• Camp meetings

• "Burned-over District" (upstate New York)

• Mormons

• Adventists (Millerites)

• Northern and southern churches split over slavery issue: Baptists, Methodists & Presbyterians Wilderness Utopias: sought to create perfect societies and escape from corruption of society

• Brook Farm

• Oneida Colony

• New Harmony

• Amana

• Mormons

SLAVERY ISSUE

• Cotton gin leads to "King Cotton" in the South

o 57% of U.S. exports by 1860

o 4 million slaves by 1860

• Southern society

o 25% of white southerners owned slaves; 90% of slaveowners owned less than 20 slaves

* + Huge differences in wealth between planters and poor whites

o Planter aristocrats dominated the South politically and economically

o Mountain whites did not support slavery

o About 250,000 free blacks (250k in North as well)

• The Three Souths

o Border South: DE, KY, MD, MO; slaves = 17% of population

o Middle South: VA, NC, TN, AK; slaves = 30% of population

o Lower South: SC, FL, GA, AL, MI, LA, TX; slaves = 47% of population

• Missouri Compromise of 1820: "firebell in the night"

o Tallmadge Amendment, 1819: proposal for gradual emancipation of slavery in Missouri

o Provisions: Maine (free state), Missouri (slave state), no slavery north of 36-30’ line

• Slavery Revolts

o Denmark Vesey, 1822

o Nat Turner, 1831

• Abolitionism

o Gradual emancipation? Jefferson: "We have a wolf by the ears"

* + - Shift from gradualism (gradual reform) to open rebellion as slavery becomes more prevalent

o American Colonization Society

o William Lloyd Garrison, The Liberator, 1831 – Abolitionist newspaper, spreading the cause through the written word

o American Anti-Slavery Society

* + Theodore Weld: American Slavery As it Is
  + Wendell Phillips -- "Abolitionism's Golden Trumpet"
  + Angelina and Sarah Grimke
  + Arthur and Lewis Tappan -- financed abolitionists

o Elijah Lovejoy

o African American abolitionists

David Walker: Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World, 1829 – violence to achieve emancipation.

Sojourner Truth

Martin Delaney: back-to-Africa movement

Frederick Douglas: political means rather than radical means

o Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe

o Hinton Helper: The Impending Crisis of the South (economic reasons; not moral reasons)

o Underground Railroad: Harriet Tubman

"Personal liberty laws" in Northern states: refused to help federal officials capture fugitive slaves.

Prigg vs. Pennsylvania, 1842: Court ruled states could not harbor fugitive slaves

o Abolitionists ultimately successful

Confiscation Acts, 1862; Emancipation Proclamation; 13th Amendment

• Pro-slavery apologists: George Fitzhugh

• Gag Rule, 1836 (eventually removed in 1844)

• Banning of abolitionist literature in Southern mails (begins in 1830s)