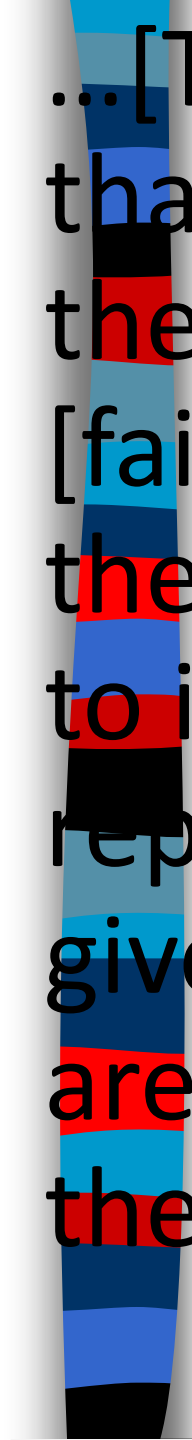




The Problem: Immorality (sin) and Low Church Attendance

- By 1800, church membership in was low & falling; Just 1 out of 15 people in America was a member of a church

- Poverty, crime, & immorality seemed to be increasing at an alarming rate



...[There are many people] who know that they ought to be religious, but they are afraid if they become [faithful] they shall be laughed at by their companions. Many are wedded to idols, others are procrastinating repentance. Such persons never will give up their false shame...until they are so excited that they cannot contain themselves any longer.

—Evangelist Charles Finney

The Solution: Second Great Awakening

In the early 1800s, evangelists like Charles Finney led religious revivals called the Second Great Awakening:

Highly emotional “camp meetings” with thousands in attendance

Preachers talked about forgiveness of sin & acting morally

By 1850, 1 in 6 Americans was a member of a church

Belief in the 2nd coming of Christ: “How can we face God with slavery as a reality”





The Problem: Society itself is the problem

- People were looking too much to society and to industrialization to answer life's perplexing questions.
- Did not believe in organized religion



The Solution: Transcendentalism

- **Transcendentalists** like Ralph Waldo Emerson inspired people to look to themselves and into art/nature to learn the truth about the universe.
- Some distanced themselves from society by setting up communities based on unusual ways of sharing property, labor, family life
- For Example: **Brook Farm Association**

Utopian Communities

- Some reformers grew tired of trying to change society & created their own “ideal” communities:
 - Robert Owen & Charles Fourier created socialist communities
 - Shakers—believed in sexual equality & 2nd coming of Christ
 - Oneida Community—Christ’s 2nd coming already occurred; no need for moral rules (“free love”)



'Till by turning, turning we come round right.

Oneida Community Beliefs

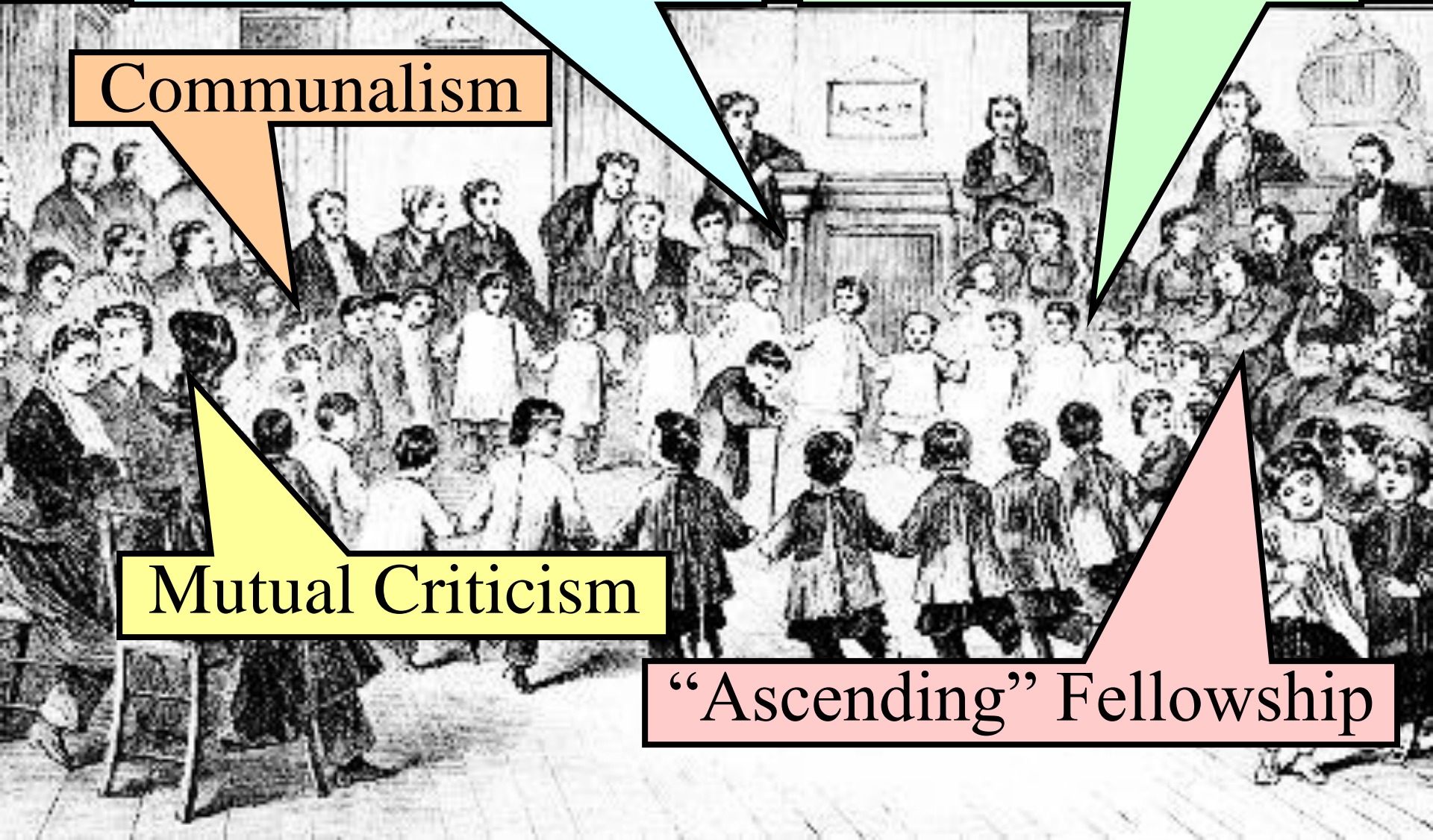
Complex Marriage

Male Continence

Communalism

Mutual Criticism

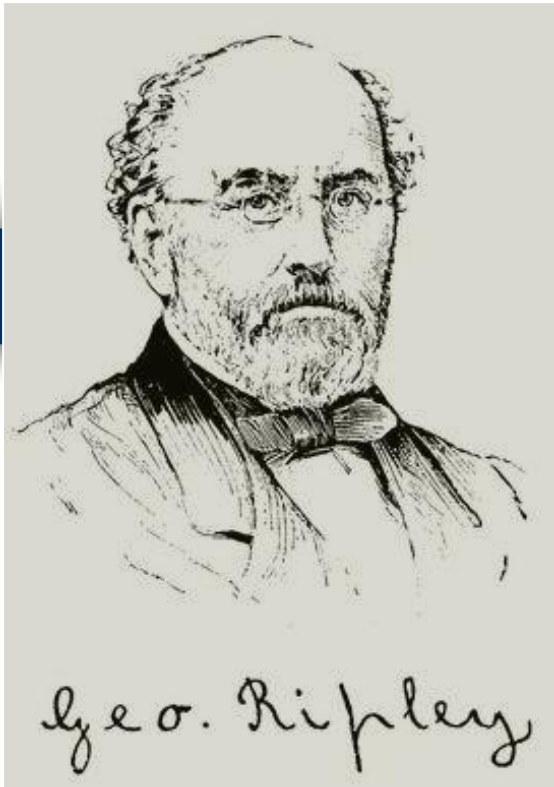
“Ascending” Fellowship



Utopian Communities Before the Civil War



George Ripley



"THE HIVE"

Brook Farm




The Problem: Lack of Education

- By 1800, the U.S. did not have a true education system for children:

- Massachusetts & Vermont were the only states with compulsory (mandatory) attendance laws

- In most state schools, classrooms were not divided by grade or age

- Few children attended school past the age of 10 years old



“The elementary schools throughout the state are irresponsible institutions, established by individuals, from mere motives of private [profit], who are sometimes [lacking] character...and abilities. Ignorance, inattention, and even immorality, prevail to a [sad] extent among their teachers.”

—*Working Man's Advocate*, 1830



The Solution: Education Reform

■ In the 1830s, education reformers demanded that states create public schools for children using tax money

■ Horace Mann helped create teacher-training & curriculum programs

By 1850, every state had publically-funded schools (but schools in the South & far West were not very good)



LESSON I.

The New Book.

Here is John.

There are Ann and Jane.

Ann has a new book.

It is the first book.

Ann must keep it nice and
clean.





The Problem: Prisons and Asylums
were terrible places and did not
rehabilitate

- The mentally ill and prisoners were being chained, kept in cages and closets, and beaten with rods



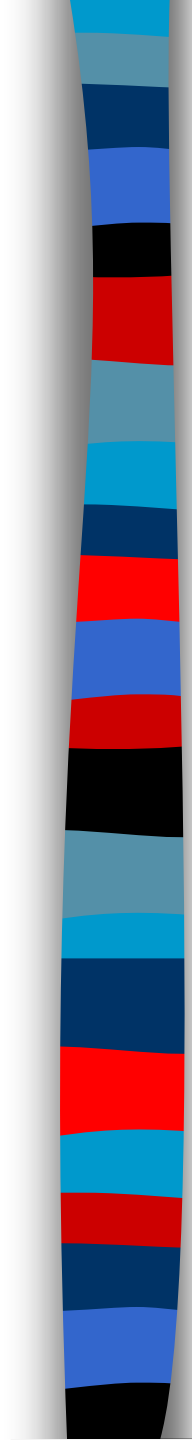
Solution: Juvenile Detention centers and clean up asylums

- **Dorothea Dix** is responsible for helping eliminate sentencing for debt, ending cruel punishment and getting states to establish juvenile court systems
- She argues that people can change if they are placed in proper environments and given an education



The Problem: Women Have Few Rights

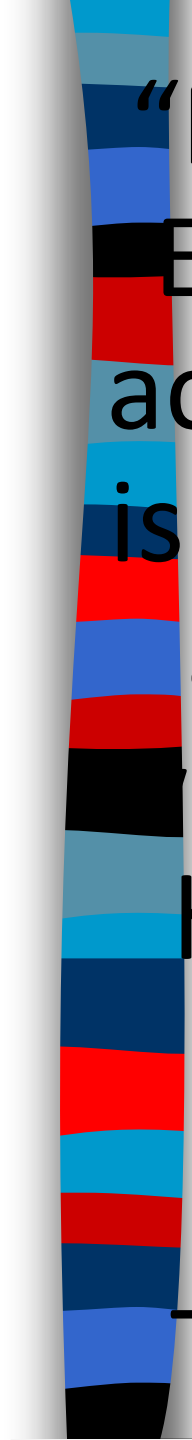
- By 1800, women's rights were limited by the **Cult of Domesticity**:
- Women were expected to oversee the family & home while their husbands worked to provide money

- 
1. Women were unable to vote
 2. Single women could own her own property
 3. Married women had no control over her property or her children
 4. Women could not initiate divorce
 5. Women could not sign a contract or sue in court without her husband's permission



The Solution: Seneca Falls Convention

- Women's activism in other reforms led them to demand women's rights:
 - In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony helped organize the Seneca Falls Convention & proclaimed that “all men & women are created equal” (in the Declaration of Sentiments)
 - They demanded the right to vote



“Men and women were CREATED EQUAL; they are both moral and accountable beings, and whatever is right for a man to do, is right for a woman to do. What then can a woman do for the slave, when she herself is under the feet of man and shamed into silence.”

—Sarah & Angelina Grimké, 1840



The Problem: Alcohol Abuse

- By 1800, alcohol abuse was seen as a serious problem in America:
 - Whiskey was cheap to make & buy
 - By 1820, the typical adult American drank more than 7 gallons of alcohol per year (Today, its 2.6 gallons)
 - Alcohol was linked to crime, debt, domestic abuse, & unproductive employees

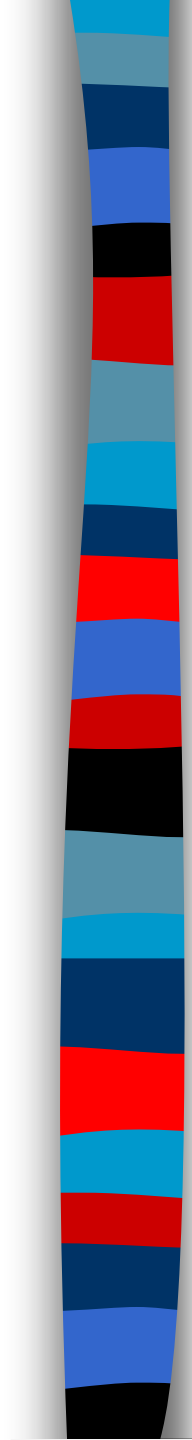
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The Solution: Temperance

- One of the first reforms movements was **temperance**—to get people to temper drinking:
 - Women played an important role in the temperance movement
 - Reformers convinced people to make a “pledge” to not drink
 - From 1820 to 1830, drinking fell from 7 gallons per person per year to 3 gallons on average

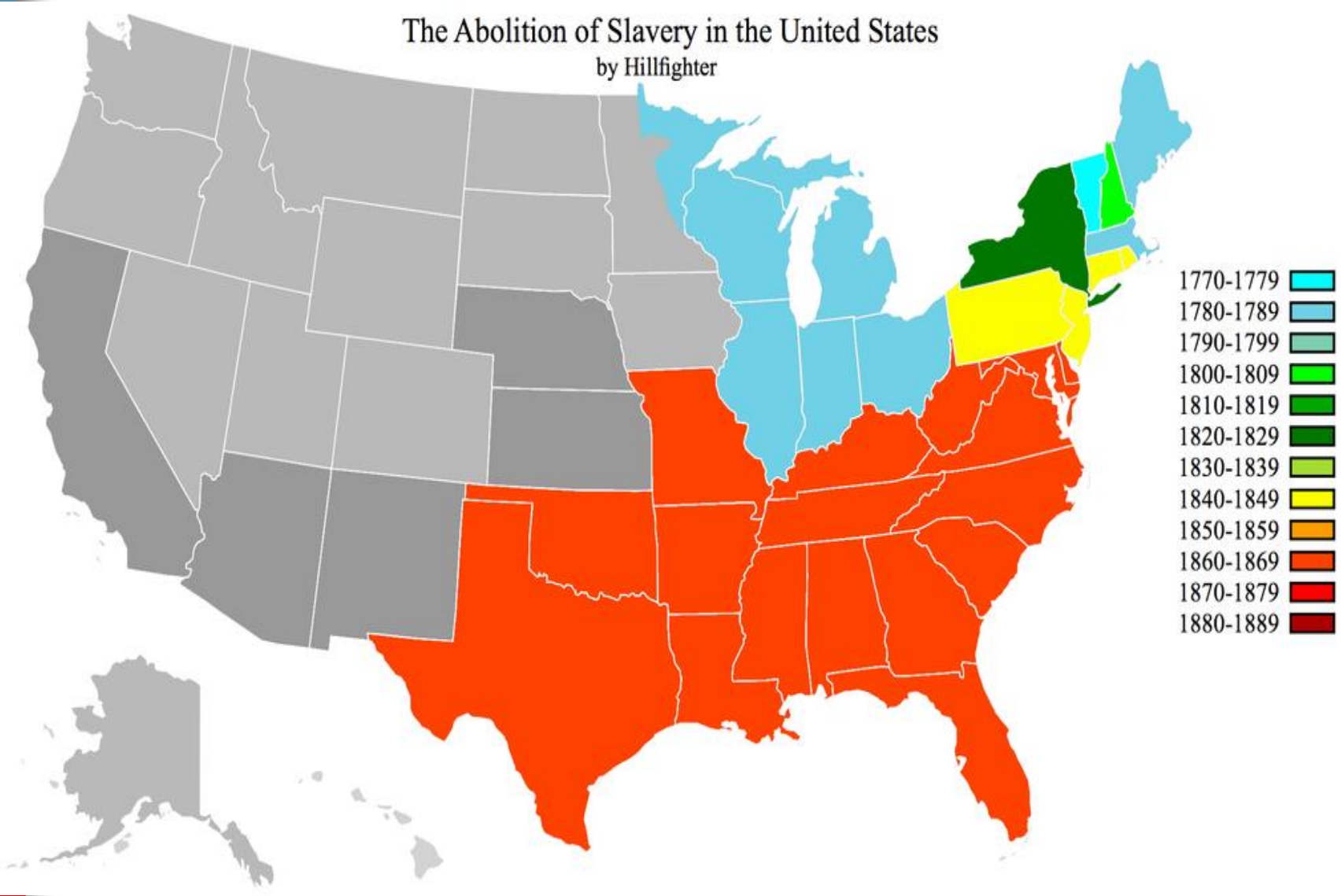


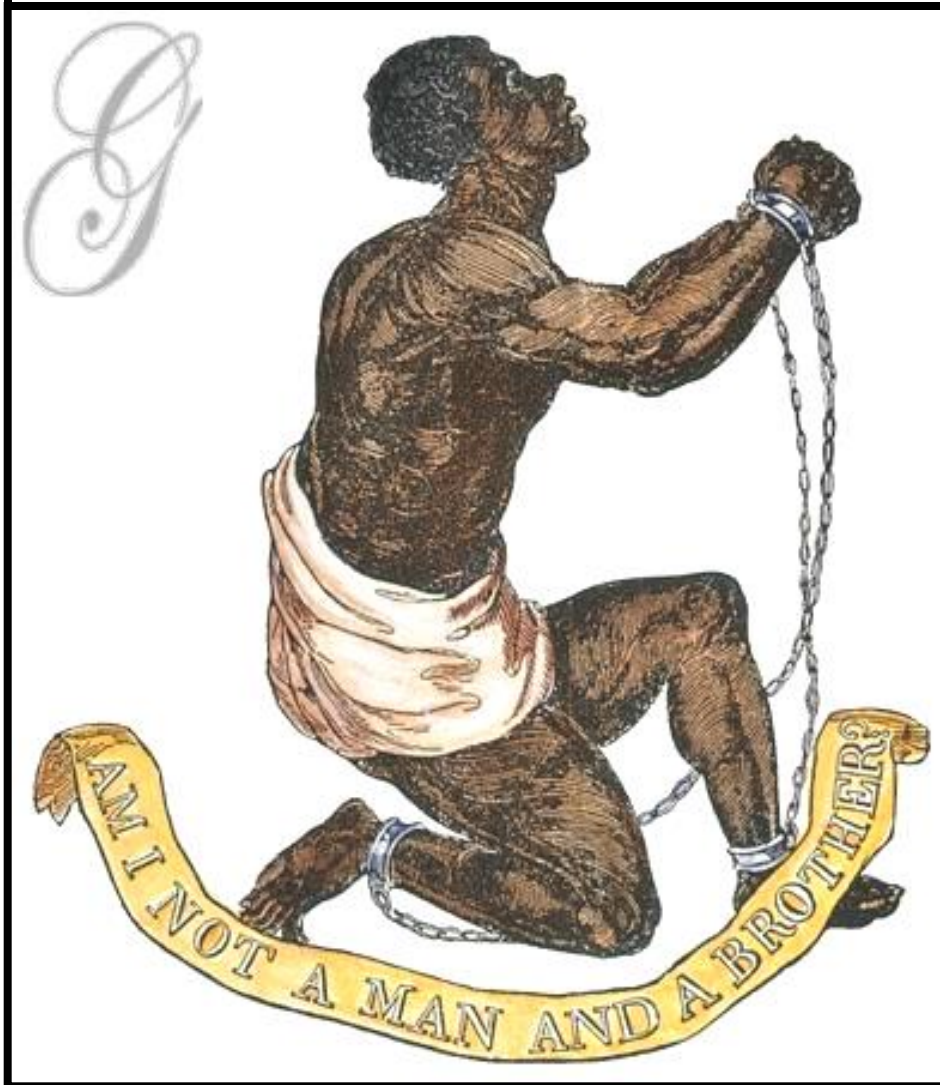
The Problem: Slavery

- From 1810 to 1830, “King Cotton” led to a huge growth in the slave population
- By the 1830s, Northerners began to view slavery as immoral:
 - All Northern states abolished slavery
 - Slavery led to physical & sexual abuse & the splitting of slave families
 - Slave rebellions & escaping to freedom through the Underground Railroad became more common

The Abolition of Slavery in the United States

by Hillfighter





The Solution: Abolition

- In the 1830s, abolitionism (desire to emancipate all slaves) grew radical:
 - William Lloyd Garrison created *The Liberator* newspaper & demanded the immediate end to slavery without payment to slave masters
 - Frederick Douglass was a runaway slave who was a popular critic of slavery in his *North Star* newspaper
- Abolition divided the North & South





Reviewing Key Themes

VISUAL SUMMARY

REFORMING AMERICAN SOCIETY

RELIGION SPARKS REFORM

The Second Great Awakening brings religious revival, social reform, and a new awareness of what it means to be an American.



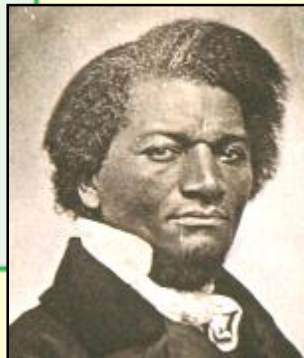
WOMEN AND REFORM

Women reformers expand their reform efforts from movements such as abolition and temperance to include women's social and political rights.

IMPACT OF SOCIAL REFORM

SLAVERY AND ABOLITION

Slavery becomes an explosive issue as growing numbers of white and black Americans join reformers working for abolition.



THE CHANGING WORKPLACE

A growing industrial work force faces problems arising from changes in manufacturing and the creation of the factory system.