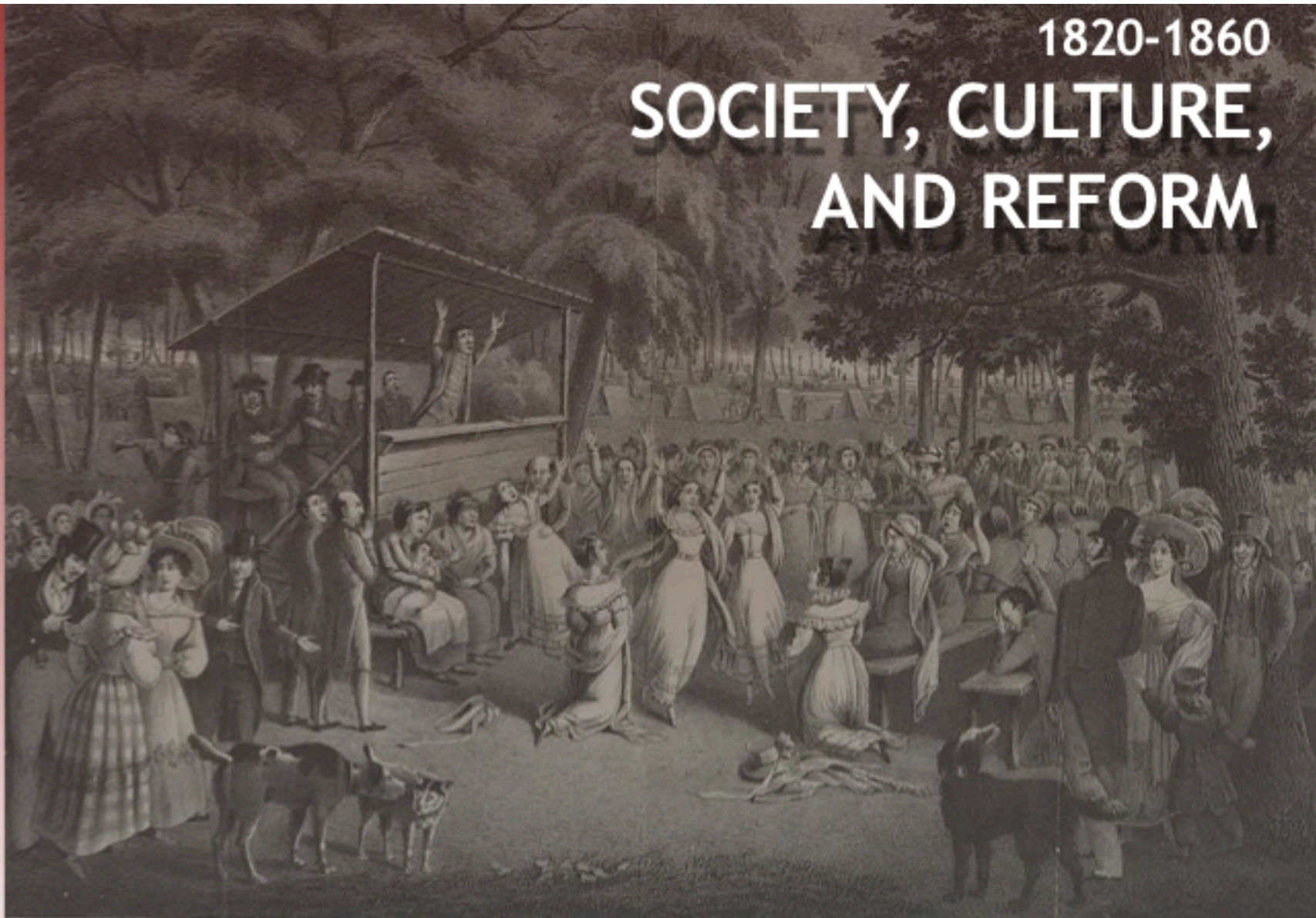


1820-1860

# SOCIETY, CULTURE, AND REFORM



# Essential Question

- Evaluate the extent to which reform movements in the United States from 1820-1860 contributed to maintaining continuity as well as fostering change in American society.



# Religion: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Awakening

- Causes:
  - Reaction to:
    - Rationalism/Enlightenment  
Ideals - belief in human reason -  
motivate young men to become  
evangelical preachers - salvation for all
    - Rejection of Puritan foundations  
- original sin and predestination
  - Western expansion - touched off social  
reform
  - Perceived “godlessness”





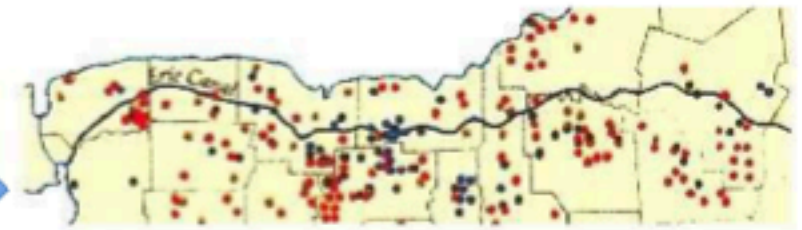
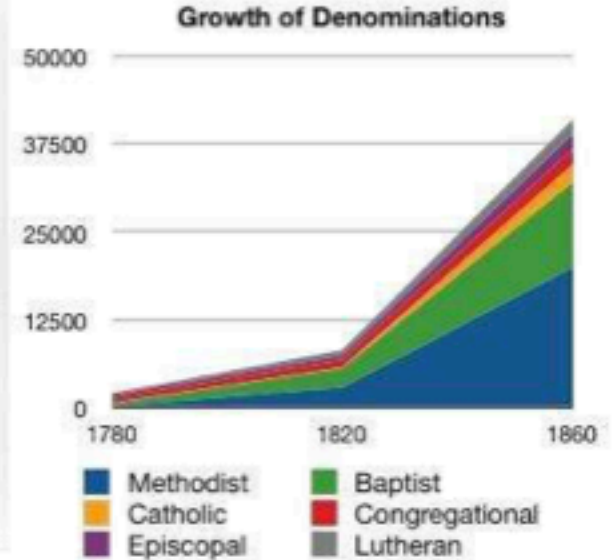
# Religion: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Awakening

- Characteristics:
  - Camp meetings/revivals
  - Grass-roots organization
  - Individual salvation: all can be saved, man is inherently good and capable of change, predestination abandoned
  - Democratic, egalitarian



# Revivalism Expands

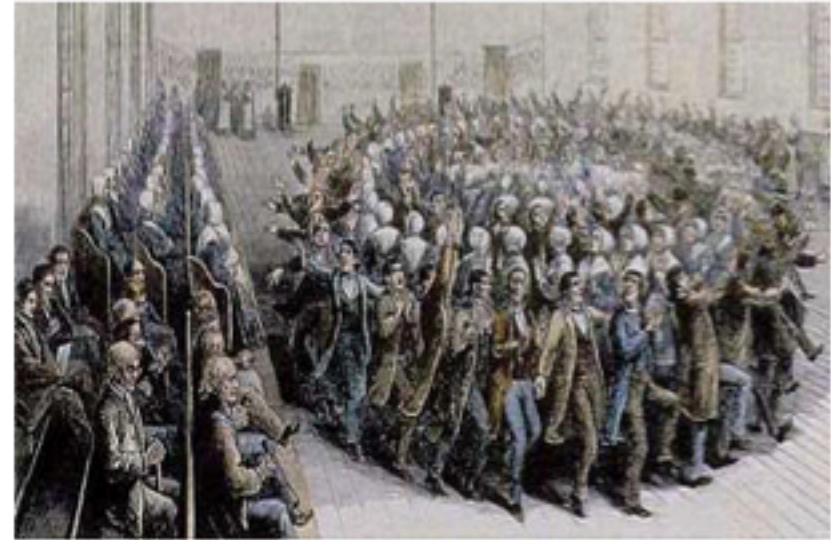
- The “Burned Over District”
  - New York
    - Charles G. Finney
- Expansion of Denominations
  - Baptists and Methodists
- Offshoots:
  - Millennialism/Millerites
    - 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists
  - The Mormons
    - Joseph Smith, Brigham Young
    - NY → OH → MO → Nauvoo → SLC
    - Moved out West to escape persecution
    - Polygamy



- branches of the mormon church
- revivals in 1831
- churches showing antislavery sentiment
- millerites

# American Culture

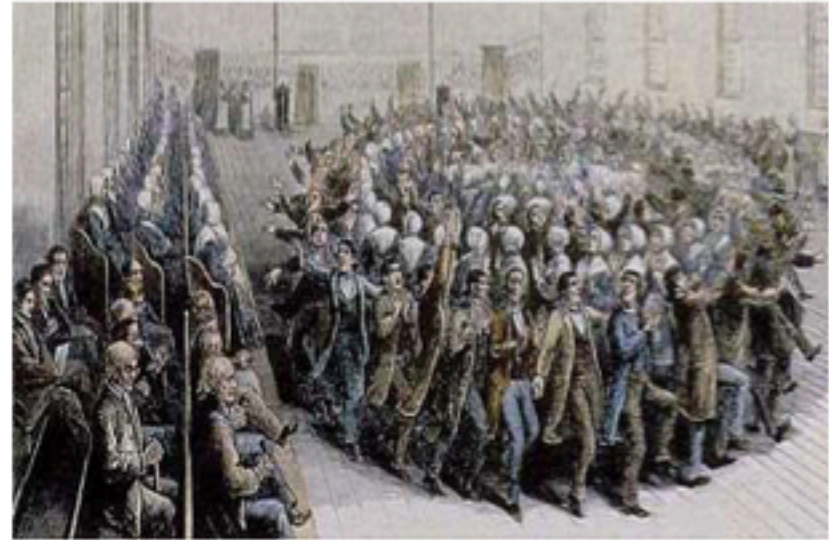
- Transcendentalism
  - Characteristics:
    - **Challenged materialism of society that resulted from the rapid industrialization of the United States** - artistic expression more important than material wealth
    - Also helped spark reform movement: inherent goodness of man
    - Didn't love organized religions but still encouraged spirituality
    - Mystical and intuitive self-discovery to go beyond conventional understanding
  - Examples:
    - Emerson
      - Reject European traditions and create a distinct American culture with an individualistic and nationalistic spirit; self-reliance and independent thinking; Spiritual matters over material ones; abolitionist
    - Thoreau
      - "[On Civil Disobedience](#)," and *Walden*
      - Early advocate of nonviolent protest and disobeying unjust laws
    - Margaret Fuller- advocate of women's rights





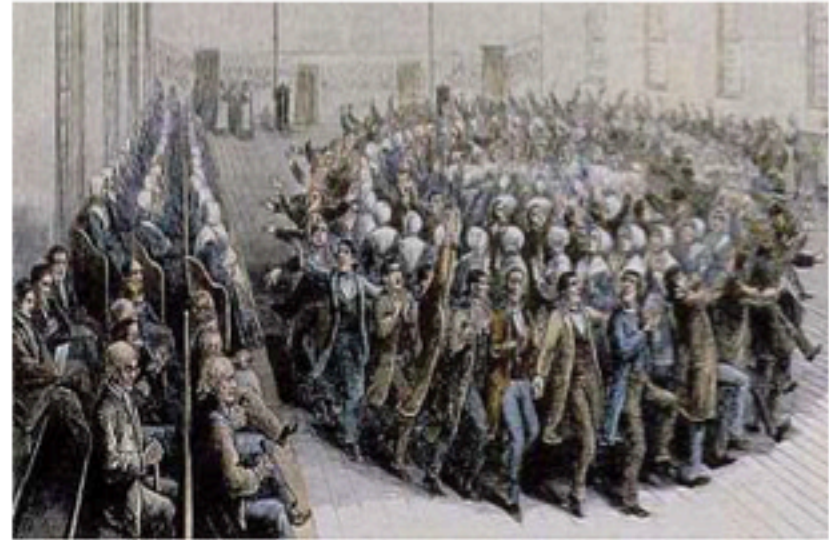
# American Culture

- Utopian Experiments
  - Brook Farm - bridge the gap
  - The Shakers - held property in common, men and women were kept strictly separate (forbade marriage and sexual relations) - egalitarian but celibate
  - New Harmony - secular experiment-utopian and socialist community
  - Oneida - rejected demands of the male lust by practicing open marriage, planned reproduction, and communal child rearing ("free love")
  - Fourier Phalanxes - work and housing communities - failed - people too individualistic



# American Culture

- Arts and Literature
  - Romanticism/Romantic Age: a movement with its roots in Europe; art and literature that focused on emotion and feeling, the innate goodness of man, individuality, heroism, and beauty of the natural world
  - Painting
    - *Hudson River School*
      - Cole and Church
  - Architecture
    - Greek revival
  - Literature
    - Irving, Cooper, Hawthorne, Melville
      - Cooper's *Leatherstocking Tales* glorified the frontiersman as nature's nobleman
      - Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* questioned American intolerance and conformity
      - Melville's *Moby Dick* reflected the theological and cultural conflicts of the era
  - Performance
    - Minstrel shows





# Reforming Society

- Temperance

- Opposed by German/Irish immigrants and Catholics
- Supported by women (wives especially) and Protestants
- Generally had more impact in northern and western states, where the antebellum reform movement was largely, than in the South
- Causes
  - Overconsumption/alcoholism (5 gal/person)
  - Domestic violence
  - Absenteeism/loss of jobs
  - *Nativism*
- Organizations and Methods
  - American Temperance Society
  - Neal Dow and the Maine Law



THE DRUNKARD'S PROGRESS



# Reforming Society

- Penal Reform
  - Punishment vs. Rehabilitation: discipline and humane, professional treatment to rehabilitate criminals and the mentally ill
  - Mental Hospitals
    - Dorothea Dix - reforms
  - Auburn vs. Pennsylvania System
    - Rigid rules & moral instruction with work programs vs. solitary confinement to force reflection of sins



THE DRUNKARD'S PROGRESS





# Reforming Society

- Educational Reform
  - Public Schools & Teacher Training
    - Horace Mann- Massachusetts
  - Moral Education - literacy and morals
    - [McGuffey Readers](#)
  - Higher Education
    - Denominational colleges in the west.
    - College education for women: Mount Holyoke & Oberlin



THE DRUNKARD'S PROGRESS





# Changing Role of Women and Families

- Gender Roles:
  - Cult of Domesticity
  - Strengthened by men's absence
  - Idealized view of women as moral leaders in the home as a result of changing roles within families (thanks to industrialization)
  - Don't confuse with **Republican Motherhood**: the post-American Revolution idea that women should be schooled in virtue and educated enough that they could teach their children to become successful citizens and ensure a successful republic. Elevated the female role by giving them a place as "special keepers of the nation's conscience."



# Changing Role of Women and Families

- Gender Roles:
  - Women in the Workplace
  - Effects on marriage and children
    - Industrial Revolution decreased economic value of children and increased use of birth control



# Changing Role of Women and Families

- Movement for Women's Rights
  - Grimké Sisters (Angelina wrote *Letter on the Condition of Women and the Equality of the Sexes*, 1837), Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton
  - Seneca Falls Convention (1848)
    - [Declaration of Sentiments](#) modeled after Declaration of Independence; "all men and women are created equal"





# Antislavery Movement

- American Colonization Society (1817) - advocated transporting freed slaves back to Africa (Liberia)
- American Antislavery Society (1831)
  - William Lloyd Garrison
    - Radical abolitionist movement, advocated immediate abolition without compensation
    - *The Liberator*
- Liberty Party (1840): bring about the end of slavery by political and legal means rather than violence and radicalism



# Antislavery Movement

- Abolitionists
  - Immediatists vs. Gradualists
  - Black Abolitionists
    - Frederick Douglass
      - *The North Star*
    - Tubman, Truth
  - Rebellions
    - Nat Turner (1831)
  - Underground Railroad



# Reaction and Legacy

- Sectionalism:
  - Southerners viewed northern reforms as alarming
    - Threats to:
      - Slavery
      - Way of life
  - In the North, advances in transportation allowed for widespread influence of both religious and secular movements
  - Western expansion created both social and economic conflict
- Legacy:
  - Birth of “American” culture and ideals
    - Religion, education, arts, and entertainment
  - Widespread reform movements both united and divided the country.

