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The Second Great Awakening motivated the American people as they protested for liberty with several key factors. First and foremost, this religious revival promoted a personal relationship with God. The movement certainly gripped Nat Turner and one particular segment from his writing, *The Confessions of Nat Turner,* demonstrated this excellently. Nat wrote this piece in the early 1800’s as he waited in the limbo of the penal system. The court system charged him for the crimes he committed, which included the massacres of many White families. Nat described, in vivid and captivating detail, how he arrived at his decisions. He aimed his writings towards a questioning observer. Nat never explicitly directed this paper at any group; yet the words are still charged with anger and hatred for the Southern way of slavery. Nat’s piece also revealed more about his childhood. The Second Great Awakening also hooked American’s because the crime rates climbed through the ceiling. This blatant disregard for laws pushed many citizens to the brink. With large quantities of Americans at wits end, they preferred to turn to wholesome activities for salvation. These religious gatherings tended to stray on the intense side. Many revivalisms used lucid spectacles when a person connected with the holy ghost. Finally, materialism added to this era of religious activity. The United States adored status and fine possessions much more than morals. The slave trade ran rampant from the motivation of high profits. The combination of materialism, lawlessness and the desire for a personal connection with God created fertile ground for The Second Great Awakening.

With harsh conditions all around in the United States, religion created the catalyst for Nat Turners brave uprising. In the America during the 1800’s, this time period marked the first industrial revolution. Overseas, British inventors discovered how to turn raw cotton into thread and cloth with large mills rather than manually. These fast mills increased Britain’s thirst for cotton like never before. With the increased demand, slave holders in the U.S. used wildly unethical means to farm cotton as swiftly as possible to supply Britain. These slave holders in America only cared about capitalizing on their gains and they enslaved an entire race of people to meet their ends. This terrible motivation further instilled a biracial system, where property owning Whites controlled farmland and owned African American slaves. With so much disparity between races and rising crime rates, people looked to religion for consolation.

The source document connected to this time period through Nat’s relationship with God and the prevalence of crime. As mentioned before, the Second Great Awakening promoted a personal interaction with the creator and Nat infused this theme in his writing. The final sentence of the first section, Nat reflected on one of his favorite bible passages. This quote stated that a person only needed to seek Heaven and after the journey this person will have acquired all things on the way. Nat thought about this passage often, he even recorded that a spirit recited it to him in a vision. This personal interaction showed how the spirituality of the time influenced brave souls as they chased freedom. In addition, Mr. Turner described how a large number of slaves were addicted to stealing while he maintained his strength of character and abstained. Nat learned to read on his own at such a young age, this demonstrated his intelligence. His intellect translated into sound judgement while he aged, and his peers saw this. They included him on their plans to steal for his strategies, but he would not get involved personally. Ultimately, Nat claimed divine inspiration from the creator and his naturally high intelligence from childhood as the source of his rebellion.

The *Declaration of Sentiments* shared the same era as Nat’s *The Confessions of Nat Turner*. These documents are similar since they both stemmed from groups of Americans who wanted more liberty. However, the methods differed quite a bit. In the Declaration of Sentiments, the authors tailored their protest from a legal standpoint. The writers used references to the Declaration of Independence and past injustices to women over the course of history. The authors aimed this piece at the men of American, specifically any man in a government position.

Overall, I think religion painted servants as morally inferior during the 1800’s. Chapter 26 of bound describes Alice Cole’s trial and negativity pervaded the pages. Alice was on trial for the suspected murder of her child and she is described as guilty of the sin of fornication. The perspective of childbirth used in such a shameful way sums up the attitudes of servants’ rights. The time period viewed them so low that if they reproduced it was considered a sin.