

AP US History

Chapter 7 - The Jeffersonian Era

Finn Frankis

The Rise of Cultural Nationalism

What led to the growth of cultural nationalism in the U.S. and what were its effects?

How did American life in the early nineteenth century reflect Republican ideals?

Educational opportunities grew, culture began to be freed of European influences, and religion adjusted to Enlightenment ideals.

What were the main patterns of white educational development in nineteenth century America?

- Jefferson, aligning with Republican ideals of enlightened populace, began "crusade against ignorance," hoping to establish nation-wide public schools with education free to all white male citizens
- Some states endorsed in early years (MA law required each town to support school), but many others ignored enforcement
 - VA ignored Jefferson's demand for basic education for all and advanced education for the gifted
 - Even by 1815, no state had a complete public school system
- Schooling became far more prominent in private institutions (who could afford them)
 - South and mid-Atlantic states saw religious-run schools
 - New England schools generally secular, modeled on Phillips family at Andover, MA and in Exeter, NH
 - * Often aristocratic, seeking to train students to become elite
 - * Few schools were open to poor
 - Most private secondary schools accepted only males, but some growth in female opportunities
 - * Female illiteracy during Revolution exceeded 50%; ideal of new mother to train children in liberty led to call for education to train mothers
 - * In 1770s, network of female academies emerged (normally for affluent daughters)
 - * MA required in 1789 that schools serve females and males (many states followed)
 - Most men assumed that female education intended only to create better wives/mothers -> no growth in college education
 - * Judith Sargent Murray, in 1784, wrote essay defending rights to education with viewpoint opposing that of most men: argued equal potential/intellect, need for all people to earn their own living
 - Little support during lifetime; far more successful posthumously

For whites, Republicans (particularly Jefferson) began to push for an advanced educational system required in all towns. However, this goal was not truly met, with the majority of successful schools private institutions focused on teaching the children of aristocrats. Additionally, women began to receive more educational opportunities with many states requiring that public schools serve both sexes and some women pushing for college education.

What were the educational opportunities available to other races?

Because Jefferson and his followers believed natives had potential to become on-par with whites given education (unlike African Americans), mission schools began to spread throughout the tribes. African-Americans, however, generally acquired little education due to fear of an uprising and the widespread belief of innate inferiority; however, some managed to teach themselves.

What was the state of higher education?

- Higher education far less widely available, although numbers of colleges continued to rise slowly
- Even state-established colleges relied on private contributions/fees
- Accessible to fewer than one in one thousand white men, required a prosperous family
- Education was extremely narrow, with classics and theology; clergy was only profession requiring college education
 - Some law schools emerged in College of William and Mary (VA) and Columbia (NY) pre-1800; most lawyers trained through apprenticeships

Higher education was not very widely available, with only the most wealthy, specialized men able to access it due to the high fees to maintain. Furthermore, most curricula were very narrow in scope, applying only to a few specific professions (like the clergy).

How did medicine and science develop in the colonies?

- First medical school emerged in University of Philadelphia in eighteenth century, a time when most doctors learned through apprenticeships
 - Faced great challenges from long-held medical prejudices
 - Municipal authorities took significant time to respond to epidemics, only gradually began to listen to knowledgeable doctors like Benjamin Rush
- Even leading advocates of scientific medicine continued to follow incorrect practices
 - Even Rush followed practice of bleeding/purging
 - Medical communities used reason of "scientific method" to expand to non-traditional domains (like childbirths -> fewer women's opportunities due to elimination of midwives, higher cost of physicians)
- In all, promotion of education saw positions of elites bolstered against Republican ideals

Medicine and science developed slowly despite the emergence of a medical school in Philadelphia. Bad practices continued to be employed and even the leading advocates of scientific medicine (like Rush) utilized poor techniques.

Despite the Republican push against Federalist political/economic centralization, most pushed for an alternate form of nationalism: cultural independence.

- Sought American literary/artistic culture rivaling the best of Europe (like in "Poem on the Rising Glory of America")
- Schoolbooks saw growing nationalism
 - MA geographer Morse created *Geography Made Easy*, demanding that nation use its own textbooks to prevent British influence
 - Noah Webster, to create distinctive American culture, encouraged simplified spelling system
 - * Removed "u" from many words (like honour) in *American Spelling Book*, best-selling American book behind Bible
 - * Work enlarged to become greater dictionary
- Those seeking national literary life faced obstacles
 - Challenging to publish work: most printers favored English works (no royalties), and most magazines used British periodicals
 - * Only those authors willing to pay a cost could compete for public attention
 - Many authors sought to create native literature to push American ideals, including Barlow and Brockden Brown
 - * Barlow pushed for ideas of glory to be implanted to remove false prejudices
 - * Brown intrigued by newly popular idea of novel but with distinct American themes
 - Obsession with originality -> lacked large popular following
 - Most successful author: Washington Irving, producing satirical histories of early American life, New World society
 - * Wrote stories about adventures of early Americans, with work still read today
- Most successful literature: those glorifying nation's past
 - Mercy Otis Warren produced *History of the Revolution*
 - Mason Weems created *Life of Washington*, with no concern for historical accuracy (only nationalism)

Many Americans pushed for a distinctive American culture reflected in literary works and pieces of art. Schoolbooks (like Morse's *Geography Made Easy* and Webster's *Early Spelling Book*) saw the earliest shift to American styles to root out English influence, but literature soon followed, with the most successful authors focusing on the American past with a satirical twist.

What were the significant cultural developments in American society?

What were the religious changes from the American Revolution?

- By detaching church from government and pushing liberty and reason, Revolution weakened traditional religion
 - Traditionalists began to fear "rational" theologies focusing on scientific developments
 - Many Americans began to follow deism (including Jefferson, Franklin), accepting God as a remote being without direct involvement
 - * Denounced superstitions, with Thomas Paine producing *The Age of Reason* against Christianity
 - Ideas of universalism/unitarianism emerged as dissenting views in New England churches
 - * Argued that Jesus was a mere religious teacher, not the son of God; all could receive salvation
 - * James Murray founded in Gloucester, MA in 1779; Unitarian Church in Boston
- Most Americans continued to hold strong religious beliefs
 - Although formality of church had collapsed, most continued to harbor original feelings
 - Deism, unitarianism, universalism seemed to be dominant because evangelists had lost organization

The American Revolution led to the detachment of church and state, causing evangelists to lose their organization and alternate faiths, including deism, pushing the lack of God's direct involvement, and unitarianism/universalism, arguing that all could receive salvation.

What led up the the Second Great Awakening?

- Multiple denominations fought rationalist revival

Stirrings of Industrialism

What led to the industrialization of America?

Many key American inventors ushered in the American Industrial Revolution, like Eli Whitney, who created the cotton gin. Transportation, too, was revolutionized: steamships became prominent with a new engine and turnpikes began to grow in prominence. Despite this, American cities still had a long way to come to rival Europe's largest cities.

What was the technological state of America in the early nineteenth century?

- Many advances imported from England despite British attempts to prevent export of machinery, skilled mechanics
 - Samuel Slater travelled from England despite emigration restrictions, built spinning mill for Quaker merchant in RI - first modern factory
- America also had numerous inventors
 - Oliver Evans (DE) developed flour mill, card-making machine; improved existing steam engine; produced mechanical engineering textbook
 - * Flour mill required only two men to operate
 - Eli Whitney (MA) even more influential: revolutionized cotton production/weapons
 - * English textile industry -> great demand for cotton which could not be met by southern planters due to challenge of separating seeds from fiber (only northern crops were easy to separate)
 - * Due to experience of working on Georgia plantation, created cotton gin to easily/efficiently perform
 - Toothed rollers pulled fibers between grating, catching seeds
 - One operator could complete tasks within hours which previously required entire day to complete
 - Cotton spread beyond South with eight-fold production increase; slavery began to grow
 - In north, cotton gin had effect of promoting textile industry, with most northern plantation owners focusing on manufacturing textiles -> greater regional split
 - * Revolutionized warfare with machine to systematically create guns by dividing tasks between workers
 - Idea spread beyond to other industries

Although a large part of American technology was imported from England, American inventors like Oliver Evans, who developed the flour mill and a card-making machine, and Eli Whitney, who produced the cotton gin, which revolutionized the south, and developed an assembly-line method of producing weapons.

What were the major developments in transportation?

- Industrialization requires efficient system of transport; U.S. lacked early system
- Small American market solved by customers overseas (but affected by Congress' reduced tariffs), but also by domestic growth, which was accelerated by a war with Europe
- Even by 1793, America had merchant marine, foreign trade rivaling all countries but England; rapid growth in number of vessels
- New markets emerged locally with trade between states: emerged as a result of steam power
 - Oliver Evans' high-pressure engine (more efficient than Watt's) improved feasibility of steam
 - Oliver Fulton/Livingston perfected steamboat design with *Clermont*, using English-built engine
 - * Sailed along Hudson in 1807, demonstrating potential
 - * Design quickly introduced to West by Livingston's partner
- Turnpike era had begun: toll roads with crushed rock between states connected distant towns (only those where construction costs were low -> few roads over mountains into interior)

The issue of the limited market was addressed over water by finding overseas customers and by a growing trade connection between states over water. This was assisted by the development of steam power. The turnpike era also soon began with the building of roads.

What marked the growth of early American cities?

- America remained primarily agricultural: only 3% of non-natives lived in towns (population > 8000) by 1800; 10% west of Appalachians; largest cities were nowhere near London/Paris
- Larger cities had begun to rival secondary European cities (like Philadelphia, NY, Baltimore, Boston, Charleston)
- Urban lifestyle very different: more elegant, diversions for enjoyment (like music, dancing, theatre, horse racing)

Although even the largest cities paled in comparison to Europe's best, they began to rival Europe's secondary cities and develop their own distinctive culture, with a focus on elegance and diversions from everyday life.

Jefferson the President

What changes did Jefferson implement while in office?

What was Jefferson's disposition when he first entered office?

What were the key characteristics of Washington when Jefferson came to power?

How did Jefferson's policies reflect his close connection to the American populace?

Although Jefferson believed his victory was truly a revolution, he remained restrained in addressing the disparate parties, focusing on the similarities of all Americans to calm the various factions.

- Created by Pierre L'Enfant with grand aspirations, Capitol building remained uncompleted
- Many Americans were confident that Washington had potential to develop into Paris of U.S.
- Washington remained provincial village throughout nineteenth century: never approached NY/Philadelphia
 - Congress-members viewed Washington as place for meetings, not to live; most lived in Capitol boardinghouses
 - Many quickly departed if state legislature offered better position

Washington remained a small town throughout the nineteenth century despite L'Enfant's aspirations: most members of government viewed it as a place of work, not a true home.