

## **Unit 6**

**1. William Lloyd Garrison-** ([December 12, 1805–May 24, 1879](#)) was a prominent [United States abolitionist](#), journalist, and social reformer. He is best known as the editor of the radical abolitionist newspaper, [\*The Liberator\*](#), and as one of the founders of the [American Anti-Slavery Society](#).

**2. Gag Rule-** is a rule that limits or forbids the consideration or discussion of a topic.

**3. James Henry Hammond-** [November 15, 1807 – November 13, 1864](#)) was a politician from [South Carolina](#). He served as a [United States Representative](#) from 1835 to 1836, [Governor of South Carolina](#) from 1840 to 1842, and [United States Senator](#) from 1857 to 1860. A [Democrat](#), Hammond was perhaps best known during his lifetime as an outspoken defender of [slavery](#) and [states' rights](#). It was Hammond who coined the phrase that "Cotton is King" in an 1858 speech to the Senate. His father Elisha Hammond pushed him hard, regarding him as a genius. His mansion in Beech Island, South Carolina, *Redcliffe*, represents his ideal of the perfectly run plantation.

**4. Hinton Helper-** ([December 27, 1829–March 8, 1909](#)) was a Southern critic of [slavery](#) during the [1850s](#). In [1857](#), he published a book which he dedicated to the "nonslaveholding whites" of the South. [\*The Impending Crisis of the South\*](#) put forth the notion that slavery hurt the [economic](#) prospects of non-slaveholders, and was an impediment to the growth of the entire region of the [South](#). The book, which was a combination of statistical charts and provocative prose, might have passed unnoticed if Northern opponents of slavery had not reprinted it, leading to a furor in parts of the

South, where authorities banned its possession and distribution and burned copies that could be seized.

**5. American Colonization Society-** The American Colonization Society (in full, The Society for the Colonization of Free People of Color of America) founded [Liberia](#), a colony on the coast of [West Africa](#) in 1817 and transported free blacks there, in an effort to remove them from the [United States](#). The Society closely controlled the development of [Liberia](#) until 1847, when it was declared to be an [independent republic](#). By 1867, the ACS had sent more than 13,000 settlers to Liberia. The organization was formally dissolved in 1964.

**6. Stephen Douglas-** Stephen Arnold Douglas was born in Brandon, Vermont, in 1813. He became attorney-general of Illinois in 1834, member of the legislature in 1835, secretary of state in 1840, and judge of the supreme court in 1841 and member of the House of Representatives in 1847. In 1854 Douglas introduced his [Kansas-Nebraska](#) bill to the Senate. These states could now enter the Union with or without slavery. [Frederick Douglass](#) warned that the bill was "an open invitation to a fierce and bitter strife".

**7. Abraham Lincoln-** ([February 12, 1809](#) – [April 15, 1865](#)) was an [American](#) politician who was elected the 16th [President of the United States](#) (serving from 1861 to 1865), and was the first president from the [Republican Party](#). Today, he is best known for ending [slavery](#) and preserving the [Union](#) through his supervision of the Federal (i.e., Northern) forces during the [American Civil War](#). He selected the generals and approved their strategy; selected senior civilian officials; supervised diplomacy, patronage, and party operations; and rallied public opinion through messages and speeches. Lincoln's influence was magnified by his powerful rhetoric; his [Gettysburg Address](#) rededicated the nation to freedom and democracy and remains a core component of the American value system.

**8. Lincoln-Douglas Debates-** The Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 were a series of seven debates between [Abraham Lincoln](#) and [Stephen A. Douglas](#) for an [Illinois](#) seat in the [United States Senate](#). The debates presaged the issues that Lincoln faced in the [1860 presidential campaign](#) and are remembered partially for the eloquence of both sides. The debates were held in 7 towns in the state of [Illinois](#): [Ottawa](#), [Freeport](#), [Jonesboro](#), [Charleston](#), [Galesburg](#), [Quincy](#), and [Alton](#).

**9. Carl Schurz-** [March 2, 1829](#) – [May 14, 1906](#)) was a [German](#) revolutionist, [American](#) statesman and reformer, and [Union Army general](#) in the [American Civil War](#). His wife, [Margarethe Schurz](#) and her sister [Berthe von Ronge](#), were instrumental in establishing the [kindergarten](#) system in the United States.

**10. American Renaissance-** The Transcendentalists stood at the heart of The American Renaissance-- the flowering of our nation's thought in literature, poetry, painting, sculpture, architecture, and music in the period roughly designated from 1835-1880.

**11. Henry Thoreau-** (July 12, 1817 – May 6, 1862; born **David Henry Thoreau**) was an **American** author, **naturalist**, transcendentalism, **tax resister**, development critic, and **philosopher** who is most well-known for *Walden*, a reflection upon **simple living** in natural surroundings, and his essay, *Civil Disobedience*, an argument for individual **resistance to civil government** in moral opposition to an unjust state. Thoreau was famous for saying: "Any fool can make a rule, and any fool will mind it."

**12. Nathaniel Hawthorne-** (July 4, 1804 – May 19, 1864) was a **19th century American novelist** and **short story writer**. He is seen as a key figure in the development of **American literature** for his tales of the nation's **colonial history**.

**13. Frederick Douglass-** (February 14, 1818 – February 20, 1895) was an **American abolitionist**, **editor**, **orator**, **author**, **statesman** and **reformer**. Called "The Sage of Anacostia" and "The Lion of Anacostia," Douglass was one of the most prominent figures of **African American history** during his time, and one of the most influential lecturers and authors in American history.

**14. Walt Whitman-** (May 31, 1819 – March 26, 1892) was an **American Romantic poet**, **essayist**, **journalist**, and **humanist**. Proclaimed the "greatest of all American poets" by many foreign observers a mere four years after his death, his works have been translated into more than 25 languages. Whitman is perhaps the most influential and certainly the most controversial poet in the American canon, his work described in 1897 as a "rude shock" and "the most audacious and debatable contribution yet made to American literature." He largely abandoned the **metrical** structures of European poetry for an expansionist **freestyle** verse—"irregular" but "beautifully rhythmic"—which represented his philosophical view that America was destined to reinvent the world as emancipator and liberator of the human spirit.

**15. Emily Dickinson-** Emily Elizabeth Dickinson (December 10, 1830 – May 15, 1886) was an **American poet**. Though virtually unknown in her lifetime, Dickinson has come to be regarded, along with **Walt Whitman**, as one of the two quintessential American poets of the 19th Century. Dickinson lived an introverted and hermetic life. Although she wrote, at the last count, 1,789 poems, only a handful of them were published during her lifetime- all anonymously and probably without her knowledge.

**16. Herman Melville-** (August 1, 1819 – September 28, 1891) was an **American novelist**, **essayist** and **poet**. During his lifetime, his early novels were popular, but his

popularity declined later in his life. By the time of his death he had nearly been forgotten, but his masterpiece, *Moby-Dick* (which during his life was largely considered a failure, and responsible for Melville's drop in popularity at the time), was "rediscovered" in the 20th century.

**17. Harriet Beecher Stowe-** born (June 14, 1811 – July 1, 1896) was an abolitionist and writer of more than 13 books, the most famous being *Uncle Tom's Cabin* which describes life in slavery, and which was first published in serial form from 1851 to 1852 in an abolitionist organ, the *National Era*, edited by Gamaliel Bailey. Although Stowe herself had never been to the American South, she subsequently published *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a non-fiction work documenting the veracity of her depiction of the lives of slaves in the original novel.

**18. Uncle Tom's Cabin-** is a novel by American author Harriet Beecher Stowe which treats slavery as a central theme. Stowe was an active abolitionist. The novel is believed to have had a profound effect on the North's view of slavery. First published on March 20, 1852, the story focuses on the tale of Uncle Tom, a long-suffering black slave, the central character around whose life the other characters—both fellow slaves and slave owners—revolve. The novel depicts the harsh reality of slavery while also showing that Christian love and faith can overcome even something as evil as enslavement of fellow human beings.

**19. States' Rights-** refers to the idea that U.S. states possess certain rights and political powers in the politics of the United States and constitutional law. These rights are guaranteed by the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, under the United States Bill of Rights. The states' rights concept is usually used to defend a state law that the federal government of the United States seeks to override, or a perceived violation of the bounds of federal authority.

**20. James Birney-** James Birney was born in Danville, Kentucky on 4th February, 1792. A lawyer, after working in Danville, he was elected to the Kentucky Legislature in 1816. Two years later he moved to Alabama where he was elected to the Alabama Legislature in 1819. A strong opponent of slavery, Birley started his own newspaper, the *Philanthropist*.

**21. Free Soil Party-** a short-lived political party in the United States active in the 1848 and 1852 presidential elections, and in some state elections. It was a breakaway faction of the Democratic party and was largely absorbed by the Republican party in 1854. Its main purpose was opposing the expansion of slavery into the territories, arguing that free men on free soil comprised a morally and economically superior system to slavery. They bitterly fought the Slave Power.

**22. Henry Clay-** (April 12, 1777 – June 29, 1852) was a leading American statesman and orator who represented Kentucky in both the House of Representatives and Senate. He was the founder and leader of the Whig Party and a leading advocate of programs for modernizing the economy (such as factories, canals, railroads and banks).

- 23. John C. Calhoun-** was a prominent United States Southern politician and political philosopher from South Carolina during the first half of the 19th century.
- 24. Daniel Webster-** (January 18, 1782 – October 24, 1852) was a prominent American statesman during the nation's antebellum, or Pre-Civil War, era. Webster first rose to regional prominence through his defense of New England shipping interests. His heightening nationalistic views and his fabulous articulation of them led Webster to become one of the most renowned speakers and influential Whig leaders of the Second Party System.

**25. President Zachary Taylor-** see General Zachary Taylor

**26. Millard Fillmore-** (January 7, 1800 – March 8, 1874) was the thirteenth President of the United States, serving from 1850 until 1853, and the last member of the Whig Party to hold that office. He succeeded from the Vice Presidency on the death of President Zachary Taylor, who died of acute gastroenteritis, becoming the second U.S. President to assume the office in this manner. Fillmore was never elected President in his own right; after serving out Taylor's term he was not nominated for the Presidency by the Whigs in the 1852 Presidential election, and in 1856 he again failed to win election as President as the Know Nothing Party candidate.

**27. Compromise of 1850-** as a series of laws that resolved the territorial and slavery issues arising from the Mexican-American War. These five laws balanced the interests of the slaveholding states of the American South and the free states. California was admitted as a free state, Texas received financial compensation for relinquishing claim to lands east of the Rio Grande in what is now New Mexico, the territory of New Mexico (including present-day Arizona and Utah) was organized without any specific prohibition of slavery, the slave trade (but not slavery itself) was abolished in Washington, D.C., and the stringent Fugitive Slave Law was passed, requiring all U.S. citizens to assist in the return of runaway slaves.

**28. Harriet Tubman-** (c. 1822–March 10, 1913), also known as "Black Moses," "Grandma Moses," or "Moses of Her People," was an African-American abolitionist. An escaped slave, she made 19 voyages into the deep South and helped over 300 slaves escape to Canada. During her lifetime she worked as a lumberjack, laundress, nurse, and cook. As an abolitionist, she acted as intelligence gatherer, refugee organizer, raid leader, nurse, and fundraiser.

**29. Fugitive Slave Law-** were statutes passed by the United States Congress in 1793 and 1850 to provide for the return of slaves who escaped from one state into another or into a public territory.

**30. William Seward-** (May 16, 1801 – October 10, 1872) was United States Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson.

**31. Election of 1852-** At the Democratic convention in 1852 there were four leading candidates, Lewis Cass, James Buchanan, Stephen Douglas and William Marcy.. On the thirty fifth ballot Pierce was put forth as a candidate. He was nominated unanimously on the forty ninth ballot. The Whigs nominated Winfield Scott.

**32. Whigs-** was a political party of the United States during the era of Jacksonian democracy. Considered integral to the Second Party System and operating from 1832 to 1856, the party was formed to oppose the policies of President Andrew Jackson and the Democratic Party. In particular, the Whigs supported the supremacy of Congress over the Executive Branch and favored a program of modernization and economic development. The Whig Party counted among its members such national political luminaries as Daniel Webster, William Henry Harrison, and their pre-eminent leader, Henry Clay of Kentucky. In addition to Harrison, the Whig Party also counted four war heroes among its ranks, including Generals Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott. Its Illinois leader was Abraham Lincoln.

**33. Democrats-** founded by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison as the republican party in 1792, was the dominant political party in the United States from 1800 until the 1820s. The party and its members identified themselves as the Republican party (not related to the present-day Republican Party), Republicans, Jeffersonians, Democratic Republicans, less frequently Democrats, or combinations of these (like Jeffersonian republicans).

**34. Franklin Pierce-** (November 23, 1804 – October 8, 1869) was an American politician and the 14th President of the United States, serving from 1853 to 1857. Pierce was a Democrat and a "doughface" (a Northerner with Southern sympathies) who served in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. Later, Pierce took part in the Mexican-American War, becoming a brigadier general. Later, he was nominated for president as a "dark horse" candidate on the 49th ballot at the 1852 Democratic National Convention. In the presidential election, Pierce and his running mate William R. King won in a landslide, beating Winfield Scott by a 50 to 44% margin in the popular vote and 254 to 42 in the electoral vote. He became the youngest president up until that time.

**35. Filibuster-** In a legislature or other decision making body, a filibuster is an attempt to extend debate upon a proposal in order to delay or completely prevent a vote on its passage. The term first came into use in the United States Senate, where Senate rules permit a senator, or a series of senators, to speak for as long as they wish and on any topic they choose, unless a supermajority of Senators brings debate to a close by invoking cloture.

**36. William Walker-** (May 8, 1824 - September 12, 1860) was a U.S. physician, lawyer, journalist, adventurer, and soldier of fortune who attempted to conquer several Latin American countries in the mid-19th century. He held the presidency of the Republic of Nicaragua from 1856 to 1857 and was executed by the government of Honduras in 1860.

**37. Pierre Soule-**(August 31, 1801–March 26, 1870) was a U.S. politician and diplomat during the mid-19th century. He is best known for his role in writing the [Ostend Manifesto](#), which was written in 1854 as part of an attempt to annex [Cuba](#) to the United States.

**38. Ostend Manifesto**-was a secret document written in 1854 by U.S. diplomats at [Ostend, Belgium](#), describing a plan to acquire [Cuba](#) from [Spain](#). The document declared that "Cuba is as necessary to the North American republic as any of its present members, and that it belongs naturally to that great family of states of which the Union is the Providential Nursery."

**39. Kansas- Nebraska Act-** of 1854 created the territories of [Kansas](#) and [Nebraska](#) and opened new lands for settlement. The act was designed by Democratic Senator [Stephen A. Douglas](#) of [Illinois](#); it repealed the [Missouri Compromise](#). The act established that settlers could decide for themselves whether to allow slavery. Opponents said it was a concession to the [Slave Power](#) of the [South](#) and formed the new [Republican Party](#).

**40. Popular Sovereignty-** is the doctrine that the [state](#) is created by and subject to the will of the people, who are the source of all [political power](#). It is closely associated to the [social contract](#) philosophers, among whom are [Thomas Hobbes](#), [John Locke](#) and [Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#).