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| *Focus Question:*  *Who led the next awakening?*  *What did the temperance movement stand for?*  *Who led the fight for workers rights?*  *Who led efforts to improve American education?*  *What steps were taken to improve life for the weakest in society?*  *What were some popular ideas that the advancement of print spread?*  *What was the “ideal” community for 19th century America?* | **What reform movements helped to change American society at this time?**  A Spirit of Revival   * The Second Great Awakening occurred in the early 1800s. * Americans began to believe, after being preached to, they could act to improve things.   Temperance Societies   * Began temperance movement, encouraged drinking to stop – was supported by business owners so workers weren’t drunk. * States began to make it illegal to purchase alcohol, these laws remained in place up until the early 20th century.   Fighting for Workers’ Rights   * Labor union is a group of workers who, “band together to seek better working conditions.” * Mill owners made conditions work, union called for a strike. * In 1835-1836, many strikes occurred, followed by the Panic of 1837, when jobs became scarce.   Improving Education   * Americans began to demand better schools. * Horace Mann headed the first school board; Boston opened the first public high school in 1821. * Some efforts were made to improve girls’ education, however, it was still rare for girls to be educated beyond elementary. * Few colleges accepted African-Americans, and accepted very few at a time when they did.   Caring for the Needy   * Dorothea Dix worked to improve conditions for the weakest in society, after seeing many women in jail cells just for being mentally ill. * Other schools were started for disabilities like deaf and blind children. * Reformers also tried to change prisons to have better conditions and rehabilitate members.   Spreading Ideas Through Print   * Papers began to publish more life advice; hundreds of new magazines were published. * Sarah Hale published magazines which explained of women’s equal roles in life, went on to edit poems and stories.   Creating Ideal Communities   * Utopias, attempts at the perfect society, encountered financial and other difficulties/conflicts. * Shakers shook with emotion during church services, vowed to not marry or have children. * In 1999, only seven Shakers remained, down from the 6,000 it peaked at in the 1840s.   Summary  Several movements and attempts to reform American society were made during this period. Religious awakening, just like during the revolution, helped to raise spirits. The temperance movements helped to resolve some issues with alcohol, but also developed un-Constitutional laws. Finally, through print, ideas began to spread, as we are accustomed to today with the internet. These all lead to a more developed and advanced American society who began to care for those who needed it. |
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