

## Unit 4, Assignment 1

**How was the 2nd Great Awakening different than the 1st Great Awakening?**

1st Great Awakening:

- Individual relationship with God
- Move away from ritual and doctrine
- Spiritual guilt and personal morality

2nd Great Awakening:

- Created egalitarian cultures marked by communal singing and emotional services
- Big religious revivals
- Man was naturally at “the head of the woman”
- Methodist and Baptist preachers adapted their religious message to justify the authority of yeomen patriarchs and slave-owning planters

**What was the Benevolent Empire and what were its goals?**

Congregational and Presbyterian ministers created a network of organizations called the Benevolent Empire

- Their goal was to restore “the moral government of GOD”
- Reduce the consumption of alcohol and other vices that they believed resulted in poverty
- Tried to control the lives of working people

The Benevolent Empire targeted old-school bad things

- Drunkenness
- Adultery
- Prostitution
- Crime

Instead of relying on church sermons, they created large-scale organizations

- Prison Discipline Society
- general Union for Promoting the Observance of the Christian Sabbath

**What is transcendentalism? Who are the most famous transcendentalists?**

**Transcendentalism** People need to shake off inherited customs and institutions and discover their “original relation with Nature,” in order to enter a mystical union with the “currents of Universal Being”

**Ralph Waldo Emerson** Influential New England philosopher

- More extreme than benevolent reform
- Wanted to overthrow old hierarchies and the spiritual power of individuals
- Believed that each individual could experience the infinite and eternal

**Briefly describe these utopian communities: the Shakers, the Oneidas, and the Fourierists.**

Rejected life in America's emerging market society and sought to create ideal communities (utopias)

#### **The Shakers**

- Disdained sexual intercourse
- Abstention from alcohol, tobacco, politics, and war

**The Oneidas** Perfectionism -> Christ had already returned to earth and therefore people could aspire to sinless perfection

- Rejected marriage -> instead a Shaker-style celibacy
- Embraced complex marriage
- Rejected monogamy

**The Fourierists** Imminent decline of individual property rights and capitalism

- through the creation of cooperative communities whose members shared work and property (fucking socialists)
- Claimed that it would liberate workers from low wages and servitude to capitalist employers

**Briefly explain the early years of the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons).**

Joseph Smith published *The book of Mormon*

- He claimed to have translated from ancient hieroglyphics on gold plates shown to him by an angel named Moroni
- Told the story of ancient Jews from the Middle East who had migrated to the Western Hemisphere and were visited by Jesus Christ

Justified polygamy

- Smith pointed to biblical precedent for this practice of patriarchal or plural marriage

## **Assignment 2**

**Describe the experience of free African Americans.**

Lived primarily in coastal cities

- Mobile, Memphis, New Orleans, and Upper South

Formed the backbone of the urban artisan workforce

- Carpenters, barbers, blacksmiths, butchers, and shopkeepers

Faced many dangers

- White officials often denied jury trials to free blacks accused of crimes
- Sometimes they forced people charged with vagrancy back into slavery
- Some blacks distanced themselves from plantation slaves and assimilated white culture and value
  - For opportunity and protection

**Take notes on Nat Turner's Revolt, the American Anti-Slavery Society, and the Underground Railroad.**

Staged a chronological coincidence that had far-reaching consequences

- Turner had taught himself to read and hoped for emancipation
- One master forced him into the fields while another separated him from his wife
- Becoming deeply spiritual, Turner had a religious vision in which "the Spirit" explained that "Christ had laid down the yoke he had borne for the sins of men, and that I should take it on and fight against the Serpent"

In August of 1831, rose in rebellion

- Killed at least 55 white men, women, and children
- Seeking to seize weapons from a nearby armory and take up a defensive position in the Great Dismal Swamp

Sowed terror across the South

- American Colonization Society became wildly popular
- "Representative of the violence inherent in the system!"
- "You see him repressing me!"
- "Help I'm being repressed."
- "Bloody peasant." - "Oh, that's a dead giveaway"
- I profusely apologize for digressing into Holy Grail jokes

**Discuss the resistance faced by abolitionists.**

Racial fears and hatreds led to violent mob actions

- In 1829, working-class whites in Cincinnati drove over a thousand blacks from the city
- There was an 1807 law that had banned all blacks from Ohio

Banned all abolitionist writings, sermons, and lectures

- Offered reward for people who could catch abolitionist

- Mob attacked a post office and destroyed sacks of abolitionist mail

### **Take notes on the Women's Rights movement.**

Women formed a crucial part of the Second Great Awakening and the Benevolent Empire

- More than 70 percent of the members of New England Congregational churches were women
- The predominance of women prompted Congregational ministers to end traditional gender-segregated prayer meetings

Mixing men and women in religious activities promoted greater self-discipline

Men tried to curb their power

- Evangelical Baptist churches that had once advocated spiritual equality now prevented women from voting on church matters
- "Let your women learn to keep silence in the churches"
  - "She's a witch!"
  - "How do we know if she is a witch?"- "Build a bridge out of her!!"
  - "She turned me into a newt... It got better"
  - Once again, I digress

## **Assignment 3**

### **Give three examples of the rise of democracy in the first half of the 19th century.**

1. Maryland reformers in the 1810's invoked the equal rights rhetoric of republicanism
  - Property qualifications for voting were a "tyranny"
  - New voters voted for those who dressed simply and endorsed popular rule
2. Constitutions of Indiana, Illinois, and Alabama prescribed a broad male franchise, and voters usually elected middling men to local and state offices
  - Men from modest backgrounds restricted imprisonment for debt, kept taxes low, and allowed farmers to claim squatters' rights to unoccupied land
3. Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York wrote more democratic constitutions
  - Reapportioned legislative districts on the basis that judges would be elected (not appointed)

### **Who was Van Buren? How did he create the first political machine?**

Van Buren was the chief architect of the emerging system of party government

- Grew up in the landlord-dominated society of the Hudson River Valley
- Trained as a lawyer

Sought an alternative to the system of deferring to local notables

- Wanted to create a political order based on party identity, not family connections

Van Buren purchased a newspaper and used it to promote his policies

Patronage was an even more important tool

- They acquired the power to appoint six thousand of their friends into positions of power
  - Kinda hippo-critical imo

## **Explain republican motherhood**

Traditionally most American women spent their adult life working as farmwives and taking care of children

- After 1800, the birthrate in the norther states lowered
- Mothers went from bearing 9 to 6 to 4 children

Demographic transition -> sharp decline in the birthrate

Women accepted greater responsibility for the welfare of the family

Republican motherhood -> “Preserving virtue and instructing the young are not the fancied, but the real ‘Rights of Women’”

## **What was the American Colonization Society?**

Argued for gradual emancipation plans

- Should include compensation to masters
- Freed Africans should be deported out of the United States

Free blacks did not support the Colonization Society because they saw themselves as American

## **Explain the Missouri Compromise.**

Faced with unwavering souther opposition to Tallmadge’s amendment

- Northern congressmen deserted the antislavery coalition
- They accepted a deal that allowed Maine to enter the Union as a free state in 1821

This bargain preserved a balance in the Senate between North and South

- set a precedent for future admissions to the Union

## **Explain the American System**

Strengthen the Second Bank of the United States

Raise tariffs

- Use tariff revenues to finance internal improvements

## **What was significant about the Election of 1824 (discuss the corrupt bargain)?**

No candidate received an absolute majority

- 12th Amendment to the constitution
  - House of representatives would choose the president

Corrupt bargain:

- Clay assembled a coalition of representatives from New England and the Ohio River Valley that voted Adams into the presidency
- Adams showed his gratitude by appointing Clay his secretary of state

## **Assignment 4**

### **Jackson's use of patronage**

Jackson relied on his "Kitchen Cabinet" to make policy:

- Francis Preston Blair -> edited the *Washington Globe*
- Amos Kendall -> wrote Jackson's speeches
- Roger B. Taney -> attorney general, treasury secretary, and chief justice
- Martin Van Buren -> secretary of state

Used patronage to create a disciplined national party

- Rejected the idea of "property in office"
  - a qualified official held a position permanently

Insisted on a rotation of officeholders when new administration took power

- Rotation would not lessen expertise
- public duties were "so plain and simple that men of intelligence may readily qualify themselves for their performance"
- Government jobs were like the spoils of war:
  - "to the victor belong the spoils of the enemy"

### **Jackson's position on the American System and evidence of this position**

Highest priority was to destroy the American System

- government-sponsored plans for national economic development were unconstitutional
  - the “voice of the people” called for “economy in the expenditures of the Government”

Vetoed for internal improvement bills in 1830

- Denied an extension of the National Road -> infringed on “the reserved powers of states”
- By eliminating expenses he also undermined the case for protective tariffs
  - “Destroy internal improvements and you leave no motive for the tariff

### **South Carolina’s Act of nullification**

The Tariff of 1828 had helped Jackson win the presidency

- Also put him in a major political crisis
- There was fierce opposition to high tariffs throughout the South

Congress reenacted the Tariff of Abominations in 1832

- South Carolina called a state convention that adopted an Ordinance of Nullification declaring the tariffs of 1828 and 1832 to be null and void
- The ordinance prohibited the collection of those duties in South Carolina

### **The bank veto and the “bank war”**

Jackson had a major challenge from politicians who supported the Second Bank of the United States

- The bank was privately managed and operated under a government charter
  - Government owned 20% of its stock
- Bank was made to stabilize the nation’s money supply

Henry Clay and Daniel Webster wanted to extend the bank’s charter

- Hoped to force Jackson into a veto that would split the Democrats

Clay and Webster’s plan backfired

- Jackson vetoed the rechartering bill masterfully
- Declared that Congress had no constitutional authority to charter a national bank
- Condemned the bank as “subversive of the rights of the States”
- Killed the bank

## **Assignment 5**

### **Cherokee resistance**

Some Indians had adopted white ways

- Race mixing -> White traders and Indian women
- Children growing up in bicultural world

Georgia Cherokee James Vann owned one hundred black slaves, two trading posts, and a gristmill

Prominent Cherokees believed that integration life was the best way to protect property

- Devised a system of writing for the Cherokee language
- Modeled a new system of government after the US

## **Indian Removal – The Indian Removal Act of 1830**

Jackson pushed the Indian Removal Act of 1830

Catharine Beecher and Lydia Sigourney proposed a Ladies Circular

- urged “benevolent ladies” to use “prayers and exhortations to avert the calamity of removal”
- Other women took this.. And petitioned the government.. So much for prayers

When Chief Black Hawk refused to leave rich, well watered farmland in western Illinois

- Jackson sent troops to expel them by force
- US Army pursued Black Hawk into the Wisconsin Territory
- Bad Axe Massacre
  - Killed 850 people

## **Cherokee Nation v. Georgia and Worcester v. Georgia**

Cherokees had carried the defense of their lands to the Supreme Court

- They claimed the status of a “foreign nation”

*Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*

- Chief Justice John Marshall denied that claim and declared that Indian peoples were “domestic dependent nations”

*Worcester v. Georgia*

- Marshall and the Court sided with the Cherokees against Georgia
- Voided Georgia’s extension of state law over the Cherokees
- The Court held that Indian nations were distinct political communities, having territorial boundaries, within which their authority is exclusive and guaranteed by the United States”



## **Trail of Tears**

US Government took Cherokee's land in 1835

- Americans and Indians negotiated the Treaty of New Echota
  - Specified that Cherokee's would resettle in Indian Territory

When only some of the Cherokee's moved, President Martin Van Buren ordered someone else to enforce the treaty

- Army marched 14k Cherokee's 1,200 miles
- Known as the Trail of Tears
- 3,000 Indians died

## **Jackson's legacy – Taney, Charles River Bridge case, Mayor of New York v. Miln, Briscoe v. Bank of Kentucky**

### **The Taney Court**

Jackson undermined the constitutional jurisprudence of John Marshall

- Appointed Roger B. Taney as his successor in 1835
- Taney partially reversed the nationalist and vested-property-rights decisions of Marshall
  - Gave constitutional legitimacy to Jackson's policies of states' rights and free enterprise

### **Charles River Bridge case**

Taney declared that a legislative monopoly, did not bestow a legislative monopoly - "While the rights of private property are sacredly guarded, we must not forget that the community also has rights" - This decision challenged Marshall's interpretation of the contract clause

## **Assignment 6**

### **Whig Party**

The rise of the democracy and Jackson's tumultuous presidency sparked the creation of a second national party -> the Whigs

Group of congressmen contested Andrew Jackson's policies and his high-handed, "king-like" conduct

- Took the name Whigs to identify themselves with the pre-Revolutionary American and British parties

Initially consisted of political factions with distinct points of view

- Coalesced into a party with a distinctive stance and coherent ideology

Celebrated the entrepreneur and the enterprising individual

- “This is a country of self-made men”

### **Southern Whigs (Calhoun)**

Support for the Whigs in the South was less widespread than in the North

Some where wealthy planters who invested

- The majority were poor whites who resented the power and policies of low-country planters, most of whom were Democrats

Rejected their party's enthusiasm for high tariffs and social mobility

John Calhoun was their spokesman

- Extremely conscious of class divisions in society
- Rhetoric of equal opportunity was contradicted by slavery and the wage-labor system of industrial capitalism

### **Anti-Masonic Party**

Many Whig voters in 1834 had previously supported the Anti-Masons

- A powerful but short-lived party that formed in the late 1820

Anti-Masons opposed the Order of Freemasonry

- Freemasonry was an organization of men seeking moral improvement by promoting welfare and unity of humanity
- Men preached republicanism

### **Workingmen's Parties**

Set out to secure “a just balance of power.. Between all the various classes”

- called for the abolition of private banks, chartered monopolies, and debtors' prisons
- Demanded universal public education and a fair system of taxation

Won some victories

- Elected a number of assemblymen
- Persuaded the Pennsylvania legislature in 1834 to authorize tax-supported school

### **Panic of 1837**

Threw the American economy and the workers' movement into disarray

Began when the Bank of England tried to boost the faltering British economy

- Sharply curtailed the flow of money and credit to the US
- Caused cotton price to plummet by 50%

State governments increased their investments into canals and railroads

## Assignment 7

### Discuss the teachings and style of worship of Black Protestantism.

Respected it's ban on profane dancing but did religious dancing (ring shout)

- Henry George Spalding called it the “religious dance of the Negroes”
- Songs were usually collective creations
  - Devised spontaneously from bits of hymns and tunes

Black congregations devised a distinctive and joyous brand of Protestant worship

- To sustain them on the path to emancipation

### How did enslaved people forge communities and try to maintain family ties?

Spoke the Gullah dialect

- Combined words from English and African languages in an African grammatical structure
- Spoken by blacks in the Carolina lowcountry into the 1900s

One-third of the slaves who entered the united States between 1776 and 1809 came from the Congo region

- Brought cultures with them
- “In Louisiana, and the state of Mississippi, the slaves... Dance for several house during Sunday afternoon. The general movement is in what they call the Congo dance.”

African Americans continued to respect African incest taboos

- Shunned marriages between cousins
- Nearly half of the slave children born between 1800 and 1957 were related by blood to one another
  - When they married, only one of every forty-one too place between cousins
- Cousin marriages were frequent in South Carolina because such unions kept wealth within an extended family

**What was the task system? How was it enforced? How did enslaved people**

**resist it?**

Blacks in the rice-growing lowlands of South Carolina asserted the right to labor by the “task”

- Workers had to complete a precisely defined job each day
  - For example, digging up a quarter-acre of land
- By working hard, many finished their tasks by early afternoon
- They had the rest of the day for themselves

Slaves on sugar and cotton plantations were different -> Gang labor system

- There was no time off between the change of the seasons
- Many slaves faced bans on growing crops on their own

Hundreds of individual slaves responded by attacking their masters and overseers

- Only a few: Gabriel, Martin, and Nat Turner plotted mass uprising

## **Assignment 8**

**Who settled in Texas in the 1820s and 1830s? Why did they have conflicts with the government of Mexico?**

American emigrants, led by Moses Austin, settled in Texas in the 20s and 30s

- By 1835, 27,000 white Americans and 3,000 African American slaves
  - Far more than the 3,000 Mexicans

The American emigrants took issue when Mexico adopted a new constitution, that supported a stronger government, in 1835

- The new constitution dissolved state legislatures

**What happened in the war between the Texans and the Mexican government?**

American rebels declared independence from Texas

- President Santa Anna of Texas executed 350 prisoners of war

Because of over-romanticizing, anti-Catholic sentiment, and promises of land grants American adventurers joined the Texan rebels

- Won de-facto independence in the Battle of San Jacinto ## What was Manifest Destiny and why is it significant?

Coined by John L. O’Sullivan, editor of the *Democratic Review*

- “Our manifest destiny is to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions”

Sense of Anglo-American cultural and racial superiority

- the “inferior” people who lived in the Far West would be subjected to American dominion
- They would be taught republicanism , and converted to Protestantism

### **Take notes on “Oregon Fever” and the Oregon Trail.**

Britain and the United States agreed to jointly control the Oregon Country

- Allowed settlement from people of both nations
- Britain ran Hudson’s Bay company -> developed a lucrative fur business and oversaw Indian relations north of the Columbia River

American interest in Oregon increased dramatically

- The US Navy published a glowing report of it’s attractiveness
- 100 farmers journeyed along the Oregon Trail

“Oregon fever” was a thing

- By 1860, 250,00 Americans had done the Oregon Trail
  - 65,000 => Wyoming
  - 185,000 => California

### **Describe the life of the Plains Indians.**

Before, Indians who lived on the eastern edge of the plains subsided primarily on corn and beans

- Hunted some buffalo on foot
  - Drove the over cliffs or into canyons

Apaches acquired horses from the Spanish settlers

Comanches developed a horse-based culture and imperial ambitions

- Slowly pushed the Apache’s into the southern edge of the plains
- Also raided Spanish settlements in New Mexico

### **What were the issues of the Election of 1844? (be sure to explain “Fifty-four forty or fight”)**

The election of 1844 changed the American government’s policy toward the Great Plains, the Far West, And Texas

Since 1836, souther leaders had supported the annexation of Texas

- Cautious party politicians had rebuffed them

- Rumor that Great Britain was encouraging Texas to remain independent
- To counter the rumor, southern expansionists demanded the immediate annexation of Texas

Oregon fever altered the political landscape in the North

- In 1843, Americans around the Great Lakes organized “Oregon Conventions”
- Both parties called for American sovereignty over Oregon Country

President Tyler John called for the annexation of Texas

- Hoped to win reelection in 1844 as a Democrat

Expansion into Texas and Oregon was the central issue in the election of 1844

- Democrats Selected Governor James K. Polk -> Slave owner and expansionist
- Campaigned the “Re-occupation of Oregon and the Re-annexation of Texas”
- Insisted that the United States defy British claims and occupy “the whole of the territory of Oregon”
- “Fifty-four forty or fight!” => Named after the line of latitude of the northern border of the US

## Assignment 9

**What were the various positions on the war taken in the primary source excerpts? Include notes on each.**

“Manifest Destiny,” From *United State Magazine and Democratic Review*, July 1845

- Texas’ independence was completely fair
- Annexation was not a pro-slavery move
- California will leave and annex to the US next

Letter to John Slidell, Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico, November 1845

- Texas’ independence is not to be questioned
- Might as well give the US New Mexico as well
  - Don’t want Britain or France to get it
  - In the interest of both countries

Letter to Robert Winthrop, Whig Congressman fro Massachusetts, October 25, 1846

- The US does not have jurisdiction west of the Nueces River
- When the US went to take possession, they went into an area west of the river
  - This was an act of aggression as they didn’t have claim to the land

- Congress passed a law that appropriated lots of men and money
  - Sort of like going to war

Editorial, September 1, 1847

- Need to decide if slavery should be in new territories
- Slavery only supports a few aristocratic men
- Can't have a fully functioning working class in a slave state

## **What did Polk do to precipitate the war?**

Wanted to create a revolution in California that would lead to annexation

- Encouraged influential Californians to seek independence and union with the United States
- Ordered American naval commanders to seize San Francisco Bay in case of war

Instructed the War Department to dispatch an “exploring” party of soldiers into Mexican territory

- Reached Sacramento River Valley in 1845

Sent Louisiana congressman John Slidell to Mexico

- to secure the Rio Grande boundary for Texas
- To buy the provinces of California and New Mexico

Ordered an American army to occupy disputed lands between the Nueces river and the Rio Grande

- “We were sent to provoke a fight” - Ulysses S. Grant

## **Describe the course of the war.**

Officially started at Rio Grande in May 1846

- Mexico “has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory, and shed American blood upon the American soil.”
- Decided to go to war

Occupied the city of Monterrey

- Took Tampico, Mexico's second most important port
- By the end of 1846, the United States controlled much of northeastern Mexico

Declared that California would be a part of the United States