

**COMING TO TERMS  
WITH THE NEW AGE,  
CHAPTER 13 NOTES,  
PART 2**

# Social Reform Movements

- ⦿ The earliest response to the dislocations caused by the market revolution were community-based and voluntary
- ⦿ Evangelical religion was fundamental to social reform
- ⦿ After conversion to Christianity, men and women assumed personal responsibility for making changes in their own lives and wanted to see changes made in the lives of others

# Reform

- ⦿ The new middle-class set the agenda for reform
- ⦿ Traditional methods of small-scale local relief were no longer adequate
- ⦿ Large cities had to make large-scale provisions and large institutional efforts were needed
- ⦿ Other than religion, the second characteristic of the reform movement was a belief in the basic goodness of human nature—reformers believed that a wholesome environment would help the poor, the insane, and criminal
- ⦿ The third characteristic of the reform movements was their moralistic dogmatism—reformers were certain that they were right and wanted to see their improvements enacted

# Sabbatarianism

- ⦿ The goal was to prevent business on Sundays
- ⦿ Led by Lyman Beecher and other ministers, the General Union for Promoting the Observance of the Christian Sabbath used lobbying, petition drives, fundraising and special publications
- ⦿ Sabbatarianism was controversial and divided the business class

# Education

- ◉ Women became involved in reform movements through churches
- ◉ Nearly every church had a maternal association to help mothers discuss how to raise their children as true Christians
- ◉ The old Puritan view was that children were born sinful and their will must be broken--teaching was by rote and punishment was harsh
- ◉ Educational reformers believed that children were born innocent and needed gentle nurturing and encouragement
- ◉ Horace Mann was secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Education and pioneered uniformity in curriculum and teacher training and the grading of classes by ability
- ◉ More and more children went to school

- ① The spread of public education provided the first real career opportunity for women
- ① Champion of teacher training in America was Catharine Beecher (daughter of Lyman Beecher) who saw her efforts as part of the larger work of establishing the “moral government of God.”
- ① By 1850, women were dominant in primary school teaching

# Temperance Movement

- ◎ American Society for the Promotion of Temperance (founded in 1826) was the largest reform organization of the period
  - It had more than 200,000 members by the mid-1830s
  - Local chapters used revival methods to get young men to “take the pledge” not to drink
    - Temperance tracts detailing the evils of alcohol
    - Prayer and song meetings
    - Group pressure

# Excessive Drinking

- ◉ Drinking was a national problem among men
- ◉ Women did not drink in public but many did take alcohol-based patent medicines
- ◉ Men drank hard liquor
- ◉ Alcohol was offered at card games, political speeches, rallies, and elections
- ◉ Per capital alcohol consumption in 1830 was more than 7 gallons of pure alcohol per year (four times as much as today's rate)
- ◉ The Panic of 1837 contributed to less drinking as the long depression of 1837-1843 changed peoples priorities
- ◉ Alcohol consumption by the mid-1840s dropped to less than 2 gallons per year

# Moral Reform, Asylums, and Prisons

## ◎ Prostitution

### • Female Moral Reform Society

- Founded by evangelical women in New York in 1834
- It had 555 affiliates across the country by 1840
- Societies found charity and work for poor women and orphans
- Focused on the male clients as well as female prostitutes

# Asylum Movement

- Dorothea Dix studied the conditions to which insane women were subjected and presented the results to the Massachusetts state legislature in 1843
  - Incarcerated with ordinary criminals
  - Locked in pens
  - Chained and beaten with rods
- By 1860, 28 states had public institutions for the insane

# Prison Reform

- Modern jails were built and had strict order and discipline but wanted to reform rather than just house inmates

# Utopianism

- Upstate New York (where the Erie Canal was located) was called the “burned-Over District” because waves of reform swept through like forest fires
- New religions tend to spring up in places with rapid social change and the Panic of 1836 led some people to embrace a belief in imminent catastrophe

# New Religious and Utopian Groups

## ● Millerites

- Believed that the Second Coming of Christ would occur on October 22, 2843
- Members of the church sold their things and bought white robes to ascend to heaven
- A small group of persons established the Seventh-Day Adventist faith

## ● Shakers

- Founded in 1774 as an offshoot of the Quakers, they were the oldest utopian group
- Numbers grew between 1820 and 1830 with a total membership of 6,000
- Believed in celibacy and an abolishment of the traditional family
- Called for a simple but structured lifestyle

- ◎ Oneida Community (founded 1848)
  - Controversial group--notorious for sexual freedom
  - Members practiced “complex marriage”
  - Only “spiritually advanced” males were allowed to father children who were raised communally
  - Membership never exceeded 200
- ◎ New Harmony, Indiana
  - Founded in 1825 by industrialist Robert Owen
  - Goal was to be a manufacturing community without poverty or unemployment
  - Only survived three years

# Mormonism

- ◉ Founded in 1830 by Joseph Smith and called the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- ◉ Based on the “Book of Mormon” which Smith claimed to have received from an angel in a vision
- ◉ Mormons moved west through New York, Ohio, Missouri, and into Illinois
- ◉ Smith was killed by a mob after being arrested for the group’s practice of polygamy (one man married to multiple wives)
- ◉ In 1846, remaining Mormons moved to Utah led by Brigham Young

# Antislavery and Abolitionism

- ◎ American Colonization Society
  - Formed in 1817, the goal was to send free blacks to Africa
  - 1,400 black people went to a colony in Liberia, West Africa, but the society was a failure
- ◎ African Americans such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth fought for abolition

# Abolitionists led by William Lloyd Garrison

- Garrison published the Liberator, an antislavery newspaper
- Garrison was indignant over slavery and unable to compromise
- Garrison wanted all slaves to be freed immediately
- Garrison and Theodore Weld formed the American Anti-Slavery Society

# Abolitionism and Politics

- The Liberty Party was formed by abolitionists who chose James Birney as their presidential candidate in 1840

# Women's Rights Movement

- ◎ Sarah and Angelina Grimke (The Grimke Sisters) were members of a South Carolina slave-owning family
- ◎ They moved to the North and spoke about slavery to groups including the Massachusetts state legislature
- ◎ Seneca Falls Convention of 1848
  - Led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton
  - the meeting focused on the Declaration of Sentiments, a petition for women's rights modeled on the Declaration of Independence