

Immigration and Urban Challenges

In the mid-1800s, millions of immigrants flooded into the United States. Most came from Ireland (poor) and Germany (working class), many fleeing from economic or political troubles in their native countries. Most moved to the Mid-west to farm, to towns and cities to work as unskilled workers, or to the Northeast to fill industrial jobs. Immigrants who moved to cities usually lived in **tenements** – poorly designed apartment buildings that housed large numbers of people.

Many people felt threatened by the arrival of these new immigrants, so they opposed immigration. These people were called **nativists**. In 1849, nativists formed a political organization named the **Know-Nothing Party** to try make it difficult for foreigners to become citizens or hold public office.

American Arts

Changes in the United States brought about changes in culture. Some New England writers and philosophers found spiritual wisdom in **transcendentalism** – the belief that people could transcend, or rise above, material things in life and that people should believe in themselves and not just follow authority figures. Important transcendentalists included **Ralph Waldo Emerson**, **Margaret Fuller**, and **Henry David Thoreau**. Some transcendentalists tried to form **utopian communities** (perfect societies), however few lasted very long.

Ideas about simple life and nature inspired painters and writers during a period called American Romanticism. Romanticism focused on nature, with an emphasis on individual expression, and a rejection of established rules. Romantic writers and artists felt that each person brings a unique view to the world and relied on emotion to guide their creative output. Many focused on the beauty and wonder of nature. **Nathaniel Hawthorne**, **Edgar Allen Poe** and **Emily Dickinson** were American Romantic authors.

Reforming Society

2nd Great Awakening: A Christian renewal movement that took place during the 1790s and early 1800s. It began in the Northeast (New York State) and swept across frontier regions of Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Temperance movement: Because many Americans blamed alcoholism for social problems like crime, this movement urged people to use self-discipline to stop drinking hard liquor.

Prison reform: **Dorothea Dix**, a middle-class reformer, visited prisons and spoke out about horrid conditions. She inspired building separate facilities for the mentally ill.

Education: Led by Horace Mann, the **common-school movement** wanted all children taught in a common place, regardless of background. **Catharine Beecher** started an all-female academy in Hartford, Connecticut and several women's colleges opened as education reform created more opportunities for women.

The Movement to End Slavery

In the 1830s, Americans organized to support **abolition**, or a complete end to slavery. Although all abolitionists wanted to end slavery, they did not all agree on how much equality they thought African Americans should have. William Lloyd Garrison started the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1833.

Frederick Douglass: Escaped from slavery when he was 20 and became one of the most important African American leaders of the 1800s. He secretly learned to read and write as a boy despite a law against it. He was known for his public-speaking skills, but he was also an accomplished newspaper publisher and writer. He wrote to show the injustices of slavery.

Sojourner Truth: A former slave who said that God called upon her to travel the United States and preach the truth about slavery and women's rights.

Underground Railroad: A network of people who arranged transportation and hiding places for slaves escaping from the South into Northern states and Canada. **Harriet Tubman** was a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad.

Women's Rights

Fighting for the rights of African Americans led many female abolitionists to fight for women's rights. **Sarah Grimké, Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Lucy Stone** and **Susan B. Anthony** all fought for women's rights. Women's support for other reform movements allowed them to attract men to the women's movement. **Anthony** fought to give women control of their own wages and property.

Some women argued that men and women were different, rather than unequal.

Seneca Falls Convention: The first public meeting about women's rights held in the United States. The organizers wrote a **Declaration of Sentiments** which detailed their beliefs about social injustice towards women and used the Declaration of Independence as the model for its language.

Chapter 15!

The Debate over Slavery

Popular Sovereignty: The idea that political power belongs to the people, who should decide on banning or allowing slavery.

Compromise of 1850: Settled most disputes between free and slave states by allowing California to enter the Union as a free state and the rest of Mexican Cession slavery would be decided by popular sovereignty. It did however, end the balance between Free and Slave states. (Most of Henry Clay's proposals).

Fugitive Slave Act: Made it a crime to help runaway slaves and allowed officials to arrest those slaves in free areas.

Kansas-Nebraska Act: A plan that would divide the remainder of the Louisiana Purchase into two territories (Kansas and Nebraska) and allow the people in each territory to decide on the question of slavery. This intensified the slavery issue between the North and the South.