

CHAPTER TEN: REVIVALISM, REFORM, AND ARTISTIC RENAISSANCE, 1820–1850

READING AND STUDY GUIDE

- I. Revivalism and Reform
 - A. Revivalism and the Market Revolution
 - B. Temperance
 - C. Schools, Prisons, and Asylums

- II. Abolitionism and the Proslavery Response
 - A. The Rise of Immediatism
 - B. Anti-Abolitionism and the Abolitionist Response
 - C. The Proslavery Argument

- III. The Cult of True Womanhood, Reform, and Women's Rights
 - A. The New Domestic Ideal
 - B. Controlling Sexuality
 - C. The Path toward Seneca Falls

- IV. Religion and Secular Utopianism
 - A. Millennialism, Perfectionism, and Religious Utopianism
 - B. Secular Utopias

- V. Literature and Popular Culture
 - A. Literature and Social Criticism
 - B. Domestic Fiction, Board Games, and Crime Stories
 - C. Slaves Tell Their Story: Slavery in American Literature
 - D. Lyceums and Lectures

- VI. Nature's Nation
 - A. Landscape Painting
 - B. Parks and Cemeteries
 - C. Revival and Reform in American Architecture

The expansion of democracy and the changes resulting from the market revolution left Americans concerned about their lives and the nation's future. Rising levels of inequality and a bitter debate over slavery further intensified anxieties.

Americans sought solutions for the nation's social problems and clamored for reforms. Many turned to mainstream religion for guidance. Religious reform movements focused on improving education and prisons or dealing with the danger posed by alcohol. Some religious movements viewed the market economy as the root of America's problems and advocated the abandonment of private property. Several secular utopian movements came to similar conclusions.

Still other reformers adopted a radically different critique of market society. The day's leading thinkers, including Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, urged Americans to reject the values of the marketplace and turn to nature or to their individual consciences for inspiration. Other writers grappled with the changes in American society in their writing, exploring America's past and the market revolution and probing philosophical issues.

The rise of a more aggressive abolitionist movement and the development of an equally fervid defense of slavery intensified the public debate over slavery. Abolitionism helped radicalize many women and gave them the opportunity to develop effective organizing skills. Inspired by a more radical theory of equality and equipped with their new skills, women's rights advocates applied their critique of slavery to women's status under American law.

Reform efforts affected architecture as well. Many reformers advocated transforming the American landscape itself, including the built environment, as a means of promoting social reform and spiritual renewal.

Learning Objectives

After a careful examination of Chapter 10, students should be able to do the following:

1. Describe the expansion and complexity of the American middle class during the early nineteenth century and discuss changes in American middle-class ideology regarding the family. Focus particularly on the changing views regarding the roles of women and children and the definition of the term *cult of domesticity*.
2. Identify two means used by the working class to voice its concerns during the early nineteenth century.
3. Define the term *benevolent empire* and explain its organization during the early nineteenth century.
4. Define the term *temperance* and explain why this issue became so popular during the nineteenth century. Define the term *nativism* and explain why this issue became so popular during the early nineteenth century. Make the connection between the two terms.
5. Describe the Workingmen's movement as a reflection of the first political demands for free tax-supported schools. Explain why New England played a significant role in the school reform movement.
6. Identify Horace Mann and explain his historical significance in the area of school reform.

7. Summarize the reform philosophies that shaped early nineteenth-century workhouses and asylums.
8. Identify the major examples of American experimentation with utopian communities during the early nineteenth century.
9. Identify William Lloyd Garrison and explain his antislavery philosophy. Point out his unique contributions to the organization of a national abolitionist movement.
10. Explain the role of the abolitionist movement in the emergence of the nineteenth-century American women's movement.
11. Identify and explain the historical significance of the Seneca Falls Convention and its adoption of the Declaration of Sentiments.
12. Discuss the impact of antislavery reform on American national politics by the 1840s. Identify the Liberty Party and assess its performance in the 1840 and 1844 presidential elections.

Key Terms & Definitions:

temperance A reform movement that developed in response to concern over the rising levels of alcohol consumption in America society. (285)

penitentiary A new reform-based model of incarceration that isolated individuals from one another and gave them a chance to repent and reform. This method was a radical departure from earlier approaches to crime, which cast behavior in terms of sinfulness, innate depravity, and punishment. (289)

immediatism Abolitionist doctrine that rejected gradualism and advocated an immediate end to slavery. (291)

gag rule A procedural motion that required that the House of Representatives automatically table antislavery petitions and not consider them. (293)

“peculiar institution” A term that John C. Calhoun coined to describe Southern slavery. In Calhoun's view slavery was not “an evil” or a cause of shame but rather “a good—a positive good” to be championed. (294)

“cult of true womanhood” A set of beliefs in which women's values were defined in opposition to the aggressive and competitive values of the marketplace. (295)

Seneca Falls Convention A convention of women's rights supporters, held in Seneca Falls, New York, whose resolves emphatically declared that “all men and women are created equal.” (297)

complex marriage A system developed by John Humphrey Noyes's followers at Oneida, where any man or woman who had experienced saving grace was free to engage in sexual relations with any other person. (299)

Transcendentalism A loose set of philosophical and literary ideas focused on the spiritual power of the individual. Transcendentalists looked to nature for inspiration and philosophical insights. (303)

Study Questions:

How did religious and secular reform movements respond to the market revolution? (282)

What was the Second Great Awakening? (284)

How did Finney use the tools of the market revolution to spread his revivalist message? (285)

What does the painting of a militia muster reveal about alcohol consumption in America? (286)

How did critics of temperance respond to this reform movement? (287)

How did Mann's vision of educational reform differ from that of the Working Men's Party? (288)

What was a panopticon? (289)

What was so radical about David Walker's *Appeal*? (290)

Who was Henry "Box" Brown? (291)

Why was *The Greek Slave*'s nudity accepted by the public? (292)

What was the "gag rule"? (293)

What was the proslavery argument? (294)

How does *Domestic Happiness* represent the ideal of the family? (295)

What were Sylvester Graham's main beliefs? (296)

How did Stanton's upbringing influence her approach to women's rights? (297)

How did the Shakers recast the idea of the family? (298)

What were the beliefs of the Oneida community? (299)

Why might a woman like Mary Cragin have been drawn to the Oneida Community? (300)

Why did Mormon values appeal to farmers in the era of the market revolution? (301)

What patterns are evident from this map of utopian communities? (302)

How did Thoreau, Hawthorne, and Melville respond to the forces of the market revolution? (303)

What ideas about the family and religion are reflected in “The Mansion of Happiness”? (304)

Why did Douglas need to prove that he was the author of his autobiography? (305)

Why was phrenology so popular during this period of American history? (306)

What does Cole’s painting reveal about American views of nature? (307)

What was the rural cemetery movement? (308)

Why Americans turn to Egyptian architectural styles for inspiration? (309)

What does Shaker furniture reveal about Shaker values? (310)

How did religious ideals and views of nature inform Gothic Revival architecture? (311)

Why did phrenologists favor the octagon as an architectural style? (312)