



CHAPTER
8

Reforming American Society

CHAPTER OBJECTIVE

INTERACT WITH HISTORY

TIME LINE

GRAPH

SECTION 1 Religion Sparks Reform

MAP

SECTION 2 Slavery and Abolition

SECTION 3 Women and Reform

SECTION 4 The Changing Workplace

VISUAL SUMMARY



Reforming American Society

CHAPTER OBJECTIVE

To recognize the causes and effects of the Second Great Awakening and to understand the various social and labor reform movements that swept the nation during the first half of the 19th century



CHAPTER
8

Reforming American Society



INTERACT
WITH HISTORY

The year is 1834. You work in the textile mills in Massachusetts and provide most of the income for your family. The mill owners have gradually increased your workload to 12 hours a day. Now they are going to cut your pay by 15 percent. Coworkers are angry and are discussing what they can do.

What would you do to improve working conditions?

Examine the Issues

- What are some conditions you would not tolerate?
- What actions pressure businesses to change?
- What moral arguments would you present?



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Reforming American Society

TIME LINE

The United States

1822 Large textile mill opens in Lowell, Massachusetts.

1827 Sojourner Truth is freed from slavery.

1829 David Walker prints *Appeal*, a pamphlet urging slaves to revolt.

1831 Nat Turner leads slave rebellion.

1834 National Trades' Union is formed.

The World

1820 Revolts break out in Spain and Portugal.

1832 Britain passes its first Reform Bill.

1833 Britain abolishes slavery in its empire.

continued . . .



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Reforming American Society

TIME LINE

The United States

1838 Frederick Douglass flees to New York City to escape slavery.

1841 Utopian community is established at Brook Farm.

1845 Henry David Thoreau moves to Walden Pond.

1848 Seneca Falls Convention on women's rights is held.

The World

1839 French and British introduce first forms of photography.

1840 World's Anti-Slavery Convention is held in London.

1845 Great Potato Famine begins in Ireland.

1848 Revolutions erupt across Europe, causing many Germans and others to move to America.

Religion Sparks Reform

KEY IDEA

A renewal of religious sentiment—known as the Second Great Awakening—inspired a host of reform movements.

[OVERVIEW](#)[ASSESSMENT](#)

Religion Sparks Reform

OVERVIEW

MAIN IDEA

A renewal of religious sentiment—known as the Second Great Awakening—inspired a host of reform movements.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Many modern social and political reform movements grew out of the reform movements of 19th-century America.

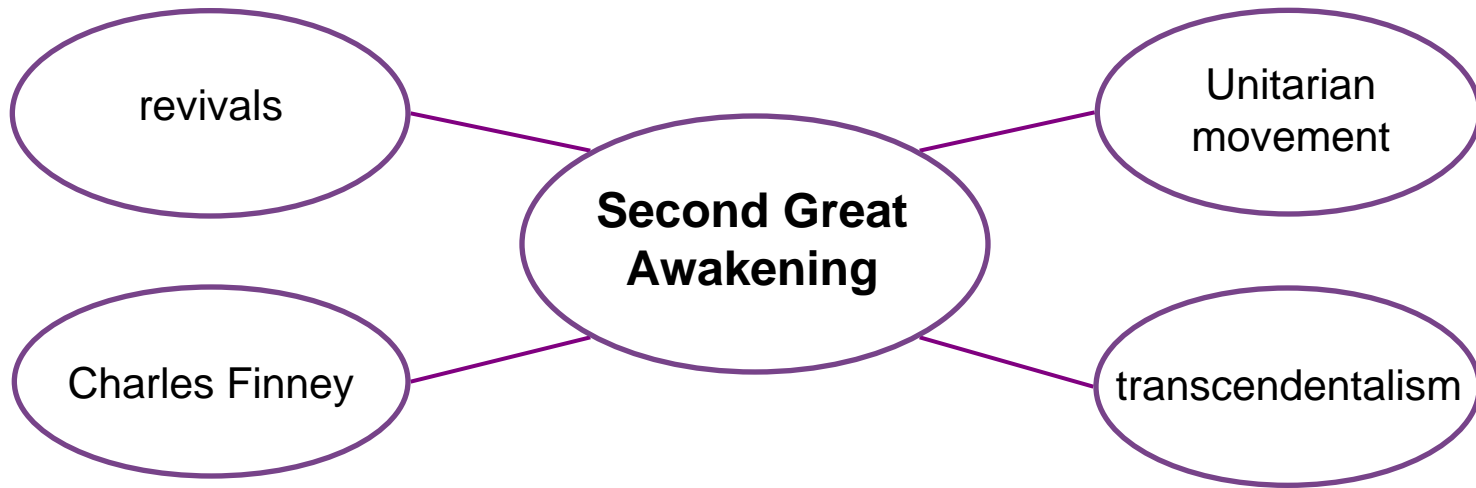
TERMS & NAMES

- Henry David Thoreau
- revival
- Charles Grandison Finney
- civil disobedience
- Dorothea Dix
- Second Great Awakening
- utopian community
- transcendentalism
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Religion Sparks Reform

ASSESSMENT

1. List four events and ideas that relate to the Second Great Awakening.



continued . . .

Religion Sparks Reform

ASSESSMENT

2. Consider the philosophical and religious ideas expressed during the Second Great Awakening and other religious reform movements. What were the key values and beliefs that guided 19th-century reformers' actions? **Think About:**

- concepts of individualism and individual salvation
- attitudes toward social responsibility
- the viewpoints of Finney, Channing, and Emerson

ANSWER

The reformers shared a strong belief in the power of the individual to improve him/herself and in individual responsibility for improving society.

continued . . .

Religion Sparks Reform

ASSESSMENT

3. How do you think the 19th-century reform movements in schools, prisons, and asylums might have influenced reform movements today?

ANSWER

Today's reform movements are influenced by the ideals of equal rights, universal suffrage, an informed citizenry, and humane treatment of the incarcerated that grew out of 19th century reform movements.

continued . . .

Religion Sparks Reform

ASSESSMENT

4. Why might the idea of utopian communities appeal to the transcendentalists?

ANSWER

In utopian communities, transcendentalists would be able to practice their ideals of living a simple life and being close to nature.

Slavery and Abolition

KEY IDEA

Slavery became an explosive issue, as more Americans joined reformers working to put an end to it.

OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT

SECTION
2

Slavery and Abolition

OVERVIEW

MAIN IDEA

Slavery became an explosive issue, as more Americans joined reformers working to put an end to it.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The people of the United States continue to be challenged by questions of economic and social inequality.

TERMS & NAMES

- emancipation
- David Walker
- Nat Turner
- gag rule
- antebellum
- abolition
- William Lloyd Garrison
- Frederick Douglass

Slavery and Abolition

ASSESSMENT

1. Look at the chart to help organize your thoughts. List the major antislavery and proslavery actions that occurred from 1820 to 1850.

Antislavery Actions	Proslavery Actions
Publication of <i>The Liberator</i> and <i>Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World</i> ; formation of antislavery societies; Nat Turner's rebellion	The defeat of the Virginia motion for abolition; tighter slave regulations; the growth of vigilance committees; and the 1836 gag rule

continued . . .

Slavery and Abolition

ASSESSMENT

2. Which do you think was a more effective strategy for achieving the abolitionists' goal of eliminating slavery—violence or nonviolence? Why? **Think About:**

- Garrison's and Walker's remarks
- Frederick Douglass's views
- Southerners' reactions to Nat Turner's rebellion

ANSWER

Antislavery violence was more effective because it forced the nation to pay more attention to slavery, but it tended to elicit equally strong and violent reactions from slaveholders.

continued . . .

Slavery and Abolition

ASSESSMENT

3. What arguments did Southern proslavery whites employ to defend slavery?

ANSWER

They used the Bible to defend slavery, invented the myth of the happy slave as part of the plantation family, and argued that free blacks in the North were not as well-off as Southern slaves.

continued . . .

Slavery and Abolition

ASSESSMENT

4. Compare the similarities and differences between the situations of free blacks in the North and slaves in the South.

ANSWER

North: forced into the lowest-paid, least desirable jobs

South: might labor in cotton fields or work in owners' homes; some had skilled jobs in factories, but wages went to owners.

SECTION
3

Women and Reform

KEY IDEA

Women reformers expanded their efforts from movements such as abolition and temperance to include women's rights.

OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT

SECTION
3

Women and Reform

OVERVIEW

MAIN IDEA

Women reformers expanded their efforts from movements such as abolition and temperance to include women's rights.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The efforts of 19th-century women reformers inspired both woman suffragists in the early-1900s and present-day feminist movements.

TERMS & NAMES

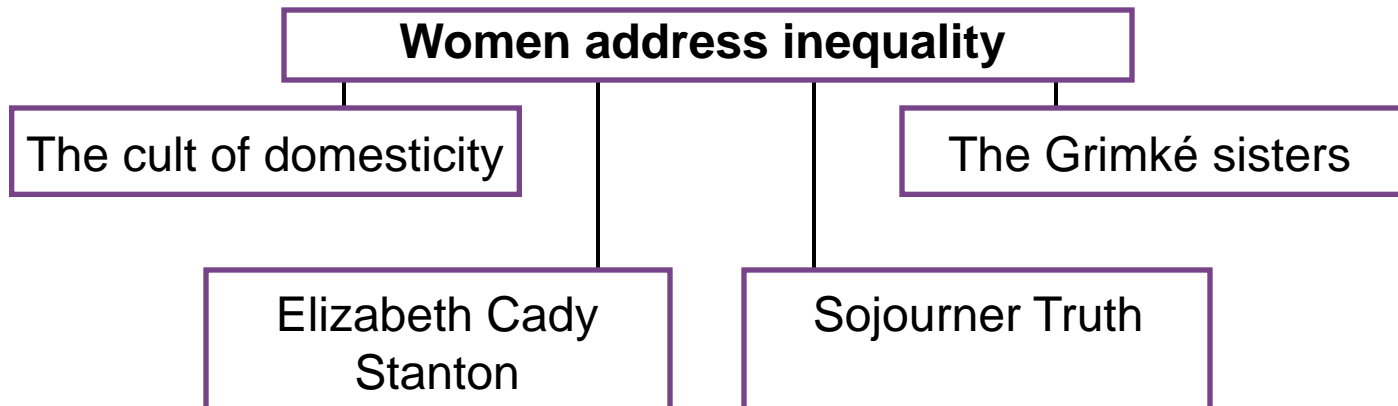
- cult of domesticity
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Sojourner Truth
- Lucretia Mott
- Sarah Grimké
- Angelina Grimké
- Seneca Falls Convention
- temperance movement

SECTION
3

Women and Reform

ASSESSMENT

1. Look at the graphic to help organize your thoughts. List historical events, ideas, or people that relate to the idea of women addressing inequality.



continued . . .

SECTION
3

Women and Reform

ASSESSMENT

2. The Seneca Falls “Declaration of Sentiments” asserted that “Woman is man’s equal.” In what ways would that change the status women held at that time?

Cite facts to support your answer. **Think About:**

- women’s social, economic, and legal status in the mid-1800s
- married women’s domestic roles
- single women’s career opportunities and wages

ANSWER

Equal status with men would change women’s subservient role. It would give them rights to property, to vote, to act as legal guardians for their own children, and to earn equal wages for the same jobs. *continued . . .*

Women and Reform

ASSESSMENT

3. In what ways did the reform movements affect the lives of women—both white and African American?

ANSWER

Women were deeply involved in the issues of abolition and temperance and less heavily involved in issues of women's rights.

continued . . .

SECTION
3

Women and Reform

ASSESSMENT

4. Why do you think that many of the people who fought for abolition also fought for women's rights?

ANSWER

Opposition to abolition made many women abolitionists determined to join other reform movements, such as women's rights and the temperance movement.

The Changing Workplace

KEY IDEA

A growing industrial work force faced problems arising from manufacturing under the factory system.

OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT

The Changing Workplace

OVERVIEW

MAIN IDEA

A growing industrial work force faced problems arising from manufacturing under the factory system.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The National Trades' Union was the forerunner of America's labor unions today.

TERMS & NAMES

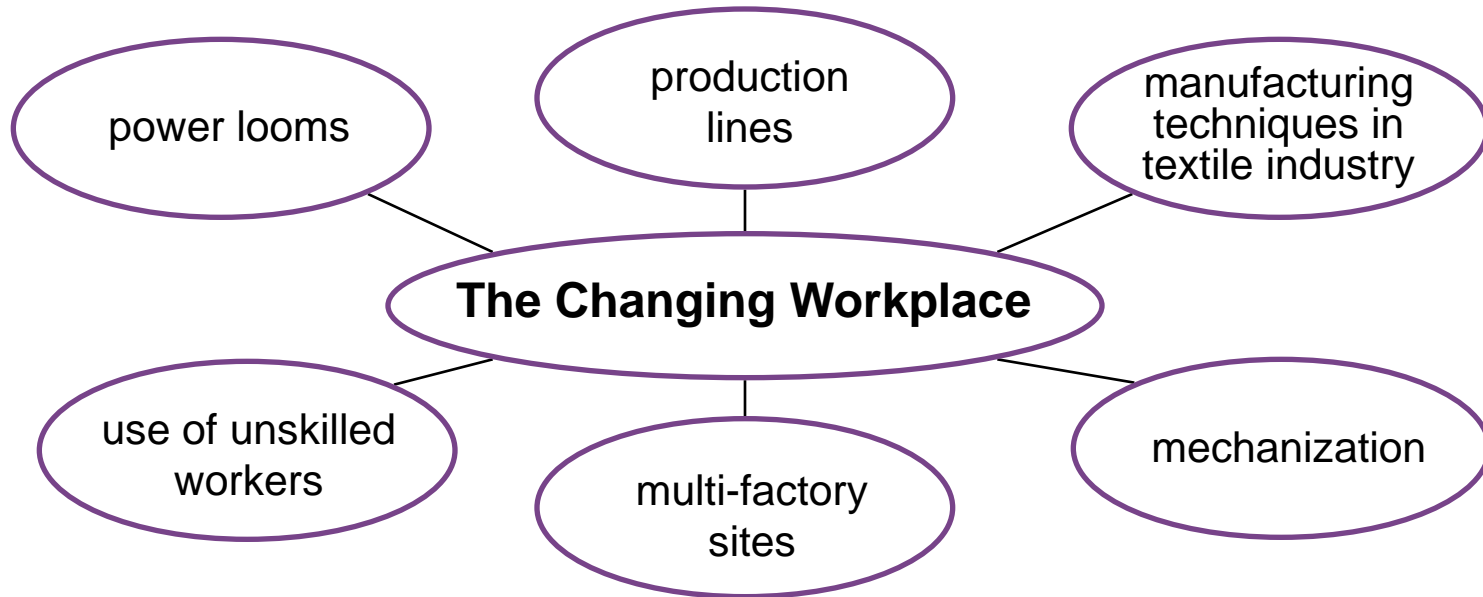
- journeyman
- apprentice
- master
- strike
- National Trades' Union
- cottage industry

SECTION
4

The Changing Workplace

ASSESSMENT

1. Name things that contributed to the changing workplace in the first half of the 19th century.



continued . . .

The Changing Workplace

ASSESSMENT

2. Do you think the positive effects of mechanizing the manufacturing process outweighed the negative effects?

Why or why not? **Think About:**

- changes in job opportunities for artisans, women, and unskilled male laborers
- changes in employer-employee relationships
- working conditions in factories
- the cost of manufactured goods

ANSWER

Positive effects include the reduced cost and wider availability of manufactured items, and expanding opportunities for women and unskilled male workers. Negatives include poor working conditions, loss of family businesses, pollution and the breaking up of families and communities as people left home to work in factories.

The Changing Workplace

ASSESSMENT

3. If you were working in a factory during the mid-1800s, would you be a striker or a strikebreaker?

ANSWER

Native-born Americans working in skilled trades were most likely to support strikes.

Strike-breakers might have been unskilled laborers desperate for any kind of work.

continued . . .

The Changing Workplace

ASSESSMENT

4. How did the influx of new immigrants from Germany and Ireland affect circumstances in the American workplace?

ANSWER

Immigrants had an impact in Northern cities. Irish immigrants, for example, were a threat to existing skilled labor and were seen as unfair competition.