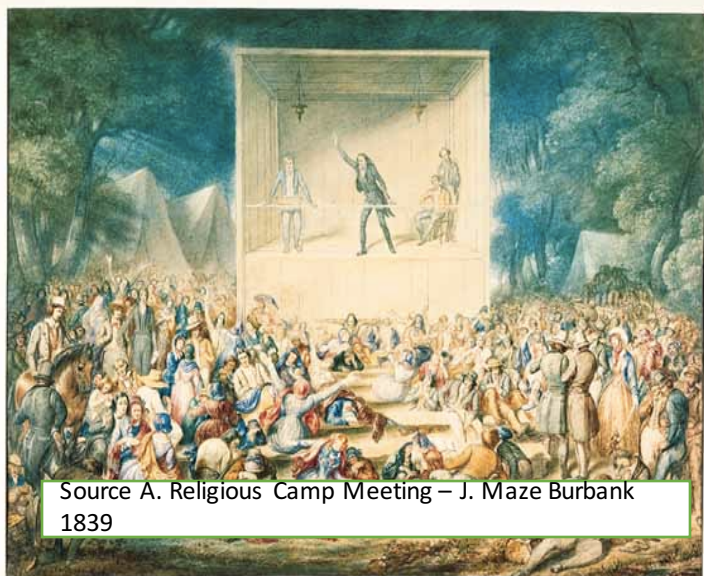


Revivalism and Reform

How did religion influence reform movements?



Source A. Religious Camp Meeting – J. Maze Burbank 1839

Keywords

Second Great Awakening – A Protestant religious revival movement during the early 19th century.

Evangelical - member of the Christian denomination of Evangelicalism.

Secular – The state of being separate from religion.

Revivalism – Increased spiritual interest or renewal in the life of a church congregation or society.

Reform – To make changes in order to improve it.

Temperance – Going without alcoholic drinks

Characteristics of the Second Great Awakening

1. Protestant religions in America grew from Congregationalists and Anglicans to also include Baptists and Methodists.
2. Best known for large **camp meetings** that led large numbers of people to convert through enthusiastic style of preaching and audience participation.
3. Camp meetings may have lasted for a week.
4. Camp meetings would draw up to 3,000 people and 100 preachers.
5. Leaders were Charles Finney, Lyman Beecher, Barton Stone, and Peter Cartwright.
6. Message reached out to the middle class and elites.
7. More white women and Africa-American participation in Christianity occurred than ever before.
8. Spread from the Northeast into the South and West.

Beliefs of the Second Great Awakening

1. Economic, political, and social changes in 19th century society were undermining individual morality.
2. Every person could be saved through revivals.
3. Free will – people can seek out salvation through their own efforts
4. Humans could create a perfect society on earth if Americans made reform a priority.
5. White evangelicals in the south preached that the Bible supported slavery.

Source B. The noise was like the roar of Niagara. The vast sea of human beings seemed to be agitated as if by a storm. I counted seven ministers, all preaching at one time, some on stumps, others on wagons ... Some of the people were singing, others praying, some crying for mercy. A peculiarly strange sensation came over me. My heart beat tumultuously, my knees trembled, my lips quivered, and I felt as though I must fall to the ground.. – Young man who attended a 20,000 person revival in Cane Ridge, Kentucky, in 1802

Secular Reform Movements

Temperance

By 1830, the consumption of spirits (alcohol) in America reached an all-time high – almost seven gallons per person of pure alcohol a year. Drinking at work and events spanned all social classes. Although Christianity never forbade alcohol, the Second Great Awakening changed the culture as many preachers began to call for temperance. Moderate temperance (promotes moderation) made way for radical temperance (complete abstinence from alcohol) in the mid-1820s. By the mid-1830s, temperance organizations had more than 1.5 million members and had taken the movements abstinence pledge. Temperance advocates called for prohibition laws to ban the sale of alcohol. Main adopted the most wide-sweeping law with 13 other states following suite by 1851.

Prisons

New religious emphasis on free will and moral reform led to new approaches to criminal justice. A reform-based model call the “penitentiary” was formed where individuals were isolated from one another and given a chance to repent and reform. Two different models of this penitentiary system emerged:

New York State System

- Prisoners were housed in individual cells at night
- Prisoners were organized in communal work details during the day
- Inmates worked ten hour days in the stone quarry and manufactured goods.

Pennsylvania System

- Solitary confinement isolated prisoners from all contact with other prisoners to force them to reflect on their criminality and seek repentance.

Education

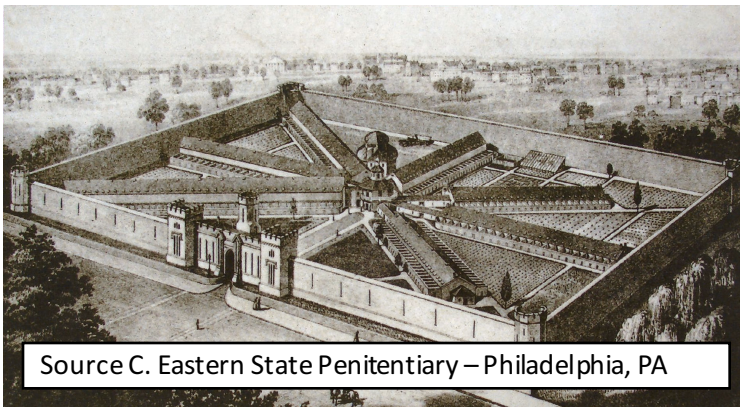
The leading spokesman for education reform was the Whig political, Horace Mann. In Massachusetts, he created a state board of education that would establish a uniform curriculum for MA and improve teacher training. MA was also the first state to pass a compulsory school attendance law. For educational reformers, universal public education would cure society’s ills. This reform would make good citizens and workers. The Working Men’s Party used education reform to liberate workers by arguing that education can better those in the working classes. Those against education reform argued that government involvement in education would put power in “few hands” rather than the hands of the people. Farmers feared that longer school years would take away a valuable source of labor. Catholics feared that educational reform was designed by the Protestant majority.

Features of Mann’s Common School

- Assignment of students to grades based on age and ability
- Use of standardized procedures for promotion
- Using uniformed textbooks for instruction

Asylums

In 1841, Dorothea Dix was shocked by the treatment of the mentally ill who were often housed with criminals, confined to one room, and beaten. Dix visited many jails and poorhouses and wrote a report to the Massachusetts state legislature where she recommended that criminals be separated from the mentally ill. By 1860, 28 of 33 states had public asylums for the mentally ill.



Source C. Eastern State Penitentiary – Philadelphia, PA

Tasks...

1. How did the Second Great Awakening impact America?
2. Read *Reverend Peter Cartwright, Cane Ridge and the “New Lights”* (found on Schoology). How does Reverend Cartwright’s view of a camp meeting compare to Source A and Source B? – similarities and differences.
3. Read [US History – Education](#) and create a graphic organizer that shows the success of education reform.
4. View Source C – What does prison architecture reveal about reform in this period?
5. Write a short paragraph that discusses how the Great Awakening influenced reform movements.