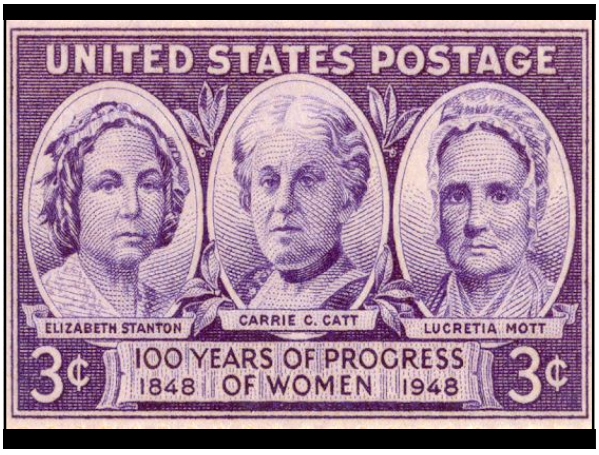
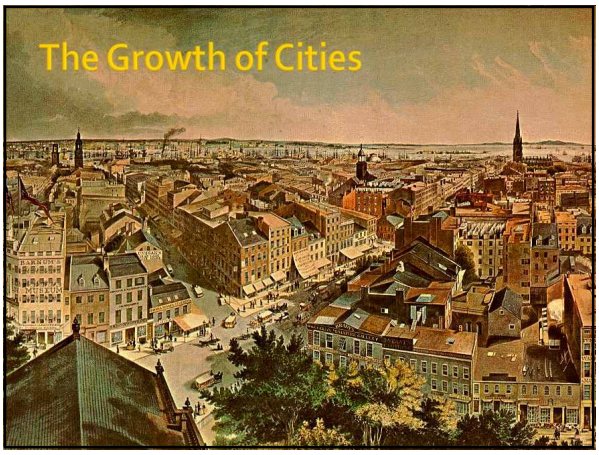
1820s-1850s

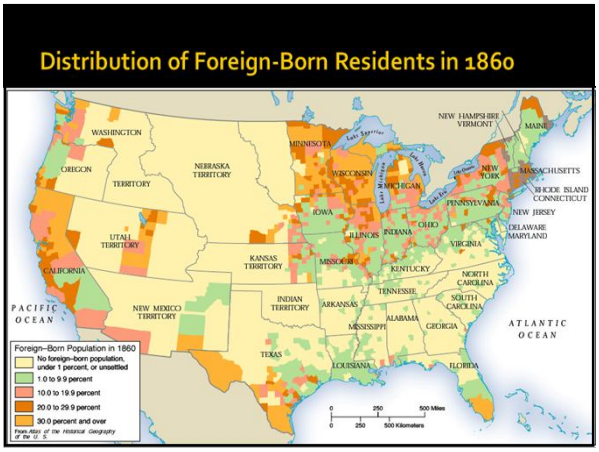
Coming to Terms With the New Age

Focus Questions

- What new social problems accompanied urbanization and immigration?
- How did reformers respond to social problems?
- What were the origins and political effects of the abolitionist movement?
- What was the involvement of women in reform efforts?

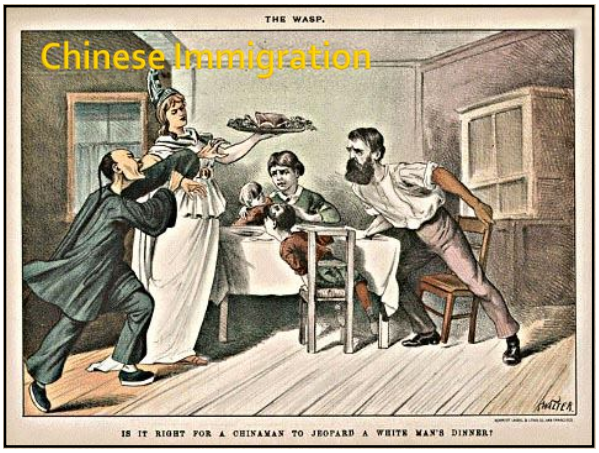



The Growth of Cities


Distribution of Foreign-Born Residents in 1860
WASHINGTON
OREGON
TERRITORY
NEBRASKA TERRITORY
MINNESOTA
WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN
NEW HAMPSHIRE
VERMONT
MAINE
NEW YORK
MASSACHUSETTS
RHODE ISLAND
CONNECTICUT
PENNSYLVANIA
NEW JERSEY
DELAWARE
MARYLAND
IOWA
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
OHIO
VIRGINIA
UTAH TERRITORY
KANSAS TERRITORY
MISSOURI
KENTUCKY
NORTH CAROLINA
CALIFORNIA
TENNESSEE
SOUTH CAROLINA
PACIFIC OCEAN
NEW MEXICO TERRITORY
INDIAN TERRITORY
ARKANSAS
ALABAMA
GEORGIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS
LOUISIANA
FLORIDA
Foreign-Born Population in 1860
No foreign-born population, under 1 percent, or unsettled
1.0 to 9.9 percent
10.0 to 19.9 percent
20.0 to 29.9 percent
30.0 percent and over
0 250 500 Miles
0 250 500 Kilometers

Irish Immigration

German Immigration


THE WASP.
Chinese Immigration
IS IT RIGHT FOR A CHINAMAN TO JEOPARD A WHITE MAN'S DINNER?

Class Structure and Living Patterns

- The gap between rich and poor grew rapidly.
- Economic class was reflected by residence as:
  - poor people
    - nearly seventy percent of the city
    - lived in cheap rented housing;
  - middle-class residents
    - twenty-five to thirty percent
    - lived in more comfortable homes;
  - very rich
    - about three percent
    - built mansions and large town houses.

Ethnic Neighborhoods and Urban Popular Culture

- Irish and German immigrants created ethnic enclaves to maintain cultural tradition and institutions.
- A new urban popular culture emerged that challenged middle-class respectability centering around:
  - the tavern;
  - Theater;
  - the penny press.

Urban Life of Free African Americans

The Tradition of Artisanal Politics

- American cities had long been centers of organized artisans and skilled workers.
- Worker associations, parades, and celebrations were parts of the urban community.
- By the 1830s, the skilled craftworkers were being undercut by industrialization.
- Workers' associations became increasingly class-conscious, turning to fellow laborers for support.
- Initially, urban-worker protest against change focused on party politics, including the short-lived Workingmen's Party.
- Both major parties tried to woo the votes of organized workers.

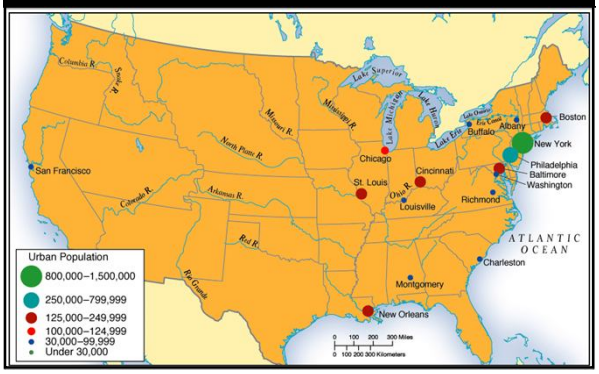
The Union Movement

Big-City Machines

- Competition for the votes of workers shaped urban politics.
- Big-city machines arose, reflecting the class structure of the fast-growing cities.
- The machines cultivated feelings of community by:
  - appealing directly to working-class votes through mass organizational activities;
  - creating organizations that met basic needs of the urban poor.
- The machines also had a tight organizational structure headed by bosses who traded loyalty and votes for political jobs and services, leading to charges of corruption.

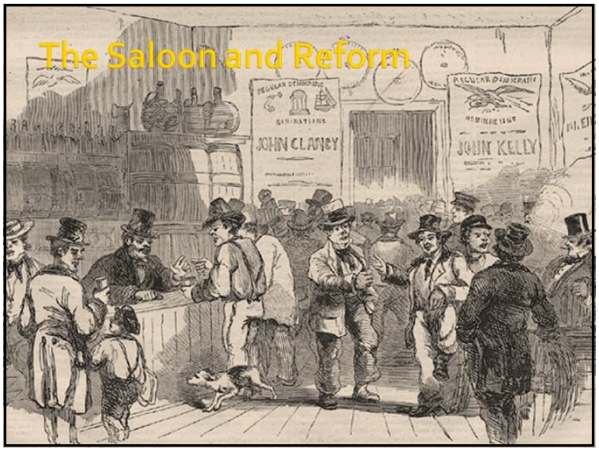
American Cities, 1820

American Cities, 1860

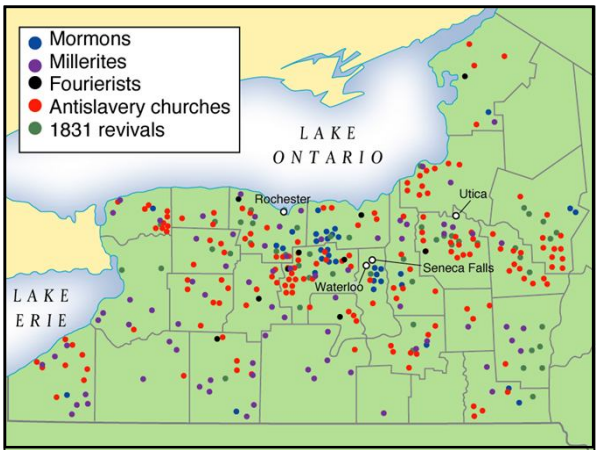


Evangelism, Reform, & Social Control

- Middle-class Americans responded to the dislocations of the market revolution by promoting various reform campaigns.
- Evangelical religion drove the reform spirit forward.
- Reformers recognized that:
  - traditional small-scale methods of reform no longer worked;
  - the need was for larger-scale institutions.
- The doctrine of perfectionism, combined with a basic belief in the goodness of people and moralistic dogmatism, characterized reform.
- Regional and national reform organizations emerged from local projects to deal with various social problems.
- Reformers mixed political and social activities and tended to seek to use the power of the state to promote their ends.



STEP 1.
A glass with a Friend.
STEP 2.
A glass to keep the cold out.
STEP 3.
A glass too much.
STEP 4.
Drunk and riotous.
STEP 5.
The summit attained. Jolly companions A confirmed drunkard.
STEP 6.
Poverty and Disease.
STEP 7.
Forsaken by Friends.
STEP 8.
Desperation and crime.
STEP 9.
Death by suicide.
THE DRUNKARDS PROGRESS.
FROM THE FIRST GLASS TO THE GRAVE.

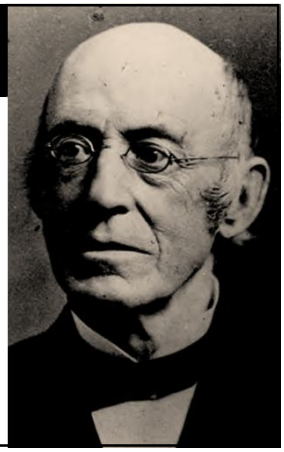

Mormons
Millerites
Fourierists
Antislavery churches
1831 revivals
LAKE
ONTARIO
Rochester
Utica
Seneca Falls
Waterloo
LAKE
ERIE

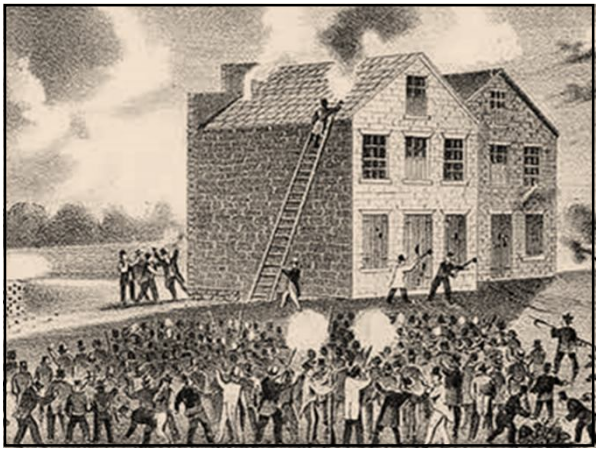
African Americans Against Slavery

- Free African Americans rejected colonization.
- They founded abolitionist societies that:
  - demanded equal treatment;
  - demanded an end to slavery;
  - encouraged slave rebellions.

Abolitionists

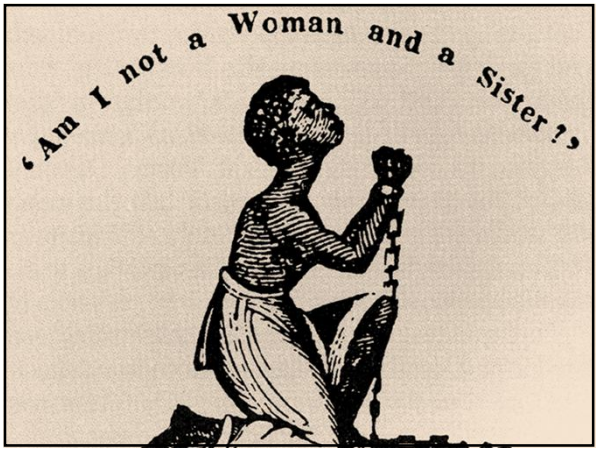
- William Lloyd Garrison
  - Led best-known group of antislavery reformers.
  - denounced all compromise
  - called for immediate emancipation on moral grounds.
- American Anti-Slavery Society
  - drew on style of religious revivalists.





Abolitionism and Politics

- Abolition began as a social movement but soon became a national political issue. Abolitionists inundated Congress with petitions calling for abolition in the District of Columbia.
- Congress imposed a "gag rule" tabling all such petitions, but it was repealed in 1844.
- Abolitionist unity splintered along racial and political lines.
- White abolitionists (other than Garrisonians) founded the Liberty Party.



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