

Chapter 16: The Ferment of Reform and Culture (1790-1860)

I. Reviving Religion

- a. Church attendance were regular in 1850(3/4 pop)
- b. Many relied on Deism (reason rather revelation); rejected original sin, denied Christ's divinity but believed in supreme being that created universe
- c. Puritans of the past now-Unitarian faith(New Eng.)
 - god existed in only 1 person not in orthodox trinity; stressed goodness of human nature
 - belief n free will & salvation through good work; pictured God as loving father
 - appealed to intellectuals w/ rationalism & optimism
- d. liberalism in relig started in 1800
 - tidal wave of spiritual fervor that result prison, church reform, temperance cause, women's movement, abolish slavery
 - spread to mass through huge "camp meetings"
 - E went to W to Christianize Indians
 - Methodists & Baptist stressed personal conversion, demo in church affairs,

emotionalism

- Peter Cartwright-best known of "circuit riders"
- Charles Grandison Finney were greatest of revival preachers
- led massive revivals in Rochester & New York

II. Denominational Diversity

- a. revival furthered fragmentation of religious faith
 - New York w/ Puritans preaching "hellfire" known as "Burned-out District"
 - Millerites(Adventists)-Christ return to earth on Oct 22,1844 (didn't come)
- b. widen lines bet. classes & region(like 1st)
 - conservatives, propertied-Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Congregationalists, Unitarians
 - less learned of S & E-Methodists, Baptists
- c. Religious further split w/ issue on slavery (Methodist, Presbyterians split)

III. A Desert Zion in Utah

- a. Joseph Smith(1830) came up(NY) w. Mormon & Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
 - antagonism toward Mormons for polygamy, drilling militia, voting as a unit
 - Smith died but succeeded by Brigham Young who led followers to Utah
 - grew quickly by 1850s by birth & immigration from Euro
 - federal gov. marched to Utah when Young became govnr. But no bloodshed
 - polygamy prevented Utah entrance to US till 1896

IV. Free School for a Free People

- a. Tax-supported primary school was opposed bec, relate to pauperism & used by poor
- b. Gradually support bec. "brats" might grow up to be rabbles w. voting rights
- c. Free pub edu, triumphed in 1825 w/ vote power in Jackson elect
 - ill taught & ill trained teachers
 - Horace Mann fought for better school
 - too expensive for many community; blacks exempt from edu.
- d. imp people-Noah Webster(dictionary); (Ohioan William H. McGuffey-McGuffey's readers)

V. Higher Goals for Higher Learning

- a. 2nd great awakening led to building of small schools in S & W (mainly for pride)
 - mainly on Latin, Greek, Math, moral philosophy (boredom)
- b. 1st state supported uni. in N. Carolina by Jefferson (dedication freedom from relig., poli)
- c. women thought to be bad if too educated
- d. Emma Willard-estab Tory Female Seminary (1821) &(Mount holyoke Seminary (1837)
- e. Libraries, public lectures, magazines flourished

VI. An Age of Reform

- a. reformers vs. tobacco, alcohol, profanity, transit of mail on Sabbath, women's rights, polygamy, medicines
- b. optimistic for a perfect society (women imp. in reforms)
 - naïve & ignored problems of factory
 - fought for no imprison for debt (poor lock in jail for less than \$1)-gradually abolished
 - criminal codes soften & reformatories added

- mentally insane treated badly (ex. Dorothea Dix fought-classic petition of 1843)
- agitation for peace(American Peace Society-1828)-William Ladd (had some impact till civil & Crimean war)

VII. Demon Rum-The “Old Deluder”

- a. drunkenness were widely spread
- b. American Temperance Society formed at Boston (1826)-“Cold Water Army”(children), sign pledges, pamphlets (anti-alcohol tract-*10 nights in a Barroom and What I Saw There-Arthur*)
- c. Vs. Demon Drink adopt 2 major line attack
 - stressed temperance(individual will to resist)
 - legislature-removed temptation-Neal S Dow “Father of Prohibition”
 - sponsored Maine Law of 1851-prohibited make, sale liquor(follow by others)

VIII. Women in Revolt

- a. women stayed home, w/o voting rights, (19th century)-better than Euro
- b. many women avoided marriage all together
- c. gender diff sharply w/ raising eco role
 - women weak phy. & emotionally but fined for teaching
 - men strong but crude if not guided by women
- d. home center of women(even in reformer Catharine Beecher) but many felt not enough
- e. joined abolishing of slavery, touched by reform
- f. women’s movement led by Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony(Suzy Bs), Elizabeth Candy Staton, Elizabeth Blackwell (1st female medical graduate), Margaret Fuller, Grimke sisters (anti-slavery), Amelia bloomer (semi-short skirts)
- g. Women’s Rights Convention (1848)-Seneca Falls-NY
 - Declaration of Sentiments-spirit of Decla of Inde- “all Men & Women are created equal”
 - demanded ballot for women
 - launched modern women’s rights movement
- h. temperately eclipsed by slavery but conditions improved

IX. Wilderness Utopias

- a. Robert Owen founded New Harmony (1825)→ confusion
- b. Brook Farm-Massa(1841)-20 intellectuals committed to Transcendentalism (lasted till 46)
- c. Oneida Community-practiced free love, birth control, eugenic selection of parents to produce superior offspring
- d. Shakers-communistic community (led by Mother Ann Lee)-1770 (can’t marry so extinct)

X. The Dawn of Scientific Achievement

- a. early American interested in practical science than pure
 - Jefferson & the plow
 - Nathaniel bowditch-practical navigation & oceanographer
 - Matthew maury-ocean winds, currents
- b. writers concerned basic science
- c. most influential US scientists
 - Benjamin Silliman(1779-1864)-pioneer in chemist, geologist (taught in Yale)
 - Louis Agassiz(1807-1873)-served at Harvard, insist on original research
 - Asa Gray (1810-1888)Harvard-Columbus of botany
 - John Audubon(1785-1851) painted birds
- d. medicine in US primitive, bleeding used for cure; smallpox, yellow fever kill many
- e. life expectancy low
- f. self-prescribed patent medicine common (often harmful)
- g. surgery tied people down

XI. Artistic Achievement

- a. Us imitated Euro on styles
- b. 1820-50 was Greek revival (inde from turk)→ later gothic forms
- c. Thomas Jefferson most ablest architect of generation (Montecello & Uni of Virginia)
- d. Artists view bec. no leisure time; suffered from Puritan prejudice of art as sinful waste
- e. Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828)-painted Washington & competed w/ Eng artists
Wilson Peale(1741-1827) painted 60 portraits of Washington
John Trumbull(1756-1843)-captured rev. war in paint

- f. During nationalism upsurge after war of 1812-US painters portrayed human landscapes & romanticism
 - g. Music shaking off bec. puritans frowned on non-relig singing
 - “darky” tunes popular-Stephen Foster-“Old Folk at Home”(most famous)
- XII. The Blossoming of a National Literature
- a. reading plagiarized from Eng
 - b. poured literature to practical outlet (ex. *Federalist*, *Common Sense*(Paine), Ben Franklin’s *autobiography*)
 - c. literature revived after war of inde & esp after war of 1812
 - d. Knickerbocker group in NY
 - Washington Irving(1783-1859)-1st USn int’l recog- *The Sketch Book*
 - James Fenimore Cooper(1789-1851)-1st USn novelist-*leatherstocking tales*(pop in Euro)
 - William Cullen Bryant(1794-1878)-*Thanatopsis*(1st highly quality poems in US)
- XIII. Trumpeters of Transcendentalism
- a. literature dawn in 2nd quarter of 19th century w/ transcendentalist movement (1830)
 - vs. Locke (knowledge from reason); truth not by observation alone but w/ inner light
 - individualism, black or white
 - Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)-popular bec. ideal reflected US
 - lectured Phi Beta Kappa Address “The American Scholar”
 - urged US writers throw off Euro tradition
 - most influential as practical philosopher (stressed self-gov, reliance, etc.)
 - Henry David Thoreau(1817-1862)-condemned slavery : *Walden: Or life in the Woods*
-*On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*-further idealistic thought
 - walth Whitman(1819-1892)-*Leaves of Grass*(poems) “Poet Laureate of Demo”
- XIV. Glowing Literary Lights(not associated w/ transcendentalism)
- a. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow(1807-1882)-wrote poems popular in Euro “Evangeline”
 - b. John Greenleaf Whittier(1807-1892)-poem cried vs. injustice, intolerance, inhumanity (social influence)
 - c. James Russell Lowell (1819-1891)-political satirist-*Biglow Papers*
 - d. Oliver Wendell Holmes(1809-1894)-The last Leaf
 - e. Women writers
 - Louisa May Alcott(1832-1888)-massa(w/ transcendentalism)-Little Women
 - Emily Dickinson-theme of nature in poems
 - f. Southern literary figure-William Gillmore Simms (1806-1870)-“the cooper of the south”(many books-life in frontier, south in rev war)
- XV. Literary Individualists and Dissenters
- a. Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)-“The Raven”
 - invented modern detective novel
 - fascinated by ghosts-reflect morbid sensibility (more prized by Euro)
 - b. reflection Calvinist obsession on original sin & struggle bet. good & evil
 - Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864)-The Scarlet Letter (psychological effect on sin)
 - Herman Melville (1819-1891)-Moby Dick-bet. good & evil told in whale captain
- XVI. Portrayers of the Past(historians)
- a. George Bancroft(1800-1891)-found naval academy-published US history book
 - “Father of American History”
 - b. Wiliam H. Prescott-pub conquest of Mexico, Peru
 - c. Francis Parkman-pub struggle bet. France & Eng in colonial of N. America
 - d. Historians All from New Eng bec. had most books (anti-south bias; antipathy w. slavery)