Chapter 14 The Age of Reform (1820-1860)

Section 2 The Abolitionists
Rate your agreement with the following statement: Civil disobedience is appropriate when you feel a law is unjust.

A. Strongly agree
B. Somewhat agree
C. Somewhat disagree
D. Strongly disagree
How did abolitionists influence the antislavery movement?
Early Efforts to End Slavery

- **Abolitionists** worked to abolish slavery.
- Before the American Revolution, some Americans tried to limit or end slavery.
- At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, delegates compromised and allowed each state to decide whether to allow slavery.
- By the early 1800s, slavery had ended in the Northern states, but continued in the South.
- The reform movement gave new life to the antislavery movement.
- The Quakers led many of the antislavery groups.
The American Colonization Society wanted to return African Americans to Africa and the Caribbean.

Formed in 1816 by a group of white Virginians, they bought their freedom and sent them abroad.

The first African American settled in Liberia (Latin for “place of freedom”).

Between 1822 and 1865, between 12,000 and 20,000 African Americans settled in Liberia.

Despite their efforts, slavery grew during this time.

Most African Americans did not want to go to Africa because their families were here.
When and by whom was the American Colonization Society formed?

A. In 1816 by abolitionists from Massachusetts
B. In 1816 by white Virginians
C. In 1820 by transcendentalists
D. In 1820 by former enslaved African Americans.
The Movement Changes

- Reformers realized that the gradual approach to ending slavery had failed.
- The number of enslaved persons increased because of the cotton boom in the Deep South.
- Plantation owners became increasingly dependent on slave labor.
- The slavery issue became the most pressing issue for reformers.
William Lloyd Garrison

• Massachusetts abolitionist
• 1831- Start the antislavery newspaper, The *Liberator*
• One of the first white abolitionists to call for immediate freeing of enslaved people
• Started the New England Anti-Slavery Society and the American Anti-Slavery Society
• By 1838, the antislavery societies Garrison started had more than 1,000 chapters
Grimké Sisters

- Sarah and Angelina Grimké
- Born into a wealthy slaveholding family
- Moved to the North and began to lecture and write against slavery
- They asked their mother for their inheritance, but not in money or land but in…
- Enslaved workers, whom they immediately freed
- The Grimké sisters and Angelina’s husband wrote *American Slavery As It Is* in 1839
- Firsthand accounts of life under slavery
- One of the most powerful abolitionist publications of all time
African American Abolitionists

- Abolition of slavery was an important goal of free African Americans in the North
- Most African Americans in the North lived in poverty
- Excluded from jobs
- White mobs often attacked them
- Proud of their freedom, and many wanted to help those who were still enslaved
African American Abolitionists Continued

• Helped organize and direct the American Anti-Slavery Society

• Samuel Cornish and John Russwurm started the first African American newspaper, *Freedom’s Journal*

• **David Walker** - born a free man in NC, went to Boston and challenged African Americans to rebel and overthrow slavery

• 1830 - Free African Americans met in Philadelphia and encourages free African Americans to emigrate to Canada
Frederick Douglass

- Born enslaved in Maryland
- Taught himself to read and write and escaped in 1838
- Even though he could be captured and returned he joined the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society
- Traveled to abolitionist meetings telling his powerful tale about his life as a slave
- Later became the editor of the antislavery newspaper North Star
- Traveled to London and the West Indies to speak to huge antislavery audiences
- Returned to the US to fight against slavery
Sojourner Truth

- “I was born a slave in Ulster County, New York” - Isabella Baumfree
- Lived in the cellar of a slaveholder's house
- Escaped in 1826 and gained official freedom in 1827 when New York banned slavery
- Quaker friends helped her find her son who had been sold as a slave
- 1843 Isabella chose a new name: “The Lord [named] me Sojourner…Truth, because I was to declare the truth to the people”
- Worked with other abolitionists and traveled throughout the North speaking of her experiences as an enslaved person
- Also an active supporter of the women's rights movement
The Underground Railroad

- Some risked prison and death by helping African Americans escape slavery
- The network of escape routes from the South to the North was called the Underground Railroad
- “Passengers” traveled at night
- Rested at “stations” (Barns, basements, and attics)
- The railroad’s “conductors” were whites and African Americans who helped the runaways to freedom in Northern States and Canada
- Harriet Tubman was the most famous conductor (At least 70 people were freed)
- The Underground Railroad helped only a tiny fraction of the enslaved population
- But it gave hope to people who suffered under slavery and abolitionists a practical way to help enslaved African Americans
Although the Underground Railroad was able to help only a small number of slaves, how did it empower the Abolitionist movement?

A. It gave abolitionists a practical way to help enslaved African Americans.

B. It helped raise money to buy freedom for slaves.

C. It helped create a better railway system in the Southern United States.

D. It helped to educate slaveholders.
Clashes Over Abolitionism

- Many Southerners opposed the idea of ending slavery (duh)
- Threatened the South’s way of life which depended on slave labor
- Only a small percentage of Northerners were abolitionists
- Many Northerners saw the Antislavery movement as a threat to the nation’s social order
- Many Northerners believed that once freed African Americans could not blend into American society
- Other Northerners feared that the abolitionists could begin a war between the North and South
Clashes Over Abolitionism Continued

- Many Northerners feared they would lose their jobs to emancipated workers who would work for less money.
- Opposition to abolition sometimes became violent.
- Philadelphia’s antislavery headquarters were burned.
- Then a bloody riot resulted.
- A Boston mob attacked and threatened to hang William Lloyd Garrison (Authorities put him in jail to save his life).
Elijah Lovejoy

- From Illinois
- Angry whites invaded his antislavery newspaper offices three times
- Each time Lovejoy installed new presses and resumed publication
- The fourth time the mob set the building on fire
- Lovejoy came out of the burning building and was shot and killed
The South Reacts

- Southerners defended slavery
- Said that slavery was essential to the Southern economy and allowed Southern whites to reach a high level of culture
- Southerners said they treated slaves well
- Southerners said Northern workers were worse off
- They said the system of slavery provided food, clothing, and medical care to its workers
- Many whites in the South believed that African Americans were better off under white care than on their own
Which of the following arguments did pro-slavery Southerners use against abolition?

A. They claimed that slave labor was essential to the South, allowing Southern whites to reach a high level of culture.

B. They argued that many abolitionists were also secretly slaveholders.

C. They argued that abolitionists only wanted to free enslaved workers so that they could work in Northern factories.

D. They stated that abolitionists wanted to steal Southerners’ farms.
How did abolitionists influence the antislavery movement?

- Published antislavery newspapers
- Organized antislavery societies
- Bought enslaved workers to free them and send them abroad
- Lectured and wrote books to promote their views
- Helped enslaved Africans escape to the North on the Underground Railroad
Chapter 14 Section 2 Quiz
The American Colonization Society successfully ended slavery.

A. True
B. False
William Lloyd Garrison expanded the abolitionist movement.

A. True
B. False
The Grimké sisters grew up in a slaveholding family but became strong opponents of slavery.

A. True
B. False
The Underground Railroad carried food to poor areas in the South.

A. True
B. False
Opposition to abolitionism sometimes erupted into violence.

A. True
B. False
By 1830, the most pressing social issue for reformers was

A. the antislavery movement.
B. prohibition.
C. women's right to vote.
D. free education.
Samuel Cornish and John Russwurm started *Freedom's Journal*, the country's first

A. antislavery publication.
B. proslavery newspaper.
C. spiritual review.
D. African American newspaper.
What famous African American abolitionist, speaker, and writer escaped from slavery as a runaway?

A. William Lloyd Garrison
B. Samuel Cornish
C. Frederick Douglass
D. John Russwurm
The most famous conductor of the Underground Railroad was

A. Frederick Douglass.
B. William Lloyd Garrison.
C. Sojourner Truth.
D. Harriet Tubman.
In 1830 free African American leaders held their first anti-slavery convention in

A. Baltimore.
B. Philadelphia.
C. New York City.
D. Chicago.