

BR: D14

If you could make changes in the 1820-1860s, what would you have done? Explain **why**:

U.S. History

Ch. 14 Age of Reform

Goals:

Analyze the many different voices in America at the time that led to reforms in the country, including abolitionists, temperance, and transcendentalism.

Reforming Spirit

Many reformers, such as **Henry David Thoreau**, were dreaming of a **better America** during this period. They believed the ideals of **liberty** and **equality** ought to be extended to **all Americans**, not just white males.

Some sought to do so thru **utopias**, or ideal communities. Most of these didn't last, except for the Mormons in Utah.

This was part of the **Second Great Awakening**, a wave of **religious fervor**. Many people became religious again, and inspired people to change their own lives and the world around them. This inspired the [temperance movement](#), which attempted to ban / end alcohol.

"You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment."



Reforming Education

In the early 1800s, only New England provided free elementary education. Otherwise people were expected to pay, and some had no schools at all. **Horace Mann** was a reformer who made efforts to help fix education.

Colleges began to open in earnest, with many exclusively for **African Americans** and **Women** in an attempt to help make their lives better.

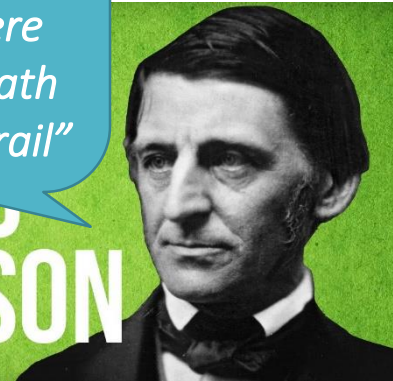
This was also the period of **transcendentalism**, which stressed the importance of the relationship between man and nature, as well as being true to one's self.

[Review](#)



*"Do not go
where the path
may lead, go
instead where
there is no path
and leave a trail"*

**WALDO
EMERSON**



U.S. History

Ch. 14 Age of Reform - Abolitionists

Early Efforts to End Slavery

The **religious revival** and **reform movement** of the early 1800s gave new life to the **anti-slavery movement**, which had begun in New England many decades earlier. More and more, Northerners began to detest the practice, while Southerners clung to it tighter and tighter.

The first big movement came from the idea of **sending the Africans** away, either back home or to the Caribbean. Beginning in 1816, the **American Colonization Society** attempted to reach this goal. They founded **Liberia**, which became an independent nation in 1847. Most Africans stayed in the U.S. however.

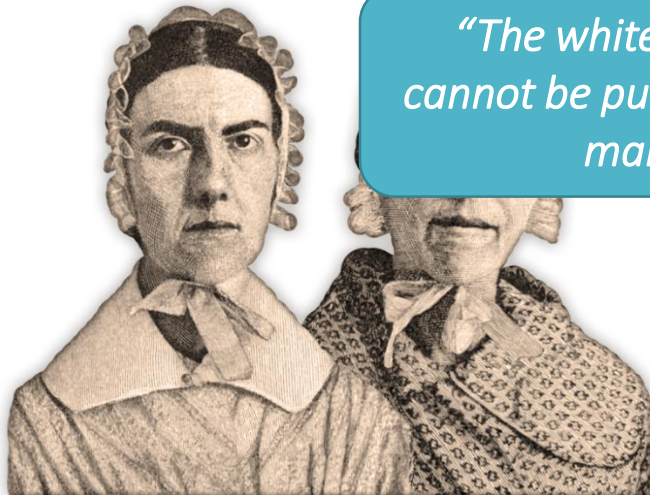
The gradual elimination of slavery had failed. Many in the 1830s decided they needed to take more drastic actions. [William Lloyd Garrison](#) was one of them

More Resistance

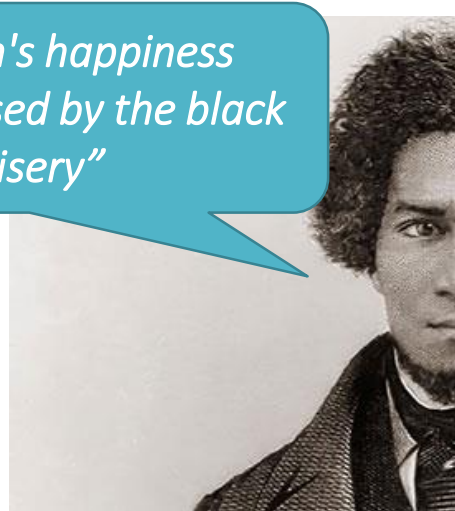
There were others who agreed. **Sarah** and **Angelina Grimke**, known as the [Grimke Sisters](#), fought to end slavery. Being from the South, they were beloved and hated by many.

There were also **African American Abolitionists** who sought for help for their fellow Africans. [Frederick Douglas](#), a friend of Garrison, was one of them. Another was [Sojourner Truth](#).

The [Underground Railroad](#) meanwhile was another attempt by many to help free those in the bondage of slavery.



"The white man's happiness cannot be purchased by the black man's misery"






The Underground Railroad

 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

The Underground Railroad

In Motion



-  Underground Railroad routes
-  Slaveholding regions
-  Non-slaveholding regions



Resistance to Abolitionists

Sadly, most in the North were **not abolitionists**. Most saw the movement as radical and unwise, and worried that it might bring Civil War. Many also weren't sure whites and blacks could ever live freely and peacefully together.

Many Northerners worried that slaves might take their jobs away as well. Sometimes mobs even attacked abolitionists in the North. William Lloyd Garrison was nearly lynched by a Boston mob. [Elijah Lovejoy](#) was another abolitionist who wasn't so lucky. His anti-slavery newspaper was destroyed multiple times, and he was finally killed by a pro-slavery mob in the 1830s.

Southerners were also very upset about the anti-slavery movement, and they defended slavery by saying that Northern factory owners were no better with their “**wage slaves**” that toiled in their factories.

Others argued that blacks were better off in slavery than not, and that “Providence [aka God] has placed the slaves in our hands for their own good”, as one Southern governor put it.

Class Debate / Study Guide

The topic at issue is the **Underground Railroad**.

Was it alright, or did such lawless actions cause more problems?

Each table will be **assigned** a side. Once you have been assigned, discuss for 10 minutes how you can **defend that position**. Look to the textbook and each other to make your points.

The objective is to be **persuasive**, and look at this from the **perspective of the mid 1800s**, not our time, because the people then didn't know the future.

Each team will get 1 minute each to make their case against another, then they will get another minute to respond. I'll decide which group is more persuasive.