

Reform

Social Reform – organized attempt to improve what is unjust or imperfect in society.

The Second Great Awakening – free will vs. predestination. Revivals.

Hospital and Prison Reform – Dorothea Dix.

Temperance – A campaign against alcohol abuse. Women took a leading role.

Improving Education – Included the growth of public schools (Horace Mann – leader in Massachusetts), education for African Americans and those with disabilities. Most Northern states set up free tax-supported elementary schools but in both the North and South, schooling usually ended in the 8th grade.

The Anti-Slavery Movement

By 1804 all states in the North from Pennsylvania through New England had promised to free their slaves over time. There were only 50,000 in the North compared to nearly one million in the South.

American Colonization Society - Promised to end slavery by setting up an independent colony in Africa for freed slaves. Named Liberia in western Africa, only a few thousand slaves actually settled there.

Abolitionists – reformers who wanted to end slavery completely in the United States. Some favored a gradual end while others wanted to end it everywhere at once.

African American Abolitionists

- **Samuel Cornish & John Russworm** – *Freedom's Journal*. Abolitionist newspaper that hoped to turn public opinion against slavery.
- **Frederick Douglass** – the BEST known African American abolitionist. Born into slavery in Maryland, he violated slave codes by secretly learning to read. Escaped in 1838 and spoke at antislavery meetings across the United States and Britain. Published the *North Star* in 1847.
- **William Lloyd Garrison** – the most outspoken white abolitionist. *The Liberator* was the most influential antislavery newspaper. Founded the New England Anti-Slavery Society.
- **The Underground Railroad** – A network of black and white abolitionists who secretly helped slaves escape to freedom in the North or Canada. Some hid in homes of abolitionists, churches, caves, under hay in wagons, etc.
 - Harriet Tubman – after escaping, she returned to the South 19 times and led more than 300 slaves, including her parents, to freedom. Known as the “Black Moses,” there was a \$40,000 reward for her capture.

Opposition to Abolition existed in both the North and the South. Northern mill owners, bankers, and merchants who depended on Southern cotton saw it as a threat. Slave owners defended slavery, knowing that it was essential to their economy and feared Northern destruction of their way of life.