Lecture Notes

Abolitionists Chapter 12, Section 1

**Image Analysis**

*Students will be asked to verbally answer these questions about the political cartoon:*

What is the first thing you notice about this picture? What do you see?

What is happening in the cartoon?

What do you think was happening when this cartoon was made?

Who do you think the audience was for this cartoon?

Do you have any questions about this political cartoon?

**Vocabulary**

Notion- an idea or concept (pg. 529)

Abolitionists- a person who strongly favors doing away with slavery (pg. 529)

Publication- printed material offered for distribution or sale (pg. 530)

Underground Railroad- a system that helped enslaved African Americans follow a network of escape routes out of the South to freedom in the North, (pg. 534)

**Early Attempts to Abolish Slavery**

* Slavery was a controversial topic well before the American Revolution.
* The First Constitutional Convention in 1787- The delegates decided to let each state decide if they will allow slavery or not.
* By the early 1800s the Northern states had ended slavery, but it continued in the South.
* CRITICAL THINKING: Why do you think the Southern states decided to keep slavery?
  + The Southern States needed the free labor in order to sustain agriculture in the South.
  + Slavery was a part of the South’s economy and lifestyle.
* Also by the early 1800s, a religious revival and reform movement gave new life to the antislavery movement.
* American Colonization Society- The first large-scale anti-slavery effort was aimed at resettling African Americans in Africa or the Caribbean.
* The American Colonization society was formed in 1816 by white Virginians who bought slaves and sent them abroad.
* The group raised enough money to send several groups of slaves to a new colony in Africa called Liberia.
* The American Colonization society ultimately unsuccessful because it could not keep up with the growing number of slaves in the United States. Also, some slaves did not want to leave the U.S.
* CRITICAL THINKING: Why do you think some of the slaves wanted to stay in the United States?
  + It was their home.
  + They had been there for several generations.
  + They wanted to be free in America.
  + Africa was foreign to them.

**The New Abolitionists**

* The cotton boom in the Deep South led to more slaves.
* The gradual approach to abolition was not working.
* Beginning in 1830, the slavery became the biggest social issue for reformers.

**William Lloyd Garrison (Massachusetts)**

* Stimulated the antislavery movement with his newspaper *The Liberator (1831)*
* One of the first white abolitionists to call for immediate and complete emancipation.
* He and his followers started the New England Anti-Slavery society in 1832.
* By 1838 the anti-slavery societies had more than 1,000 chapters.

**The Grimke Sisters (South Carolina)**

* Sarah and Angelina Grimke were among the first women to speak out against slavery.
* They came from a slaveholding family.
* The Grimke’s and Angelina’s husband, Theodore Weld wrote *American Slavery As it Is,* 1839.
* The book was a collection of first hand accounts of life under slavery.
* “As a Southerner, I feel that it is my duty to stand up… against slavery. I have seen it- I have seen it.” –Angelina Grimke, lecture, 1838
* CRITICAL THINKING- What strategy did Angelina Grimke use to persuade Northerners to oppose slavery? Why was this effective?
  + She used eyewitness accounts. She has seen it.
  + It is effective because it is true.

**Frederick Douglass (Maryland)**

* One of the most widely known African American Abolitionists
* Taught himself to read and write, and escaped slavery.
* Settled in Massachusetts and then New York.
* Spoke widely against slavery.
  + Could have been captured and returned to slavery.
* Edited the antislavery newspaper *North Star*
* Wanted African Americans to not only be free but to have full equality with whites.
* VIDEO: JAMES EARL JONES READS FREDERICK DOUGLASS
* QUOTE: "What, to the American slave, is your Fourth of July? I answer; a day that reveals to him, more than all other days of the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim."
* CRITICAL THINKING: Why does Frederick Douglass feel this way about Fourth of July?
  + Because the Declaration of Independence represents exactly what slaves do not have.

**Sojourner Truth (New York)**

* Born Isabella Baumfree, a slave in New York
* Esacaped in 1826 and gained freedom in 1827 when New York banned slavery.
* Bell began preaching in the streets.
* She dedicated her life to abolition and women’s rights
* VIDEO: MAYA ANGELOU- AINT I A WOMAN
* QUOTE: "Sojourner Truth is my name, because from this day I will walk in the light of God's truth."

**The Fugitive Slave Act (1850)**

* Required all citizens to help catch runaway slaves
* Anyone who aided a runaway could be fined or imprisoned
* Southerners believed it would make Northerners recognize the rights of the Southerners
* Northerners just got more angry
* Results: Slaveholders tried to capture runaway slaves, even from years before. Sometimes they just caught and African American and enslaved them.

**Underground Railroad**

* A network of free African Americans and whites who helped runaways make their way to freedom

**Harriet Tubman (Maryland)**

* Born a slave and worked in plantation fields until she was 30.
* Escaped North through the Underground Railroad.
* Tubman made 19 trips back through the Underground Railroad to help others escape.
* She ended up helping 70 people make it to freedom.