

THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT: 1800-1870

Two separate movements: 1. Freedom and removal: American Colonization Society 1817
2. End it/National Sin American Anti-Slavery Society 1833

1817 **American Colonization Society**- Prominent Americans/Virginians- Compensate masters for their slaves and repatriate them back to Africa-Liberia, capital city Monrovia in honor of Pres. Monroe more of a religious movement tied to the 2nd Great Awakening.

1831 The Liberator, founded by William Lloyd Garrison as primary Abolitionist newspaper.

1833 **American Anti-Slave Society**, William Lloyd Garrison, Theodore Weld, Elijah Lovejoy and 60 Delegates meet in Philadelphia to found this organization.

- denounce slavery as a "National Sin".
- call for immediate abolition
- endorsed a non-violent approach (literature, speeches, political pressure)

Viewed by Northerners as dangerous radicals who cause Civil War and or influx of Blacks to the North where jobs/wage instability will occur.

1835 Abolitionists receiving moral and financial support have now established over 400 branches in the North. By 1838 the Society boasts 250,000 members.

- the nation (especially the South) is flooded with anti-slave literature
- continual pressure applied in the Congress for abolition of slavery.
- American Women now join the Society for their first political participation.

Southern response:

- mainly hostile, sometimes violent.
- “accidental destruction”(burning) of mailbags with “Obnoxious” literature.
- Murder of Elijah Lovejoy, editor. Alton, Illinois after warning to stop the printing.

1840 Liberty Party launched:

1st Anti-slave party- James G. Birney candidate: platform Free Soil.

1842 Prigg vs Pennsylvania Upheld the Constitutionality of a 1793 Fugitive Slave Law but claimed that State law enforcement officers did not have to assist Federal authorities. As a result, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin passed “Personal Liberty Laws” forbidding state law officials from this assistance.

1845 Oberlin College – founded by Abolitionists which offered the nations first racially integrated co-education.

1846 Frederick Douglass supported by the Abolitionists in lecture series on the dehumanizing life of a slave.

1848 Seneca Falls Convention – American Women abolitionists conduct their first convention and form the 1st Feminist Movement in the U.S.
Keynote speaker: Frederick Douglass

1850's More direct action on part of the Abolitionists.

- Opposition to the Fugitive Slave Law
- Creation and support of the "Underground RRR"
- Free Soil, anti-slave Whigs/Democrats became the new **Republican Party**
- Some extremists financially supported John Brown in Kansas/at Harpers Ferry.
- Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe, expose' on inhumanity of slavery
National and International effects.
- Slavery As It Is by Theodore Weld