

SHIFTING CULTURES and NEW ECONOMIES



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American Exceptionalism

Religious communities

2nd Great Awakening

Art and Philosophy

Market revolution

Rise of American cities

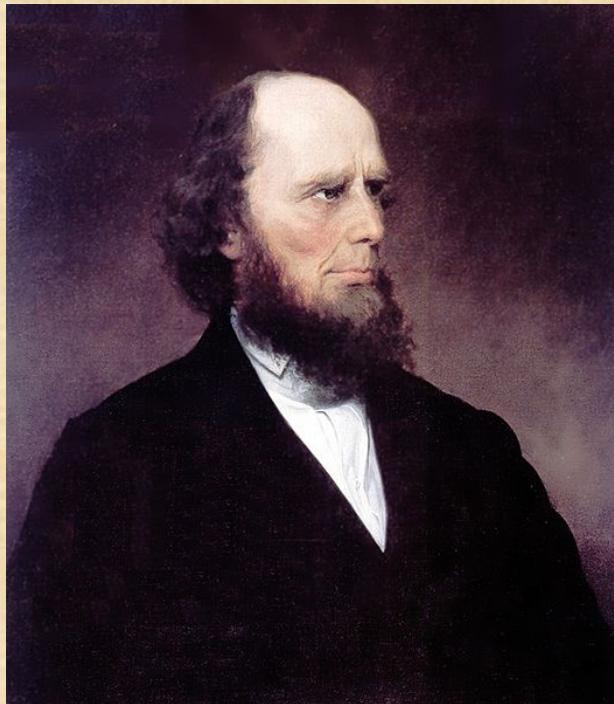
What does it mean to be an “American”?

How do the primary sources help you understand different interpretations of the American identity in the early 19th century?

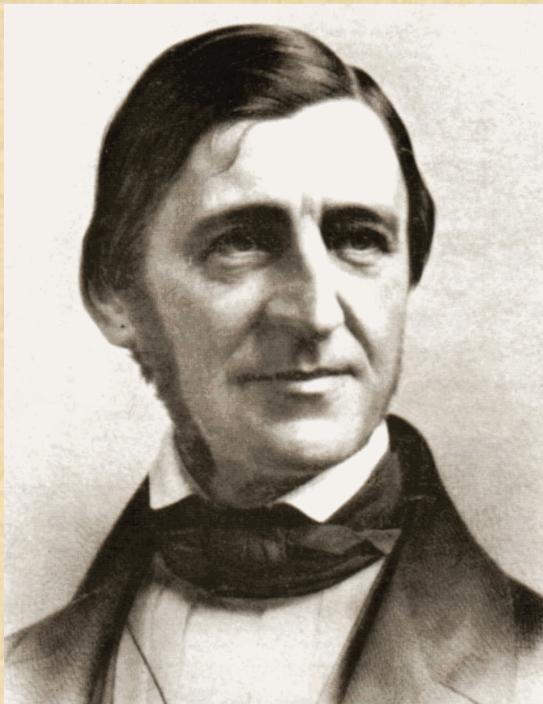
What freedoms and opportunities were available?

What critiques do they offer of the early American culture?

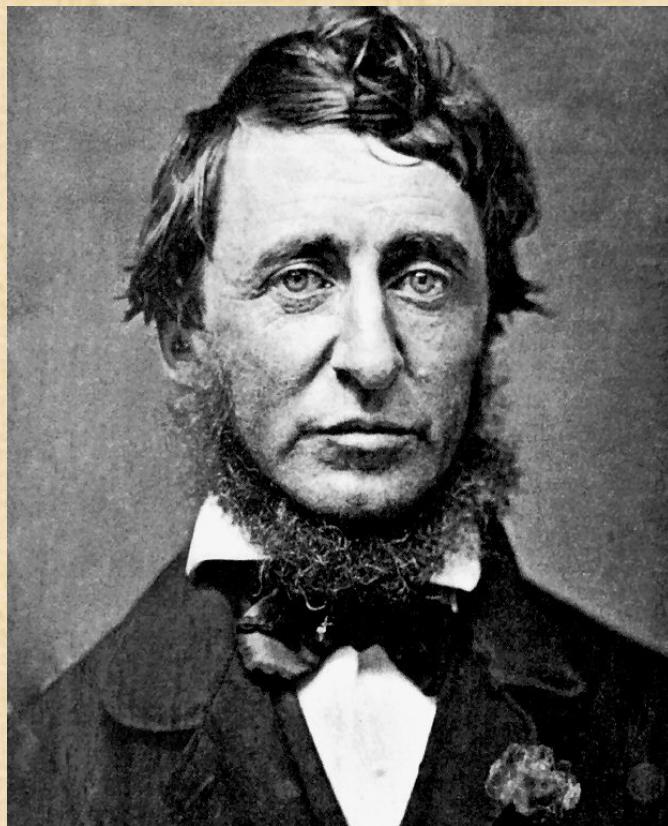
What do Finney's writings tell us about the United States during this period?



**What do Emerson's writings tell us
about the United States during this
period?**



**What do Thoreau's writings tell us
about the United States during this
period?**



What do Harriet Noble's (woman on frontier) writings tell us about the United States during this period?



The search for an American identity and culture...



Antebellum Era (1781 – 1860)

Americans believed they were **different**.

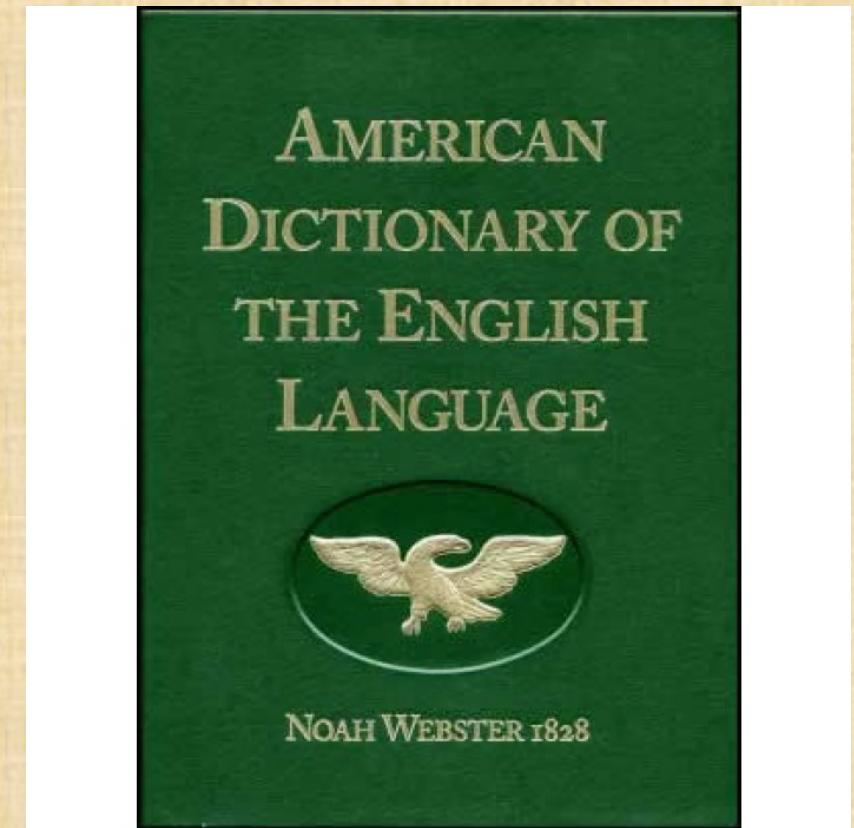
They believed that they were **exceptional**.

They created a **culture** to **reflect** this.

Language

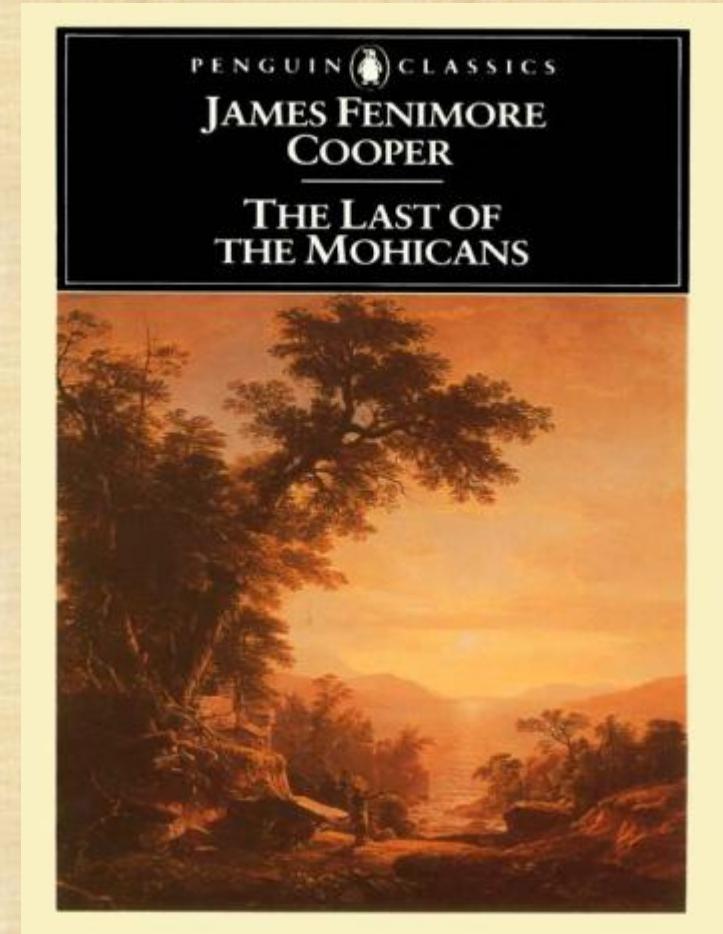
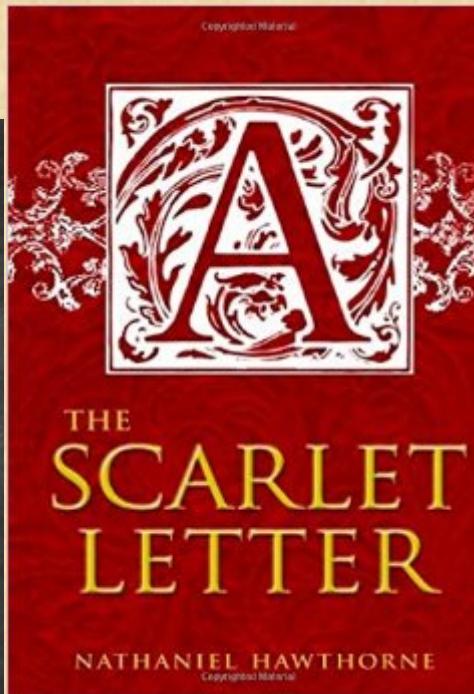
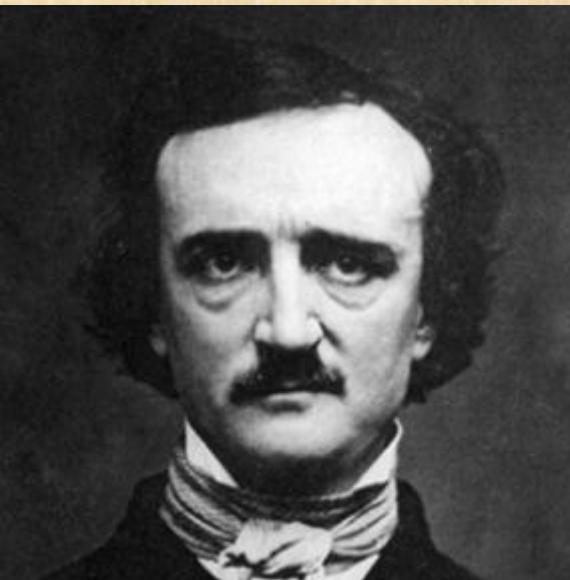
Noah Webster's Dictionary (1828)

An “American language” guided by “republican principles” of virtue and simplicity



Literature

American themes → frontier/nature
good and evil (via Puritans)
the individual
human psychology

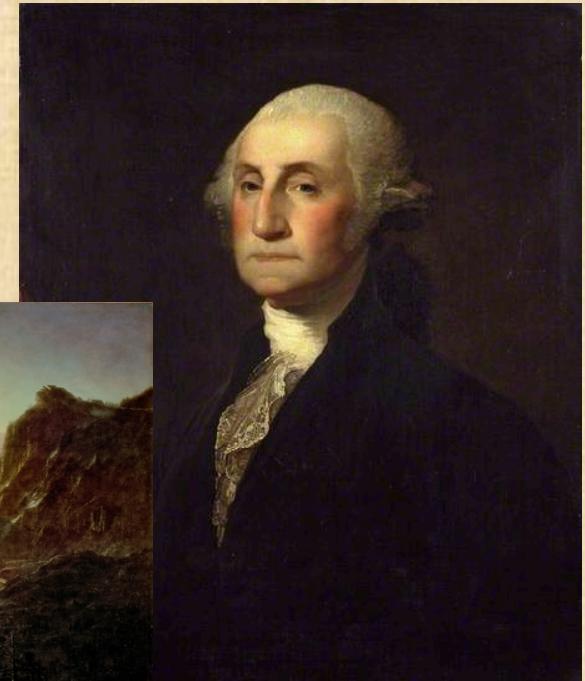
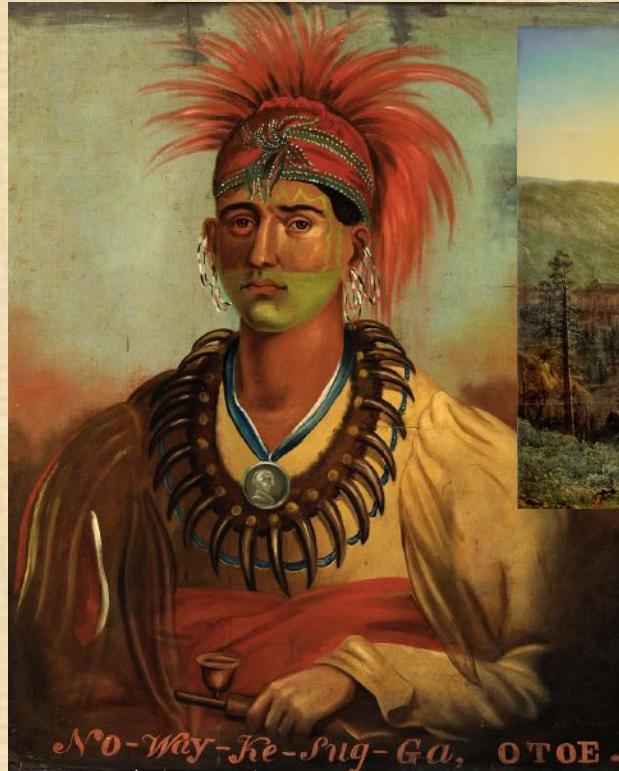


Art reflected nationalistic pride

“Founding fathers” featured prominently

Native Americans

Wilderness



AMERICAN RELIGION

A crisis of faith?

In the early 1800s, as the frontier expanded some Americans sought to **establish new towns and cities with deliberate and clear religious and social ideals.**

They included:

* **Shakers** (New England, 1770s)

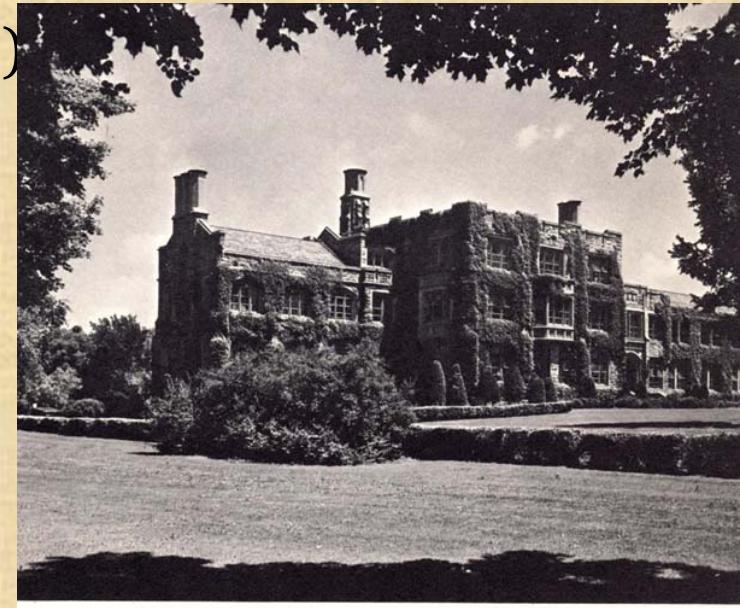


↑ THE RITUAL DANCE OF THE SHAKERS

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- * **Shakers** (New England, 1770s)
- * **Oneida** community (New York, 1848)



The Administration Building of Oneida Ltd., located at Kenwood, Oneida, New York.

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- * **Oneida** community (New York, 1848)
- * **Amana** colonies (Iowa, 1850s)



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- * **Shakers** (New England, 1770s)
- * **Oneida** community (New York, 1848)
- * **Amana** colonies (Iowa, 1850s)
- * Latter Day Saints (**Mormons** --New York to Missouri to Illinois to Utah, 1830s)





Attempting to establish new communities is indeed **an American tradition** – not just the Puritans and Shakers, but also hippie communes of the 1960s and a variety of other religious communities.

AMERICAN RELIGION

PART 2

THE SECOND “GREAT AWAKENING”

The early 1800s were also a period of Evangelical revivalism.

Frontier towns were rough and wild – alcohol, prostitution, and violence were widespread.

Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian preachers held large revivals (rallies).

Membership in these churches exploded.

*** A large percentage of the converted were women**

*** Both free and enslaved African Americans also participated in revivals in the South**



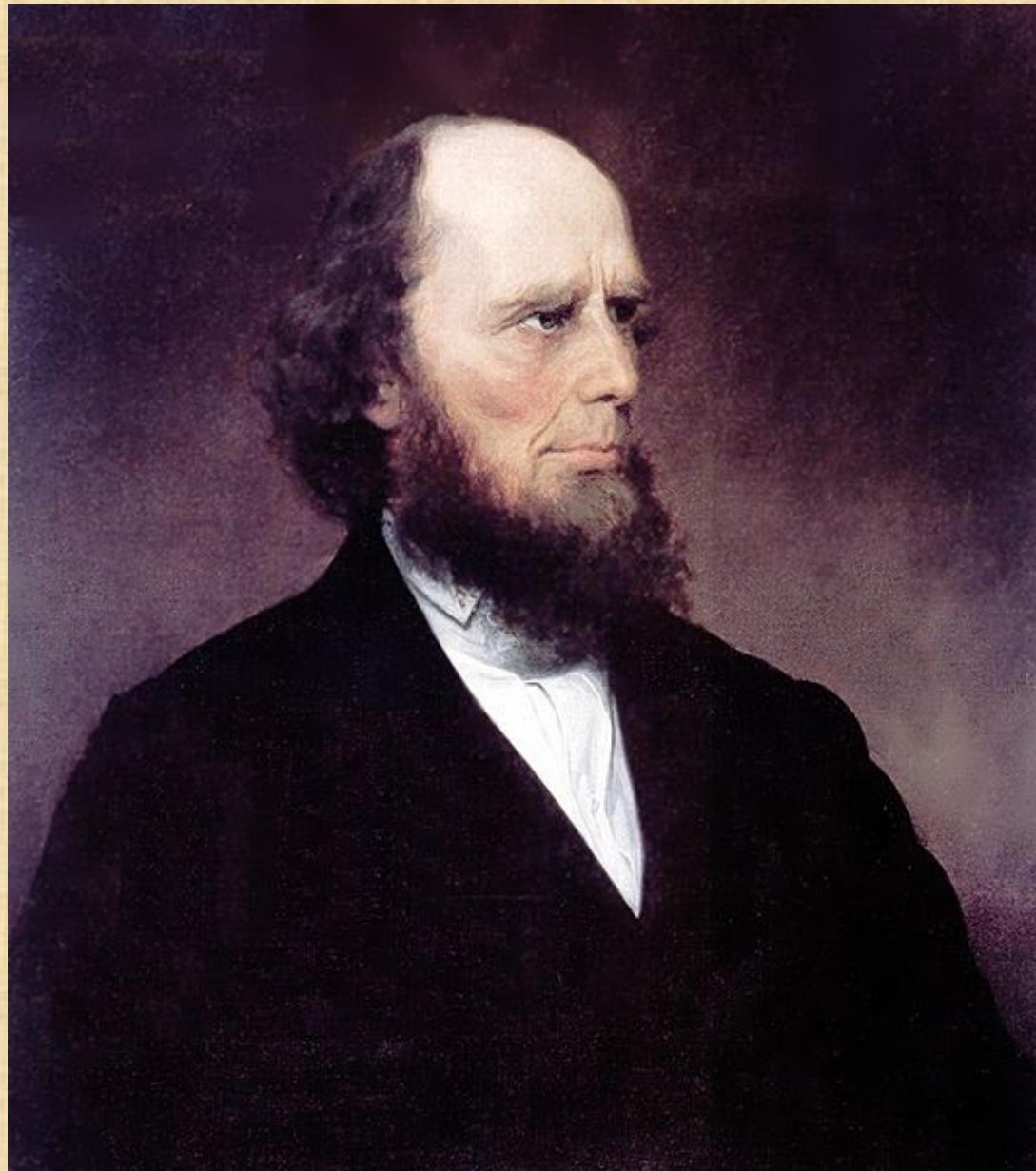


Lith. of P.S. Duval & Co. Phila.

SACRAMENTAL SCENE IN A WESTERN FOREST.



Key figures of the “Second Great Awakening” included:



**Charles
Finney**

Henry Ward Beecher



Richard Allen



Engraved by John Sartain, 1848.

R Allen

*Rev. Richd. Allen,
1st Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*



**Antoinette Brown
Blackwell**

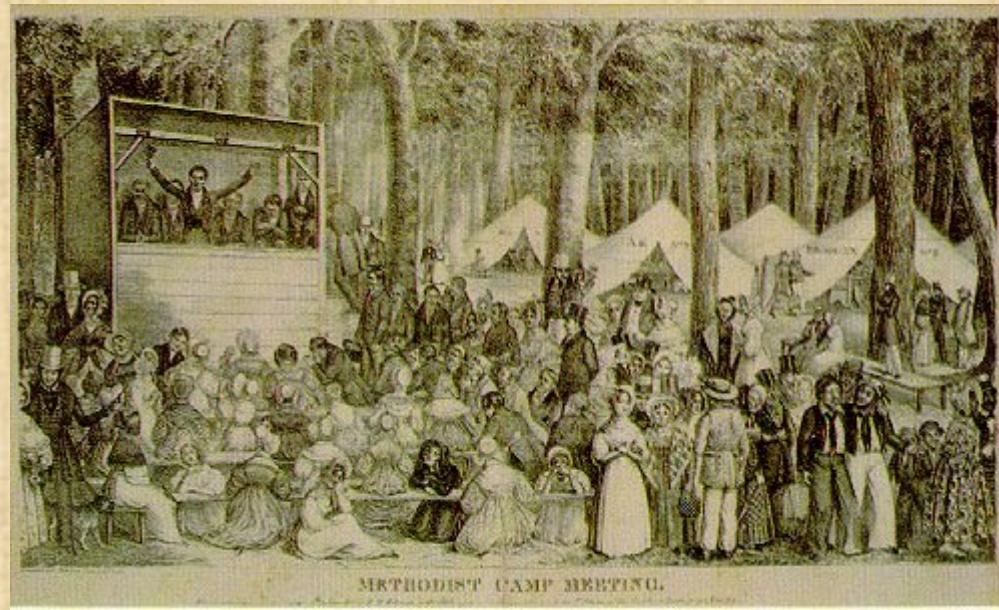
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- * Geographical element: preachers traveling through **the frontier** wilderness on horseback



AMERICAN ART & PHILOSOPHY.

ROMANTICISM

- A rejection of the strict rationalism of the Enlightenment, expressed through the arts
- In the US, this was a reaction to the strictness of Calvinist religious legacy
- AND a reaction to the hustle and bustle of American city life
- Romantics embraced nature for its **spiritual** value

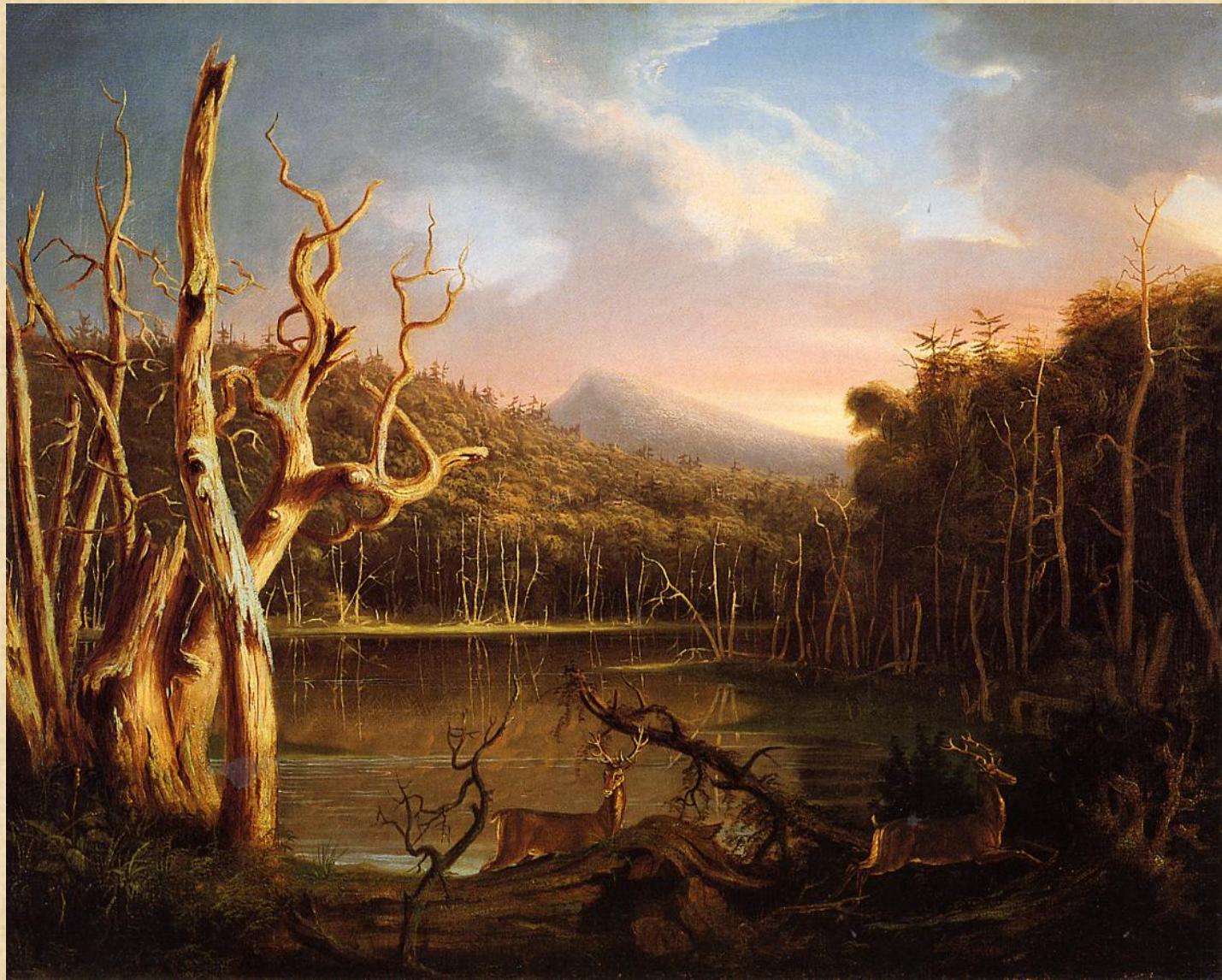
Hudson River School

Themes where humans and nature coexist peacefully

Discovery

Exploration

Settlement



Thomas Cole, *Lake with Dead Trees* (1825)



Thomas Cole, *The Oxbow* (1836)



Thomas Cole, *Home in the Woods* (1847)



Frederic Edwin Church,
The Natural Bridge,
Virginia
(1852)



Frederic Edwin Church, *View in Pittsford, Vermont* (1848)

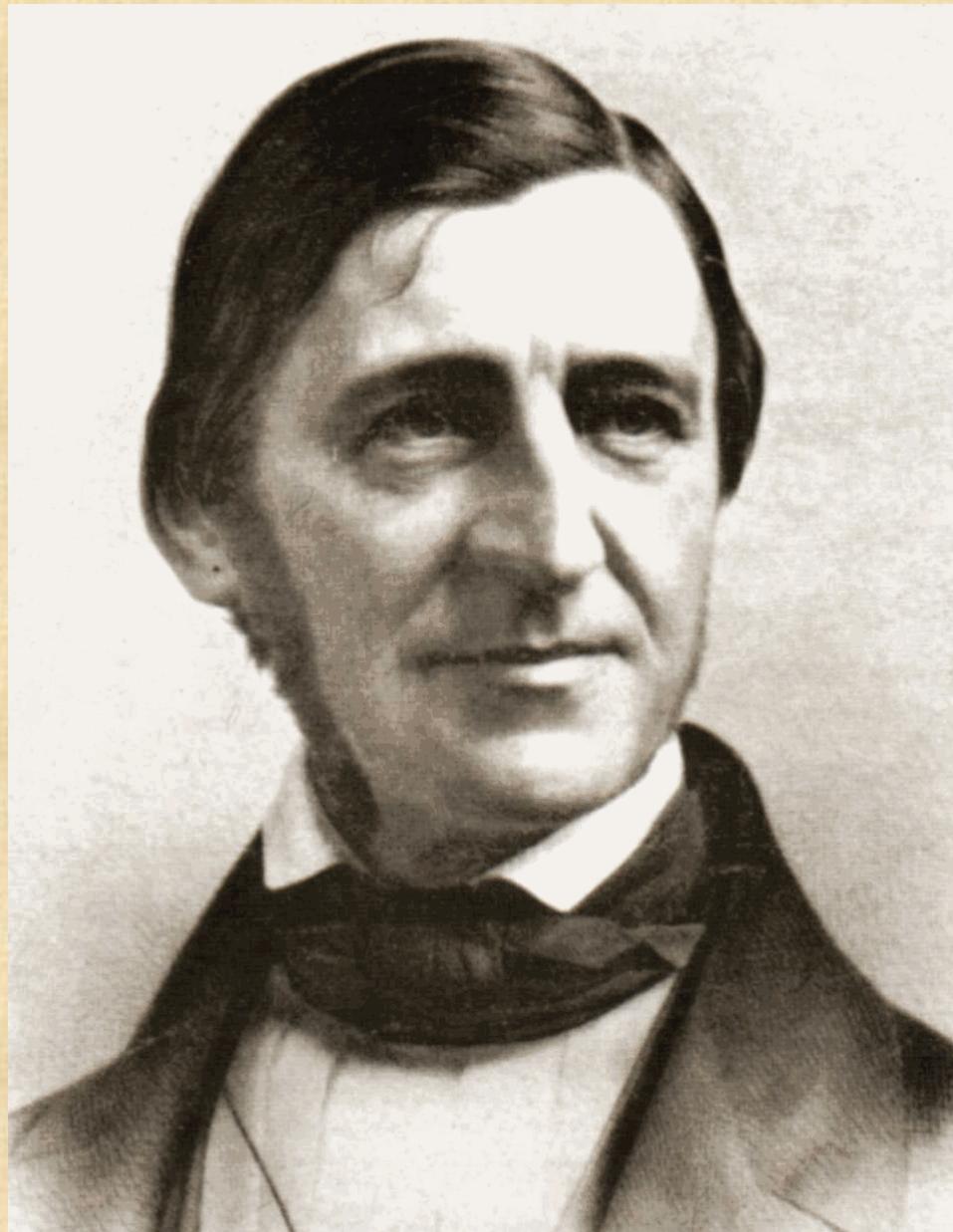
From a European perspective, **the idea of a “frontier” was uniquely American.**

This shaped how Europeans viewed Americans and how Americans viewed themselves.



TRANSCENDENTALISM

- * An American philosophical, religious, and literary movement
- * A rejection of organized religion and skepticism of government
- * An embrace of individualism, rugged self-reliance
- * A focus on the mind and on nature

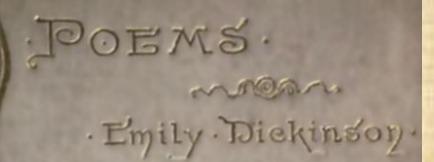


**Ralph Waldo
Emerson**

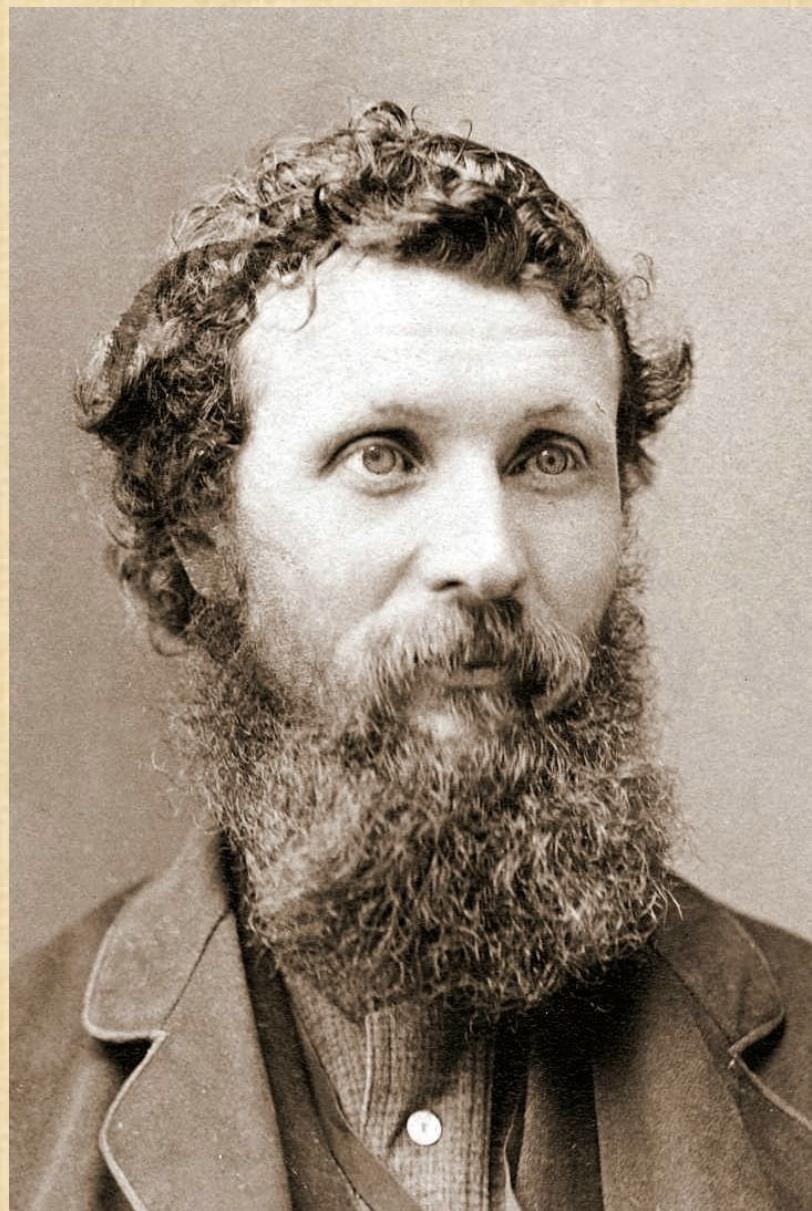
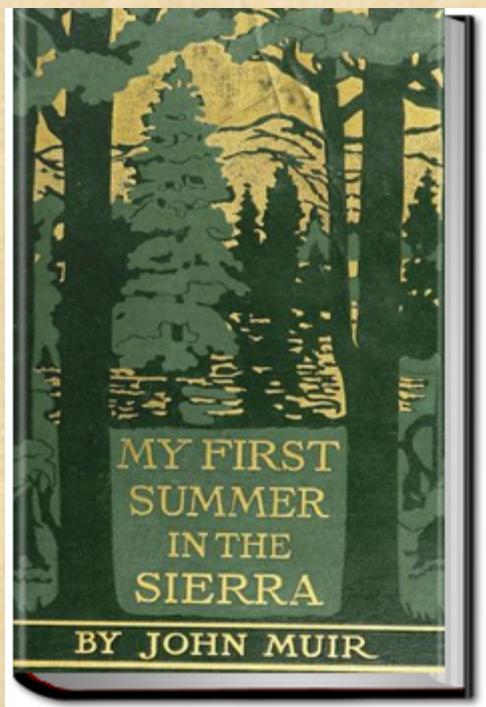
Henry David Thoreau



Emily Dickinson



John Muir





Louisa May Alcott



Reflection of the American frontier mentality:

- * rugged, individualistic, self-reliant
- * a rejection of crowded cities and an embrace of the wilderness
- * a rejection of rules and hierarchy, a respect for the individual mind

KEY QUESTIONS:

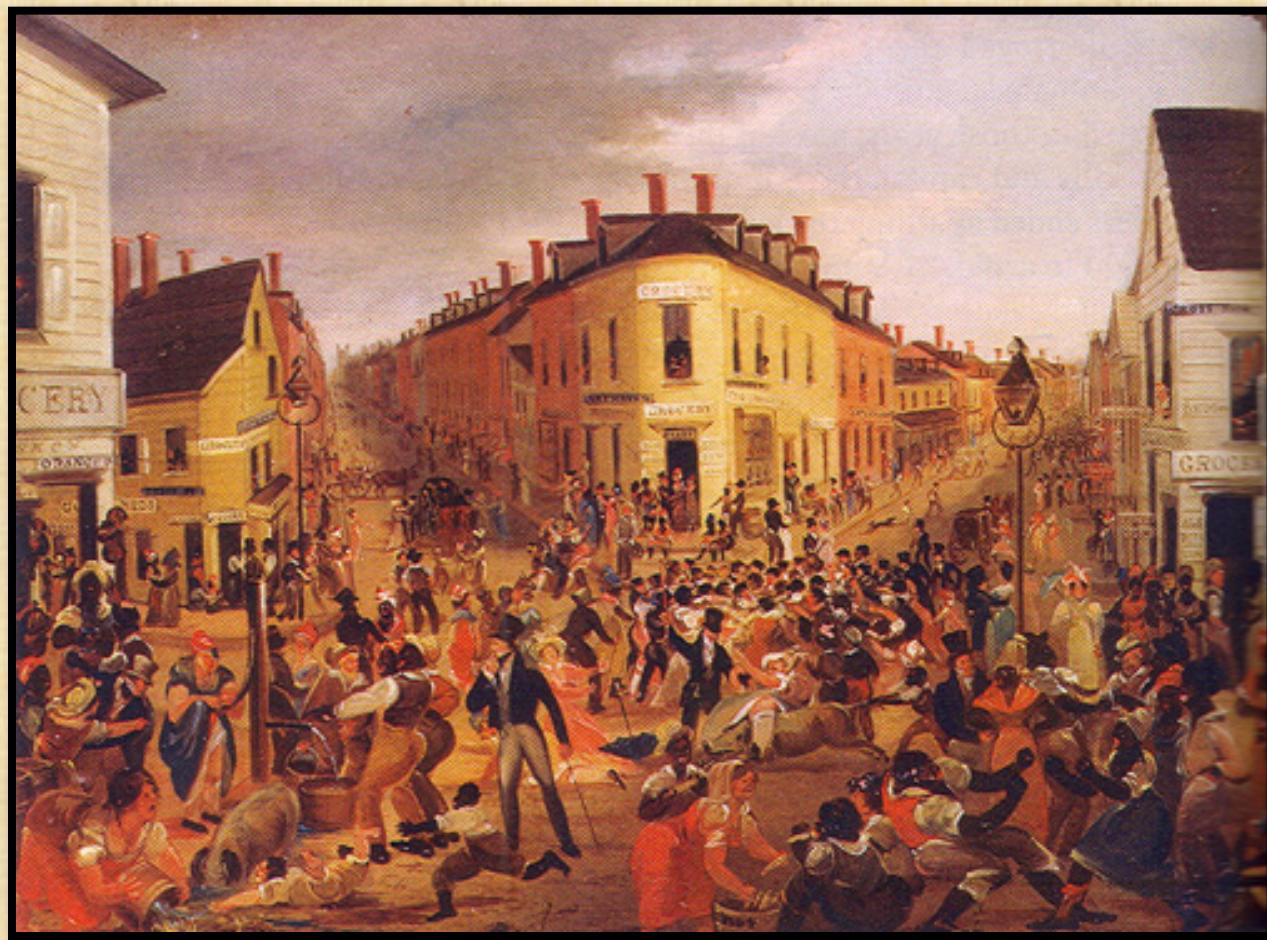
In what ways were utopian communities and Evangelical revivalism ***fundamentally*** American?

In what ways was Transcendentalism a ***fundamentally*** American philosophy?

What do these cultural and religious trends tell us about American identity in the 1800s?

How are they related to economic and political trends?

New Economies



New Economies

- Mid-semester reflection/feedback

What did you dislike about the exam?

What did you like about the exam?

Why do you think this was the method I used?

The first half our course focused on getting from Columbus to the founding of the United States of America.

The first half our course focused on getting from Columbus to the founding of the United States of America.

The next half will focus on the question, **“WHO ARE WE?”**

In other words, what does it mean to be an “American?”

How is that different from being a British colonist?

What does it mean to be an “American”?

How do sources help you understand different interpretations of the American identity in the early 19th century?

What freedoms and opportunities were available?

What critiques do they offer of the early American culture?

MARKET REVOLUTION

Market Revolution **(first half of 19th century)**

Global shift from agrarian to
capitalist societies

New methods of production

Shifting Economy

Production for profit

Home manufacturing structure

- Craftwork
- Family labor system

Mutuality of interests, long (but flexible) hours

Shifting Economy

Production for profit

Home manufacturing structure

- Craftwork
- Family labor system

→ “Putting out” system

“Putting Out” System

Early 19th century

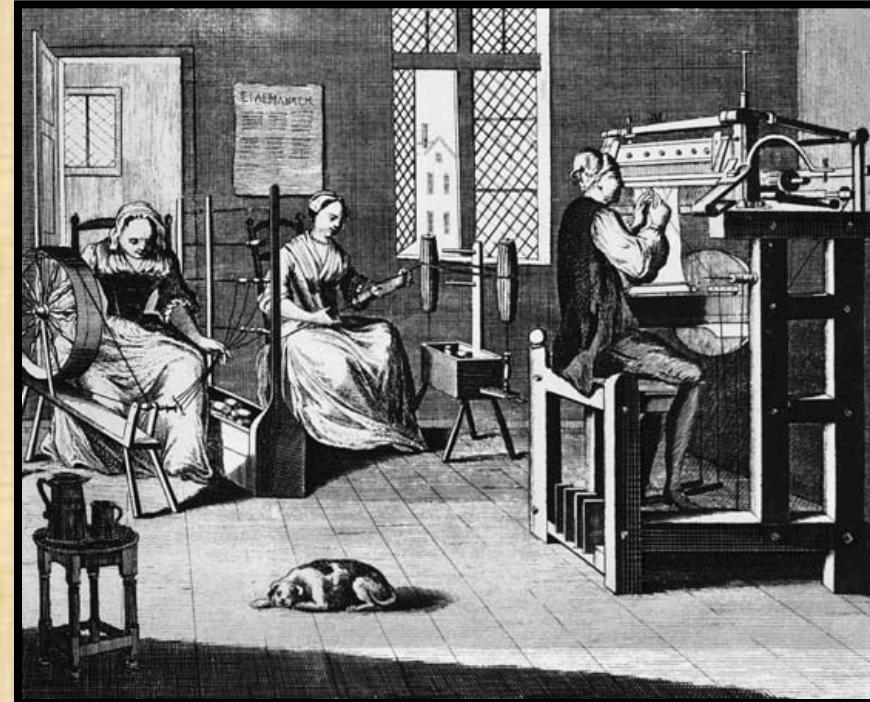
Merchants “put out” raw materials into homes

Shoe-makers

Journeymen cut the leather

Wives, daughters, apprentices bound upper parts together

Master artisan stitched it together



Shifting Economy

Production for profit

Home manufacturing structure

- Craftwork
- Family labor system
- “Putting out” system
- Factory system

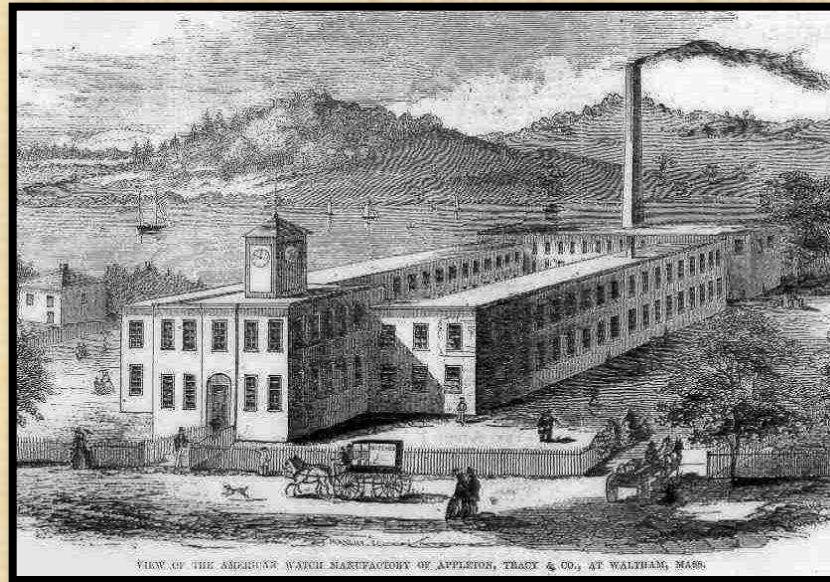
Factory System

Large capital investment

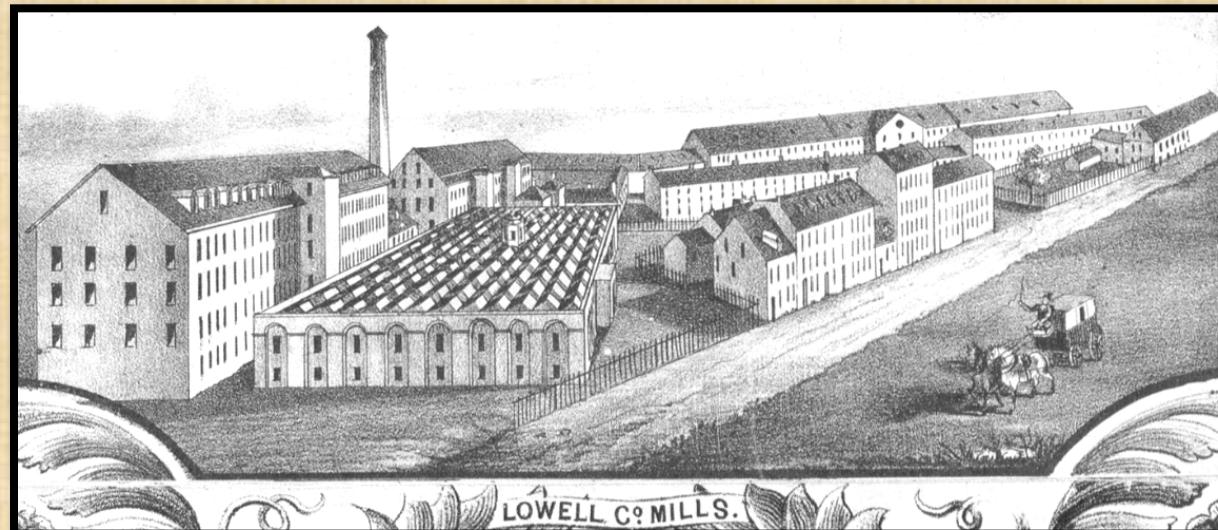
Artisans → workers at fast pace

Distance between workers, owners, and communities

“American system” – interchangeable parts by special purpose machines



VIEW OF THE AMERICAN WATCH MANUFACTORY OF APPLETON, TRACY & CO., AT WALTHAM, MASS.



For workers

Increasingly de-skilled

Increasingly aware of time, or “the bell”

Wage work a violation of American liberties

Role of the government

State: Factory owners have limited expenses

 Direct assistance (bribes)

Federal: Private contracts to build weapons

Emergence of Commercial Farming

Switch from sustenance to cash crops

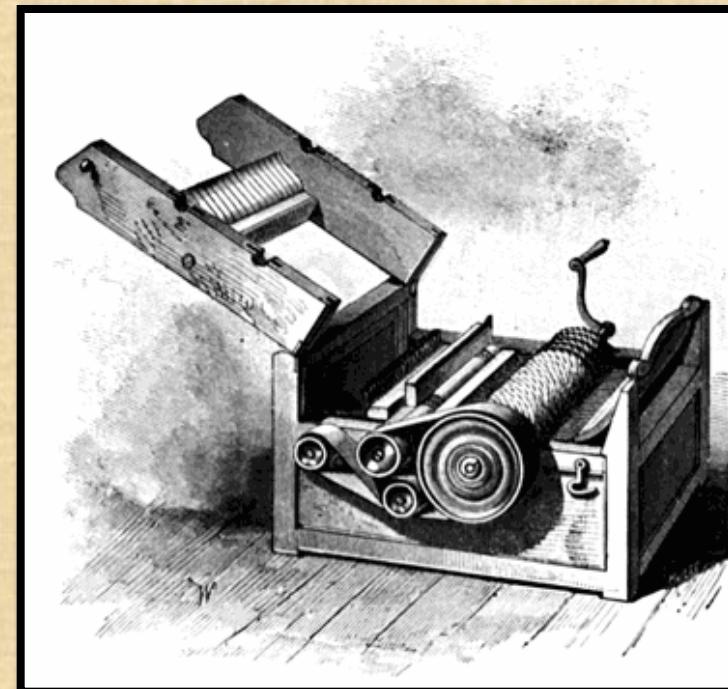
Northeast

Integrated economy of farming and industry

South

Monocrop – cotton, tobacco

New technologies

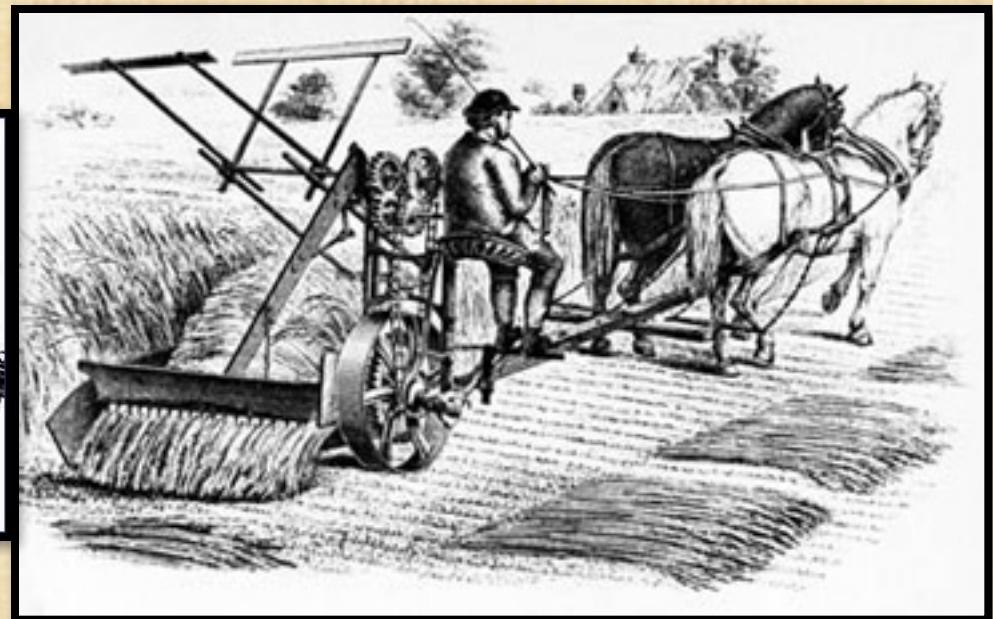
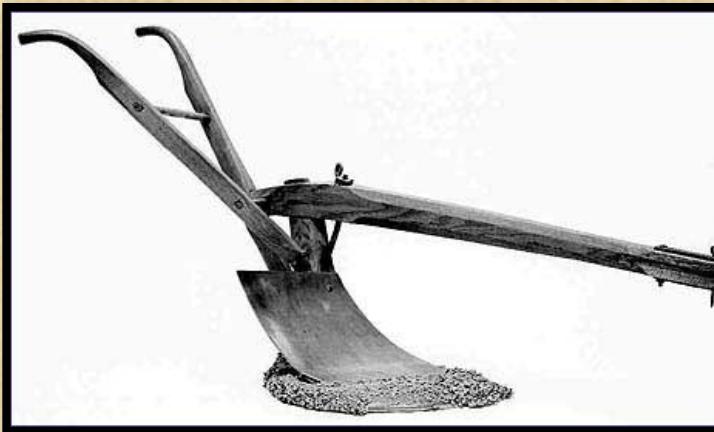


“American system” – interchangeable parts by special purpose machines

John Deere

Cyrus McCormick

Eli Whitney



Transportation Revolution

Context: Travelling in 18th century was slow and difficult



Importance of weather

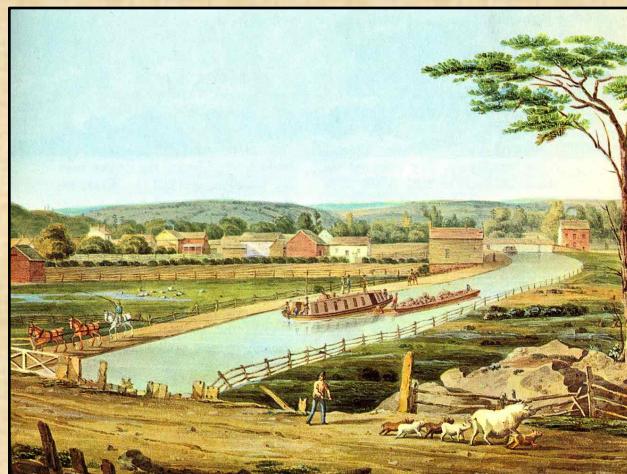
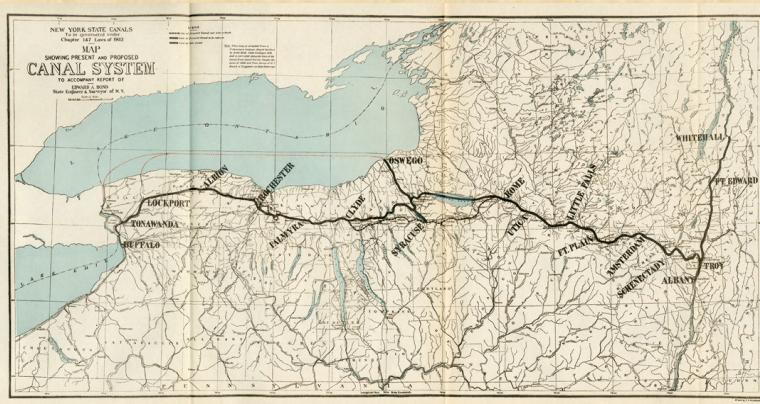
Cities v. rural

Transportation Revolution

Improved water transportation increased the speed and lowered the expense of commerce

Erie Canal was completed in 1825 and NYC a major trade port.

State funded



Transportation Revolution

Rebuilt and extended roads

1790 and 1820: More than 3,700 miles of toll roads were built in New England

Better construction and maintenance



Transportation Revolution

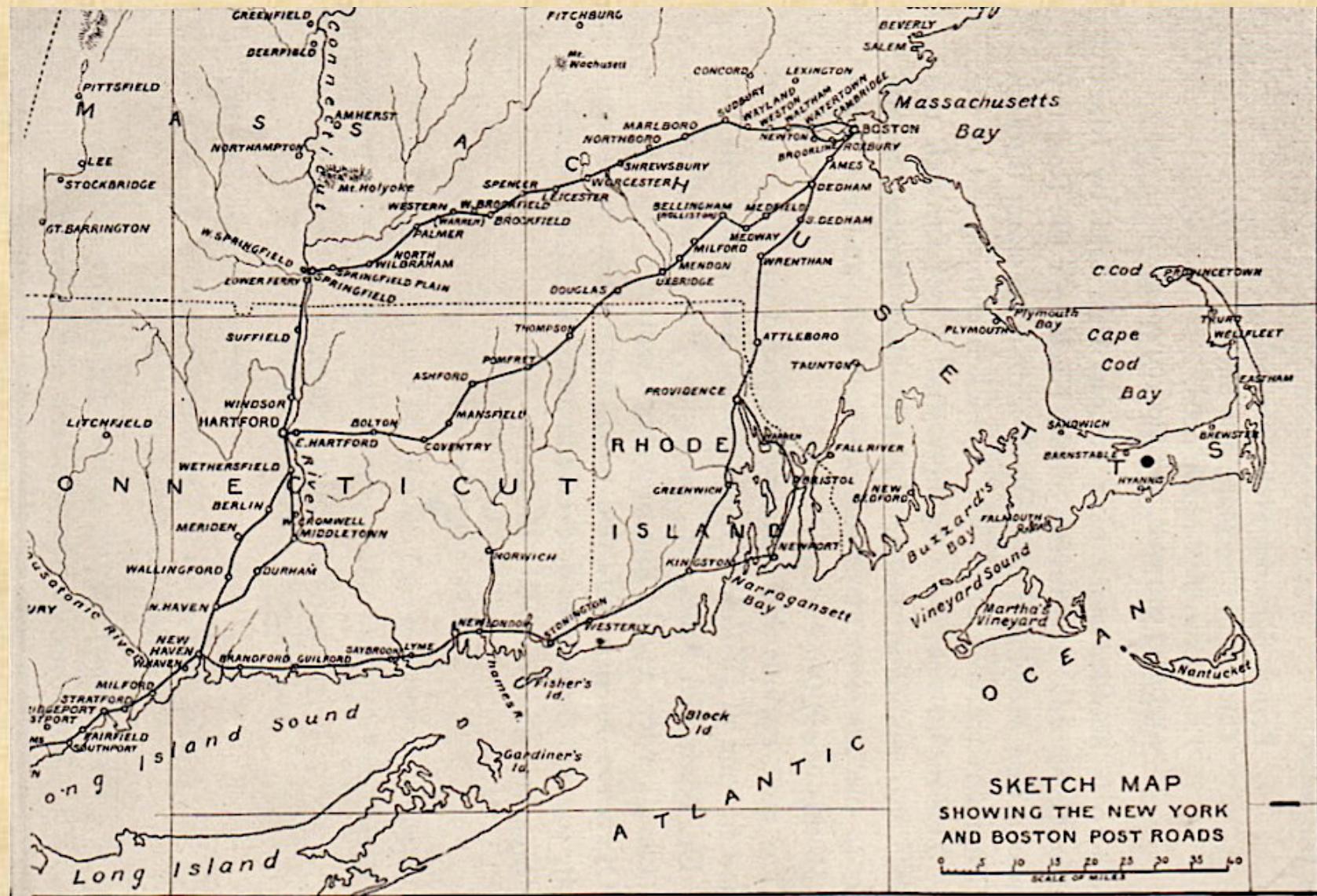
Rebuilt and extended roads

1790 and 1820: More than 3,700 miles of toll roads were built in New England

Better construction and maintenance

Stagecoaches offered safe, reliable transport
8-9 miles/hour





SKETCH MAP
SHOWING THE NEW YORK
AND BOSTON POST ROADS

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40
SCALE OF MILES

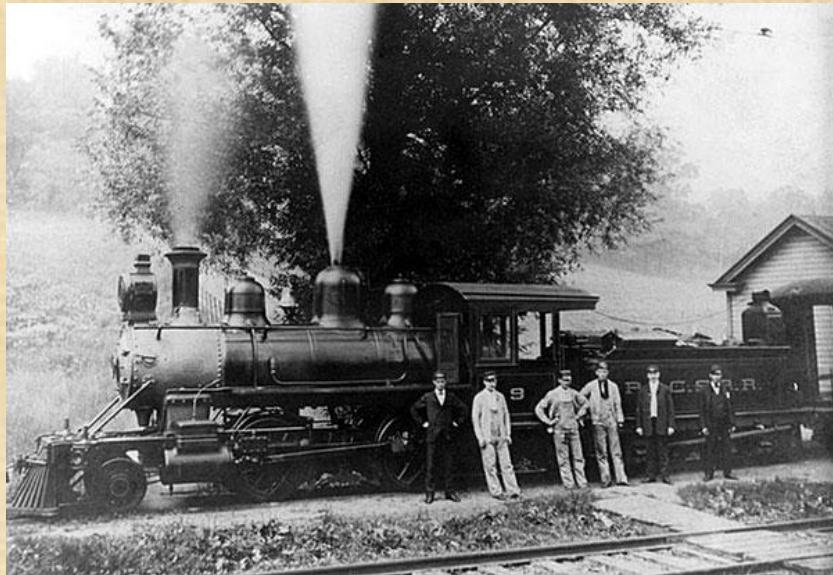
Transportation Revolution

Railroad

Railroads opened the frontier to settlement and linked markets

1840s: 3,000 miles of track

15-20 miles/hour







John Gast, American Progress, 1872.
Chromolithograph published by George A. Crofutt.
Source: Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

RISE OF AMERICAN CITIES

The United States in the early 1800s was a place of rapid growth and change.

New York City's population tripled after 1810, to more than 300,000 by 1840.

Poor neighborhoods were crowded – with people, horses, and scavenging rats and pigs.

The waste from these animals and from overflowing outhouses mixed with the byproducts from slaughterhouses, tanneries, and distilleries filled the streets and air with horrendous odors.



Trash piled high in NYC (1893)

Sanitation services were limited.

Fire fighting services were privatized and undependable.



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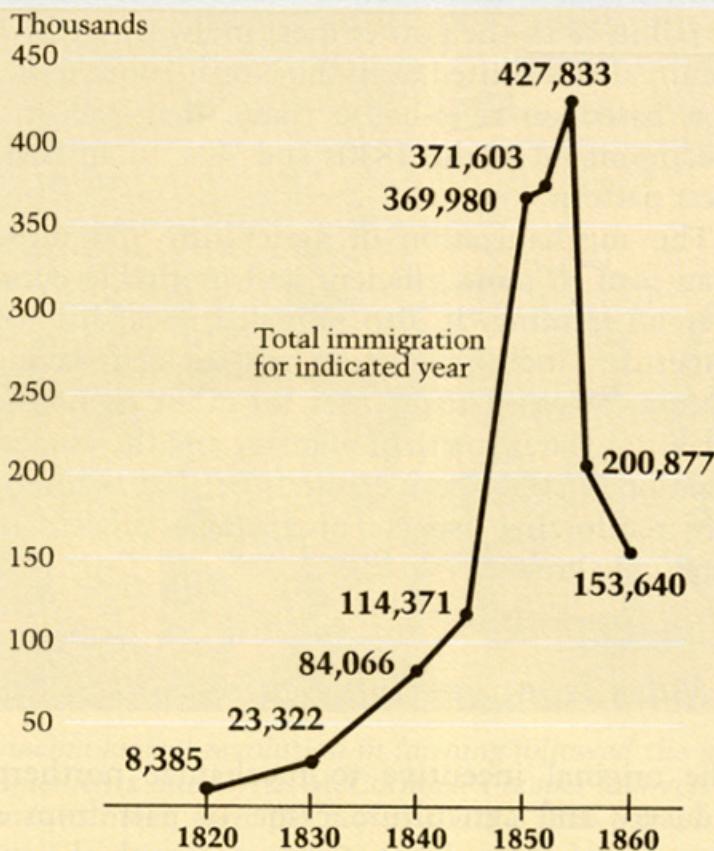
Disease hit poor neighborhoods hardest:

- * they were over-crowded,
- * they included factories,
- * they received fewer sanitation services from the city



New York City's “Five Points”

Immigration to the United States, 1820–1860



Early 19th century US was a place of rapid growth and change.

NYC's population tripled to more than 300,000 by 1840.

1830-1850, foreign-born population of NYC increased from **9% to 46%**.

Immigration

Economic expansion fueled a **demand for labor**

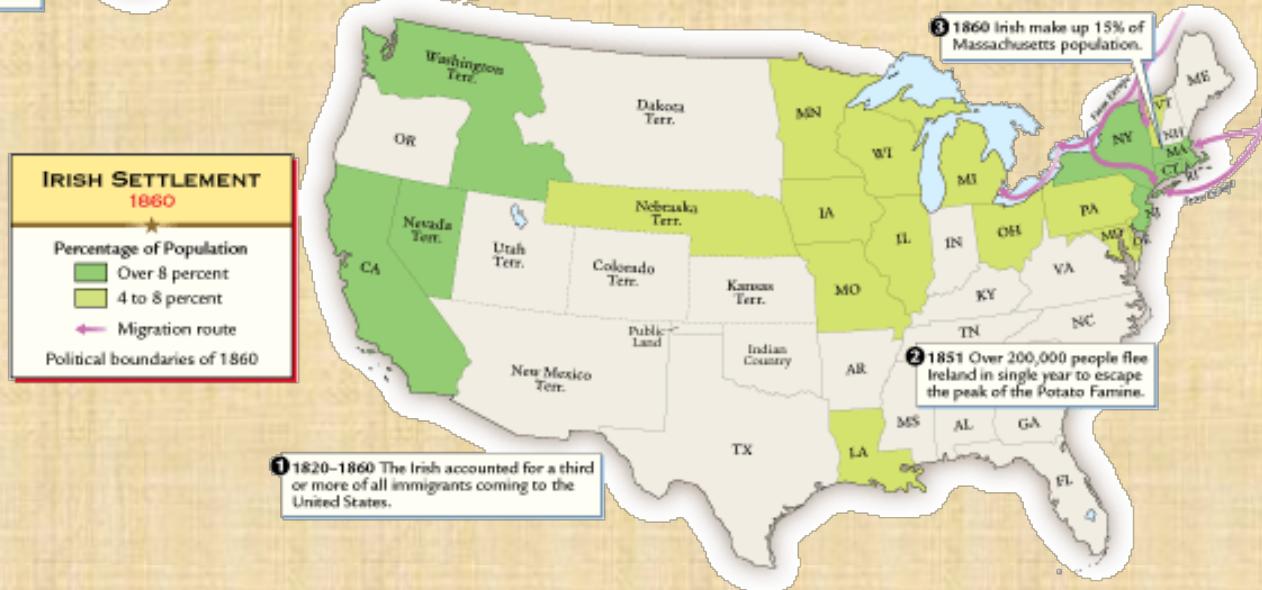
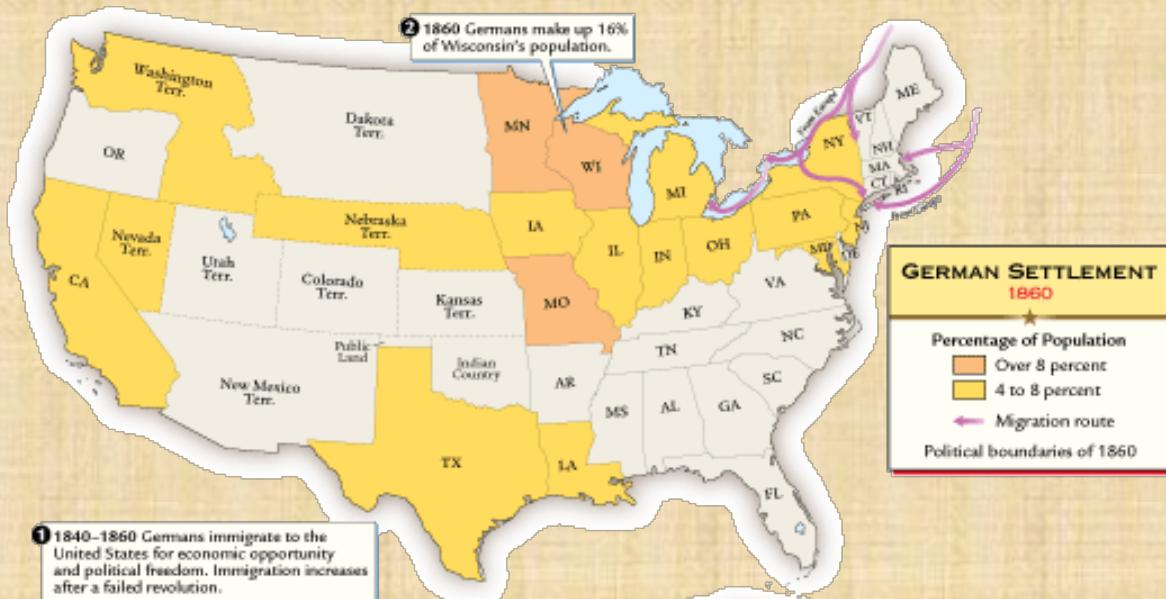
→ increased **immigration** from abroad

Push/Pull factors

- Failed European revolutions (1848)
- Irish famine
 - 1 million died/1 million immigrated
- Religious and political freedoms
- Steamship

Irish v. German Immigrants





Immigration

Increased religious tensions

Until 1840, the American Catholic population was a small minority of wealthy English

After 1840, diverse mass of urban and rural immigrants

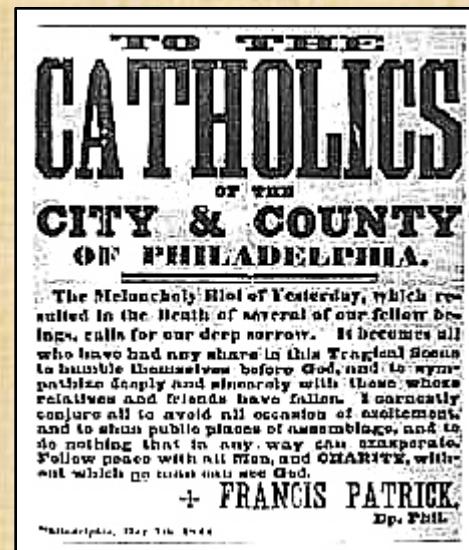
- many different countries
- spoke different languages
- held different social statuses

Rise of Nativism

Those who feared the impact of immigration on American political and social life were called nativists.

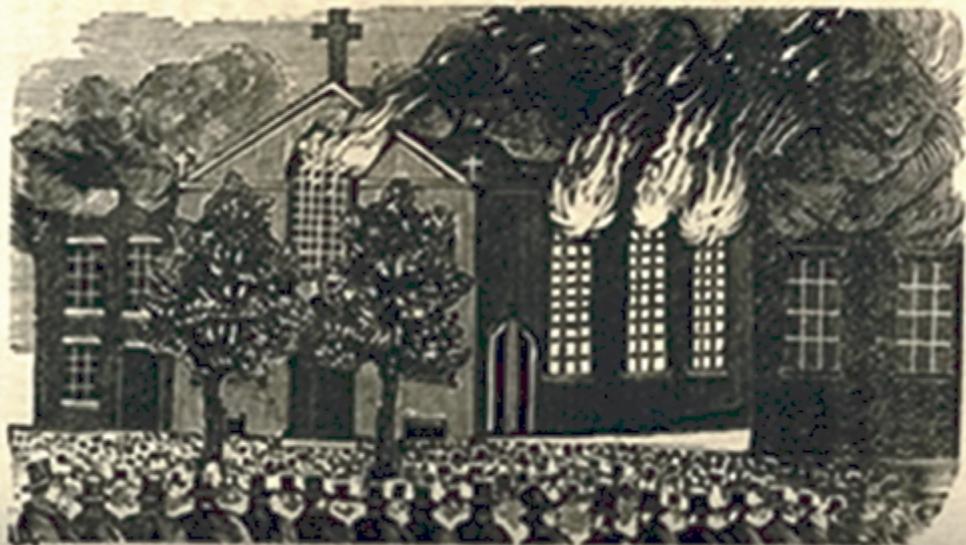
They blamed immigrants for:

- a. Urban crime
- b. Political corruption
- c. Alcohol abuses
- d. Undercutting wages

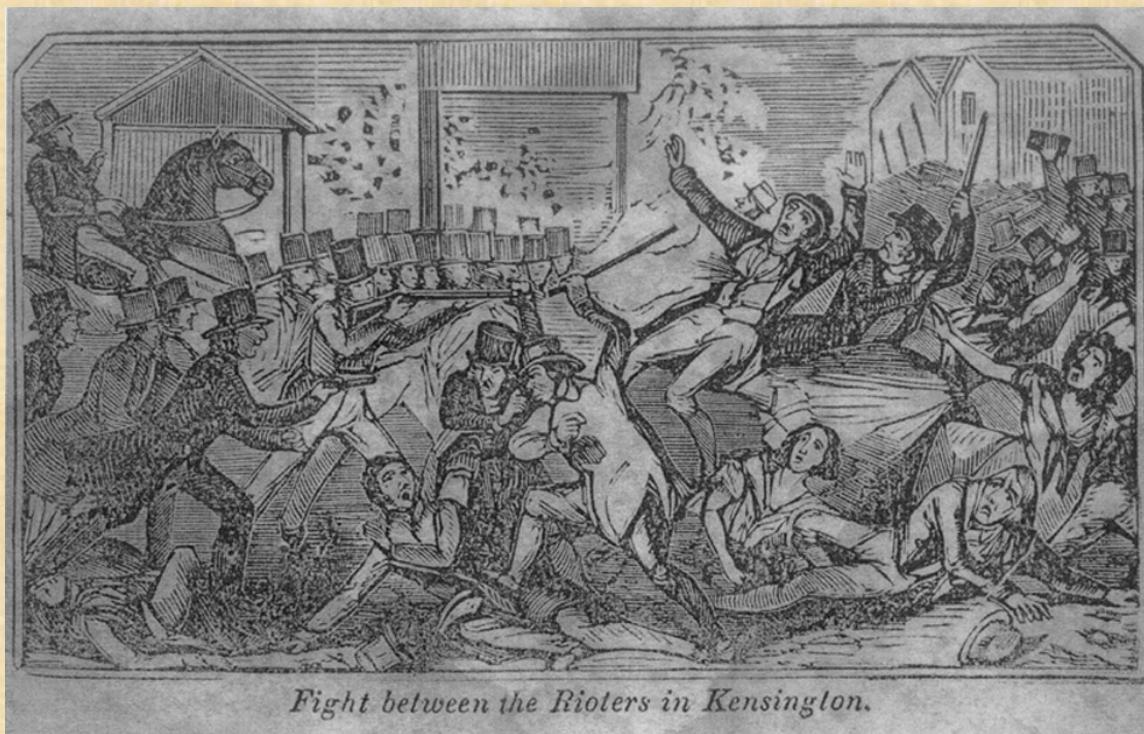


Philadelphia Nativist Riots (1844)

Burning of St. Michael's Church, on Wednesday afternoon, May 2.



West View, on Second street, with the Residence of the Rev. Mr. Donahue.



Fight between the Rioters in Kensington.

AMERICAN CITIZENS!

We appeal to you in all calmness. Is it not time to pause? Already the enemies of our dearest institutions, like the foreign spies in the Trojan horse of old, are within our gates. They are disgorging themselves upon us, at the rate of HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS EVERY YEAR! They aim at nothing short of conquest and supremacy over us.

A PAPER ENTITLED THE



IN FAVOR OF

The protection of American Mechanics
against Foreign Pauper Labor.

Foreigners having a residence in the
country of 21 years before voting.

Our present Free School System.

Carrying out the laws of the State, as
regards sending back Foreign Paupers
and Criminals.

OPPOSED TO

Papal Aggression & Roman Catholicism.
Foreigners holding office.

Raising Foreign Military Companies in
the United States.

Nunneries and the Jesuits.

To being taxed for the support of Foreign
paupers millions of dollars yearly.

To secret Foreign Orders in the U. S.

We are burdened with enormous
taxes by foreigners. We are corrupted
in the morals of our youth. We are
interfered with in our government. We
are forced into collisions with other
nations. We are tampered with in
our religion. We are injured in our la-
bor. We are assailed in our freedom of
speech.

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And for Sale at the Periodical Depots in this place. Single copies 4 Cents.**

CONCLUSIONS?

What does this tell us about the emerging American economy?

How will this impact American culture?

Possible critiques?