

Antebellum Slavery: Abolitionism and Proslavery Arguments

U.S. History to 1877

Abolitionism

- Northern racism
- Colonization: Liberia
- From out of revivalism: abolitionism
 - Slavery as a sinful institution
 - No protection of women or family
 - Slaveowner responsible to no one for his actions
 - Superiority of free labor
 - Moderates: Theodore Dwight Weld
 - Radicals: William Lloyd Garrison
 - Blacks: Frederick Douglass
- Violent opposition
 - Elijah Lovejoy, Alton, Illinois, 1837

“Necessary evil” to “positive good”

- Bible supports slavery
 - The churches’ “cultural captivity”: staunch defenders of slavery
 - Story of Ham
 - “Slaves, obey your masters”
- Paternalism
- Anti-industrialism
- George Fitzhugh
 - *Sociology for the South*, 1854; *Cannibals All!*, 1857
- “Superiority” of Southern culture
- Lessons of emancipation: Haiti, 1790s; British empire, 1833

The Woman’s Movement

- Abolitionist experience
- “Domestic slavery”
- Seneca Falls Convention, 1848
 - Elizabeth Cady Stanton
 - Lucretia Mott
 - “Declaration of Sentiments”