

Miscellaneous religious-themed substantive facts, colonial/settlement-era

Many settlers came to America to escape religious persecution in their native countries

- ✚ However, *once here most practiced their own faith while feeling free to persecute any which differed from them!*
- ✚ Many religious groups expelled/banished dissenters from their colonies
- ✚ Anne Hutchinson 1638; labeled as an Antinomianism by Massachusetts clergy

States founded with purposeful intent

- ✚ Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland colonies: conceived of and established as “plantations of religion”
- ✚ Virginia colony. While planned as a commercial venture, it was led by highly active Protestants
- ✚ Rhode Island was founded on the premise of religious freedom for all.
 - Founded by Roger William, after his banishment

John Winthrop offers a utopian vision of the future in his “City Upon A Hill” sermon in 1630

Puritans were British Protestants

“Bible Commonwealth” refers to the New England colonies who sought guidance from the Scriptures in many aspects of their lives.

- ✚ Example: Scripture is cited as authority for many criminal statutes.

1634, *Freedom of religion was first applied as a principle of government in the founding of the colony of Maryland*, founded by Lord Baltimore.

1639, Virginia enacts anti-Quaker laws

1649, ‘Maryland Toleration Act’, drafted by Lord Baltimore, provided for legal protections of religious freedoms.

- Repealed by Protestant assemblymen
- 1658, Lord Baltimore again passes the law
- Rescinded again in 1689 by Protestants

23 Jewish refugees from Dutch Brazil arrive at New Amsterdam (later called New York City) in 1654; another group arrived at Newport, RI in 1658

Quakers were radical Puritans; Quakers carried to the extreme many Puritan convictions

Highlights of Religious Movements - Miscellaneous Events -

Miscellaneous religious-themed substantive facts, colonial/revolutionary-era

Religious tensions – 1700, Massachusetts passes a law ordering all Roman Catholic priests to leave the colony within three months, upon penalty of life imprisonment or execution. New York follows with a similar law.

Reflecting on 17th Century intolerance, Thomas Jefferson was unwilling to concede to Virginians any sense of moral superiority to the majority Puritans

The phrase “Wall of Separation” was first used by Thomas Jefferson in a letter of assurance the Danbury Baptists in 1802

- ✚ To Jefferson, *this ‘wall’ was to protect religion from government interference, and to protect the government from religious interference, as well as the individual from religion.*

Relevant Terms, Concepts and Vocabulary

- ✚ “*Great Awakening*” refers to a period of societal religious revival and/or periodic revolution in United States religious thought.
- ✚ “*Bible Belt*” refers to the southeast region of the States, which is socially conservative and highly religious (evangelical)
- ✚ “*Heretics*” refers to those who do not conform to the prevailing religious thought
- ✚ “*Antinomianism*” refers to the idea that members of a religious group are under no obligation to obey the laws of ethics or morality as presented by religious authorities
- ✚ “*Enlightenment*” was an intellectual movement with both skepticism and confidence in human reason.
- ✚ “*Anti-Semitism*: refers to fear or dislike of Jewish peoples and Jewish culture. This prejudice toward culture is what distinguishes it from other types of racism.
- ✚ “*Deism*” stressed morality and rejected the orthodox Christian view of the divinity of Christ.
 - Notable Deists include Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, James Madison and Thomas Jefferson

Miscellaneous religious-themed substantive facts, 19th Century United States

‘*Benevolent Societies*’ Originally devoted to the salvation of souls, they eventually focused on the eradication of every kind of social ill.

1840s witnessed much anti-Mormon persecution and violence

1878 Reynolds v. United States

- The U.S. supreme court concluded that “religious duty” was not a suitable defense to an indictment for polygamy; therefore, a law against polygamy is not legally considered to discriminate against a religion that endorses polygamy

Ku Klux Klan

- ✚ Founded in 1866 by veterans of the Confederate army; revitalized in 1915
- ✚ White supremacists, racist, anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic, homophobic, anti-communist, anti-immigrant
- ✚ They used means of intimidation, terrorism, cross burning, lynching, murder and violence

1840a Protestants are alarmed by the influx of Catholic immigrants; leads to violence

Scapegoating is common

- ✚ “*Scapegoat*” means to blame others for the ills of society. Examples . . .
 - Irish Catholic immigrants are blamed for raising United States taxes
 - Jews are blamed for taking jobs away from citizens

“Know Nothing Party”

- ✚ An American political party which was later renamed the “American Party”
- ✚ 1854, its political platform included condemnation of the Catholic Church and it strove to stop immigration

General Order nr.1 (during the Civil War)

- ✚ Issued by General Grant in 1864, it would have expelling all Jews from land his Union army controlled
- ✚ Rescinded by President Abraham Lincoln

Anti-Semitism is rampant throughout American history. It is particularly bad after 1880. (In response to the increased immigration of Jews between 1880-1914)

Miscellaneous religious-themed substantive facts, 20th Century United States

1900, half of the United States population is estimated to be of some Catholic denomination

1928 Democratic Presidential candidate Al Smith was greeted by a wave of anti-Catholic hysteria

- ✚ This contributed directly to his defeat
- ✚ It was rumored that every decision he would make would have to be cleared by the Pope in Rome

Radio speeches by Father Coughlin in the mid-1930s; he attacked FDR’s New Deal and Jews

Charles Lindbergh and Henry Ford both are anti-Semitic. Evidence . . .

- ✚ Lindbergh was a Nazi sympathizer
- ✚ Ford wrote anti-Semitic diatribes and funded the printing of the Protocols of the elders of Zion, a notoriously false document.

1960s Catholicism mainstreamed, with Democrat John Kennedy elected President

- ✚ He directly addressed the issue in a major speech.

1978, Freedom of Religion Act

1994 Board of Education of Kiryas Joel Village School District v. Grumet, Supreme Court Justice David Souter wrote in the opinion for the Court that: “government should not prefer one religion to another, or religion to irreligion”.

2008 Mitt Romney, a Mormon, wins several states in the Republican presidential primaries

- ✚ Exit polls reveal that in the Eastern and Western states religion was no consideration, while in the Bible Belt his Mormonism was viewed as a reason to vote against him.
- ✚ In 2012 he wins the nomination, but loses the presidential election to Obama.

American history has experienced four distinct Great Awakenings, each of which accompanied by distinct characteristics

1730-1760 First Awakening

1800-1830 Second Awakening

1850-1900 Third Awakening

1960-1970 Fourth Awakening

(See reverse for specifics)

“First Great Awakening” 1730-1760

The Awakening changed the conduct of religious engagement

- ✦ “Old Light” Pre-Awakening: traditional rationalist clergy listening passively to intellectual discourse in a detached manner.
- ✦ “New Light” Awakening: revivalist ministers engaged passionately and emotionally. It moved away from ritual and ceremony.
- ✦ This incited rancor and division between the old traditionalists who insisted on ritual and doctrine, and the new revisionists.

Began with Jonathan Edwards

- ✦ Sermon “Sinners in Hand of an Angry God” ‘41
- ✦ He emphasized the importance and power of immediate, personal religious experiences
- ✦ Devoted to gender equity, as evidenced by his portrayal of the Biblical Eve.
- ✦ He did not believe that scientific discoveries threatened faith; “the laws of nature derived from God.”
- ✦ Supported by Methodist preacher George Whitefield, a friend of Benjamin Franklin.

Decline in influence by Anglicans, Quakers and Congregationalists; Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists influence increase.

In a backlash against the Awakening, Jon Mayhew argued for Unitarianism; Unitarianism directly opposed Christian doctrine.

To what extent did the Great Awakening prime the population for the Revolutionary War?

- ✦ Awakening encouraged American regional nationalism
- ✦ Radical and democratic social and political ideology (relative to England) was introduced
- ✦ Sought to repudiate the materialistic, acquisitive, corrupt world of an affluent colonial society. The source of this corruption was seen as England.
- ✦ Cultural deference – a willingness of colonists to defer leadership to upper classes (and religious leaders); the poor never tried to exert control.
- ✦ Religion offered a moral sanction for some to oppose the British, an assurance to the average colonist that the revolution was justified in the sight of God.
- ✦ Challenged the accepted social stratification. Why? The views of “all are created equal before God; all can be saved; value is in moral behavior, not class” ideas resonate.

A clear relationship between church membership and wealth emerged; societal elites dominated the group, leaving disenfranchised commoners.

The Awakening focused on people who were already churchgoers

The Awakening brought Christianity to slaves.

- ✦ Many owners are hesitant about this, worried of the implications that becoming baptized Christian would give the slaves.
- ✦ Owners are reluctant to be on an equal footing with slaves, even religiously in God’s eyes.
- ✦ Limited impact; many Africans often retained their own spiritual identity and practices.

The Revolutionary War will have several unforeseen impacts on the Awakening.

- ✦ Several denominations were split.
 - Notable was the Church of England, whose ministers were bound by oath to support the King (the center of the church) and the Quakers, who were traditional pacifists.
 - Religious Tory’s were viewed as spies
 - Religious practices suffered in some places due to the absence of ministers and the destruction of churches

The revolution strengthened a millennialist strain in United States religious thought

- ✦ That is, the idea of 1,000 years of peace before the Final Judgment.

“Second Great Awakening” 1800-1830

The second Great Awakening encouraged an eager evangelical attitude that will reappear in American life in societal causes dealing with prison reform, temperance (anti-alcohol), women’s suffrage and the crusade against slavery

- Antebellum reform – the period of social activism in New England on all those topics prior to the Civil War.

“Burned over district”, a region of NY which has been “scorched” by so many revivals.

Similar characteristics to 1st Awakening, but the emotional displays of the 2nd are quieter/calmer

Missionary practices begin; groups actively seek to convert others to their faith

- ✦ Except Judaism; Jews historically have not sought to convert others to their faith

Methodist and Baptist numbers increase during this era; Presbyterian’s membership holds stable Nondenominational groups emerge

Several significant leaders...

- ✦ Charles Grandison Finney
- ✦ Dorothea Dix; Unitarianism; she sought to make prison conditions better, and wrote Memorial in 1843
- ✦ Theodore Weld; an abolitionist
- ✦ Lyman Beecher; pro-slavery student riot threatened his efforts in Cincinnati, Ohio
- ✦ Phoebe Palmer; Methodist
- ✦ Joseph Smith Jr, founder of Mormonism
- ✦ Angelica Grimke, an abolitionist
- ✦ James Finley; argued that moral perfection was attainable

The Second Great Awakening spread partially as a backlash against the spread of rationalism, and in part to make religious more accessible to common people.

In the Appalachian region, camp meetings were promoted.

- ✦ Settlers were scattered in sparsely populated areas and saw the meetings as a refuge from isolation.
- ✦ Revival spreads quickly in Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee

A frequent theme is “triumph over sin”

1830, publication of the Book of Mormon in New York aroused great animosity among Protestants

Women felt empowered and enabled by their involvement in the Awakening. This contributed to the emerging suffrage movement

1830s the Transcendentalism Movement argued knowledge did not come exclusively through the intellect, but through the senses, intuition and sudden insight.

- ✦ Believed concepts of God, freedom and absolute truth were inborn and could be accessed through inner experiences and emotional openness.
- ✦ Adherents: Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau

Between 1794-1807, Thomas Payne published “The Age of Reason” which objects to all organized religions.

- ✦ Critics charge it is a defense of atheists

“Third Great Awakening” 1850-1900

The Awakening affected both sides of the Civil War, but in different ways

- ✦ North: war interrupted the Awakening
- ✦ South: the war stimulated the Awakening
 - Notable adherent: Stonewall Jackson

Awakening activists directly challenges the Gilded Age plutocracy (‘plutocracy’ means rule by the wealthy)

- ✦ These activists will also influence reforms in the Progressive Era

YMCA (“Young Men’s Christian Association” is powerful; founded in London; came to the United States (Boston) in 1851

With Jane Adamms Hull House in Chicago, settlement house movements and the vocation of social work were deeply influenced by the Tolstoyan reworking of Christian idealism

Senator John Calhoun of South Carolina (died 1850) devoted his adult life toward offering a Biblical support for the institution of slavery; these arguments will gain traction in the south after his death.

Highlights of Religious Movements Across American History, Settlement to the Fourth Awakening - Brief Overview of Awakenings -

“Fourth Great Awakening” 1960-1970

Protestant churches weaken sharply in membership and influence

Traditional religious denominations grow in numbers, including the Southern Baptists and Missouri Lutherans

Evangelical and fundamentalist denominations expand rapidly

Secularism grows dramatically

Conservative churches saw themselves battling secularism on politically-orientated issues (creationism, abortion, gay rights)

Name: _____

Period: _____ Date: _____

Questions relating to the First Awakening

1. What was the “Enlightenment?”
2. What is the importance of Jonathan Edwards?
3. How did the awakening affect slavery?
4. To what does “Antinomianism” refer?
5. What is “Deism”?
6. List some notable Deists.
- 7-12. To what extent did the Great Awakening prime the population for the Revolutionary War?
 - A
 - B
 - C
 - D
 - E
 - F
- 13-15. What was the impact of the Revolution War on the Awakening?
 - A
 - B
 - C

Questions relating to the Second Awakening

1. What will the Second Awakening do?
2. How did Protestants respond to the Book of Mormon in 1830?
3. To what does “Bible Belt” refer?
4. In what ways did Judaism differ from the missionary practices of the other faith?
5. What did the Transcendentalism Movement argue?
6. What did Thomas Payne argue in “The Age of Reason”
7. What did Jefferson argue to the Danbury Baptists?

Questions relating to the Third Awakening

1. How will the Awakening affect both sides in the Civil War?
2. What is anti-Semitism?
3. What was Grants ‘General Order nr.1’
4. What does ‘Scapegoating’ mean?
5. What was Reynolds v. United States
6. What does ‘Heretics’ mean?
8. Why did the Second Awakening spread?