

## The Anti-Slavery Movement

There were two sects within the movement

**Moderates** – favored gradual abolition

**Radicals** – wanted immediate abolition and freeing of all without compensating their owners

The Second Great Awakening convinced Northerners that slavery was a sin.

- It restricted the possibility of any compromise
- It created radical abolitionism

### American Colonization Society

Set up in 1817 it transported freed slaves to a newly created African colony named **Liberia**, the capital being Monrovia.

It was strongly supported by both moderate abolitionists and politicians

However, it was never a practical option. Between 1820-1860, the slave population in America grew from 1.5 to 4 million but only 12,000 African Americans went back to Liberia.

### American Antislavery Society

Created in 1831 by William Lloyd Garrison (also the founder of the abolitionist newspaper “*The Liberator*”

1. A radical movement
2. Demanded immediate abolition in every state and territory with no compensations
3. Condemned and burnt the Constitution in public as it was a “proslavery document.”
4. Argued “no union with slaveholders”
5. Used the slogan “repent for your sins, free your slaves”

### Black Abolitionists

This movement consisted of escaped slaves and free blacks who were outspoken and convincing to many critics. Frederick Douglass (an early follower of William Lloyd Garrison) openly spoke from firsthand experience

In 1847 the Anti-slavery Journal “The North Star” was printed.

Many others such as Harriet Tubman, David Ruggles, Sojourner Truth and William Still helped organize escapes to the North and Canada by the

**Underground Railroad.**

## The Liberty Party

Created from the beliefs of Garrison these members believed that politics was a better way to end slavery. James Birney ran for president in both the 1840 and 1844 elections. His campaign pledge was to end slavery by political and legal means.

## Violent Abolitionism

There were several cases within the nation but two of note were:-  
David Walker and Henry Highland Garnet were two northern blacks who led revolts of slaves against their masters

In 1831 a Virginia slave, **Nat Turner** (Nat Turner's Revolt) led a similar revolt. In the end, 55 whites were killed however, in retaliation, the whites killed hundreds of blacks.

Other reforms of note during this time period

1. **American Peace Society** – founded in 1828  
A goal to abolish war and influenced some New Englanders to oppose the Mexican War
2. Laws were passed to protect seamen from **floggings**
3. **Dietary reforms** were promoted for better digestion, such as eating whole wheat bread and Sylvester Graham's famous crackers
4. Women saw **dress reforms**. A trend was to wear Amelia Bloomer's pantalettes instead of long skirts.
5. A new pseudoscience called **Phrenology** began to study the shape of a person's skull to assess their character and ability.

During these times, the South stayed traditional in its ways. It was slow to support public education and humanitarian reforms. It viewed such social reforms as a Northern conspiracy against the Southern way of life.