

# A United Nation?

*Expansion and Reform*  
*(1801–1861)*



Politics and economics

Rising sectionalism

**19<sup>th</sup>-century reform**

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will know about the following aspects of 19<sup>th</sup>-century reform:

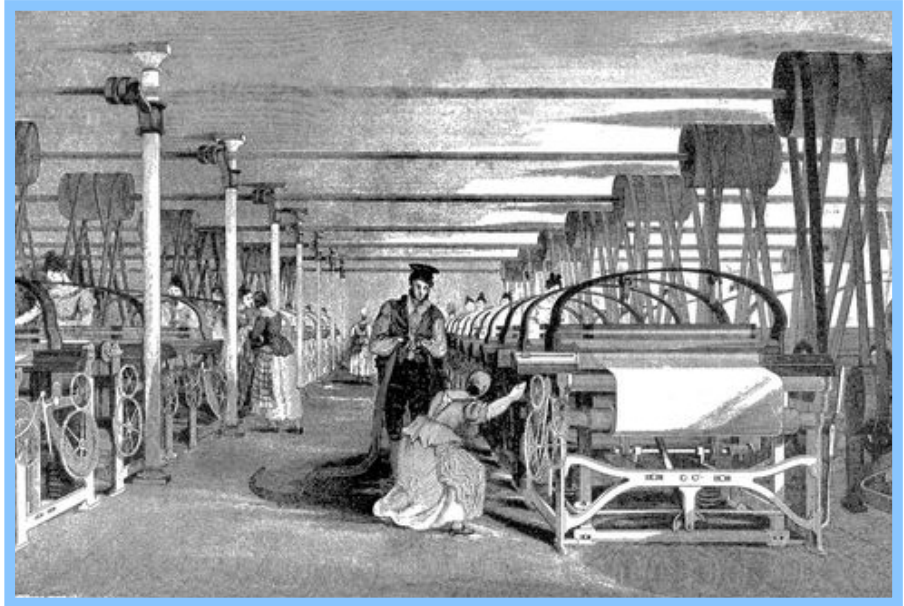
- The Second Great Awakening
- Women and reform
- Reforms in education, prisons, asylums, temperance and abolition
- Early women's rights movements and the Seneca Falls Convention.



During the Industrial Revolution, people saw that structure and organization made manufacturing more efficient.

Some wondered if this principle could be applied to society in general.

**Reformers** believed that, through diligence, order and method, society could attain perfection.





The **Second Great Awakening** in the early 1800s was a massive revival of religious feeling in the U.S. The resulting fervor led some people to attempt to create utopian communities on Earth.

Press **start** to learn more.

**start**





Before industrialization, men and women worked at home. As jobs moved into factories and offices, so did the men.



Because women were isolated at home, people believed they were above the temptations of the public world.

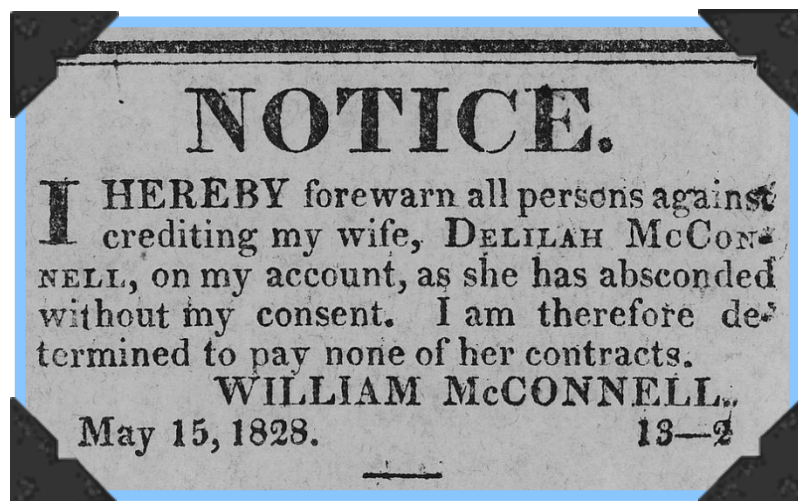
This tradition, later called the **cult of domesticity**, held that middle-class women must maintain loving and pious homes for their husbands and nurture the next generation of leaders.

Is this belief empowering or demeaning?



Women who did work outside the home were paid half as much as the men who did the same jobs.

In the early 1800s, women could not vote or serve on juries. Married women could not own property or win custody of their children in a divorce.



However, beliefs about superior female morality allowed middle-class women to get involved in reform movements.



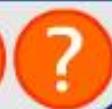
The early 1800s saw the rise of many reform movements across the country.

As Americans developed a sense of national unity, they felt a duty to improve the lives of their fellow citizens.

Whatever their reasons, reformers were united in several major movements.

Press **start** to learn more.

start



How have these reforms shaped the nation?

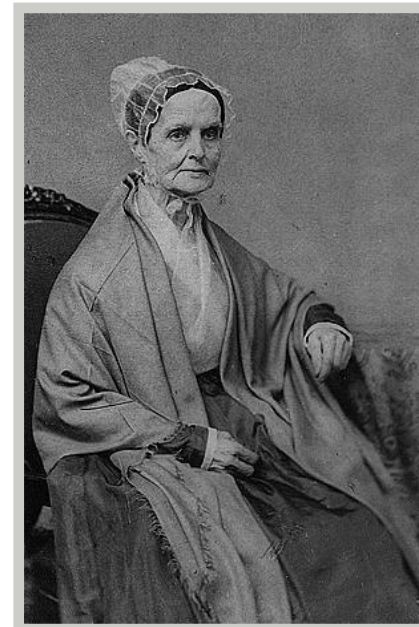




As female reformers championed the rights of others, they began to notice their own limited freedom.



When **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** and **Lucretia Mott** were forbidden from speaking at an antislavery convention, they set out to form a new movement.



In 1848, roughly 300 men and women attended the **Seneca Falls Convention** where Stanton presented the **Declaration of Sentiments**, demanding more equal rights for women.

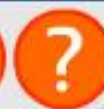




The Seneca Falls Convention started a national movement. In 1850, the first annual **National Women's Rights Convention** took place in Worcester, MA. Throughout the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many female reformers became powerful voices for equal rights. Can you match these reformers to their descriptions?

Press **start** to begin.

start



What do these women have in common?





Test your knowledge of early-19<sup>th</sup> century  
America with this quiz.

Choose the correct answer to each  
question to see how much you can  
remember.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Test your understanding of the early 1800s  
by recapping key terms and important  
people using this glossary.

Press on the tabs and then each term to  
see a definition.

Press **start** to begin.

start

