Fitzgerald

Key Ideas from *The Abolitionists*

**William Lloyd Garrison**

* from Massachusetts
* father left family when he was 2, mother didn't live with family because she had to work, very poor
* very religious
* worked for a newspaper in Baltimore that was about freeing slaves and sending them back to Africa
* lived with black people there and went to church with them
* he was put in jail for a year in Baltimore for saying that a slave trader was evil
* went back to Boston and started a newspaper to convince people slavery was wrong and needed to be abolished and all men were equal
	+ called *The Liberator*
	+ in 1830
	+ in first edition, stated "*I am in earnest -- I will not equivocate -- I will not excuse -- I will not retreat a single inch -- and I WILL BE HEARD."*
* 1832- helped start the American Anti-Slavery Society - quickly grew to 100s of chapters and 10,000s of supporters
* believed only peaceful methods should be used - should just speak and write about how morally wrong slavery was
* accused of causing the Nat Turner Rebellion - Nat Turner was a slave who led a band or armed slaves who killed Whites in Virginia and escaped capture for 68 days
* wrote pamphlets against slavery and sent 100,000s of them into the South to ministers and elected officials
	+ pamphlets were burned and the government of South Carolina offered $15,000 to anyone who would kill Garrison
	+ a mob in Boston tried to kill him and he had to be out in jail just to be protected from them
* published a letter from Angelina Grimke and got her to work with the American Anti-Slavery Society as a speaker
* supported Angelina and Sarah Grimke when they insisted it was their right to speak to audiences containing men, though others thought it was improper and should stop
* started to believe that all of American society was under the influence of evil because of the anger of even Northerners about his work
* The American Anti-Slavery Society lost many supporters because of his beliefs
	+ equality of races
	+ equality of women
	+ the compromises made concerning slavery in the Constitution made it a "agreement with Hell"
	+ the union should be dissolved
	+ should refuse to participate in American electoral politics, as it was corrupted by its relationship with slavery
	+ the need to only protest peacefully
* Supports the Civil War when it begins and fights to make it a war that will end slavery
* Emancipation Proclamation to be issued on News Years Day 1863
	+ Every enslaved person in the South was free.
	+ Allows black men to fight a soldiers.
		- Garrison’s son joins
* Garrison, Douglass, an Stowe meet president at White House.
* Lincoln invites Garrison to raise the flag over Fort Sumter when it is finally recaptured four years after the South had fired on it
	+ 10, 000 freed slaves show up and carry Garrison on their shoulders around square.
	+ One man approaches and thanks Garrison for freeing them and allowing them to be with their children, saying "Sir, here you see your handiwork. We welcome you and look upon you as our savior."
	+ Garrison says he has no language to express the feelings of his heart.
* December 1865 – 13 amendment added to the Constitution. 1803 issues all set by hand. Last one printed to announce 13th.
* Douglass gives eulogy when Garrison dies in 1879.

**Angelina Grimke**

* born in South Carolina
* from a very prominent family that was rich and had many slaves - witnessed cruelty of slavery
* believed slavery was evil and that slave owners would go to hell - tried to tell family, but family wouldn't listen
* left home - went to Pennsylvania with no money or way to support self - sister lived there
* at first didn't speak about her ideas because afraid her family would be in danger in South Carolina
* became a Quaker
* wrote a letter to Garrison to show her support and express what she witnessed as a slave owner - he printed it

without her consent in The Liberator

* joined the American Anti-Slavery Society
* wrote the pamphlet An Appeal to Christian Women of the South trying to convince Southern women to join the antislavery movement - would now be jailed if she ever returned home
* she and her sister became the first female speakers in the American Anti-Slavery Society - spoke about first-hand experience with evils of slavery
* met Theodore Weld, one of the leaders of American Anti-Slavery Society, who helped train her to speak
* attacked for speaking in public to audience that contained men - stood up for herself
* Garrison supporter her belief in the rights of women, but Theodore Weld thought she should only concentrate on freeing slaves
* became ill with typhoid fever
* wrote to Weld sticking up for women's rights again
* Weld told her he loved her and they married
* wedding was very different - wrote vow that said she was equal to him, had both a black and a white minister, had both black and white people attend wedding
* wedding caused mobs to form, mobs grew over two days, threatened her by throwing rocks to smash widows where she spoke, burned building where she spoke down the next day
* 1839 - retired from speaking because she was ill and wanted to care for her first child
* 1839 - wrote best-selling book Slavery As It Is - full of evidence from newspapers, posters, pamphlets, and slave owners themselves of all the things she said about slavery, so no one could claim she was lying anymore
* continued to work for anti-slavery and women's rights - attempting to vote in an election in1870, as a protest
* had three children and her sister Sarah lived with her her whole life (as unmarried women could not live alone)

**Frederick Douglass**

* born a slave in Maryland
* witnessed vicious whipping when alone as a six-year-old boy
* worked as a house slave - learned to read
* lived in Baltimore and saw free blacks there
* learned of abolitionists because heard his owner complain of them
* became rebellious - sent to a man who had a business "breaking" rebellious slaves - was beaten horribly every week for 6 months until he fought back - risked death, but fighting back restored his sense of being equal, slave-breaker never anyone because it would ruin his reputation
* fell in love with a free black woman in Baltimore who helps him escape by giving him money and making him clothing that disguised him as a sailor
* escaped to New York City by boat and train, meeting and marrying her there
	+ they move to new Bedford, Massachusetts, a whaling town home to many abolitionists, and works on the docks there
* read *The Liberator* and traveled to hear Garrison speak at a meeting of the Anti-Slavery Society on Nantucket Island and spoke at the meeting himself
* Garrison asked him to become a speaker for the Anti-slavery Society - became very popular
* at the age of 27 - published autobiography *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*
* the book clearly identified him as the slave of Mr. Auld - making recapture a great danger - so he traveled to Great Britain on a speaking tour, where felt free from the prejudice of others for the first time
* British supporters buy his freedom from his owner Thomas Auld
* returned to America and returned to speaking but wanted to start his own newspaper with funds supplied by British friends
* did not discuss the newspaper with Garrison before leaving the speaking tour, which hurts Garrison very much
* moved to Rochester, New York, near the Canadian border and started his newspaper, *The North Star*
* helped escaping slaves reach Canada as a station on the Underground Railroad
* a female friend from Britain came to live with him and his family to help them run the newspaper
* met with John Brown, who told Douglass of his plan to start a war using the Appalachian Mountains as a base, slowly building an army of slaves freed by raiding plantations, and having these slaves fight for the freedom of their people
* came to agree with Brown that peaceful means and persuasion had changed nothing and that violence was justified as self-defense due to the slave owners constant use of violence
* came to disagree with Garrison's view that the Constitution needed to be rejected due to the compromises on slavery and that the North state should leave the nation if it continued to support slavery
* the fight between Douglass and Garrison became very bitter - Douglass accused Garrison of being a racist, and Garrison wrote in *The Liberator* that Douglass was said to have had an affair with the female friend who lived with his family and helped in run *The North Star*
* Douglas met John Brown in the woods of Pennsylvania – brown told him he was planning to set the country ablaze, would attack Harper’s Ferry federal arsenal with 22 men -
	+ Brown said he wanted Doudlass for a special purpose - wanted Douglas to organize the freed slaves
	+ but Douglas refuses and leaves
	+ decision to leave haunted him for rest of his life
* warrant out for his arrest for participation in failed Harper's Ferry attack - authorities found notes connecting Douglas to Brown
* escapes to Canada – wanted because he was a black man
* returns from Canada when the government decides not to prosecute any of Brown’s accomplices because don’t want to create martyrs
* Lincoln becomes candidate for the new Republican Party and is elected without one Southern vote – Southern states secede
* when Congress promises to preserve slavery forever in an attempt to keep South in the union, Douglas decided to leave U.S. for Haiti
* stays when the South begins to fire on Fort Sumter, starting the Civil War
* Emancipation Proclamation to be issued on News Years Day 1863 - Every enslaved person in the South was free.
	+ Allows black men to fight a soldiers.
		- Two of Douglass’s sons join
* Garrison, Douglass, an Stowe meet president at White House.
* Douglass gives eulogy when Garrison dies in 1879.

**Harriet Beecher Stowe**

* from Cincinnati, Ohio
* minister's daughter and later a minister's wife
* on a trip across the Ohio River with friend one day, went to a market, saw a slave auction where a mother was sold away from her son - this changed her
* wanted to be a writer but married young and soon had six children to care for
* her youngest son Charlie died of cholera during an epidemic of the disease in 1850 and she related her grief to that of a slave mother's
* she was very upset when the U.S. started a war with Mexico to take the land of the Southwest, creating new slave territory, and by the Fugitive Slave Act which had been passed as part of the Compromise of 185, which allowed slave hunters to claim that blacks in the North were runaway slaves based on very little more evidence than their word and forced northerners to help capture those accused
* she defied this law by taking in a fugitive slaves soon after
* she was then inspired to write a scene in which the death of slave due to a whipping is described in a way that parallels the crucifixion of Jesus - when she read this scene to her children, they encouraged her to write the novel Uncle Tom’s Cabin  in which this is the end scene
	+ allowed northerners to understand the slaves as suffering humans
	+ so dramatic and suspenseful that it kept readers engaged long enough to deliver the powerful message that all Americans, not just those in the South, are responsible for the evil institution of slavery
	+ has both white and black characters
	+ portrays how slavery operated as a business
	+ buying and selling of humans provide major turns in the plot, focusing on separation of families
	+ some masters kindly and some sadistic.
	+ slave Uncle Tom, a noble character, is sold repeatedly, and eventually falls into the hands of Simon Legree, a sadist drunkard
	+ some escaped slaves risk their lives trying to get to Canada
* first published in installments in a magazine
* appeared as a book in 1852 - sold 300,000 copies in the first year of publication, continued to sell throughout the 1850s, fame spread to Britain and in Europe
* became a widely performed play - reaching even those who could not read

**John Brown**

* struggled with what God wanted from him
* when he was an apprentice as a boy, had seen a slave boy his age who worked with him beaten and treated terribly while he was treated well
* after an abolitionist printer was murdered by a mob, pledged that he would dedicate his life to fighting to end slavery
	+ In 1847, Brown met with Frederick Douglass and outlined his plan for a war
	+ using the Appalachian mountains as a defendable base
	+ raiding down from the mountains into Virginia plantations
	+ freeing slaves and drawing them back into the mountains
	+ steadily building a slave army
	+ allows slaves themselves to fight for the end of slavery
* Douglass stated that Brown, "though a white gentleman, . . . [is] as deeply interested in our cause, as though his own soul had been pierced with the iron of slavery."
* lived among free blacks in upstate New York to support their attempt to start a community of free black farmers
* 1855 - went to Kansas to join sons and his sister and her husband who had gone there part of the wave of people going there from the North to make the territory's state constitution be free, not slave – gathers weapons from supporters to prepare for a battle
* in Kansas participated in guerilla warfare between bands of Northern Free-soilers and Southern Pro-slavery settlers
* Was said to have participated in (but denied) the terroristic murders of five proslavery settlers who were dragged from their cabins and hacked to death with a sword out of revenge for two things
	+ Pro-slavery forces raided and burned many buildings in the Free-soil capital of Lawrence, Kansas
	+ a member of the House of Representatives from South Carolina, Preston Brooks, beat Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts over the head with a cane leaving him for dead on the floor of the Senate
* Returned east to help raise money for the abolitionist cause– met Garrison, who still insists on non-violence – will carry war in Kansas into the South
* March 7, 1857 – deeply upset by Supreme Court Decision in the case of Dred Scott, a slave taken to live in Illinois who sued for freedom – decision stated
	+ Congress cannot make any land “free,” slaves are property and as such can be taken everywhere, black people are inferior, free blacks might lawfully be reduced to slavery for their benefit
* Douglas met John Brown in the woods of Pennsylvania – told Douglass would set the country a blaze, attack Harper’s Ferry Arsenal with 22 men -
	+ said without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin,
	+ asked Douglass how he wanted the world to remember him
	+ said he wanted Douglass for a special purpose - leading the freed slaves
	+ but Douglas leaves
* Raid on Harper's Ferry fails - half dead or dying, Marines arrived under Robert E. Lee, captured Brown and remaining men, found a note connecting Douglas to Brown
* Brown had almost been killed, had to be carried from cell to courtroom
* during trial, through his interviews and speech in court, portrayed himself as a victim of pro-slavery forces, a hero
	+ speech in court - ". . . had I so interfered on behalf of the rich, the powerful, the intelligent, the so-called great, or on behalf of any of their friends . . . and suffered and sacrificed what I have in this interference, it would have been all right; and every man in this court would have deemed it an act worthy of reward rather than punishment.
* sentenced to death and hanged
	+ difference in reactions of North (horror) and South (celebration) exposed the divide that could never be bridged
	+ becomes a martyr (someone who sacrifices his life for a cause)
	+ 4,000 come on the evening of his hanging to hear Garrison speak to a Boston church – labored for peaceful end of slavery to prepared to say success to every slave rebellion in the South

**All Abolitionists** endorse the Civil War as a war to end slavery

* Angelina Grimke reappears
* Douglass and Garrison appear together.
* Harriet Beecher Stowe says the horrible war is divine retribution (God's punishment) - free states had refused to listen will now have own sons experience horrors
	+ her son Frederick never fully recovers.
* Lincoln position on slavery unclear at first
	+ insisted war is about preserving union Upset
	+ supported colonization plans to ship willing slaves back to Africa
	+ discussed offering a peace treaty that would allow slave owners to keep slaves until 1900 if they surrendered
* abolitionists upset with him - believe the Carnage (horrible number of deaths) would be unendurable unless for a higher purpose
	+ Garrison said that Lincoln "education with an among the White trash of Kentucky was unfortunate for his moral development."
	+ Douglass said Lincoln was more concerned with the preservation of slavery than the preservation of humanity.
* Emancipation Proclamation to be issued on News Years Day 1863 if South does not surrender
	+ Every enslaved person in the South was free.
	+ Allows black men to fight a soldiers.
		- Two of Douglass’s sons join
		- Garrison’s son joins.
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