

QUOTES AND CONCEPTS

Cult of Domesticity

- Idealization of women in their roles as wives and mothers during the early 19th century.
- “The mother writes the character of the future man; the sister bends the fibers that hereafter are the forest tree; the wife sways the heart, whose energies may turn for good or for evil the destinies of a nation. Let the women of a country be virtuous and intelligent, and the men will certainly be the same.”

Catherine Beecher

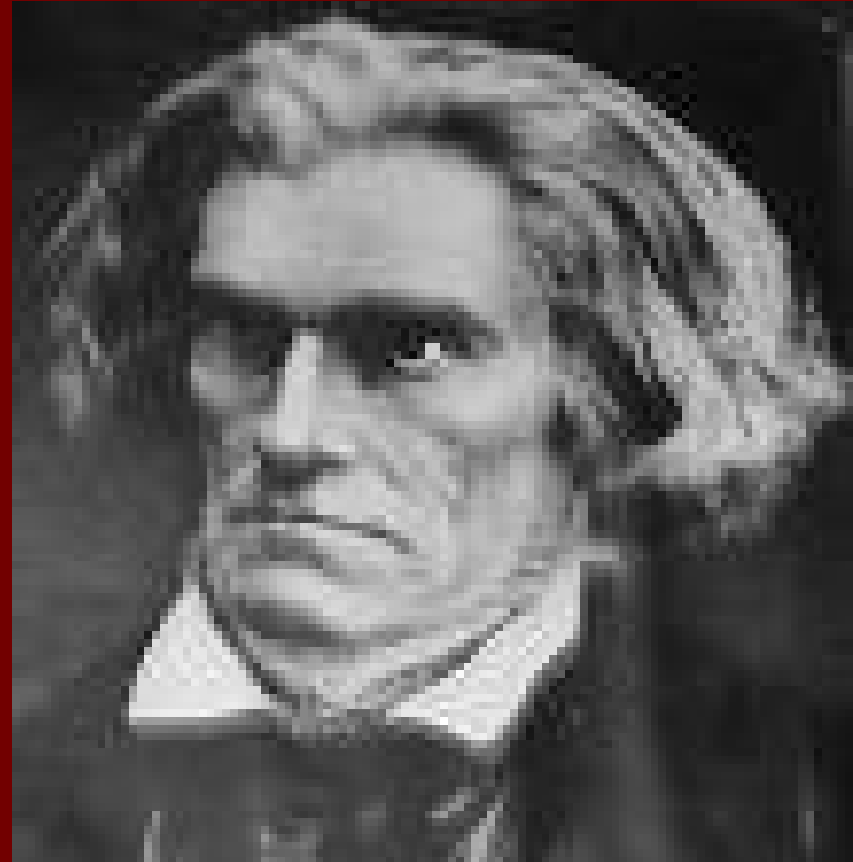
Women's role

- Maintain the home
- Teach the children
- Be a moral guide for her children



Nullification

- First enunciated by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison in the Virginia and Kentucky Resolves
- Proposed by John C Calhoun a Senator from South Carolina who became a defender of the Southern "way of life" i.e. slavery.



- According to the doctrine of nullification, a state may refuse to implement a federal law with which it disagrees.

South Carolina Exposition and Protest, 1828

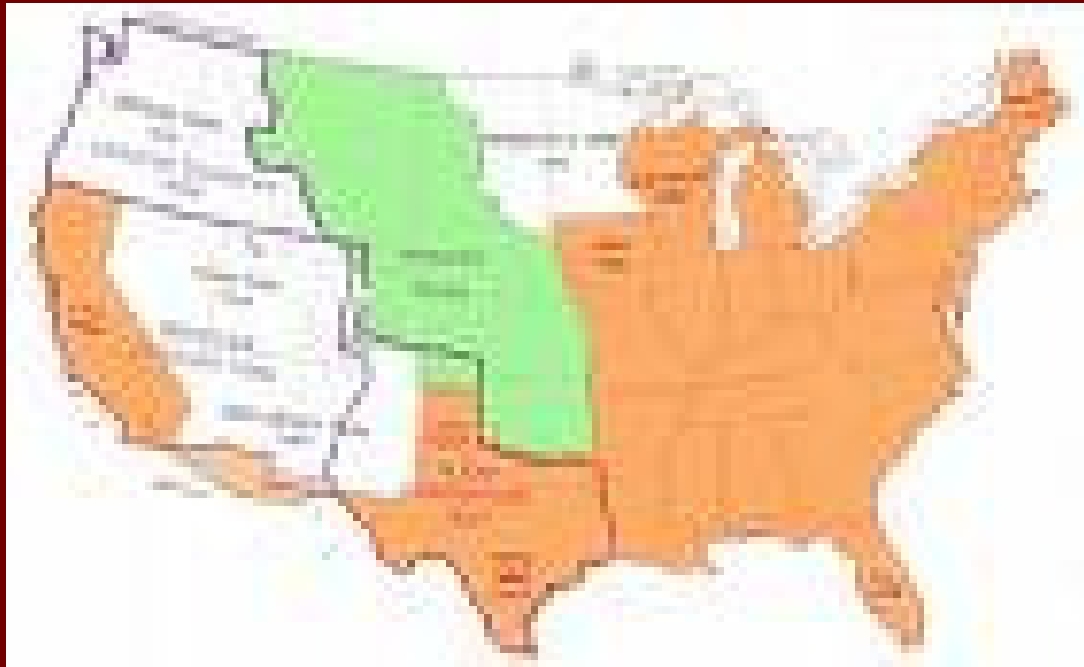
- Promotes "nullification" theory based upon "compact" theory of the Union
- Individual states should be able to declare laws of the federal government "null and void" if the state convention opposes it
- anonymously published because Calhoun was running for re-election as Vice President

Manifest Destiny



- Belief during the 1840's that the U.S. was foreordained to extend its civilization across the continent.
- Used to gain public support for U.S. territorial expansion.

Land gained through the Mexican War



Nativism

- Favored the interests of native-born people over the interests of immigrants.

Know-Nothing Party



Hostility directed against Irish and German immigrants



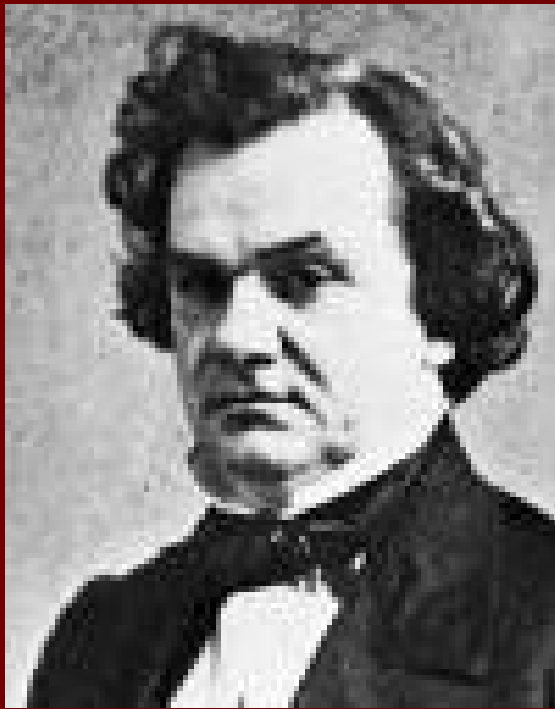
Courtesy, Granger Collection

New Immigrants...



- practiced different religions
- had different languages and cultures
- were willing to work for lower wages than native-born workers
- were not familiar with America's political system

Popular Sovereignty



Popular Sovereignty was...

- Strongly supported by Senator Stephen Douglas.

“The great principle is the right of every community to decide for itself whether a thing is right or wrong...It is no answer to this argument to say that slavery is evil, and hence should not be tolerated. You must allow people to decide for themselves whether it is good or an evil.”

Social Darwinism

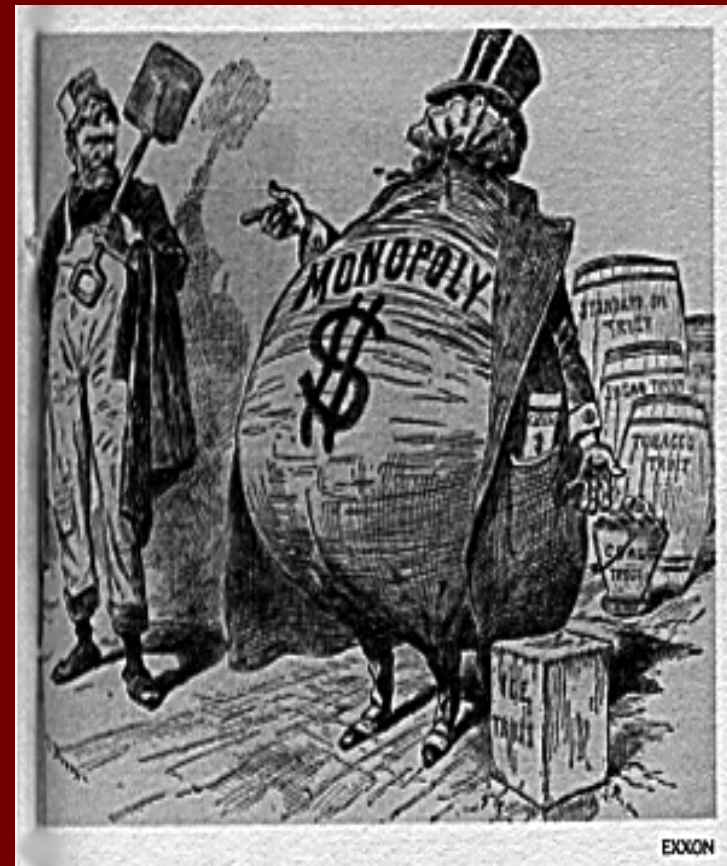


- Used to justify the success of wealthy business and industrial leaders.
- “The growth of a business corporation is merely the survival of the fittest...The American Beauty rose can be produced in the splendor and fragrance which bring cheer to its beholder only by sacrificing the early buds which grow up around it. This is not an evil tendency in business. It is merely the working out of a law of nature and a law of God.”

John D. Rockefeller



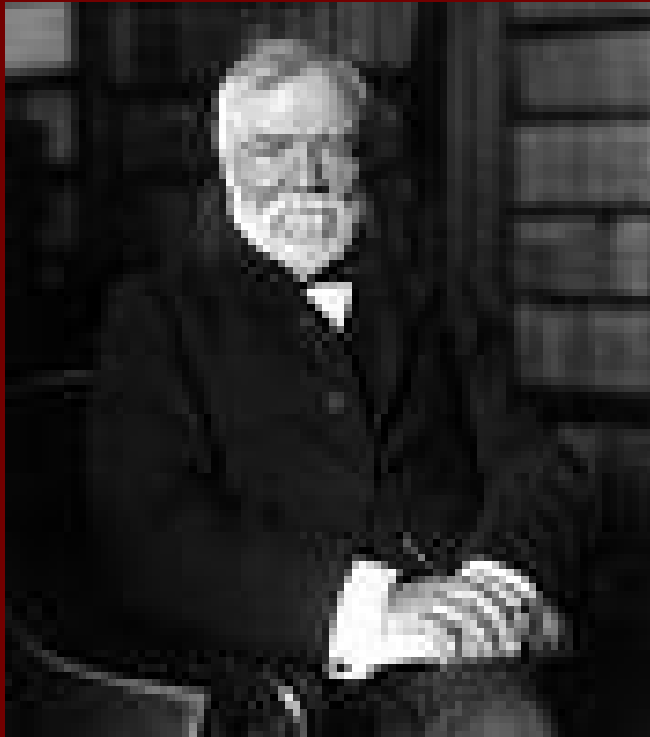
John D. Rockefeller, satirized in a 1901 Puck cartoon, is enthroned



Social Gospel

- Belief that churches should tackle social issues confronting late 19th and early 20th century America.
- Real social change would result from dedication to both religious practice and social reform

Gospel of Wealth



- Promoted by Andrew Carnegie
- Argued that he and other industrialists were the guardians of society's wealth and as such had a duty to serve society.



Frederick Jackson Turner's Frontier Thesis

- The frontier shaped American character.
- Emphasized the importance of cheap, unsettled, land.
- Frontier experience made America more democratic



Alexis de Tocqueville *Democracy in America* (published 1835)

- American individualism arose as a result of the absence of an aristocracy.
- "Americans of all ages, all conditions, and all dispositions constantly form associations....associations of a thousand...kinds, religious, moral, serious, futile, general or restricted, enormous or diminutive."

Alexis de Tocqueville,
Democracy in America, 1840

Old Maids' convention

