**Reforms & Reformers of Antebellum America**

    While abolitionism gets the most attention among reforms advocated in the first half of the nineteenth century, in fact a large number of issues became the object of reformist zeal. Spurred by religious fervor in the Second Great Awakening and secular concerns raised by the increase in industrialization and urbanization, reformers attacked societal problems on a number of fronts.

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| **Issue** | **Reform Target** | **Key Reformers/Organizations** | **Methods** |
| Abolitionism | Enslavement of 4,000,000 blacks | William Lloyd Garrison, Theodore Weld, American Anti-Slavery Society | Petitions, newspapers, mail campaigns |
| Institutional improvement | Treatment of criminals, delinquents, insane | Dorothea Dix, Auburn System | Lobbying of state legislatures, separate asylums for the mentally ill, efforts to rehabilitate, discipline prisoners |
| Temperance | Alcoholism (7.1 gallons of pure alcohol consumed per person over 14 per year  in 1830) | Lyman Beecher, American Temperance Society, churches | Sermons, tracts, rallies, abstinence pledges, prohibition laws resulted in consumption dropping to 2 gallons per person by 1845 |
| Women's rights | Legal subordination of women | Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Seneca Falls Convention | Lobbying, petitions, speaking tours |
| School reform | Low literacy, school attendance rates | Horace Mann, state school boards | Lobbying, rewarding good behavior rather than using corporal punishment, hiring women as teachers. By 1850, 50% of white children were enrolled in schools--highest in the world. |
| Moral improvement | Breakdown in social order seen with the growth of cities, industrialization, and westward migration | Charles G. Finney, American Bible Society, Sabbatarian movement | Growth in Sunday Schools, literature, speaking tours, laws against work on Sunday, petitions |