

HST 202: History of the United States W14 (Escobar Meta 31101 31100)

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Editorial Cartoons

by Joe Escobar - Friday, January 24, 2014, 9:59 PM

This forum thread is for Editorial Cartoons posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the questions in your posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, such as the cartoon name and number you are referring to. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Editorial Cartoons

Sum of ratings: -

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The scale

by Agina Hale - Saturday, January 25, 2014, 10:56 AM

This one caught my attention the most because it was so blatant. What I see here is the North and the South being measured against each other with their version of lower class races. I'm assuming it was making a point that the Irish were mean and crude, while the freeman were simple and unassuming. Maybe, it points out that the public has over simplified these people into ignorant stereotypes.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The scale

by Dylan Ornas - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 9:30 PM

I have to disagree with you slightly on your point, I believe that we are looking at a

slave and an irish man. I totally agree that it is the balancing of the north and south's lower classes, however I think this was a southern cartoon artist comparing the irish and slaves.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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The Scale

by Joseph Foley - Sunday, January 26, 2014, 11:22 AM

3.How effective do you believe this cartoon was in the 19th Century? How effective is it for you today as a student learning about this time period in United States history?

The Scale

The illustrator of this cartoon was Thomas Nast, a German immigrant. Having been an abolitionist himself, this degrading portrayal of African Americans was outside of the norm for him, although it sounds like he always maintained his displeasure of the Irish. There is a primitive and ragged looking Irishmen to the right, and a shoe-less and simple African American on the left. The Irishmen represents the north, and the African American represents the south. Nast was an immigrant himself, yet obviously he felt some of the same nativism-like views towards the hated Irish-Catholic and the African American's. With such heated and competitive political races between the democrats and the republicans, any group that stood in the way of another was fair game. America had long been becoming a melting pot, and as different groups slowly gained a small seat at the political table, many white men feared the inevitable power shifts. In this cartoon, it would appear that the wealthy southerners and the Catholic Church, have caused unwanted and worthless voters to enter our system. Thus, swaying the ballots the wrong direction.

As we have learned about nativism in class, I can see how this cartoon would be effective in the 19th century political battleground. With such extreme change in both politics, and the demographics of our citizens, many americans were attempting to maintain whatever power they had gained. This course, these cartoons, and some outside readings, have helped me to better understand the hate that flowed for the Irish-Catholic. Being raised in an Irish-Catholic family, I have heard many stories of the struggles the Irish have faced, but Im just now grasping the idea that they were viewed as separate species. The cartoons both this term and last term have allowed me to better understand political issues of the time, but also that politics have always been an aggressive and dirty war.

It is interesting to think how our prejudices and stereotyping has evolved yet remained in the political world. We have moved away from certain negative views, yet we still base many of our arguments or principals on religious issues, sexual orientation, and even race or nativism.

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Sum of ratings:2 (1)



Re: The Scale



by Gary Smith - Sunday, January 26, 2014, 12:09 PM

The cartoon struck me as equating the Irish on the same level as the slave, The Irish were stupid and less than human with this cartoonish portrayal of them and the slave both weighing out equal on scale. The slave was considered less than human by many and this cartoon was showing the Irish were equal to the black slave. This cartoon only reinforced what many at that time thought to be true.

People of this time use more subtle political cartoons and are not as blatant as those in the early times.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Scale



by Agina Hale - Thursday, January 30, 2014, 9:45 AM

What you said about politics always being dirty brings up a very interesting point. I had forgotten about all of the dirty politics from the 19th century! The election of 1828 was proof of that!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Scale



by Kylie Stiglbauer - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 3:02 PM

I almost chose this picture originally to post about because this one as well the Am I Not A Man both had the biggest impact on me as editorial cartoons. At first glance, I did not identify the white male as an Irishman. After reading post from you as well as other students I realized that it was and my perspective on this cartoon changed. The fact that the Irishman and African American males were shown as being equal truly showed the political climate of the time as well as how the people of the time chose to respond to it. The insight you gave from your own personal experience was very informative and also made the points you made mean that much more. I truly enjoyed reading about what you had to say due to your Irish catholic upbringing And how it affected you.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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At The South



by Matt Hauge - Sunday, January 26, 2014, 11:43 PM

In the cartoon titled "At The South" I interpreted a number of things, but the main points it was poking at was both a political and racist message. The image portrays an African American mother frightening her child to behave properly. The cartoon changes the word abolitionist to 'bobolitionist' to make the political group seem like some sort of monster or Bogeyman. Moreover, I think the dialog is supposed to portray the African Americans as uneducated, and unintelligent. Most importantly, I believe it is a statement about the Fugitive Slave Law. During this era many slaves were attempting to flee the bonds of slavery to the north.

People who opposed this political cartoon was abolitionists, and I am assuming many slaves. The textbook claims that "Probably fewer than 1,000 of a total 2 million slaves actually escaped to freedom each year." (462) I believe that slaveholders, and racists in the north and south would have supported this message. The slaveholders supported this message because they were against abolitionists. Moreover, slaves were their "rightful" property.

I honestly do not know how effective this political cartoon was in its day. I do think that it is a great way to look at the political turmoil of the time though. It kind of puts things into perspective on the issues of the day: fugitive slave act, compromise of 1850, and the beginnings of modern day racism.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: At The South



by James Price - Monday, January 27, 2014, 4:00 PM

I completely agree with your assessment of this cartoon. The depiction of a mother keeping her child in line by threatening to call the abolitionists to take him away not only implies that slaves regarded the abolitionists as a threat, but also that slaves were content with their lives in the South. I also agree with your statement that "the dialog is supposed to portray the African Americans as uneducated, and unintelligent."

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: At The South



by Zachary Embree - Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 6:49 PM

I agree this was made to paint the abolitionists in a bad light, portray the slaves as unintelligent, and imply that life as a slave was better for a black man than a life of freedom. Firstly in the cartoon if you were to replace the word 'bobolitionist' with Bogeyman, like they were a monster out to steal away children, the message remains the same. The artist choice to make the most complex word in the dialog mispronounced was done to make the black women, and African Americans as a whole, seem less intelligent. Overall this cartoon makes freedom from slavery look like punishment, not a basic right.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: At The South

by Joe Hoover - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 6:45 PM

I didn't really understand why the said "bobolitionist" but what you said makes a lot of sense. I think the artist did a really good job at showing the blacks as uneducated, and unintelligent. I also do not know if it was effective, but i'm sure that black mothers told their children to obey the masters so that they wouldn't be beaten.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Thoughts on At the South

by Jonathon Shimmon - Monday, January 27, 2014, 4:15 PM

The cartoon titled "At The South" was the most powerful one for me. I think the main point is clear in that cartoon was made to represent the African Americans as lesser humans, and just further support peoples arguments for slavery. The opinion that the artist has is very clear in that he was a racist, perhaps a slave owner and did not support the abolitionist's. The way the cartoon shows the african american mother speaking to her son, with words spelled differently, makes their entire race look unintelligent and consequently, inferior to the white man. Also, the room in which this scene takes place looks very plain, without much furniture besides a chair, a table, and a couple of bottles. The little boy does not have shoes, and in my opinion is drawn to be ugly. This is probably a way of saying that African Americans are generally poor, and used to living in bad conditions. Matt Hauge made a good point in his prior post, that the way the cartoonist changes the word "abolitionist" to "bobolitionist" makes abolitionists seem lesser then the opposite party.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The Scale

by Gary Smith - Monday, January 27, 2014, 4:16 PM

I think the cartoon was also an attempt to hurt the Democrats because most of the Irish became Democrats. The the party was for the common man and this suited the Irish needs.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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The Scale

by Joe Hoover - Monday, January 27, 2014, 4:27 PM

In this cartoon the cartoonist is showing a black man from the south and a poor man possibly Irish from the north. The black man is shoeless and seems to be happy whereas the white man has shoes and looks mean and angry. The artist is trying to make the point that a poor man from the north is equal to a black man in the south. I think that people who hated poor whites or immigrants would of supported this message because it is showing the immigrants as equal to blacks. I would think that this would be effective because it

would make the immigrants angry because they are being called equal to blacks. I knew that immigrants were thought of as lesser than the natives of the country, but this picture is showing that they were equal to blacks which I did not know before.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Am I Not A Man

by James Price - Monday, January 27, 2014, 4:33 PM

This antislavery cartoon does a good job of humanizing slaves. The picture of a bound slave knelt down as if he's begging or pleading to be freed with a caption that reads "Am I Not A Man..." places a human face on the South's "property." I would think this cartoon went over fairly well in the North, but in the South it was probably detested and considered an erroneous view of how slaves felt about being slaves. Overall this cartoon does an excellent job, even today, of depicting the abolitionists view on slavery and evoking some kind of an emotional response.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Am I Not A Man

by Rae Gardner - Monday, January 27, 2014, 6:03 PM

I agree with you 100%. Putting a face to the cause was and still continues to be a very persuasive tactic. The feelings of guilt and injustice that are provoked through this type of imagery can be pretty strong in either direction. The North viewing it as an abuse of people and the South as an misrepresentation of their property.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Am I Not A Man

by Marcus Mcphaul - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 11:06 AM

I think most of all this political cartoon helped people really start to empathize with the slaves and helped them to realize they are more than just a property, they are humans too. Of coarse they didn't think they were as good as white people but they knew now that they can't be treated like a object.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Am I Not A Man

by James Price - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 4:01 PM

I agree with you that this cartoon "helped people really start to empathize with the slaves..." and that there was still a strong sense of racial nativism. Because the majority of the North was willing to accept slavery as long as it stayed in the

South, I can imagine that this cartoon sparked a lot of outrage, in the North and the South, and led to some of the responses to antislavery agitation talked about in the textbook (p.434).

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Am I Not A Man

by Dylan Ornas - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 9:35 PM

I cannot agree with you more. The North seemed content to turn a blind eye but I assume as soon as cartoons of this nature began to circulate, the issue was brought closer to home.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Am I Not A Man

by Zachary Embree - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 10:00 PM

While I do agree that a large amount of Northerners could have cared less about slavery, I think you also have to take into account that people were avoiding this issue to maintain national stability. The gag orders from congress and multiple compromises made to keep the issue from flaring up, were explained in class as measures meant to keep the north-south tensions over slavery from causing problems. So part of the acceptance may have been a widely accepted "don't ask don't tell" agreement to keep peace.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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The scale: South vs North

by Rae Gardner - Monday, January 27, 2014, 6:00 PM

The Scale

1. Based on the scale showing a (presumably) black slave and a poor white (Irish) being equal in weight, I gathered that the main point was to show black slaves and poor white Irish were the same and of equal footing. I see that there was a level of hypocrisy between the North and the South; one was no more "free" than the other. It would seem the cartoonist's opinion was one of equating the poor white to the black slaves: Less than human, under the oppression of their respective areas.
2. Pro-slavery advocates would be against this image. I think showing common ground between two races would only enable a combined rebellion. I think abolitionists would have supported this message to show that in order for all to be free we need to ALL be equal.
3. I think with the amount of immigrants, especially from Ireland this imagery would have been pretty effective in enraging the populace to desire a political change. To me it is effective to put a perspective on different times that still influence our current

prejudice. It helps me better understand that America is still fighting the same fights since the beginning.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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The Scale

by Zachary Embree - Monday, January 27, 2014, 6:30 PM

This cartoon according to book "Drawing the Line" is called 'The Ignorant Vote – Honors are Easy' (ch.3) It is equating the views, and more importantly votes, of the voting African Americans of the south with the Irish immigrants from the north. From the cartoon I can easily tell that Nash did not think highly of either of these groups of people. The Southern slave has several different hints that he is unintelligent. His clothes are simple and in disrepair, his face has an exaggerated grin like a very small child would. Also he does not have any shoes and seems to be treating his scale as a child's swing. The Irish figure has the face of an ape, which we learned was to make Irish immigrants seem stupid and subhuman. His expression is that of slack jawed confusion and his clothes are a mess.

the opposing view to this look at these oppressed peoples is that of tolerance and the realization that they are both just as much people, and can be educated, just like Protestant whites of the time. I imagine that people who were uneasy about the new status quo and the introduction of these new voting groups, including immigration itself, supported this view. It made sure that they stayed on top of the economic and social ladder and kept America true to what they believed the original white Protestants wanted.

In the 19th century with the blatant racism and treatment of immigrants of Irish and catholic views I imagine this cartoon was very effective and popular especially in the south and immigration heavy northern cities. Today viewing this just makes me think about the long standing hypocrisy in American culture. We claim to be the land of the free, nation of immigrants,, yet no one admits to the unspoken, " We prefer however if you are an English speaking middle class of European decent".

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Am I Not A Man

by Shane Lundberg - Monday, January 27, 2014, 9:52 PM

The main point of this cartoon is to create a feeling of resentment towards slaveholders and raise the issues of liberty, equality and power among African Americans. This editorial cartoon demands an emotional response and does it in several different ways. The cartoonist uses religious symbolism by having the slave kneeling and looking upwards. Also, the cartoonist decides not to exaggerate or distort the image but draw the man in fair proportion. This simple feature helps humanize the man as well as maintain the seriousness of the issue of slavery. This editorial cartoon must have fueled the fire between supporters of slavery and abolitionists.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The Scale



by Marcus Mcphaul - Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 1:12 AM

The cartoonist that drew up this drawing is most likely a southerner that does not support immigrants or slaves. The cartoonist is comparing negro people which are still considered less than human to what looks like me to be Irish immigrants which dominated the north. He shows this by giving both of the characters in the cartoon apish features such as big feet and dumb expressions on their faces. The point of the cartoon is to try and influence the idea that America should treat immigrants as they do slaves and not allow them to gain citizenship.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Scale



by Joe Hoover - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 6:51 PM

You make a good point about it being negative towards the immigrants. Showing that they are equal to the blacks was a big slap in the face back then. I think that this cartoon was very effective in its time and that it must of gotten a lot of people angry.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The Scale



by Brendan Gibbons - Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 9:06 AM

As others have mentioned before me, this cartoon depicts an Irish man and a black man on a scale. The black man is on the side of the scale labeled "south" while the Irish man is on the side depicting the north. I would agree with the previous posts that say this cartoon is supposed to illustrate how the blacks and the Irish were as equally low on the social totem poll. In other words the cartoon is sending a message saying that the Irish are the new blacks. The main aspect that jumped out at me about this cartoon is the facial expressions worn by the two men. The black man has a big dumb looking smile on his face while the Irish man has a very stern and upset look about him. For me personally the facial expression worn by the black man sends a message of acceptance, that he won't try to go against his master or his place in society. Or possibly the big smile is supposed to show how the white man has tricked or persuaded the common black man into thinking and believing he was meant to be a slave. On the other hand you have the Irish man who is wearing a very angry and disgusted facial expression. I think this is because at this point in time the Irish were seen as more dangerous and unpredictable. In other words Americans had figured out how to control and keep most slaves in line, while the Irish man was a new type of beast and hadn't been controlled or understood by Americans. All in all this was a very good political cartoon, it is extremely blatant and straight to the point which makes it very effective. I also feel that it would have been very easy to understand at that time and is still easy to understand today.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The Scale

by Tamara Gould - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 9:46 AM

I completely agree with your interpretation of this cartoon. I hadn't really noticed the severe differences in facial expression, but once pointed out, I think your critique was accurate. I am uncertain of the time frame in which this cartoon was published but as others have pointed out it could have also been created as a political standpoint. Equating the Irish with the slaves, which were obviously viewed with the lowest status of civility, pokes at the Democratic party, which most Irish had become apart of. I also had a side thought that maybe there was some implication to the overwhelming population (the weight) of both slaves and the Irish in America.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Am I Not a Man and a Brother?

by Dylan Ornas - Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 10:02 AM

This editorial cartoon is very simple but gets its point across with little room for interpretation.

Just from looking at the cartoon, one can assume that the writer is a northerner or at least an abolitionist.

The simple message of this cartoon: "Are african americans not americans as well? dont they deserve to be treated as an equal man and brother?"

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The Great Race Weigh In!

by Matt Hauge - Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 9:28 PM

A common phrase said by Protestant Whites in this era was "Negroes turned inside out and Negroes as smoked Irish." This phrase compared the two different ethnic groups as one in the same. I think that the cartoon titled "The Scale" puts this phrase into a picture. Obviously, the creator of the cartoon held the belief that both of these ethnicities weighed the same in society. I can tell that the cartoonist does not value either of these ethnic groups due to the racial stereotypes of the African American and the Irishman. The illustrator drew the African American with big lips, bare feet, and a huge grin probably to show both poverty and ignorance. They drew the Irishman to almost look like a leprechaun who is un-shaved, unhappy, and his mouth is wide open to also show ignorance.

Opposing views, would most likely come from the Irish. Many Irish just wanted to fit into American society. Many left Great Britain just to escape the racial prejudice that was happening in "the old country". So when they were being compared to the slaves of the south or free blacks of the north, I believe it was very bothersome for the Irish. On the other side of the spectrum, Nativist Americans would have undoubtedly supported this message.

This cartoon could have been very effective in the 19th century in both supporting a

nativism agenda and showing the Irish and Blacks that they weighed the same. The cartoon is very interesting to me. I never knew how disliked the Irish were until this class. The image is blatantly obvious, and requires little knowledge on the subjects of nativism, and racial prejudice. It is a quick to the point type of political cartoon.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Am I not a man and a brother?



by Cameron Holliday - Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 6:39 PM

3.) how effective do you believe this cartoon was in the 19th century? How effective is it for you today as a student learning about this time period in United States history?

I think that in the 19th Century this cartoon was only moderately effective because although slavery was slowly being outlawed people still saw blacks as an inferior race. Parents were still raising their children to hate blacks and that would continue with generations to come and is even still a problem today. I also believe that there were people who saw this cartoon and realized that just because someone has a different skin color does not make them any less of a man or human for that matter. It is pretty heart wrenching to see another human being shackled in chains and begging for equality. I really believe this cartoon had a 50/50 effect on people.

This is extremely effective for me as a student to learn these things because it really gives you a good look at how ignorant Americans were in the 19th Century and what Blacks really had to go through just to be where they are today. It helps give me a little different outlook on our history and how inaccurate some of the things I have seen and been taught before really are. Learning these things make me look at old America a little bit different.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Am I not a Man and its impact (Editorial Cartoons)



by Kylie Stiglbauer - Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 9:11 PM

I accidentally posted this is the other forum spot...

Editorial cartoons are a way for cartoonists to not only to show the political agenda of the time period, but also to relay opinions and moods to the audience that is viewing them. When viewing the cartoons, I not only got a better understanding of the political mood, but I also learned how editorial cartoonists we're choosing to illustrate the issues of the time. Issues amongst the north of the south (mainly those dealing with slavery and states rights) we're commonly seen in cartoons of the time. The varying artists of the time had different ways to approach this issue, some chose to be more direct while others went with a more figurative representation. After observing the cartoons for this forum I found that the cartoon entitled Am I Not A Man had the biggest impact on me. This cartoon was not only relevant for the time period, but also holds relevance for someone learning about the topic

today. In our current society, one free of slavery(but not prejudice) it is often times difficult to imagine living in a time that was completely different. It is often hard to put yourself in the position of one of, say a slaveholder, having no experience in this issue and not truly understanding how someone could morally treat a human being in such a way. I feel that this cartoon in particular is somewhat relate able due to its real ness and emotional draw. This cartoon chose to take a more blunt approach, not beating around the bush as to what it's message was. This is a stark difference to the other cartoons of the period that took a more roundabout approach. By putting the issue right out in the open, why are we treating human beings like property, allowed for a much more emotional reaction. I feel that this not only appealed to the people of the 19th century, but also gives people of today learning about this topic and opportunity to see other opinions of the time period.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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all of them..  

by Agina Hale - Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 11:41 PM

At the South- I could see this one being taken two ways. Either it makes the abolitionists to be something to fear, that they were going to be the downfall of current society. Another option was that they were easily discredited as silliness. Either way, it seems to be a southern perspective.

Holy Horror- This looks like it is a black woman who is a stereotyped to be an alcoholic and lower class (fishmonger), accosting the upper class woman who is forced to be in the same social situation. Upon further review, I have to admit, this one got a shocked physical response from me. "Mr McCaffraty voted against negro suffrage" Wow, so a Scottish woman's husband did the right thing, inferring that she probably supported her vote as well as the black women's. Now, it's her fault?

Promised land- Look out evangelicals!! The catholics are looking to expand on YOUR land!

Am I not a man- This is definitely an abolitionist trying to plea to people on what they might have felt was the simplest of human emotions. It seems to be a realistic drawing, so I don't think it was trying to exaggerate features in order to show inferiority. I don't know how effective this cartoon would be during the 19th century, because as with today, the more shocking usually gets more of an effect.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: all of them..  

by Jonathon Shimmon - Thursday, January 30, 2014, 12:28 PM

Talking about the cartoon "Am I not a man"- Totally agree with what you said by this cartoon maybe not being too effective in the 19th century. As I have learned throughout my history classes, propaganda was a big part in the sales or advertising of something. This picture does not express much of that, but in fact just exactly what everyone knew was already going on. if they exaggerated some of the features in this

drawing it probably would have caught more peoples eyes. Although this apparent abolitionist is getting his point across by asking in my opinion is a sarcastic type question of "Am I not a man and a brother?" he needs to express more emotion, with the drawing and maybe the characteristics of the person shown.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: all of them..



by Agina Hale - Thursday, January 30, 2014, 1:17 PM

I think that the "holy horror" would probably get the most response, but maybe not from women. "At the South", was probably as thought provoking as "the scale" when it comes to just bringing up some of the feelings on the issue. I imagine that the cartoons didn't have as much to do with how someone felt as the economic or family persuasion.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons



by Joseph Foley - Friday, January 31, 2014, 8:44 PM

Am I Not A Man

"Am I Not A Man", is a powerful image used by abolitionists. If I'm not mistaken, the image has been used in other periods of history. What stands out to me about this cartoon is that the African American is portrayed in a very human way, quite the contrary to the simple ape like features that were used to portray African Americans in many other pieces throughout the 19th century. I can see how this image would evoke sympathy and compassion among abolitionists and like minded thinkers. Although, I'm sure pro-slavery readers might see something more negative.

I'm impressed with the overall presentation of this piece, it almost looks like a work of art. This piece was a rallying cry for support, which I'm sure brought out deep emotions on both sides of the fence. I have enjoyed studying the political cartoons the last two terms, and it has led me to look up more. With such limited media in the 19th century in comparison to today, I can imagine that this form of press would have a deep impact throughout the population. Studying the images myself has given me a better understanding of the intense emotions, politics, and motives of the particular time.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons



by Tamara Gould - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 10:13 AM

I appreciate your viewpoint on this cartoon. I also found it to be a powerful depiction; but others through the forum felt it would have been ineffective in that time frame. My thoughts were in line with yours, that the slave being drawn accurately, and not like an

ape, removes implications that African Americans were a lower/separate species. I believe this would have an impact among abolitionist and sympathizers of the cause.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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How I Feel About "Am I Not A Man And A Brother?"



by Zachary Ogborn - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 1:44 PM

I feel like this particular 19th Century Cartoon really reflects an Abolitionist point of view. Especially with knowledge of how (some) of them had an Evangelical perspective towards humanity and slavery in general. I feel like this was a very effective cartoon when we remember that hardly any Abolitionist materials made it down south. This being said, most of the public who were exposed to this kind of image were in fact, Northern, White, Evangelicals. I am led to this conclusion by the subtle religious undertones that I pick up from this illustration. Looking at the text alone, "Am I Not A Man AND A Brother?" shows to me that a kinship is trying to be expressed here. Common of a religious mentality or understanding. Not to mention that the figure is kneeling in a praying/pleading position.

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by Kyle Hughes - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 5:24 PM

I think that the cartoon depicting the Irish, and what it appears to be democrats, was written to create a mystification within the political world. The Irish are discriminated against, and then become citizens.

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