



HST 202: History of United States W17 (Escobar Meta 30937 30938)

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Editorial Cartoons

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, January 28, 2017, 12:02 AM

This thread is for discussions on the Editorial Cartoons topic.

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, especially the cartoon number you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Editorial Cartoons

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Am I Not a Man and a Brother?



by Dawn Taylor - Sunday, January 29, 2017, 4:19 PM

The disagreement over slavery was dividing the country in the nineteenth century. Slaves were running away and wanted their freedom just as any human has a right to.

I feel that this political cartoon has a great visionary impact on the reader with very few words; actually, only a title. A black man bound by heavy chains, on his knees looking up to God, begging to be free.

The opinion of this cartoon is that slavery should be abolished. This point is simply made without any words.

Most citizens wanted to ignore the question of slavery, so the abolitionists used strategies to force government and the public to face the South's "peculiar situation." One such attempt was in the Postal Campaign of 1835 with petitions to end slavery (textbook p. 422).

Since this country was built from slave hands, letting this idea go was difficult for many, even among middle-class evangelicals. Both Presbyterian Ministers Beecher and Finney argued that emancipation would come about sooner or later through the religious conversion of slave owners (textbook p. 421). They felt the issue would divide Christians and slow the revival movement, delaying emancipation.

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Anti Catholic

by Emily Phan - Sunday, January 29, 2017, 7:57 PM

The third cartoon (the one with the cross) is showing the artists feelings towards Catholics. In the cartoon the Catholics are the guys who are wearing the fancy hats and the monks. He feels that Catholics are a threat to the US so he shows them looking out from their high place somewhere in Europe over at America with greedy looks on their faces and fat bellies. Also I can see some weapons behind them so apparently their coming would involve the killing of innocent Americans. This cartoon show the historic anti-catholic bias our country had during this time. Catholics who lived in America, like the Irish would have not agreed with carton. This was probably a pretty effective cartoon in its time for it captured the fear of many Americans. I think if you replaced the Catholics in this picture with Putin or ISIS fighters it could pass for a cartoon drawn today.

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Re: Response to Emily Phan

by Raya Aviani - Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 12:27 PM

Finally! Another Promised Land-er! I also think this is about Catholics and other religions coming to the U.S. I also wondered about the weapons. It would totally make sense that the author would make the Catholics seem like power hungry murderers aiming to conquer the U.S. if he was anti-Catholic, like many people were, especially against the Irish. But I got stuck when trying to figure out who the other people were. Some look like they are from a different religion and they are "conspiring" with the Catholics. At first I thought Mormons because so many people were anti-Mormon after they were persecuted over and over because of their beliefs of being the only "true Christians" and then authorized polygamy in 1852 (Textbook pgs. 435-436). But it didn't make sense because the Mormon religion was created in the U.S. by Joseph Smith (pg 435) and didn't come from across Europe. What other religion(s) do you think this could be?

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Re: Response to Emily Phan and Raya Aviani

by Covita Hughes - Thursday, February 2, 2017, 7:12 PM

The first thing I noticed about "The Promised Land" cartoon was the over sized cross. Near the cross were what appears to be some sort of weapons. I see clearly the point I think the cartoonist is trying to make – that these are a group of religious people on a mission to bring "God" across the Atlantic to share the "Good News" with those less fortunate. The way the man is standing, pointing towards America and another looking through a telescope led me to believe that they had a specific destination in mind, and would stop at nothing to get there. (I can almost imagine a bumper sticker on the back of the boat reading "Promised Land or Bust"!)

Knowing what I know about how Roman Catholic's were received by Americans (Text book page 462), I tried to put myself in these men's shoes to understand how and what they were thinking on their journey to America. Were they indeed on their way to fulfill a mission as this cartoon depicts, or were they simply seeking their own "American Dream" in the Promised Land? Or did they view the "Promised Land" as a territory promised to them by God?

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Re: Anti Catholic

by Patrick Rugel - Saturday, February 4, 2017, 4:30 PM

I defiantly agree, "The Promise Land" is an American anti-Catholic cartoon, based on the depictions of the characters and that the cartoon is aim to evoke the idea of Catholicism expanding into America. This was one of the cartoons that defiantly reinforced the idea that America is extremely resistant to change, in this case a different religion influence in

a Protestant majority (textbook.) I believe that another good cartoon that reinforces your response is "The Scale," which again shows that the Protestant majority was resistant to being influenced another religion outside the social norms, in this case the Irish bring their Catholic religion (lecture.)

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Re: Anti Catholic

by Raya Aviani - Saturday, February 4, 2017, 5:24 PM

I agree. Both The Scales cartoon and The Promised Land cartoon can be summed up with Lincoln's words, "How can any one who abhors the oppression of negros, be in favor of degrading classes of white people?... (the Constitution) will read "all men are created equal, except negros, and foreigners, and Catholics"...When it comes to this I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty," (Textbook pg. 464). Incredible words at the time, seeing through decades of racism and hypocrisy, and recognizing them as our united republic's downfall. He knew we could only live and prosper and unite as a single power, but for all, equally, if the hypocritical hatreds could be recognized within each party, and ended.

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"The Promised Land" Cartoon

by Raya Aviani - Monday, January 30, 2017, 1:09 PM

At first glance, the political cartoon "The Promised Land," by Nast, seems to represent the overwhelming spread of religion from Europe to the west, mainly to the U.S. The Roman Catholics are easily known in the cartoon by the depictions of the pope, a Catholic priest or friar, and what seems to be a Catholic temple or church. There may other religions represented by the other men, but I am unsure of what they are. The space of the Atlantic Ocean proves that these religions are not in the U.S., and the spotting of the U.S. in the distance by all the men may indicate that they (their religions) are seeking to spread there. These religions maybe have yet to be a common place in the U.S. at that time. I also wondered if Nast was instead trying to dramatize the takeover of these religions in the U.S. by European settlers, like the Germans and Irish.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

by Maclain O'Leary - Monday, January 30, 2017, 2:44 PM



The editorial cartoon labeled *The Scale* is a fairly simple explanation. As explained in class, the Irish in the 19th century, was treated just as unjustly as blacks were, which is what this cartoon is expressing. The scale itself symbolizes the social scale and where the blacks and irish stand on it. The fact that they are even on the scale states that they are equal in status. The Irishman on the right, labeled White on the scale, is depicted as less than human, with features resembling that of a monkey, very similar to how blacks are depicted in political cartoons.

"...the best remedy for what is amis in America would be if every irishman kill a negro and be hanged for it." - Edward A. Freeman (1881)

This quote sums up what this cartoon is depicting in a picture, that in the 1800's, it was believed Irishman were just as deplorable as negro's, and America would be better if both of them were not in it.

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Re: Editorial Cartoons (Response to Maclain O'Leary)

by Bailey Koffler - Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 10:51 PM

I also made my original post about *The Scale* cartoon. At the time I made my post, for some reason I had forgotten about the quote we had read in class and I interpreted the cartoon as an anti-slavery cartoon because blacks and whites are equal, therefore balanced on the scale. After reading your ideas, I now understand why the top the scale read "North" and "South", because both regions had serious discrimination issues.

In my post I wrote how I thought the black man is smiling in order to mock the white man, as if to say "I told you we were equals!". I'm curious as to how you interpreted his grin? Do you think it was just an interesting detail to further exemplify the stereotype?

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Re: Editorial Cartoons (Response to Maclain O'Leary)

by Maclain O'Leary - Saturday, February 4, 2017, 9:18 PM

While I do believe there is some sort of relevance to the grin on the black mans face in the cartoon, I do not know what the meaning behind it could be. To me it seems strange that two people in the same prejudiced situation would not wish evil upon the other. It is hard to believe that all the atrocities the black people had been through, that they would be happy to see it thrust upon another group. However, I still do think there is some meaning behind the smile. In every cartoon we have studied in class, every little thing has a meaning, and something that obvious as a black man's smirk must have some meaning behind it.

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

by Dawn Taylor - Saturday, February 4, 2017, 3:00 PM

And God forbid the Irish come over here to a white Protestant man's country with his Catholic belief and try and disrupt that, right!? Everywhere I look during this history class, or even in today's society for that matter, white Protestant men are intolerant of anything different than themselves.

Blacks are still treated with discrimination, maybe not to the same degree as the nineteenth century, but they are still looked at as less than and treated so. Women still don't get the same pay rate as men for doing the same job. Look at what is happening with the Presidential Administration even today! If you are Muslim, get out...if you are not born here, get out.

Where did the idea that white men are superior come from anyway? It makes me physically nauseous how blacks were treated in the nineteenth century and even during the Jim Crow Era. What makes me even more ill is that it was done in the name of God.

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

by Bailey Koffler - Saturday, February 4, 2017, 11:26 PM

I'm not very familiar with history, so this class has taught me so much already. I'm also disgusted by the racism and sexism in this country. I don't understand why people think others are lesser than themselves? When I heard that at one point whites actually thought blacks were a different species I was shocked! What led us to this? And how come it is taking so long for us to end racism? Racism is nurtured into people, knowing what we know now don't you think we would be making leaps to change this point of view? Do you think there will ever be an end to racism? How can we accomplish this? I don't understand how people can be so hateful, I feel like many steps have been taken to open the eyes of racists and sexists, but clearly not enough if people of color are getting spat on and women are being objectified.

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Re: Editorial Cartoons - The Scale

by Morgan Brown - Monday, January 30, 2017, 4:49 PM

Obviously, this cartoon uses hideously racist imagery to get its point across, and mostly likely the artist behind it had serious prejudices against African Americans and the Irish, going along with that hideous quote we heard in class, that "all the problems in the United State could be solved if every black killed an Irish and was lynched" (paraphrased loosely). The cartoon presents them as "equals" to each other on a scale, one side representing the South, the other the North. In each region, North and South, these were the racial groups which were heavily discriminated against, so it's really no surprise that this comparison would be made. However, its clear that the artist is not fond of either, presenting the Irish in the popular primitive and animal-like form, which was a popular racist image for them, and black people as the cheery, poor farmhands that many racists in the time saw them as.

In it's time, this cartoon was most likely fairly effective, as these sorts of racial prejudices were commonplace in its time, and the cartoon in a sense, encapsulates this sentiment, making it a fascinating look back into the mindset of the time, which is hard to visualize a hundred years after the fact, although these racial issues have clearly not gone away in 2017, and still shape the United States to this day.

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Re: Editorial Cartoons - The Scale

by Dawn Taylor - Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 9:44 PM

I could not agree with you more, Morgan. If something like this were published today, the artist would be chastized for it, or so I would hope. It's hard for me to understand the prejudice of that time. I think it's just a matter of ignorance.

When the Irish and Germans immigrated and entered the school system, their attendance was low due to the fact that the families needed the childrens' help with work to supplement the family income. Since most of these immigrants were Catholic, they didn't like having the King James Bible or Portestant prayers taught to their children (textbook p. 407).

Different looking, sounding, acting, believing...nothing wrong with any of this but a threat to the white Protestant man.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Response to Morgan Brown- The Scale Cartoon

by Micaela Willey - Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 10:17 PM

What makes this cartoon a little ironic is that it is highlighting how the Northern people were just as prejudice against race as the Southern people were at this time. It was just about a different race; the Irishman.

In class, we learned that the Irish people in the United States were being highly discriminated against with signs outside business windows stating 'No Irish Need Apply,' or NINA, and as well as how Irishmen were portrayed as ape-like drunkards and poor men; just like in this cartoon as seen with the dumbfounded look on the northern sides face.

One main point that the artist who drew this picture seemed to be portraying was that, the North was being hypocritical in a sense that they were pushing to abolish slavery however there was extreme racism towards the Irish at the same time. Though there was more attention with the South side as the fight for slavery needed to continue with a strong force, the North side was not the place to be for some. Mistreatment throughout the entire country was in high demand whether that was slaves in the South or Irishmen in the North.

But the question that remains a topic for discussion would be why does the black man have a smile on his face, where the Irishman does not?

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Re: Response to Morgan Brown- The Scale Cartoon

by Amy Aguilar - Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 12:55 AM

Wow! I have a whole new understanding of this cartoon after reading your response. I am not sure how the treatment of the Irish didn't come to my mind before. In my initial post I almost wanted to state that even though they are both equal in wearing suits, the suits that they are wearing are not of quality but didn't mention it because I wasn't able to come to a conclusion of why the white man was wearing a raggedy suit as well. Yes, they are both portrayed to look animalistic, not of human nature. Before taking into consideration the treatment of Irish people I was persuading myself that this was an equal rights cartoon aimed at equality for blacks but indeed it is not. I am curious as to how some people picked up on the hints that the white man was Irish besides the animalistic characteristics. Were there more clues in the cartoon that led to that conclusion or was it just knowledge from class lecture?

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Re: Response to Morgan Brown- The Scale Cartoon



by Dawn Taylor - Thursday, February 2, 2017, 3:46 PM

Is the black man sort of mocking the Irishman? At the bottom of the cartoon it says, "The ignorant vote-Honors are easy." Harper's Weekly was an American political magazine and when this cartoon was published there was a presidential campaign happening between Rutherford B. Hayes (Republican) and Samuel J. Tilden (Democrat). This was a very close election with Hayes winning by one electoral vote.

The black man had just been given the right to vote in 1870 by the passing of the 15th Amendment. The way white people felt about blacks and Irish was with prejudice. Maybe white people didn't feel that they wanted these people to cast a vote or valued their vote at all?

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Re: Response to Morgan Brown- The Scale

by Raya Aviani - Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 12:02 PM

I had forgotten about that saying as well, thank you for bringing it up! It does perfectly sum up this cartoon, but I think in a different way. In a discussion on here, Andrew and I came to the conclusion that it's probably not the author who had the prejudices himself about blacks and whites, or that they are equal or unequal, but rather he was trying to bring to light the prejudices of others towards slavery and immigrants. More specifically, I think he found how the South treated their slaves as equally appalling to how the North treated Irish immigrants (probably in the 1840's and 50's before the civil war). **In their unfair, segregated, and hate-fueled treatment in America, they were equal to the artist.** Many people in the North didn't want the Irish to be able to become citizens and corrupt the Temperance Movement of the time, like how many people in the South didn't want slaves to have freedom and citizenship and rights as Americans.

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Re: Editorial Cartoons; "The Scale"

by Patrick Rugel - Monday, January 30, 2017, 5:58 PM

In the case of the "The Scale" cartoon, the artist is portraying on one side of the scale an African-American from the south, most likely a slave given the work clothes and no shoes. Based on this, the artist is very low in the ranks of society. On the other end of the scale, you have what appears to be an impression of a Irish-men, given the in an ape like shape that commonly was associated with Irish-men in this time period (thus. lecture.) Over all the artist main point is that an Irish immigrant hold equal rank in society as a southern slave. The primary group of 19 century Americans that would have opposed this would have been

most definitely Irish Immigrants (Thurs. lecture.) On the hand, those who would have agreed with this cartoon would have been the all ready establish white Americans, for reasons such as the Irish bringing their Catholic religion or their Irish whiskey which helped lead to the temperance movement in the antebellum era (textbook.)

In terms of effectiveness of this cartoon, I believe that is depends on which end of the spectrum you were on, if you favored this cartoon it probably helped perpetuate racial profiling and if you were on the unfavorable side (being Irish or a slave) it was probably demeaning to your character. I think its interesting to see an artist representation of racial profiling of that era and when you compare it to modern day you can see that America still has prominent racial profiling issues.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons; "The Scale"

by Dawn Taylor - Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 8:31 AM

This cartoon bothered me. Portraing Irish as white, but to look like a monkey just like the black man is drawn. This just proves the ignorance of white men and their prejudice against anyone different than them. If you weren't white, Christian, and MALE in the nineteenth century, you didn't have anything interesting to contribute to America.

I think of how many talented people we lost or killed who could have contributed considerably to this country and made it a much happier place to live.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons; "The Scale"

by Raya Aviani - Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 3:16 PM

I think you're correct in assuming that the characters were drawn in a crude way for a reason. The textbook said that millions of Irish immigrants came to the U.S. in the 1840's and 50's, bringing a love of alcohol, during a time of temperance, that "legitimized levels of male drunkenness and violence that Americans found appalling" (p.415). I think that the artist is either against slaves and Irish immigrants being citizens and ever receiving civil rights as Americans, or is making a satirical cartoon about those that were against such things.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Sattire or Opinion?



by Andrew Erkert - Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 3:52 PM

I am having trouble interpreting it as satire or the artist's opinion. Otherwise I do see that same message of the equal dislike of the Irish and African Americans. After looking over it again, I am going to say that it is indeed satire because the Irish aren't labeled as Irish but as "White", which leads me to believe that Thomas Nast is pointing out the irony of the American prejudice since the Irish aren't all that different from those Americans but they still despise them because of their religion and behavior. If it were a serious opinion of the author, I think they would've labeled the Irish as "Irish" and not white since they associate themselves as being white.

What do you all think about on whether it is satirical or not?

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Sattire or Opinion?

by Raya Aviani - Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 11:42 AM

That"s true. The characters aren't necessarily labeled, like other political cartoonists have done, when someone has a personal disliking of someone in specific. I think you are correct that the artist tried to, instead, capture a broader racial conflict. **Maybe he's comparing how southern slaves were being treated in the south to how Irish immigrants were being treated in the North.** His crude renderings of the two would then be a statement about how the North and South had viewed them (the North the Irish and the South the slaves). Do you think that sounds more appropriate?

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Indeed

by Andrew Erkert - Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 1:15 PM

I agree with that. The comparison is certainly something I think Nast was going for. Other than the involuntary servitude, they basically had the same social status throughout their respective regions. I think this cartoon also emphasizes the fact that Americans didn't need to see just different colored skin to feel that sense of "nativism" and show their discomfort with foreign traits.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Sattire or Opinion?

by Patrick Rugel - Thursday, February 2, 2017, 8:28 PM

Although the artists dose not directly label the “white” character as an Irish, I believe that the author is making a direct appeal that the Irish immigrants are of equal status to southern slaves as Raya mentions. I completely agree with you on the “nativism” verses the “non-nativism” concept, the us verse them concept that we mentioned in lecture (Thurs. lecture.) At this time in history you can see “natives” rooted deep in prejudice to outside ethic groups and resistance to different things outside the social norms, for example NINA was a way for the common man to latch on to prejudice and racism toward white Irish immigrants (Thurs. Lecture.) An alternative reason could be that the artist did not want to out right say “lets discriminate against white Irish immigrants equally to a slave” and rather impose that stance with a depiction commonly associated with Irish immigrants (lecture image.)

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My thoughts on Scale

by Stanley Dietz - Monday, January 30, 2017, 7:19 PM

I choose to interpret the political cartoon named The Scale.

1. The main point of this political cartoon is to be bluntly racist and say that African Americans and the Irish which were seen as lesser beings by some were on the same level. Basically it all comes full circle to that quote that we saw in class about hanging and murder of these groups. I came to these conclusions based off the writing on the scale and the physical features on the men sitting on it. On the left you see an African American with the word south above him and the word black below him. He is also depicted in a common way African Americans were displayed in this point in history. Then on the right you see and Irish man with the words north above him and the word white below him. In the same way as the African American was depicted so is the Irish man except he is depicted as an ape, which was common.
2. You would support this cartoon if you were pro slavery, and against the rise of immigration of the Irish people. You would against this cartoon if you were an abolitionist, and for the rise of population to America.
3. I think this cartoon actually wouldn't have been supremely useful. I'm sure several people found it entertaining, but I sort of doubt that it changed any opinions. As a student in 2017 the thought of slavery and racism has been taught in all forms of education. I think we live in an age where we are fighting against the racial divide. So I feel most people in the modern world would be against this kind of cartoon.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

by Ronald Graham - Monday, January 30, 2017, 7:38 PM

In the cartoon "The Scale" I believe the cartoonist wanted to show that all men, black or white are equal. "The Scale" had two men, black and white, on a scale. The scale was balanced It is a very simplistic cartoon which appealed to me, because it got to the point without using too many words.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

by Ronald Graham - Saturday, February 4, 2017, 8:48 PM

The "Am I not a man and a brother?" cartoon was power I felt. It was simple, how I think political cartoons should be, and it demonstrated a lot of emotions. The cartoon really speaks for itself, and I think in that time period that is important. whether you were pro-slavery or not, it shows a man on his knees in chains, begging. That shows extreme vulnerability. It hits some religious aspects as well by saying "Am I not a man and a brother?" referring to a child of God. The same God that the majority of America believed in.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Holy Horror Interpretation: Fight for rights!

by Andrew Erkert - Monday, January 30, 2017, 9:27 PM

My analysis is on the Holy Horror cartoon.

1) Firstly, I think the cartoonist is in support of the abolition of slavery. He is depicting the wife of a man who voted against voting rights for black men, as what people of that time depicted black people or Irish people like. That style of appearance is very similarly to some of the other cartoons we looked at in class with African Americans and Irish Americans. Another important thing that I noticed that leads to my belief that the author is pro-rights for African Americans is that there is a stark contrast between the two women. In typical depictions of "negroes", they are viewed like the white woman in this cartoon but instead the cartoonist made the black woman elegant and very "normal" looking as most white women would've been illustrated like in that time. She even seems to be somewhat

depressed by the look of her plain expression, most likely due to the lack of rights gained in the voting and how she is next to what she believes to be a racist lady due to association with Mr. McCaferaty.

2) The clear opposing view to me here is southerner that rely on black oppression for a stable economy. They would never want African Americans voting because that would add a large population of anti-slavery and black freedom voters. In this time, the Democratic party would be a group that would do everything they could to stop this from happening. The institution of slavery was just too deeply embedded in the U.S for many people to accept this point of view at that time

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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"At the south" and "Bobolitionist's"

by Daniel Huffer - Monday, January 30, 2017, 10:12 PM

I'm a fan of the cartoon "AT THE SOUTH". It's full of little details I think support the author's pro-slavery and anti-abolitionist message. I think the main message of the cartoon is how blacks were better off as slaves. They are caricatures but they are well dressed. They have warm food over a fire, art on the walls, along with what looks like a banjo and possibly even liquor on the shelf above the mantle.

In the text below the image there is a sentence in stereotypical black vernacular wherein the mother uses the Abolitionist movement as a sort of boogey man. The joking smile on her face the exact opposite of the fear on the child, a fear of being dragged away to a free world he's probably never known of.

Obviously I think this particular comic does a good job of trivializing the Abolitionist movement and playing down the conditions of slavery.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: "At the south" and "Bobolitionist's"

by Raya Aviani - Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 3:41 PM

That's a good point, I actually never looked at it like that. I thought that it might be about slavery in the south after things like abolitionists coming out supporting the civil freedom of slaves, the Liberator and other publications started to circulate, and more people were supporting the freedom of slaves and runaway slaves, especially after the Fugitive Slave Act, that the slave holders in the south became very strict as a result. They didn't teach their slaves to read and write, as I think the mother shows proof of illiteracy by not

knowing how to say or spell abolitionist. The slave holders also spread fear and hatred of the abolitionist group to deter the slaves from trying to escape (lest they be stolen by the monster abolitionists).

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Re: "At the south" and "Bobolitionist's"

by Emily Phan - Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 10:59 AM

I felt that this cartoon might also be attempting to be satirical. The caption "At the South" suggests to me that this carton was written in the north. If it was written in the south why would the cartoonist bother to say where this interaction was happening? Cartoons are supposed to point out what is wrong with the other side of an argument. I'm sure you've seen such things on social media. Do you see many political cartoons written by someone with your opinions characterizing your opinions in a wonderful light? Cartoon almost always point out the flaws in others, not praise your own position.

I think this cartoon is trying to point out the silliness of the pro-slavery peoples arguments. The pro-slavery people said that almost all of their slaves were happy and didn't wish for freedom. This cartoon is trying to point out the ludicrousness of the pro-slavery argument. Would the slaves really not wish for freedom? Would a slave mother not want it for her child? Quite possibly the cartoonists are trying to show how silly the pro-slavery arguments would sound in an actual slave's mouth.

Now I may be looking at this cartoon totally incorrectly but this is my impression of it.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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response to Emily

by Covita Hughes - Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 9:39 PM

Good point Emily. Your perspective made me rethink my initial impression/analysis of this cartoon. At first - all I could see was an oppressed woman trying to keep her child in line to avoid the abolitionists. I can see how this cartoon wasn't intended to be taken literally now.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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**Re: response to Emily**

by Raya Aviani - Thursday, February 2, 2017, 3:35 PM

I agree that that's a very realistic view for that period. It also made me think about it in a different way too. If I saw a cartoon today about a family in Iraq warning of the scary American soldiers, I would first think they are there to free them in a political sense and that it was a silly cartoon. But the artist would probably be someone against the war. So maybe the artist is someone from the North, but who doesn't support the abolitionists, because they tear apart families and threaten the Union. The slaves don't look beaten or ragged like the North usually depicts in anti-slavery cartoons. They look comfortable in a home, together, only in fear of the abolitionists.

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**My Interpretation of The Scale**

by Howard Fuller - Monday, January 30, 2017, 11:00 PM

Cartoon of choice: The Scale

Since the scale is level, it would seem the cartoonist is trying to depict the U.S. as a balance between the racist, slaveholding south and the grouchy, political north. The southern end of the scale has a happy-looking black man depicted with apelike features, while the northern end has a grumpy-looking white man depicted with similarly misshapen features. Since the black man looks happy, I wonder if the cartoonist is trying to show the South to have some advantage over the north. The cartoon has a certain feeling of mockery, perhaps of both the north and the south, but I don't know what demographic at which this was directed.

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**The Scale, it's all about balance**

by Bailey Koffler - Monday, January 30, 2017, 11:27 PM

Question 1) *The Scale* cartoon is exemplifying how blacks and whites are equal. The cartoonist made this idea clear by drawing a scale, hence the name, with a white man on one side and a black man on the other. The scale is perfectly balanced. The two men are staring at each other, the white man is in shock, his mouth hanging wide open. The black man looks eager, he has a huge grin on his face as if he's been waiting his entire life for this

moment. This is a metaphor describing the equality between the races. Something that I found interesting about this cartoon is that from what we've seen in class black people are typically drawn to look like monkeys. In this cartoon, the white man resembles a monkey. It's a strong possibility that the black man is a slave to the white man. He has no shoes on his feet and he's wearing a sun hat. The white man had on riding boots, a top hat and a nice coat, obviously of higher class than the black man.

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Re: The Scale, it's all about balance

by Raya Aviani - Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 3:23 PM

That's exactly what I thought as well when I first saw the cartoon. But from the belittling drawings of the two people I think that they are only equal in the eyes of those that did not like either one. Comparing slaves in the south, or maybe the act of slavery, to the Irish immigrants and open drunkenness they accepted during a time of temperance in America. Both acts appalling to some, like maybe those in the temperance movement? The Baptists and Methodists?

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Am I Not A Man and A Brother?

by Micaela Willey - Monday, January 30, 2017, 11:56 PM

The first thing I related this cartoon was with Black Lives Matter, I could see that the cartoonist had a bias that black lives do matter and should be treated equal to us. I made that assumption because of the label running across the cartoon saying "am I not a man and a brother?" as well as the pose of the man holding up the chains he is wearing, looking like he is begging to be freed. I feel that in the 19th century Andrew Jackson would have a very different point of view than that of which is being portrayed in this image, he would want to continue holding blacks as slaves. The more northern states would have agreed with this image however.

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"At the South"

by Covita Hughes - Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 7:17 AM

The cartoon "At the South" shows a mother trying to get her child to behave by telling him that his consequences will be that he will be given to the Abolitionists. The short conversation in the cartoon is an attempt to impress in the young man's brain that rebelling against his mother will result in losing her. The main point of this cartoon is to convince the reader that the abolitionist were a tool in tearing families apart. The expression on the mother's face showed me that she had reached a level of acceptance regarding her current situation as a slave, and there in no way is an option to change that fact for her, much less her children. I see a woman who is training her child into the same oppression that she was born into. Opposing views to this depiction would be the abolitionist who believe slavery in inhumane, and that slaves deserve freedom. This cartoon must have been effective to the southerners in the 19th century to confirm their idea that abolitionists were criminal in their fight for freedoms. For me in my generation, this cartoon is quite sad. I identify with the woman as a single mother who has overcome an abusive marriage. My situation is nowhere near hers, however I can understand how her mind led her to actions that were unsafe for her child.

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Am I not a Man?

by Covita Hughes - Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 7:32 PM

This cartoonist believes that slaves have been oppressed and that they are spiritual human beings – wanting to live among other human beings in brotherly fashion. I think the main point they were trying to make was that slavery was abuse. They made that point clear by the pain on the man's face and the chains he was bound in. The man in the cartoon was crying out in earnest to his God, seeking answers on his own worth as a man. Slave owners would oppose this on the basis that blacks were “sub-human”, animalistic, and possessed smaller brains, therefore inferior – justifying their use of them as objects.

The emotion exuding from the cartoon captured pain I could never feel and evoked strong empathy within me for what this man was faced with. Our culture is one that places emphasis on equality, and this cartoon displays the harsh reality of the opposite of that for that time period.

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The Scale

by Amy Aguilar - Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 11:13 PM

While studying "The Scale" I find it the one that speaks to me the most. There are two men sitting on a scale. On the left side is a black man and on the right is a white man. The top of the scale is labeled South, with an arrow to the left and North, with an arrow to the right. Aside from race, the men are similar in appearance, both are wearing some kind of pant suit and a hat, both sitting in the same position. The only differences that I do make out are that the black man does not have shoes, and the expressions on their faces are different. The black man is smiling while the white man on the other hand has a grin on his face. I conclude from this cartoon that the artist of this work is trying to sway their audience to believe that both men are equal and the most obvious hint that gave it away was that the scale, with both men sitting atop it, is evenly balanced. From my previous experiences I have learned to associate a scale to represent Justice. I automatically think of government when I see a scale and am able to further conclude that the artist of this cartoon did not only believe men are equal in a religious aspect, but in a living society with equal rights.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

by Jordan Selker - Saturday, February 4, 2017, 8:41 PM

I believe the author is trying to trying to portray the image of a humble slave, and while not necessarily asking for equality, asking for basic human rights. By acknowledging that he would still be a brother, I think this cartoon is trying to take baby steps towards civil justice, and while many Americans couldn't consider slaves an equal, they could at the very least acknowledge their status as humans. I'm sure many slave owners disagreed with the humanistic and innocent portrayal of the black man, and would take offense to the idea of any sense of equality. This cartoon also must've been a powerful message to many abolitionists. While it's easy for us to scoff at the idea of slavery, Americans of the 19th century were much more normalized to it, and the victim message was incredibly important and necessary. This victim mentality is present in civil justice movements of the 21st century today, and while gender inequality may be a much less severe issue than slavery, it maintains it's similarities. The opposition doesn't see the perspective of those demanding change, and the use of pathos is a very important factor in slowly swaying the popular position. While stylized to emphasize race, the cartoon doesn't come off as degrading to me, but rather humanizing. I think it is an effective and meaningful message written in a simple cartoon.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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