

HST 202: History of United States W19 (Escobar)

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Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, January 25, 2019, 9:48 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Interpreting 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, which clearly describes the cartoon name you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

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"Am I not a man and a brother?" Cartoon

by [Amanda Francis](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 10:36 AM

The fourth cartoon is two pictures side by side with conflicting messages. The first picture is an African American man on the ground with chains around his hands and feet. His face is pointing up, eyes closed in agony, and wearing nothing but a cloth around his waist. There's a banner beneath his feet that says, "Am I not a man and a brother?" The artist is trying to show the reader the humanness of slaves. He is in pain. He is human. He is your brother. He deserves to be treated just like everyone else. He is equal. Slavery is inhumane. This cartoon was definitely made by someone who is anti-slavery or an abolitionist. "Abolitionists proposed not only emancipation but also racial equality. Assuming that God had created blacks and whites as members of one human family" (textbook 420). It could be from a white abolitionist or a free black person. Most likely, it was a white abolitionist male cartoonist.

The second cartoon depicts almost the opposite. The picture is of a black man holding a sword in one hand and a torch in the other with an angry, wide eyed expression on his face. At his feet are a few dead white people. It's indicating that this man is evil and on a killing rampage. At the bottom of the cartoon it says, "Am I a man and a brother?" deliberately responding to the first cartoon. This cartoon was most likely drawn after the slave revolts that happened in Virginia. More specifically, the man in this picture could be Nat Turner, which led the slave revolt with the highest casualties. "Turner and his followers hacked to death 55 white men, women, and children before they were stopped (textbook 328)." The slave revolts led to an even worse image of African Americans. They were now seen as malicious murderers. As a result, slave owners cracked down and the treatment of slaves became worse. This cartoon was most likely drawn by a southern white person who was pro-slavery. Again, most likely a slave owning, anti-abolitionist white man wanting to show the evilness of slaves.

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3

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The Scale
by [Megan Wayne](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 4:07 PM

When the Irish Catholics migrated their way into Northern American territory, people were mad and refused to welcome them. If you were Irish during this time, then you were viewed as if you were black. American citizens saw Irish people as a completely different race than they were. This cartoon has a scale with a black man on one side with "South" written above him and an Irish man on the other side with "North" written above him. The two men are evening out the scale measurements in the drawing which portray that the two races were viewed the same way between the South and the North. This drawing is extremely racist too. The black man is shoeless and clearly poor and the Irish man looks like he is wearing Leprechaun clothing. What also is racist and resembles their similarity in how they are portrayed by the American people is the way their heads are shaped... Today, almost every American has some percentage of Irish heritage in them.

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Re: The Scale
by [Owen McCoy](#) - Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 12:01 PM

It hadn't occurred to me that the cartoon artist was essentially saying that slaves and Irish immigrants were essentially the same; that is, inferior to white American Protestants. Nicely done. That reminds me of the quote that Joe shared in class that if every Irishman killed a slave and was hanged for it then it would solve all of the country's problems. This is the same disturbing thought process that was the foundation of the Nazi regime.

The cartoon author doesn't seem to be suggesting that Irishmen and slaves start killing each other. However, they seem to be portraying the Irish immigrants in the North as the northern, white equivalent of southern slaves. Furthermore, by categorizing the Irish and slaves as entirely different races, racial nativism became a prevalent ideology.

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Re: AM I Not A Man
by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 7:09 PM

Am I Not A Man:

This is an image that represent Antislavery. In the text book (Page 421 3rd paragraph) States: Antislavery was unlike other reforms, was a radical attack on one of the nation's central institutions, and the movement attracted a minority even among middle-class evangelicals."

William Lloyd Garrison (page 388 2nd paragraph) states: "along with Boston abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison's declaration of war on slavery in 1831, followed by Nat Turner'

William Lloyd Garrison (page 420 1st paragraph) states: "Garrison opposed discrimination as well as slavery. Thus, coupling southern slavery with the national question of race." "Garrison and his coworkers formed the New England Anti-Slavery Society in 1832 blacks made up one-fourth of the membership." --there were people who were for this.

Opposing factors on this issue at that time. There were a lot who opposed this movement at least in the 1830s. Both Lyman Beecher and Charles Finney opposed the abolitionist in the 1830's arguing that emancipation would come about sooner or later through the religious conversion of slave owner; antislavery agitation and the denunciation of slaveholders, they argued, would divide Christians, slow the revival movement, and thus actually emancipation." ---there were people who were against

The cartoonists who drew this picture was against slavery. Their main point with this picture is that there trying to point out, is that slavery is unjust. And that It doesn't matter what color your skin is. He's a man, brother and should have right just as much as anyone other man, who lived during this time.

If I had lived in this time period. with the religious beliefs that I believe in today. I would have been against slavery. Learning in class, how people viewed slaves back then is very interesting to me. It's hard for me to imagine because of how I grew up. I can say I've seen the racism that we have today because of a person skin color, I have seen it all my life. And people are still affected by those times. We are what we learn and what we are thought

The 13th amendment, which formally abolished slavery in the United States, passed Senate on April 8, 1864, and the House on January 31, 1865. President Abraham Lincoln approves the Joint Resolution of Congress submitting the proposed amendment to the state legislatures.

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3

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Massacre. Am I a man and a brother your killing
by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Thursday, January 31, 2019, 5:29 PM

I didn't mention cartoon on the right so I thought I might. "Am I not a man and a brother." This cartoon has nothing to do with the one on left. This is a black man holding a sword in one hand and a torch in the other. Three bodies below him which appear to be a woman, young girl and another person who have been massacred and a church in the background. This is obvious someone on killing spur. This cartoon was likely in the aftermath of the Nat Turner revolt. Most likely depicting Nat Turner himself. (page 328 3rd paragraph) "Turner and his followers hacked to death 55 white men, women, and children before they were stopped. During the revolt, slaves whose masters had been murdered joined the rebels without a second thought.

After the math even though he didn't create a widespread rebellion, it did create sense of alert that stayed in the minds of white people resulting in the deaths of many blacks by white mobs. Several laws were put in place and made it clear that free blacks would enjoy even fewer rights than they had before the revolt. (I remember in-class Discussion) Thus making it even worse for slaves than before.

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Re: Massacre. Am I a man and a brother your killing
by [Megan Wayne](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 10:58 PM

I agree! Kind of like how slavery before the Nat Turner revolt it was "better" and then after the revolt it was way way worse. This description made me look at the cartoon in a different way.

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The Scale
by [Levi Savage](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 11:34 AM

In the Scale cartoon, the cartoonist is making the connection between the north and the south. They both have groups of people they look down on and oppress. For the north it's the Irish immigrants and the south it's the African-Americans. In more ways than not the north and the south are more alike than most at the time period would like to admit. That is what this cartoonist is trying to convey they both have skeletons in their closet of discrimination and violence committed against the oppressed. An example of this was when "Protestants burned down St. Mary's Catholic Church in New York City in 1831" ([Library of Congress](#))

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2

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The Ballot Box Interpreted
by [Nicolette D Erazo](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 4:07 PM

In the Ballot Box cartoon, the cartoonist seems to display an anti-immigrant view point. The Irish and German men are represented by "Irish whiskey" and "Deutsche Bier", the alcohol they brought to America, which upset many at the time. The two men are seen running away with the ballot box, leaving the people in chaos behind them. I think the idea that the large number of immigrants coming to America negatively impacting elections, is being represented here.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

2

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The Ballot Box - Interpreting Editorial Cartoons
by [Chase Prosser](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 6:19 PM

This political cartoon shows two gentlemen carrying out a ballot box. One man is wearing a whiskey barrel, representing recent Irish immigrants while the other, sporting a beer barrel, represents German immigrants. During that era, whiskey referenced the Irish while beer represented Germans, both for their preferred drink. From what I

remember during a class discussion, this cartoon is a claims that immigrants are affecting the current presidential election of that era, by voting against the American population. This caused outrage and as you can see in the background, a brawl has broken out from the dispute.

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Re: The Ballot Box - Interpreting Editorial Cartoons
by [Colt Karam](#) - Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 8:24 PM

What I don't understand about this cartoon and early American's views in general was that the villified multiple types of people who immigrated here. These were hard working people who brought new ideas and skills with them and they assimilated into the culture and voted. What more could people have wanted from them? It is eerily similar to today's events and culture.

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Re: The Ballot Box - Interpreting Editorial Cartoons
by [Nicolette D Erazo](#) - Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 10:14 PM

The Irish and German people brought a love for alcohol to America and they did not appreciate it. The book states," Millions of Irish and German immigrants poured into neighborhoods recently stirred by working-class revivals and temperance agitation"(p. 414). The alcohol of these immigrating countries was exactly the opposite of what American temperance forces wanted and therefore did not like the immigrants. "For their part, the Irish reaffirmed their love of whiskey, a love that legitimized levels of male drunkenness and violence that Americans, particularly the temperance forces, found appalling"(p. 415).

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Re: The Ballot Box - Interpreting Editorial Cartoons
by [Amanda Francis](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 5:10 PM

It's important to note the significant role alcohol played in the Irish and German assimilation into American society and the effect this had on politics. "In the 1850s, native resentment of Catholic immigrants drove thousands of Baptist and Methodist "respectables" out of the Democratic coalition into nativist Whig majorities" (p. 415). This was mostly due to "temperance agitation" (p. 414) which was causing a major shift in the North, politically and socially. The ballot box in the cartoon represents this. The Northern population was politically identifying less as Democrats and more as Whigs. According to our textbook, alcohol was the defining difference between Democrats and Whigs.

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Re: The Ballot Box - Interpreting Editorial Cartoons
by [Amanda Francis](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 5:36 PM

Immigration and the growing numbers of voting immigrants had such a profound effect on politics that a separate political party grew from it. The Know-Nothings, formerly known as the American Party, was formed. "Members wanted public office restricted to native-born men and south to lengthen naturalization period before immigrants could become citizens" (p. 464). This was all a result of the influx of immigration that, as our textbook describes, was the "highest proportional volume of immigration in American history" (p.462). Growing feelings of nativism was a direct result of the "3 million immigrants" that entered the United States (p.462). A few years later, as the number of new immigrants began to fade, so did the feelings of nativism.

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The Scale cartoon
by [Margaret Batz](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 7:09 PM

I think that the artist for the "scale" cartoon is expressing that blacks and whites should and can be equal to one another. The white male on the North side of the scale looks angry while on the South side it showed an African american smiling. I think that he was smiling because he was was equal to the white male and was showing that

they are all human beings and should be equal to each other no matter what their race is. The African american didn't have shoes and had dirty clothes while the white man had clean and nice clothes. The white man was confused that they were equal on the scale because he thinks he is better solely on the color of his skin. So I think that the artist was trying to portray equal rights and show that everyone can be equal no matter what.

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Re: The Scale cartoon
by [Colt Karam](#) - Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 8:11 PM

I interpreted this the opposite way, the man on the right appears to be Irish and the scale is putting him on the same level with the African man. From what we know in history, this comparison is not a positive one since African Americans were treated so poorly. This cartoon shows how the north thought of the Irish immigrants the same way as the south viewed African slaves, and how much they're worth in society. I believe the point of this drawing is to call out the northerners for being hypocrites since they treat the Irish like southerners treat the Africans.

Sum of ratings:1(1)1

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Re: The Scale
by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 8:21 PM

The Scale is a political cartoon which I believe represents a time when there was discrimination and oppression, whether you were living in the north states and the south states. On one side of the scale it represents the South with a black slave who is shoe less and on the North side there is an Irish immigrant man. Both appear to look ape like, which I think is racist, but common back in these times when you wanted to stereotype a person to make there heads look this way.

This cartoonist is trying to convey that both sides had people who committed violence against the oppressed. And that the people of this nature who live on both sides are equal in their crimes and should not be equal to the common man. I think this cartoonist dislikes the people that are represented here, on both sides.

On the North Irish scale for example, text book (page 407 3rd paragraph) "A nun in Connecticut complained that Irish children in the public school "see their parents looked upon as an inferior race."

The Irish had ill will towards them because of their poor living conditions and their willingness to work for low wages was often exacerbated by religious conflict Centuries of tension between Protestants and Catholics found their way into the United States cities and verbal attacks often led to mob violence. For example, Protestants burned down St. Mary's Catholic Church in New York City in 1831, but the church was not destroyed and continued to operate while 1844, riots in Philadelphia left Thirteen dead.

On the other spectrum scale with the black slave on the South side. (page 426 3rd paragraph) "The Southern distrust of reform was powerfully reinforced after 1830, when northern reformers began to call for the abolition of slavery and equality of the sexes—reforms that most southerners found unthinkable."

Ex. Nat turner was an African -American slave who led a two-day rebellion of slaves and free blacks in Southampton County, Virginia on August 21, 1831. This rebellion caused many deaths.

Slaves were considered property and they were property because they were black. There status as property was enforced by violence- actual or threatened.

Sum of ratings:3(1)3

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Re: The Scale
by [Margaret Batz](#) - Thursday, January 31, 2019, 12:42 PM

I agree with you completely. For my first post I wrote about the scale, I was a little confused and didn't make the connection that the south side was Irish. But now gathering more information about this, it makes more sense. The south and the north were equally bad. The south treated the blacks very bad but the North treated the Irish just as bad so the cartoonist was making that connection and wanted to coney that. Both sides did use violence therefore they are equal on the scale spectrum.

Sum of ratings: [1\(1\)](#) 1[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Discrimination Scale**by [Colt Karam](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 8:38 PM

This drawing depicts how a southerners view African Americans vs how northerners view Irish immigrants. On one side you have the worth of an African American to southerners and on the other side you have the worth of Irish Immigrants to northerners. The scales are equal because southern people put the same amount of worth into African Americans as northerners put into the Irish. It shows how northerners are hypocrites and attack the south while they are also discriminating against a group of people.

The artist's purpose is to defend southerners ideas on discrimination by showing that northerners also discriminate against people too. An opposing view on this would be that while the Irish were discriminated against they weren't someone else's property and were allowed to vote and run for political offices. This is the reason slavery has held onto African Americans so long while the Irish seem to have lost any connection to the discrimination they once faced.

Sum of ratings: [2\(1\)](#) 2[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons**by [Aaron Richards](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 9:08 PM

The author of this cartoon

is more than likely an advocate for American nativism. The main point is about the influx of Irish Catholic immigrants into the US. Even though majority of the US believes in Christianity there is a negative Catholic stigma which creates tension between the protestants and Catholics.

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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by [Aaron Richards](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 6:30 PM

Historically, Catholicism has led to many wars and conquering of new lands. The crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, and the discovery of the Americas were all supported by the Catholic Church. I think the main events that started Americans negative association of Catholicism was during the Tudor Dynasty's reign of England. In order to become divorced, Henry the VIII separated from the Catholic church, starting the church of England. After this reformation period one of Henry's daughters, Mary the I, became queen and reinstated Catholicism and executed many who opposed the reinstatement. This earned her the nickname "Bloody Mary", even though both Henry the VII and Mary's successor, Elizabeth the I, killed many more Catholic practitioners than Mary did protestant.

The author of this cartoon is hinting to Catholicism's history of conquest by showing the pope pointing to the US like he had the intent to capture it. I believe this may have been an effective cartoon due to the treatment Irish Catholics were given during the 19th century and even the negative stigma that still follows them today.

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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 7:31 PM

Hi Aaron,

I like your take on this cartoon. For me, I believe this cartoon holds a more negative view of Catholicism and those who practice it. This can be seen based on the time this was happening. During this time the Americans have a negative view on the Irish based off many things. How much they drink, the religion they choose to follow, immigrating to the US. Its safe to assume that the cartoon author of this drawing perhaps was more pro american than irish. The depiction of this drawing could potentially install fear into the americans by showing that catholicism can replace their religion.

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Reply to Promised Land

by [Tiffanie Chapman](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 10:33 PM

Hi Gerardo,

I agree with you when you stated that "this drawing could potentially install fear into Americans by showing that Catholicism can replace their religion". I think that this cartoon was very effective in creating that fear. It was even in our school systems at that time. Our textbook touches on when there was even riots in Philadelphia over it in regards to education, "riots that pitted avowedly Whig Protestants against Catholic immigrants, ostensibly over the issue of Bible reading in schools, killed 13 people" (pg.407). Our book even states that these conflicts were so overwhelming that it would affect our future Democratic coalitions (pg.407). I believe these kind of political cartoons were affective in reassuring Protestant Americans about there misguided fear that Catholic immigrants would eventually demolish the Christian religion.

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Anti-Catholic Nativism

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 10:19 PM

The cartoon titled “The Promised Land” displays some of the nativist sentiment discussed in class, particularly the Anti-Catholic strain. The cartoon depicts Catholic officials (identified by the crosses they’re wearing) standing atop a basilica grinning deviously and eyeing the United States. I also see spears sticking up above the crowd. Perhaps the author is suggesting that the Catholics in Europe mean to spread Catholicism to mainly Protestant America, by force if necessary. The author was probably sympathetic to nativists who were alarmed by the increasing presence of Irish Catholic immigrants in America. Evidently, some thought that it was a ploy concocted by high-ranking church officials to make the United States a Catholic country. It appears that their fears were largely unfounded because as Joe pointed out in class, almost two hundred years later, Protestants still outnumber Catholics by a roughly two-to-one ratio in America.

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3 (1)

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Demographic Changes

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 10:33 PM

The cartoon titled "The Ballot Box" was discussed in class, but I will reiterate. The cartoon depicts an Irishman and a German stealing the ballot box. This is metaphoric of the fact that the influx of immigrants meant that demographics were changing and thus people were worried about how the immigrants would influence election results. To me, this signals nativist sentiments on the part of the author. Additionally, the cartoon shows fighting in the background in front of the polling location. In class, Joe showed us the trailer for "Gangs of New York" which showed cases of fighting that broke out between ethnic groups, so the fighting depicted in the cartoon seems more realistic with that in mind.

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False view of the southern slave

by [Tiffanie Chapman](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 11:22 PM

When reviewing the political cartoon, At the South, you can see a mother disciplining her son. She is using a statement to scare her child by threatening to send him away with the abolitionists that are from the north. Using her statement, you can infer that she is a slave in the south, which makes me believe the artist is from the south and using this as a way to inform people of the south during the time of the compromise of 1850 and the underground railroad when slaves were trying to runaway to the north. I think the artist wanted to portray this lie that slaves didn't actually want to be free and were happy with their situation in the south. He shows a well dressed woman and child and that she doesn't agree with anti-slavery abolitionists views and uses it as a scare tactic for her child to behave. When in actuality, most slaves obviously wanted to be free and were in agreement with the abolitionists of the north.

Sum of ratings:

3 (1)

3

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Re: False view of the southern slave

by [Arthur Vander Hoff](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 11:54 PM

I definitely agree with this. You can tell the artist wanted to make the slaves look like they had everything they wanted: extra clothes (the jacket hanging on the wall), entertainment (the banjo), the bottle and glass, and they even have some art hanging up on the wall. Of course, some slaves might've had things like this (as Joe has said in class, there was better and worse slavery), but the artist definitely wanted to make it look like they were comfortable where they were.

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Slavery: A man and a brother?

by [Arthur Vander Hoff](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 11:45 PM

This the start of my analysis of the political cartoon labeled "man_brother."

The left half of the picture depicts a forlorn, pleading black slave in chains and little clothing. He is on his knees, eyes closed, and looking upward with raised arms. Beneath him is a banner with the text "Am I not a man and a brother?" The text on the right depicts that same man but in a wild, almost barbaric pose like an animal or ape. His eyes are wide open with flared nostrils and his mouth open, showing his teeth. He is wielding a torch in his left hand and a sword in his right. His clothes are not as quite as sparse as the left half, but still sparse. Beneath him lay a (presumably) dead woman and children, while behind him are the burning remains of a house. There is text written at the bottom of the right side, notably smaller and less obvious than the text on the left: "*Am* I a man and a brother?"

This political cartoon is clearly against the abolition of slavery that was called for by the abolitionists of the North. Given that the same man is portrayed going from left to right, we can infer that these two scenes happen chronologically. I believe the cartoon is saying something along the lines of, "If we take the slaves that are subdued and obedient who are asking for freedom and equal treatment, and free them, then they will show their true selves and become murderous animals," showing the black man from the left side who was previously pleading for freedom, now free and having just burned a house down and murdered a woman and two children. I don't know if we're allowed to look up these cartoons for information but assuming this was published after 1831, this is very likely to be a reference to the Nat Turner Rebellion.

One thing I noticed that I'd like to point out is the difference in art style between the two halves. The left side looks more like it would be on a poster of some sort: flat and lacking a background with text displayed as a main focus like a logo. The right side is a fully illustrated scene complete with a foreground (the black man), midground (the dead woman and children), and background (the burning house), and the text is written in small font at the bottom as a caption. In addition to that, the color of the left image is slightly different

than the color of the right. I'm not sure what this could mean but it's there. Another observation is that the image on the left looks almost Roman/Greek with the robe-like garm and the curly hair.

One final detail that I'd like to point out is that in the right picture, the black an is trampling a white picket-fence, which could mean that he has no regard to property. If I recall from the last forum, specifically Forner's video, he says that property used to be the "line of division between exclusion and inclusion" when it came to voting and that from the time of the Revolution to the time of Jackson, it changed to being race and gender (Forner, 1:27). It could also just be an insignificant detail adding to the animalistic depiction, but it's a probable connection that I wanted to draw.

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3

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Re: Slavery: A man and a brother?
by [Colt Karam](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 9:20 PM

You make a solid point about the view of anti-abolitionists. They feared that if they accepted blacks as normal people they would act like "savages" and turn on their white "brothers" to murder and kill them. They were afraid if they accepted them into normal life the wouldn't respect the laws of the land, and would destroy the life of "normal" white families. This view isn't even against slavery it is against any sort of acceptance of African Americans.

Sum of ratings:[1 \(1\)](#)

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Re: Slavery: A man and a brother?
by [Arthur Vander Hoff](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 11:43 PM

Just a short response/addendum to my own post:

In class, I don't remember if Joe said it or if it was in one of the videos, but we learned that these two cartoons are indeed from different artists. If I remember correctly, they showed the left image when they were talking about the abolitionists. With the african-american depicted in the second cartoon being the same as the first along with the caption being almost the same sentence, it's pretty clear that the second cartoon is directly responding/targeting the first one. The person who drew the second cartoon is questioning what the first cartoon's message, saying that if the slaves were men and brothers, then why would they attack and murder innocent whites? Again, most likely referencing the Nat Turner Rebellion.

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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons
by [Mitchell Bell](#) - Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 4:52 PM

I will be looking at the scale cartoon which is a pretty good one to look at. First you have a scale with a black man in one side and a white man in the other if you notice the scale is even. This shows that this cartoon writer believes that blacks and whites are even or have the same rights this cartoon artist was most likely from the North showing people in a very blunt way that whites and blacks are the same. I believe that this cartoon was probably very effective because there is little to get mis interpreted the scale is even and I'm sure this made very many people of the day think well maybe the black and white man aren't that different after all.

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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons
by [Megan Wayne](#) - Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 6:49 PM

I believe that the cartoon is showing a Black man from the South and an Irish man from the North. Many Irish people migrated from Ireland to Northern America and the American people were not happy. They were so not happy that they considered Irish people to be a completely different race. They also did not appreciate their Catholicism that they brought with them. They were not treated fairly by American citizens in the North. And the reason why it is an even scale is because the way that Black people were seen in the South is similar to how people viewed Irishman in the North.

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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by [Levi Savage](#) - Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 11:15 PM

The writer here I believe is not trying to say that whites and blacks are equal but is trying to raise attention to the fact that the north has its own group of people that they discriminate against the Irish immigrants. By comparing a slave in the south to Irish immigrants in the north as being equally hated and oppressed.

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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by [Margaret Batz](#) - Thursday, January 31, 2019, 7:32 PM

This is what I thought at first when I looked at this cartoon at beginning of this discussion. But reading over others post and doing more research about it, this is an Irish man and an African American. The artist was trying to convey that blacks were just as bad as the Irish so they were put on an equal scale. The Irish wasn't considered white yet so this could be a little confusing.

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Am I Not A Man or A Brother / AM I A Man And A Brother

by [Megan Wayne](#) - Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 6:44 PM

This cartoon represents a slave with a strong, muscled figure, but he is struggling. He is bent in this position that limits basic human ability by having his wrists and ankles chained together. At this point, he is forced to beg for simple human rights because of the dehumanization he goes through everyday. His facial expression is blank with no emotion because they took that away from slaves. This cartoons caption "Am I Not A Man or A Brother," is symbolizing the way white people viewed slaves during this time... not a man and not a brother. It is an obvious answer to the question that it being a yes that he is a man. This question is so obvious and insane to people modern day, but back then it would have been conflicting for some people, which is racist and crazy. And the cartoon next to this one, where the caption is, "AM I A Man And a Brother?" is so racist because the cartoonist made him question if he is a man. And the cartoonist also made the slave look like he is an ape by the way his skull is shaped and by the way he is moving in the drawing. He has weapons in both hands and there are people supposedly laying on the ground dead behind him. They made the man look like he is uncontrollable and dangerous.

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Re: holy horror feeling out of place

by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Thursday, January 31, 2019, 12:18 PM

In this image on the right is an attractive well dress image of a young free African American woman, who is dressed very nicely rather than clothed the way you would see a slave, who appears to be sitting next to woman to her left, wearing work-like attire and has ape like features which if I had to assume is Mrs. McCafraty, because on the bottom of editorial cartoon there an image in parentheses that says (Mr. McCafraty Voted against Negro Suffrage.) They appear to be sitting on a bench or possibly on some form of public transportation. Mrs. McCafraty is holding a basket in her lap with some fish, produce and two bottles of alcohol frequently associated with Irish-Catholics, Which I can safely assume. Her facial expression looking over suggests she is someone who appears to be filled with horror and horrified to find herself sitting next to a young black woman out in public. Here is a prejudiced Irish housewife who is feeling out of place, and an African American woman going about her day.

((((Citizenship being born in the United States))) talked about this in class

(Historical Highlights) On this date, the House overrode President Andrew Johnson's veto of the Civil Rights Bill of 1866 with near unanimous Republican support, 122 to 44, marking the first time Congress legislated upon civil rights. First introduced by Senate Judiciary Chairman Lyman Trumbull of Illinois, the bill mandated that "all persons born in the United States,' with the exception of American Indians, were "hereby declared to be citizens of the United States.

Here is something to think about: (Page A-1) Is there any language contained in these that are discriminating against colored people in regards to privileges to citizenship: with the Declaration of Independence (Page A-1), The Articles of Confederation 1771-1781, which came before the United State Constitution, which John Dickinson one of the main writers wrote, or the Constitution of United States America 1789

(Abolished slavery)

The Thirteenth Amendment (Amendment XIII)

(Equal rights)

The Fourteenth Amendment (Amendment XIV)

Right to vote

The Fifteenth Amendment (Amendment XV)

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Re: holy horror feeling out of place

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Thursday, January 31, 2019, 4:55 PM

I think that this cartoon demonstrates the author’s Anti-Irish bias. The author is probably a northern abolitionist who promoted blacks having the right to vote. However, the author is instead portraying the Irish woman as an anti-abolitionist and furthermore, they mockingly bring religion into the mix by including the title of “the holy horror,” presumably making fun of the Irish woman for being Catholic but obviously prejudiced.

I don’t think that this is an accurate representation of most Irish immigrants first and foremost because as Joe mentioned in class, the Catholic Church had denounced slavery hundreds of years prior to the events we are talking about. Also, the author’s depiction of the Irish woman clearly represents a bias on his/her part that corresponds to the same sort of nativism that was widely used to discriminate against the Irish immigrants in the North.

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The Promised Land and Immigration

by [Tiffanie Chapman](#) - Thursday, January 31, 2019, 7:20 PM

Wanting to touch on a couple other cartoons, while examining The Promised Land, I believe the artist is touching on the subject of Catholic Immigration during the 1800’s. You can see an obvious catholic figure, the Pope, and other characters wearing traditional catholic/religious garb. You can also see an army or crowd of people behind them holding weapons to symbolize how many nativists viewed Catholics during this time. They viewed these immigrants as a “take over” and an “attack” on their Protestant Christian beliefs. Surprisingly, both Whigs and Democrats agreed on this view, “Whigs, joined by many native-born Democrats, saw Catholics complaints as popish assaults on the Protestantism that they insisted was at the heart of American Republicanism” (Textbook 407). I believe that learning about this time period is very relevant to what is going on in today’s society with immigration. This makes you realize how important it is to know about the history of immigration and how there has always been some kind of negative view on it.

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Re: The Promised Land and Immigration

by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 11:28 PM

Hi Tiffanie,

I agree with your stance on this cartoon. I had read others, which was an interesting point of view, but this one made more logical sense based off the time period. The potential fear of catholicism being implemented in the U.S. was portrayed in the cartoon. The artist must have had a negative view on the Irish. This cartoon can relate to one that was shown in class about a week ago. With the pope appearing to look like crocodiles coming for the children. One could say that the both cartoons have a negative feeling towards the Irish bringing over Catholicism.

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Irish and Germans Ballet Box

by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Thursday, January 31, 2019, 7:39 PM

United State was booming you could say for immigrants, welcoming of anyone, if you wanted to start a new life America was it (Page 462) "In 1840, a combination of factors abruptly quadrupled the volume of immigration and changed its ethnic and occupational makeup." Increasing numbers of Irish and German were settling in the United States because of the Irish Potato Famine and the German economic stability. Which led to an increase in population by the millions, most were Catholic, which made native-born Protestants feel threatened which was an issue. Also politicians needing the vote count you had nativist who played on the fears of Irish and Germans as drunkards and rising crime, and poverty, sometimes and they would get tension igniting in violence and breaking out,

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Re: Irish and Germans Ballet Box

by [Nicolette D Erazo](#) - Thursday, January 31, 2019, 9:54 PM

You make a good point about the reasons behind the tensions between the Catholic and Protestant people. Established Americans deemed the immigrants responsible for the increase in crime and poverty, and at the same time, they threatened the political balance, so "nativist political parties sprang up in the early 1840s with the intent of curbing the political rights of immigrants"(p.462). The violence that occurred from all of this, is being recognized because in the Ballet Box cartoon, the scene, that the two men taking the ballot box, are leaving behind is being expressed on a large scale, with many people engaging in the riot and depicts a dark image representation of the reaction of German and Irish people integrating into America. "Several ethnic riots between Protestant and Catholic workers over the years culminated in pitch battles and numerous deaths in Philadelphia in 1844"(p. 462).

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Re: Irish and Germans Ballet Box

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 8:20 PM

I think you're absolutely right, and evidently, the cartoon author has a nativist point of view. Many northerners didn't like the sudden influx of Irish Catholic immigrants and inherently disliked them on the accounts that they were Irish instead of English, that they were Catholic instead of Protestant, and that they would often undercut native-born American workers for employment. The Irish and German immigrants also brought their cultural alcohol to America, and this upset the American Temperance movement that had previously been gaining traction. Based on the drawing, it seems that some Americans also feared that immigrants would negatively influence elections.

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At The South

by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 5:07 PM

The conclusion that I came with was more of a fear tactic in the cartoon. This is shown by the brief dialogue from mother to son. This cartoon is almost a scare tactic used to keep the african americans in salvery, or maybe just the kids. Portraying someone who is an abolitionist as someone who will "kidnap" you and take you away is almost like what parents tell their kids nowadays. The support behind this cartoon can be hinted towards a more pro slavery feeling because the south was against the abolition of slavery. Its effective to read and learn about these types of cartoons because it gives us an insight on how situations like this may be. As a student, it is effective because it shows us compared to telling us something. Seeing it first hand is more effective than if someone were to tell us what happened.

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The Ballot Box

by [Megan Wayne](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 10:49 PM

“The Ballot Box” cartoon's message is making fun of the Germans and the Irish. The editorial cartoonist drew the German man dressed in a beer barrel and an Irish man dressed in a whiskey barrel. Those are the stereotypical drinks in those countries and they are all that America thinks represents them. The Northern American citizens did not like them or approved of them living and participating within this country. The Germans and the Irish were arriving one after the other and became the majority, which means they basically controlled how elections would turn out. Many of them were Democrats since the Whigs did not accept them. They are holding a ballot box hand in hand symbolizing their upper-hand when it comes to voting. It all serves to show that even though the voting system cloaked and made it seem like people were contributing to the political process, they wanted to seem like they are making a difference when they actually are not at all.

This shows another example of oppression against European races. Comparing this cartoon to modern times is interesting. Democrats are still in favor of benefiting minorities in this country. These cartoons and these chapters that we are learning have taught me that although our country’s foundation is based off of diversity, the American people were not for it ever happening back then.

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Re: The Ballot Box
by [Owen McCoy](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 11:43 AM

The charts that Joe showed us in class made it apparent that Irish and German immigrants were arriving in America by the hundreds of thousands every year. However, he also pointed out that today, Protestants outnumber Catholics two to one in America. So while these immigrants definitely amounted to a large portion of the population, I find it hard to believe that they were ever the majority.

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Re: The Ballot Box
by [Nicolette D Erazo](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 7:17 PM

I would agree with you that the immigration population was never the majority. The book states that "during the decade after 1845, 3 million immigrants entered the United States-15 percent of the total population in America in 1845" (p.462). This was the highest recorded population of immigrants in U.S. history. However it does not represent a majority number in terms of voting, not to say that the immigrant people did not play a roll in the elections to come, which they did. That aspect is represented in a negative light by the Ballet Box cartoon.

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The bad American
by [Ha Neul Lee](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 5:06 PM

I think that the cartoon drawer is a very national American. Some who does not like black slaves or immigrants like Irish or Germans.Their main point was that these so call "outsiders" will corrupt the American society.Especially the last cartoon called "the ballot box" is something i think is a little to much I mean you can hate immigrants but portraying them as vote stealers is far beyond the spectrum. However i don't think many Americans would have had a positive view on any of these people yes, there were slave abolition groups but they were the small minority. I don't anyone cared about the Irish or German immigrants. This cartoon is effective enough to make the American people believe that immigrants and slaves are inhuman.I don't agree on that position. Seeing these cartoons make me feel very afraid of America, I feel like America is only caring for themselves and banishing all outsiders even though they themselves were outsiders of this land as well. I feel American supremacy all over these cartoons. I personally hate political cartoons they all seem to me like a bunch of people looking for something to criticize for the pleasure of fun. But i do remember the movie called "Flags of our Fathers".

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