

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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Editorial Cartoons- The Scale
by [Trevor Mejia](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 12:13 PM

In this cartoon, we see an African American man and a white man sitting across from each other equally on a scale. Above the white man on the right side it says north and above the African American man on the left, it says south. I believe this cartoon is depicting the birth into the African Americans right to vote which is why we are seeing the scales on an even weight an Irish looking man sitting for the north looks befuddled and angry that there is an African American man sitting across from him. I also enjoy the emotion on the African American man's face his big ear to ear grin depicting almost a smug look as iff he is trying to egg on the white man sitting across from him. As the African American man sits under the south side I feel this cartoon may have been made to create either a scare tactic for white to try and repel the rights for African American to vote or was made for the change and is why we see such a big smile from the south sideman for this was for making them on an equal level.

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Re: Editorial Cartoons- The Scale
by [Jamie Sumner](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 10:31 PM

I thought your take on this was rather interesting. However, I'm not sure that I agree with you. I don't think this cartoon has anything to do with voting, I think it has to do with racism. I think when the cartoonist drew the scale perfectly balanced it meant that they were the same people. The north and south, in my opinion, meant the Irish were as the same as the African but simply from a different part of the country. The quote from Freeman that says, "the best remedy for whatever is amiss in America would be if every Irishman killed a negro and be hanged for it," comes to my mind. The Irish were poor and Catholic, which in the eyes of the cartoonist was just as "bad" as being African. As for the smile, I'm a little thrown off and completely open to anyone's take on it. Is it like a, "hey, you're white but you're looked at just like me," thing? Or am I looking at it totally wrong?

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The Scale

by [Ethon Cole](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 3:59 PM

In my interpretation of the cartoon, I believe that it runs along the same lines as the quote "The best remedy for whatever is amiss in America would be if every Irishman killed a negro and be hanged for it". On the right side it says white and north while the figure that sits in the dish closely resembles other stereotypical drawings of Irish immigrants I have seen, while the left side holds the titles black and south with a man of color perched on the dish referring to the south's population of African Americans. The scale is balanced leaving me to conclude that the author of this cartoon is making a claim that both races are equally inferior.

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Re: The Scale

by [Katie Calkins](#) - Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 8:46 AM

I think you make a valid claim on this cartoon, and I like how you included the quote, "The best remedy for whatever is amiss in America would be if every Irishman killed a negro and be hanged for it". I remember that when Escobar talked about this quote in class, he also was telling us about how Irishmen were depicted as monkeys in cartoons such as this throughout history.

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Re: The Scale

by [William Wilson](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 12:49 PM

I agree with your interpretation to the scale cartoon. I might add that the interpretation is that blacks in the south were equally causing "trouble" in the south as to the Irish in the north. The quote from the history professor from the Ivy league school that was mentioned in class would be what mindset I'd imagine the focus audience for this editorial cartoon would be. Scales meaning a balance in this image, saying that blacks were equal to Irishmen or the reverse view that Irishmen were the same as blacks.

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The Scale

by [Zane Hiam](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 9:32 AM

I chose to look at the political cartoon titled "The Scale." In it, we see a stereotypical African-American on an arm of the scale labeled "South" balancing out a drunken, slovenly white man on the "North" side of the scale. I believe this represents the balancing act being played by the federal government during the mid-late 19th century. New states were being added to the Union as the United States expanded, and the federal government was doing its best to avoid having too many free or slave states, and thus giving the North or South more power.

While this cartoon hardly casts the black southern slave in the most flattering light, the same can be said of the disheveled white man on the other arm of the scale. Based on his drunken, simian appearance, it seems to me that he's supposed to be an Irish immigrant. In this way, the comic does a great job of showing that the South wasn't the only place in America where an ethnic minority was exploited in order to benefit the rich.

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Re: The Scale

by [Maximillian Prentice](#) - Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 1:48 PM

Zane,

I like your take regarding the "balancing act" by the Federal Government and trying to keep the country even between free, and slave states. I think of the Missouri Compromise, and how the government literally added a state just to "keep the scale balanced", if you will. That is an interesting takeaway from this comic and not something I had thought about before.

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Re: The Scale

by [Jaden Blansit](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 12:13 PM

I think that is an interesting point of view but also at the same time I dont think that they are trying to do a the government in the balancing act I believe that the artist of this cartoon in specific is trying to show the northern nativist that they are just as bad as the south. while we learned history at younger ages we always saw the north as "better" compared to the south because they didn't have slavery but her we see they had something in equivalent, and the north prided themselves on it as well. The artist wants to convey to them that this is what your doing your not as different as you want to believe. and you differently hit the ball out of the park with your second statement I really like that one.

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Comparing and Contrasting "Am I Not a Man?"

by [Maximillian Prentice](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 6:04 PM

The cartoon I decided to take a look at was the cartoon entitled “Am I Not a Man”. This cartoon consists of two slides that both contain the same phrase, “Am I not a man and a brother?” While the words are the same, the images portray a very different message. The left side shows a slave in chains pleading for his freedom. The right side shows a scene most likely depicting a slave rebellion. There is a beastly person wielding a sword and a torch and a slain family is in the background.

The left image was an image used by the British antislavery forces and adapted by American abolitionists. I also recognized this image from an earlier chapter in the text book, but the image of the man is exchanged for a woman and the phrase, “Am I not a woman and a sister?” Used in that context, the image was used to highlight the significance of women’s issues in the American antislavery movement (p. 422, text book). The image and phrase were sort of a calling card for antislavery groups.

The author of the image on the right takes that message and flips it. They use a phrase that was meant to humanize slaves in the eyes of Americans and plays off their fear in a post-Nat Turner world. I have to assume that the author of the image on the right was Southern, and it was published somewhere in the South. I am basing this off of the depiction of the slave in the cartoon. I like seeing the images right next to each other as it makes for an easy comparison.

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Re: Comparing and Contrasting "Am I Not a Man?"

by [William Wilson](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 12:56 PM

I posted on this same editorial cartoon and made the same comparisons, although you educated on me that the phrase was used more than just in the left image. It would make sense that it would be a widely used image and phrase among anti slavery views and that the image on the right would be there to mock that sentiment. I suppose the fact we are seeing them placed next to each other would lead me to believe the correlation was more widely spread as a southern cartoonist seeing only the one cartoon on the left and creating a rebuttal cartoon would be highly unlikely unless that "Am I not a man, am I not a brother..." phrase had not been used more than that one instance.

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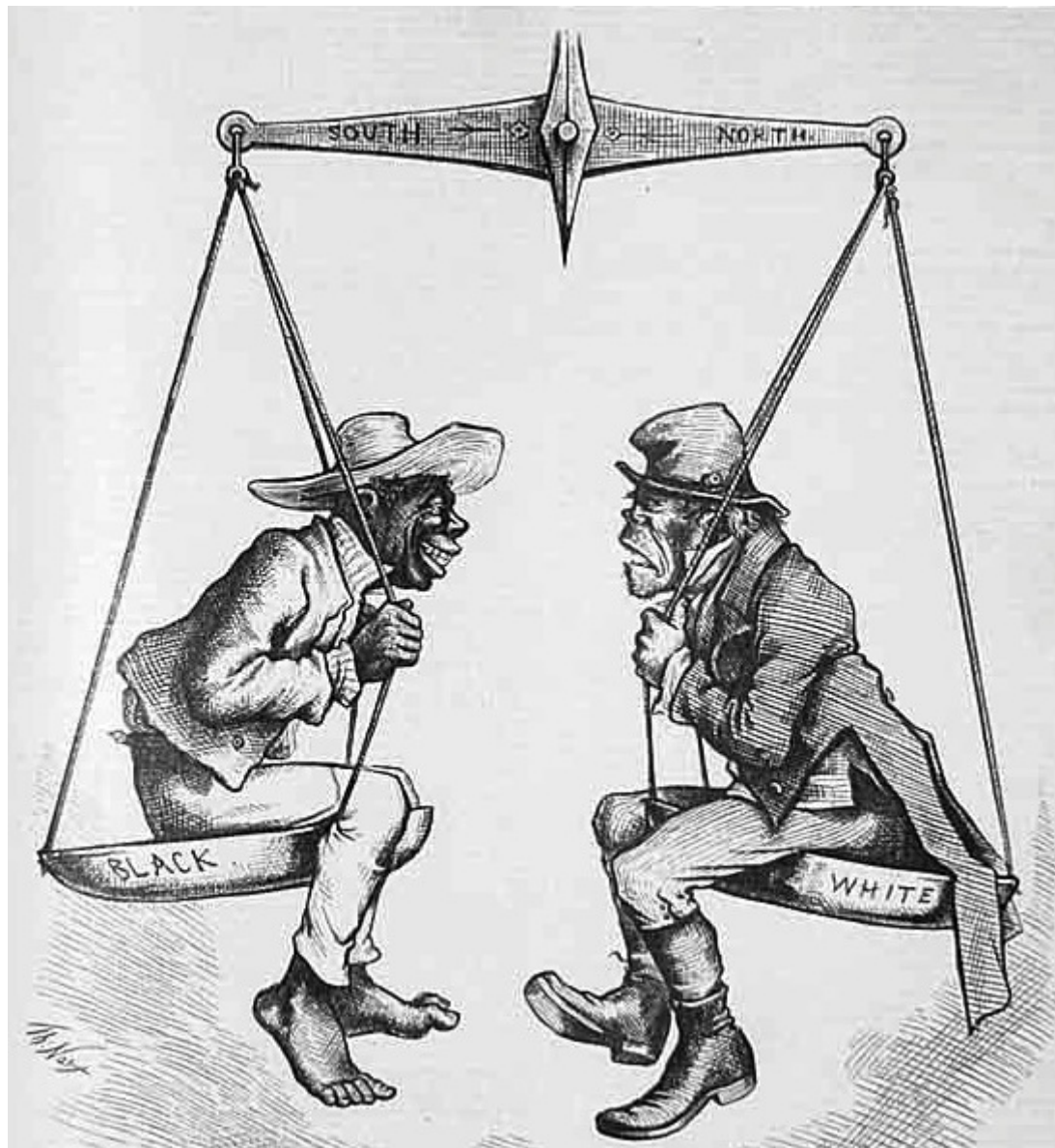


The Scale

by [Jesse Carr](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 7:54 PM

In the editorial cartoon The Scale I think that it was a drawn by someone that believed every man was created equal. I take this viewpoint because under the picture it has labels for the two people sitting on the scale, white and black. The scale is even representing that both black and white men are equal. I think that this was an anti-slavery cartoon and most likely the artist was from an anti-slavery state and was for the abolishment of slavery, and i completely agree with this cartoon. I feel that in todays culture this cartoon still relates. I feel like there is still controversy with

Muslim Americans, LGBT, Refugees, and Illegal Immigrants. That's why I feel like this cartoon can still have meaning, because no matter your ethnicity, where you came from, your social class, or even your sexual orientation all men and women are still created equal.



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Re: The Scale

by [Jamie Sumner](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 10:47 PM

Honestly, your take on it was something I would have never thought of. I loved how wholesome and goodhearted it was. But, I think I have to disagree with you and look at it with a more cynical point of view. I'm not sure if you remember but in class we learned about how poorly the Irish were looked at. We learned about scientific racism. We watch a video where people thought they could walk down the street and point out an Irish person because they believed they were so different that they were a different race. The Irish, in other cartoons, were depicted to look less human and more ape looking. Which is a lot like how Africans were depicted in cartoons. I thought you took this cartoon and saw the absolute best of it. But I think it was trying to say the Irish were the Africans of the north. Which basically means Irish were equal to the Africans, not saying it in a good way. But they were just "as bad" as them. Maybe I'm wrong though, I've seen several posts about how it's showing white Americans and Africans as equal. I do believe though in class we were shown how Irish were drawn in some other cartoons. With that said, I look forward to another person's perspective because maybe I'm the only one that is seeing this.

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Interpretation of "The Scale"

by [Braidyn Bowden](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 8:17 PM

The political cartoon titled "The Scale" stood out the most to me out of the 6. The cartoon is a drawing of a scale holding two men. On one side there is a black man smiling and above his head, it says "South". On the other side of the scale, there is an angry looking white man with the title "White" above his head. What's so interesting about this cartoon is that the scale holds both men at equal heights. I think what the cartoonist is trying to say is that even during the time of separation between the south and north and inequality between the whites and Blacks that both men regardless of color or region are equal. What really brings me to this conclusion is the tiles the author decides to put in the cartoon. He made the black man smile because he's happy that the scale proves they are equal and the white man is angry because he thinks he is better than people of darker skin when in reality they are the same.

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Editorial of the times | "Am I not a man and a brother?"

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 8:36 PM

Upon viewing the "cartoons", it becomes all the more clear that they show us a viewpoint of history through the lens of the culture and society at the time they were made.

Today, we consider (most of us at least) depictions of African Americans as apes or in chains as racism, cruel and truly disgusting. I conclude that the reference is that the slave in chains is neither a man nor a brother, but considered an animal. The question is first posed, then seems to be explained as neither, and yet less than both. It seems the question of "Am I not a man and a brother?" is shown in the current societal reference (slavery), but is editorialized by the author to show a man galloping around with the features of an ape holding a sword slaying white citizens. I feel the opposing view on this issue can be, yes, all people are born human, man (and women), and also brother or sister. If all men are created equal, that doesn't exclude one based on race, religion, etc. To do so is to set a very poor example of who we are as humans. To classify ANY particular group, ethnicity, heritage, orientation, class, religion, etc. as being akin to animals is to display ignorance and apathy towards any kind of meaningful understanding of where we are, and who other people may be.

I believe the Southern Democrats of the times would be the ones supporting this cartoon most. After Nat Turner's uprising (which might or might not have had an influence on the slaying of caucasian citizens in reference and the social tensions it led to later on in the course of American history), it was likely one published south of the Mason-Dixon line - but racism is truly everywhere.

It is important to see where we were to understand and appreciate where we are going in humanity. These explorations of past beliefs cause one to look deeper within, to the parts of our soul that make us uncomfortable - but allow us to question why we believe certain things about our culture.

Only by seeing where we've been can we decide who we are to be.

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The Scale

by [Jaden Blansit](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 9:10 PM

The cartoonist opinion would be that even the north has a race that they declared as a "lower race" and for them it's the Irish even though they aren't slaves they weren't treated any better in any way. Their main point was to show that the north wasn't any better than the south by treating the Irish as "bad" as the south treated the black. The way they did this was by showing that they are equal on the scale and that the scale was left to south and north to right. An opposing view may be that since the north doesn't have slaves they would agree that they are equal to the way slave owners are especially the abolitionist of the north. I believe that it was incredibly effective because it made the north see that they are like those they say they aren't, the scales are a strong prominent symbol in equality and justice this artist is also not just saying they are treated equally but unjustly. The way that it is effective for a student learning about the topic is now we know who is who and why it's like that, why it's the Irish and black and why it says north and south, to those not learning this may not understand. In 2019 when we learned about racism in the south we all had this idea of how the blacks were treated back in the day and how they had it so bad and we would never do that and associate ourselves with the northerner for not being racist but this cartoon shows that even if we want to associate ourselves with the northerners for not being racist they were, they treated them just as bad as the blacks and it makes us see that who do we want to associate with?

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Re: The Scale

by [Braidyn Bowden](#) - Thursday, January 31, 2019, 12:41 PM

When I first interpreted "The Scale" cartoon I saw it as saying that white men and African American men are equal. After reading your response along with many others I now realize that the man on the right side is not a "white" man but instead an Irish man. I was relating the cartoon to our time instead of putting myself into the

time frame that the cartoon was drawn. I remember talking in class about how poorly the Irish were treated in the north. I took a lot of notes in class about the Irish and I remember writing down "NINA" which means No Irish Need Apply. It was believed back then that the Irish were a different race than white people when they weren't. I think that the cartoon is actually saying that the south treated the African American people as poorly as the north did the Irish and both were equally as hated by the Americans. I think that the political carton was very effective cause it gave the northern people some insight on how horrible they were treating the Irish. They saw how poorly the black people were treated in the south and supposedly disagreed with slavery so when this cartoon came out saying that they were treating Irish just as bad I think that had an impact on them. Or at least I hope it did.

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Re: The Scale
by [Jamie Sumner](#) - Thursday, January 31, 2019, 12:43 PM

I thought your take on this cartoon was pretty interesting. I actually hadn't even thought about the cartoonist being from the south. I think it would be an interesting cartoon if the artist was from the south just pointing out while yes, we have slavery here, but look at how the north treats the Irish. Out of curiosity, did you ever think that the cartoonist could be someone from the north? That was how I originally saw it. That maybe the cartoonist was trying to say that Irish immigrants were "as bad" as the slaves of the south? Honestly the longer I look at it the more I think that the south was just trying to say they weren't as bad as the north makes them out to be. But isn't it a little weird that they're just okay with saying yeah, so what we have slaves. Especially when there are other cartoons like, "At the South" where they try and make out slavery to not be terrible. In that cartoon they specifically try and paint a pretty picture on slavery, but here are they just okay with everyone thinking it's as bad as it actually is?

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Re: The Scale
by [Jaden Blansit](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 12:32 PM

I dont think I could see the artist from the north cause they are either nativist or abolitionist, and an abolitionist would never admit they are treating someone bad when they are already fighting for the the blacks cause that means that they were hypocrites, and nativist would also never because they wouldn't lower themselves to the southern standards for how much better than them they believed they were. it would be interesting to have a north artist but it just doesn't seem plausible with the type of people they were at the time. and yeah the way you point out the south is always saying how slavery isn't that bad I feel like the artist could maybe be from the west were they dont yet have immigrant problems for themselves and the role of how slavery is being forced on them. all I know is that I highly doubt the north would want to make that.

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Re: The Scale
by [William Wilson](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 1:05 PM

Interesting take, I might not have noticed this comparison to treatment of blacks and the Irish had you not pointed it out. I took the smiling face of the black man as meaning something else, I was trying to understand the reason for the facial expressions and the correlation from the opposing words black and white also the words north and south. I like the fact you pointed out the pro North sentiment of today as skewed to the true events of how the societal view would have been at the time towards Irishmen and blacks even in the free North.

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Re: The Scale
by [Jaden Blansit](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 12:34 PM

I didn't really notice the smile before it could be the fact that the artist is trying to show that the blacks even know whats going on like "I may be a slave but at least I know that, do you" like trying to say do the Irish know they are the slaves of the north in a way. But tats a cool observation I wished I noticed it before

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The Ballot Box

by [Jamie Sumner](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 9:33 PM

The main point of this cartoon, in my opinion, is that an Irishman and a German are stealing a ballot box. They stole the ballot box in order to influence the election. The Irish, as well as the German, were depicted as drunks, another way of making them look like terrible people. There was even another cartoon, it was shown in class, it was about Irish and Germans being drunks, there was even a kid in the picture holding his own pint of beer. You can tell who is who because one said "Irish whiskey" and the other is "lager" which is just German beer. There's a riot going on in the background, which from previous history classes I believe is referred to as Blood Monday, where protestants attack Irish and German Catholics. But with all the chaos it is showed that they use it to "steal the election."

The cartoonist is obviously very racist toward immigrants. In class, Joe talked about how Thomas Nast was one of the cartoonist of that time that believed the Irish were bad people. That because they were and Catholic, which wasn't a thing because almost everyone was Protestant. The nineteenth century Americans that most likely support this message were members of the know-nothing party, which saw the Irish as a separate race. Joe also discussed scientific nativism which is why they thought they were a separate race and even in some cartoons were depicted to look less human and more like animals. This cartoon and cartoons alike were very effective in the 19th century. People wouldn't hire Irish (NINA) because of how the Irish were depicted and thought of in society.

An opposing viewpoint could be what actually happened that day. If this cartoon is, in fact, depicting Bloody Monday then it should show how Protestants attack the Irish and the German. The focus is completely turned from them being attacked to them being thieves. I attached a link if anyone wants to read about Bloody Monday (<https://aoh.com/2018/07/02/louisvilles-bloody-monday/>).

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Re: The Ballot Box

by [William Wilson](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 1:10 PM

I think that you have some valid observations, I'm unsure if it depicts Bloody Monday though. In the background on the building it shows election polls. They are stealing the ballot box as they leave the riot. It could be depicting the fact that while everyone is fighting at the polls that the outcome is being swayed by a group of drunk immigrants and that their attention is focused on fighting each other and they are losing the election to foreigners voting.

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Re: The Ballot Box

by [Jamie Sumner](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 1:47 PM

Well the longer I looked at it the more I thought it could, in fact, be any election. However, Blood Monday took place at election polls. Blood Monday was when Protestant mobs attack Irish and Germans, on election day, so I guess you'd have to know the history behind the cartoonist and who the cartoonist is in order to be sure. But I also remember learning in class about how natives were very concerned with immigrants swaying votes to what they wanted and the natives wouldn't have a say. So yes, it could be any election that Irish and Germans were "stealing," but the riot in the background led me to believe it was that specific day.

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At the South

by [Jamie Sumner](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 10:11 PM

The main idea of this cartoon is to show how amazing life in the south for a slave is and more importantly to show how awful life for them would be in the north. If you look at the mom and kid in the cartoon you can see how well put together they are. They're clothed, they appear to be in good health, and even the room they're in appears to be nice. This is showing that down in the south slaves are not treated much differently than white Americans. It also shows that the slave owners take good care of them.

The part I found the most interesting was the caption. The cartoonist didn't just try and show that slaves are well taken care of, they even went as far as to say that life in the north would be worse for them. I'm assuming the little boy is in trouble for something so the mom threatens a punishment. But the punishment is to send him to the north. Send him to the abolitionist, they're only the people that support freeing the slaves yet in this cartoon being free is much worse off than being a slave.

An opposing viewpoint could be one of the other cartoons in the forum, specifically the "Am I Not a Man." This cartoon shows quite the opposite of what's happening in the "At the South" cartoon. It shows an enslaved African begging for freedom. The other side of that cartoon shows an African, depicted to look more like an animal and less a human, jumping around after what appears to have been cutting several people's heads off.

The people in this century that would have most likely supported this cartoon would have been slave owners of the south. They didn't want their way of life to change so they have cartoons like this to show that being a slave isn't terrible at all. Actually, it's great. It shows that slaves don't want anything to do with abolitionists because they're the ones depicted as the "bad guys" here. I personally don't believe this cartoon was as effective as the south had hoped it would be. I'm sure down in the south it was very convincing, it probably made slave owners feel better about themselves. However, in the north I don't think it had the effect they were looking for. It didn't stop people from fighting against slavery.

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Political cartoon: The ballot box
by [Brayden Lane](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 10:30 PM

For my fist topic I choose the ballot box cartoon. In the ballot box cartoon there is two men running away from a large brawl carrying a ballot box. The two men are wearing barrels one says Irish whiskey, the other says Lager Bier which essentially is beer. The cartoon is a clear stereotype of both Irish men and German men. To me this cartoon is about the Know-Nothing charge that Irish and German immigrants were stealing elections and running politics. To me this is an anti immigrant cartoon telling me the cartoonist supported nativism. I believe this for a couple reasons. For one the men running away are clearly dressed and look like stereotypical Irish and German immigrants. Secondly the fact that the cartoon is showing them stealing ballot box.

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"Am I Not A Man"
by [Michael Krobatsch](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 10:49 PM

I chose the "Am I Not A Man?" and the authors' opinions on the left is showing the sincerity of a slave. But the other cartoon is showing the other side of the slave which is very violent and scary. They expressed there point by the words they used and the left cartoon said, "Am I Not A Man And A Brother?" which tells me that the slave is asking a question about if he is also human. The other cartoon says "Am I A Man And A Brother?" this quote and the action of what the slave is doing is saying that maybe they aren't so human after all. And It would seem that people for or against slavery would "like" these cartoons. These cartoons would have definitely have been controversial back in the 19th century. By y the way it was drawn and the words used it would have definitely been effective on eather side of slavery.

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Re: "Am I Not A Man"
by [Michael Krobatsch](#) - Thursday, January 31, 2019, 6:55 PM

On the right side of these two cartoons, the cartoonist portrays a man with a torch with what seems is a burning house in the back and people laying on the ground. He also has a horrific look on his face. This reminded me of how a cartoonist could portray Nat Turner in the Nat Turner Rebellion that we learned about in class. He also

went around and burned and killed such as the cartoonist draws. On the right cartoon, we see a man in chains and this reminded me of when we learned in class that free blacks were sometimes captured and forced into becoming a slave. It was very unjust not only how slaves were treated but also the free blacks as well.

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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by [Robert Whitney](#) - Monday, January 28, 2019, 11:54 PM

For my first response to these cartoons, I will be focusing on the Ballot Box depiction. It shows what seems to be the Irish and German immigrants stealing the ballots while the people fight in the streets. It seems to me that there are police either holding back the crowd, or fighting them. The fight is happening at the poll booth which makes me think a few things about this cartoon. Firstly, I think that the people in the streets are fighting and rioting over the fact that the massive amount of immigrants from Germany and Ireland seem to be "stealing" the vote. Secondly, this makes me think that they are angry that the immigrants are getting their way so easily, when the longtime citizens and generations before them, fought for their right to vote. This ties very closely to the immigration debate that is going on today and how people are using the fact that immigrants can rock the vote, as an argument against immigration.

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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by [Robert Whitney](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 10:48 PM

I believe that this cartoon was fairly successful with people in the north who were not affiliated with neither the Irish, nor the Germans. While there were a lot of immigrants coming in, the majority was still held by the white, Protestant men in towns in the north such as Boston or Philadelphia. As it says in the textbook on page 462, "most immigrants became Democrats". It goes on to elaborate that seven eighths of immigrants landed in free states, but most sided with a pro-slavery party. I must imagine that the men in the north, more specifically, Protestant and anti-slavery men, must have been all for this cartoon. I would also imagine that the party of the Know Nothings and their members must have supported this as well.

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"The Scale" Cartoon

by [Katie Calkins](#) - Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 1:58 AM

In "The Scale" cartoon, I see that it is supposed to represent black and whites being equal, but it is ironic because back then they were not seen as equals. It also shows that the white side of the cartoon is not as enthusiastic as the black side about becoming equals. I don't necessarily believe that this cartoon was very effective because of how the creator of the cartoon depicted the characters; with the black man smiling and creating the white man to look like a monkey with a not so joyful expression on his face.

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Re: "The Scale" Cartoon

by [Robert Whitney](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 10:54 PM

I would have to argue that this cartoon is not necessarily about all whites being equal to blacks, but more specifically, Irish Americans being equal to blacks but in a derogatory sense. By the majority of the country, no matter how you put it, blacks were seen as lesser than whites, sometimes not even on the same species scale. I would argue that this cartoon says that the Irish are the blacks of the north and that they are the same as blacks. I would also say that this cartoon was popular in the north with Protestant men. The black man in this cartoon seems happy that he is alongside the Irishman and that seems to me because some form of white Americans are being treated similarly to how the black people of America were getting treated. His smile seems more of a "how do you like it?" kind of smile.

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Am I Not a Man or a Brother? Comparing left to Right.
by [Trevor Mejia](#) - Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 10:34 AM

The Left Side

After the first Editorial cartoon I was excited to dissect another one, so for my second post I'm dissecting the "Am I Not a Man and a Brother?" In which we see an African American male who has little to no clothes on and is chained and kneeling. Compared to another of same man holding a torch and sword with the saying "I am a free man and a Brother." I will admit, I have been staring at this for the last couple days trying to figure out the millions of ideas I have for it and what it could be describing. However, just a glance at this picture could depict the pathos evoking it. So first I'm going to start on the Left side talking about the man who is chained up. I feel this picture is telling us a lot by what it is depicting of a man in little to no clothing, showing his level of freedom via his naturalness (Birthright Suit) but still chained up. This is to show a level of freedom but also that he isn't free. Next, we see some European-themed positioning in the body posture. His figure in this particular image reminds me of European themes of conversion from heathenism. Along with the idea of emancipation into a posture of thanks. I found this to be quite interesting due to it normally being used for religious praying depictions and in this case is being used to help show a plethora of things. He could be praying to God, hoping for freedom, or talking to his owner. His emotionless face. However, I feel the real message I feel his slightly open mouth is where the words asking "Am I Not a Man and a Brother?"

The Right side

I found this image a little more disturbing. It was made to counter the other photo. We see the same slave now declaring himself "A Man and A Brother" not chained up. But this is where the artist has a field day, we see the free slave now him dancing over 3 dead bodies faintly sketched into the ground along with a burning building in the background. I believe this is trying to tell the viewer if we free slaves then they will kill the white and burn their homes as a scare tactic.

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The Promised Land
by [Jamie Sumner](#) - Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 4:38 PM

This cartoon portrays the ideas of most Americans in the nineteenth century - Catholics are bad. The cartoonist clearly shows his distaste for Catholics with his drawing. First off, you can tell that they're Catholic because of the caps they're wearing which are typically worn by cardinals, members of the Catholic church. Second, we can assume that they're Irish because Irish left their homes for a better life in the United States, which is why it's depicted that they're traveling. The cartoonist puts weapons (sorry, I don't know what they're called) in the background of the picture to show them as threatening. There's even a little kid down at the bottom holding a torch.

This cartoon was most very effective in the 19th century. People despised the Irish. They were even looked at as a different race. To a lot of Americans they were poor drunks who wanted to convert everyone to Catholicism where most people had been Protestant for hundreds of years. Americans that would have supported this cartoon would have been the same Americans that posted things like NINA and the ones that did, in fact, see them as a different race and less human.

An opposing point of view could simply show the Irish as who they are and what they were trying to accomplish. They didn't want to force Americans to do anything. They didn't want to "steal" their elections votes. They just wanted a better life for themselves and their children. They were looked at badly because they were poor, but that's because their country didn't have much to offer. They left for a better life and they were attacked for it.

I think it's very important that we learn about this time period in United States history. It's about religious persecution. When you look back through American history sometimes you can tell that people truly believed they were doing the right thing then. It's only after when you sit in a history class and learn about what happened that you realize you learn it for a reason. It's to never repeat it again, people make mistakes, countries make mistakes and when we learn about them it's to make sure we don't repeat ourselves. Our culture influenced my position on this cartoon quite a bit. We live in a country where there are a numerous amount of different religions. I guess it's hard to truly understand where the cartoonist is coming from when we live in a society where you accept when people have different beliefs than you.

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Re: The Promised Land
by [Jamie Sumner](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 2:01 PM

This post is just continuing on what I said about an opposing view for this cartoon. I've been searching for any pro-immigrant cartoons for the opposing view of this cartoon and I've come up with nothing. I knew that a good majority of northerns really disliked immigrants but I had no idea that not a single person was for them. The funny thing is, all of the "natives" were once immigrants themselves. This land didn't belong to them, they just kicked out the people that it did belong to. It's interesting to me that Americans seem to be the immigrants but they just continue to push people out of their land until it's theirs and then they don't want other immigrants coming in. I understand that they didn't like them because they were Catholic and had different beliefs than them but I'm curious about what specifically they didn't like about it. And if anyone knows or has an idea, feel free to comment and let me know.

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Re: The Promised Land
by [Maximillian Prentice](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 10:05 PM

Jamie,

Your post gave me some insight to this cartoon's meaning. I came back to this cartoon every time I open up the forum material, but I could not draw much meaning from it. I agree with you that it is depicting Catholic, or Irish people, looking at America as a potential prospect. The author definitely wanted to portray them as threatening, or as a threat to the United States.

It goes back to the strong sense of American Nativism that was felt in the United States throughout the 19th century. The people living at the time were just so opposed to any kind of outside influence, or differences in opinion.

What is kind of ironic to me is that the original settlers of the United States probably looked a lot like this at one point. Viewing the land in the distance as a potential prospect and planing to spread their ideals and ways of life. It is interesting how the people of the time are quick to rally behind something like Manifest Destiny, but quick to halt a different groups movements.

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Re: The Promised Land
by [Jamie Sumner](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 11:12 PM

I'm glad I helped a bit! Also, I couldn't agree more. I don't remember who's post it was on, but earlier I replied to someone and was talking about how I thought it was really interesting that Americans seem to always dislike immigrants when they were in fact immigrants themselves. As you said, the whole Manifest Destiny thing, they literally thought it was their god given right to go and claim this land as their own when someone else is already living there. Also, when they first got to this country they were the immigrants. Native Americans were the natives and they kicked them out and called themselves the natives. It's just so interesting that Americans didn't see the hypocrisy in what they were doing.

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Man, Brother
by [William Wilson](#) - Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 9:19 PM

I picked the Man, Brother editorial cartoon. In the images it has opposing views to slavery and the humanity of blacks. In the cartoon to the left it depicts a slave in chains on his knees praying or begging for mercy with the quote "Am I not a man and a brother." In this piece it speaks to the humanity of blacks and the sinful and disdainful practice of slavery. In the opposing cartoon on the right I assume it is a rebutal from those opposing the abolitionist views. In this image It depicts a black man animalistic in his appearance and mad weilding a sword and torch having cut down whites in the background which appear to be of women and children those viewed as helpless against the rebellious slave. Henry Lloyd Garrison would have viewed the cartoon on the left as true to the abolitionist stance on freeing the slaves immediately but would have found the one on the right to be truly false and propaganda far from the truth. Although the one on the left one have appealed to those who viewed slavery as wrong it would not have swayed those who were pro slavery. If anything the cartoon on the right would be truly how most southerners would

depict a slave uprising. Although both of these cartoons paint a picture of the time period and the sentiment behind them stirs some feelings it really shows the true nature of the stances of the time surrounding slaves. We of course know that slavery existed and that those who opposed slavery were fewer in number in the south than in the north but the real fear of the south in a slave uprising I was only slightly informed on before this class.

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North and south scale
by [Brayden Lane](#) - Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 9:57 PM

In "The scale" cartoon the drawing is of what looks to be a negative stereotype of an Irishman on one side of the scale, and on the other side a negative stereo type of an African American. The scale is evenly balanced and on the top of the scale it is labeled north and south, with the Irish man on the north side and the African American on the south side. This cartoon was particularly hard for me to understand the cartoonist's opinion and side he was on. At first look I thought the cartoonist was an abolitionist and the cartoon was representing how both African American's and Whites were alike. Then upon looking at it more I believe the cartoonist was not an abolitionist but in fact a supporter of nativism. The cartoon is showing his dislikes for both Irish men and African American's and how their the same in his view. The quote given by the historian in the video shown in class stands out to me. The quote was "The best way to solve Americas problem would be if an Irish man killed a negro then would be hanged." To me his cartoon is effective in teaching me on just how truly the country was divided in this time period. It also shows me the different events and viewpoints that eventually led to the civil war.

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Re: North and south scale
by [Jamie Sumner](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 1:50 PM

I completely agree with you. Irish were depicted terribly then, as were slaves. Out of curiosity, why do you think the slave from the south is smiling? That's the one thing I can't quite figure out. Do you think it's his way of almost laughing because they're shown as the same or did you have something else in mind?

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The analysis of "Am I not a man"
by [Brayden Lane](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 12:15 AM

The cartoon is comparing two different drawings. Both with the caption "Am I not a man and a brother." One drawing is of an African American slave on his knees in shackles. The other drawing is of what looks like a runaway slave with a knife and torch, in the background it looks like there is a house on fire with a mother and her children dead on the ground. It seems as if the cartoonist is democrat who was pro slavery. I believe the cartoonist main point was that slaves are animals that shouldn't be let free. He is showing that on one side slaves beg and plead they are good people but when are let free become barbarians. I actually do believe it may have gotten a certain point across in the 19th century and may have been persuasive for southern living democrats. This cartoon helps me learn how much people during that time will bend the truth and spread lies in order to get their point across.

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Re: The analysis of "Am I not a man"
by [Jamie Sumner](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 2:37 PM

I do agree with your analysis of the cartoonist trying to show that while slavery might be bad, look at the terrible things they do when they're set free. However, I think it's interesting the cartoonist was saying that's what happens when they're free, implying every slave. When in actuality, I'm pretty sure that was the Nat Turner rebellion. Do you agree? It doesn't make them look much better but it doesn't mean every single slave would be like that. I'm having trouble trying to think of what an opposing cartoon would be for this one. Any ideas? I think it's hard because the cartoon itself has opposing views.

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by [Michael Krobatsch](#) - Friday, February 1, 2019, 8:31 PM

Another cartoon that caught my eye was the At Te South cartoon with the little boy and his mother. The mother said something that I did not understand at first, and after thinking and talking to Mr. Escobar the cartoonist maid wanted to portray it that way. The "Bobolitionist" or abolitionist were against slavery back then and in the cartoon, the mother says that the "big ole Bobolitionist" would take the little boy away if he wasn't good. This cartoonist is clearly for slavery and does not like the abolitionists at all. From how the cartoonist draws to how he writes what the mother says, this is a very dark cartoon that supports pro-slavery.

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Scaling Racism and Anti-Catholicism

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 1:12 PM

In reviewing the scale cartoon, there are numerous meanings that can be derived.

NINA (No Irish Need Apply) comes to mind first, and the way the Irish were depicted at the time. Most Irish immigrants came to the North, as shown on the scale. What is fascinating is that for the South side of the scale (although equal in weight, another meaning that the Irish and blacks were equal through the eyes of the times) is an African-American. North and South for demographics, yet societal importance shows each as being equal. One is black, the other is white, yet both are shown to be the same.

Given the history of slavery and that it was still before the Civil War, this shows the repeated bias against Irish (they were seen as drunks who came to a nation of Protestants to convert those to Catholicism, hinting again at a very anti-Catholic bias in America). German, English, etc. were not seen in the same light. The basis of religion has a strong undercurrent to the hatred of the Irish.

As Edward A. Freeman, Professor at Oxford put it: "The best remedy for what amis in America would be if every Irishman should kill a negro and be hanged for it." This hints at American Nativism, which was very anti-Catholic at its core, and also dates all the way back to the Protestant Reformation of 1517. This bias is continued into the hours in human history leading up to the Civil War. However, it has seemingly continued to today. We've only had one Catholic as President (John F. Kennedy), and most of the Supreme Court justices have been Protestant by far.

By looking back to where our bias come from, we can look at life today through a better lens.

The bias is clearly:

- 1) Anti-Irish
- 2) Anti-Black
- 3) Anti-Catholic
- 4) Regionally significant.

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Re: Scaling Racism and Anti-Catholicism

by [Brayden Lane](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 10:21 PM

When reviewing the Scale cartoon the first time I didn't think of the NINA or the split demographics. I have to agree though with the way you put it though, which is that there are two sides of the scales the north and south. Within that you say through the eyes of that time Irish and black were equal to each others social status in the north and south. Another part that is new information to me Is that the view upon Irish immigrants at that time was that they were coming to switch Americans the Catholicism in a culture that was very anti catholic. I also find it interesting that you compare what had happened during those times and how it impacted the future.

Which is that the anti Catholicism view impacted the future to come for the U.S, such as there only being one catholic president in JFK and that he was ultimately shot and killed. Overall I like the new information you presented about this political cartoon and how you can even see the impact it has today.

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The Promised Land

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 5:38 PM

In the cartoon "Promised Land", the depiction is another of anti-Catholic sentiment, and to a lesser extent, immigration.

First, the setting is important here. As noted in class, the cartoon has the "church" and/or Catholics on the right side positioned, as it actually would be as viewed in America. Second, it shows that the characters in the political cartoon are looking over the Atlantic toward America, which is far off on the left side, but still close enough to arouse excitement. The costumes of the characters show the papacy hat, clothes of the church, and crosses.

Why was this of importance?

As noted in class, nativism was increased over the parochial schools, immigration, dissent towards European popery. Add in Protestant roots that developed in America. This allowed fuel to an existing sentiment against Catholicism. I remember seeing Thomas Nast's depiction of crocodiles (in papacy hats) attacking children on the shore, and it speaks to the times in America.

To fast forward to present times, can you imagine (or envision) with me for a moment a political cartoon with the focus not on the Catholic Church, but Muslims? Yes, we probably could, because it is an issue in present-day American culture. Or how about Al Queda after 2001? Or even think about the wall being discussed currently in our political realms. I'm certain a Google of that issue (similar in immigratory terms) would likely connect our present and/or recent past to issues we're delving into in this forum. Try Google, with "Build the wall cartoons" and you will see through the lens of our times. I'm certain years, decades, and even centuries from now others will look back at our current cartoons the way we are looking back at cartoons from the 19th century.

See how political cartoons really address issues at the time they are made?

They are a snapshot into history.

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The Ballot Box

by [Meri Pedelini](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 7:54 PM

I would interpret this cartoon as being from an anti-immigrant and nativist point of view. The two people in the barrels are supposed Irish and German immigrants. The German with his Lager and the Irish to the left with the whiskey label. They are running away with the ballot box hinting that they are "Stealing the vote". As we have learned in class and from the textbook there was a huge group of people who were not fans of the Irish and German immigrants. Stemming from the anti catholic strain of nativism which has deep roots in our history. In chapter 14 they talk about the Know Nothings party and how "nearly everybody appears to have gone deranged on nativism". People were threatened by the huge influx of these immigrants tipping the political scale. A majority of immigrants sided with the democratic party because they were the most tolerable toward them. People in the states also had a fear of the Roman Catholic church and the Pope, they were though as "anti-republican" In the background of the two guys in barrels there appears some sort of brawl of battle. I think the artist included this because the Irish and German were often associated with rowdiness or drunkenness. On page 462 of the textbook it talks of multiple "ethnic riots" between Protestant and Catholic workers, fueling the fire even more. I believe this sort of cartoon was very influential at this time, considering there was no other form of media like twitter, tv, or anything of that sort probably made political cartoons very important. A lot of the images we see as super politically incorrect and very offensive, these cartoons would never fly these days but I think they give us good study material to gauge how people were reacting to current events throughout history.

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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by [Robert Whitney](#) - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 8:03 PM

For my second post, I will be interpreting "The Scale". At a first glance you see a black man and a white man sitting on a scale which seems to be "equal". After looking further, the white man is actually an Irishman. The Irishman is sitting on the "North" side whilst the black man is sitting on the "South" side. To me this symbolizes that the Irishman is the north's black man. Like many of the cartoons depicting people of Irish decent, the Irishman in this drawing was drawn with a face that is similar to that of an ape. What sticks out about this drawing to me however, is that the black man is smiling at the Irishman. What that says to me is that perhaps the black people of America are relishing in the fact that some white men experience a portion of what they experience. Maybe it is more of a "welcome to the club" sort of smile. It does seem though to me that the black man finds it amusing that a white man is discriminated against by other white men.

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