

HST 202: History of United States W18 (Escobar Meta 30898 30897)

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Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by Joe Escobar - Friday, January 26, 2018, 8:24 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Interpreting Editorial Cartoons topic.

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Am I Not a Man and a Brother?

by Chelsea Sheltman - Sunday, January 28, 2018, 9:28 PM

This cartoon was definitely anti-slavery. I think the author was trying to humanize slaves by showing vulnerability in use of shackles and drawing the man on one knee (looks like he is pleading). He is also only wearing a small garment covering his genitalia, which I think also aids in portraying vulnerability. The phrase chosen, "Am I not a man and a brother," were probably used to cause moral and ethical questioning among those who support slavery. Those who support slavery would often justify it by convincing themselves Africans were a different species, and also property, so they didn't deserve the same rights as men. Depending on where this cartoon was displayed makes a difference on its effectiveness. Still in 1850 the

North and South were constantly arguing about slavery and the laws surrounding it. The South would have been much opposed to this cartoon, probably outraged. Even with the passing of the personal liberty laws, Northerners were unsuccessful in keeping escaped slaves free.

I do not need this cartoon to understand its truths. I myself am a woman of color and I grew up in a mixed family that taught me to treat everyone equally. I hadn't realized that race caused any hate or controversy until I was much older and, today, it brings me sorrow. But, I also see much confusion on what the facts are about slavery and I think if more clarity was found, it could help in bringing people to compromise.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Am I Not a Man and a Brother?

by Elliot Rooy - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 12:46 AM

I'm happy that you mentioned the author's efforts to "humanize" the image of the man in chains. Some scientists during this period were claiming that Africans and Europeans were actually different species but this cartoon has a different message. The muscular physique and the posture of the man appears to draw influence from famous works of art on the human figure like Michelangelo's David or Auguste Rodin's The Thinker which stands in sharp contrast to the cartoonish parodies and minstrel shows of it's time.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Holy Horror

by Decker Robinson - Monday, January 29, 2018, 5:03 PM

In the political cartoon titled "Holy Horror", the conclusion I drew was that the artist had a negative view on African Americans and that people like Mr. McCaffraty should vote for "Negro Suffrage". I think this political cartoon helps me grasp how some people thought of African Americans in the 19th Century and gives an alternate view than the abolitionists we have learned about. I think the thing that led me to my conclusion on the cartoon was how the african american woman depicted had a face as if she was going to hurt the woman (Mrs. McCaffraty) next to her. The caption under the picture "Holy Horror of Mrs. McCaffraty in a Washington City Street Passenger Car. [Mr. McCaffraty voted against Negro Suffrage.]", also gave me a pretty good idea that this artist was for Negro suffrage because of the way he depicted the african american as a vile person. In today's day and age, I can easily see how this cartoon is far from the truth and it's wrong because of the things we have learned about african american suffrage and even the obstacles they still face in current society. This was a negative depiction of african americans in an attempt for people to vote for suffrage.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Holy Horror

by Elliot Rooy - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 6:28 PM

That's an interesting interpretation. I saw things a bit differently. This cartoon is pro suffrage which means that it is defending African Americans. (Suffrage isn't bad, it is the movement to give voting rights to whomever the title is applied) Mr. McCaffraty voted

against “negro suffrage” which the author of this cartoon disagrees with. He is taking a cheap shot at the McCaffraty family by comparing Mrs. McCaffraty to an African American woman in a non flattering way. Mrs. McCaffraty is depicted as a vile unpleasant woman with wrinkly ill fitted clothing and holding a basket with fish sloppily falling off the side. The colored woman next to her is very well dressed and is given a fair ladylike complexion. She is holding an umbrella which I imagine to be a sign of class during this period. Basically, this artist is pointing out the idea that the man who voted against “negro suffrage” is married to a woman who is less tolerable in society than many African women of the time.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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"Holy Horror of Mrs. McCaffraty"

by Carley Kramer - Monday, January 29, 2018, 7:20 PM

I think that the artist of this cartoon was likely an abolitionist and a supporter of suffrage for African Americans. The African American woman on the right is to be depicted as refined, polite, well dressed and “ladylike,” while the woman to the left, who seems to be drawn in the Irish caricature style of the time, is essentially the opposite. The woman’s last name is also Irish, so I believe it’s safe to say that the artist intended for her to be an Irish caricature or stereotype. She seems outraged at the presence of the woman on the right, and the caption beneath tells us that her husband voted against black suffrage. Given the opinions on the Irish in America at the time, I think that depicting the Irish as being anti black suffrage was meant as a slight towards those who didn’t support suffrage, and to point out some kind of hypocrisy there. The characters in this cartoon were drawn in a way so that viewers of the time would sympathize with the woman on the right, who’s drawn as a polite, ideal woman of the era, and react negatively to the woman on the left, who’s drawn to illicit the anti-Irish sentiment of the time. Essentially, it’s making the face of anti black suffrage Irish and crude in an attempt to make anti black suffrage look crude as well. From a modern perspective, it’s very ironic that they’ve utilized racial stereotypes to point out the hypocrisies of racism.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Good in society

by Jack Swisher - Thursday, February 1, 2018, 8:59 PM

When looking over the Holy Horror cartoon, a few things jump out to me right away. The lady on the right to me is a free african American woman because of how nicely dressed she is. She looks polite and looks like the common women in america. This must mean that the artist was a supporter of abolishing slavery because blacks were equal to whites. This cartoonist must not be a fan of slavery because he doesn’t portray the black lady as a “drunk, or an ignorant thief.” The cartoonist by showing the women dressed properly to me shows that he believed more of what Horace Mann said. “Blacks are not as smart, but are nicer.” The lady sitting next to her on the left looks a little rougher and because of the bottles of alcohol I would say she is Irish because the Irish were big into whiskey. The lady has an ape looking face because the irish people were portrayed as totally different people then the whites. Judging by the rugged looking hat she is wearing, that gives me another

clue that the woman is Irish. Irish people were quite poor and on page 407 it says, "Most immigrants were poor and relied on their children to work and supplement family income." This lady could be a servant of some sort, knowing that she is poor and fresh fish and vegetables are not cheap. I think the cartoonist is trying to portray that black people can be good in society. Some clues that lead me to this, is the fact that a black person is drawn better and more successful than the other lady. Also, the expression on the Irish woman's face, she looks as if she is surprised to see a black person like that.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Interpreting emancipation, cartoon 4

by Lloyd Higgins - Monday, January 29, 2018, 8:17 PM

The fourth Cartoon we have the choice of viewing. "Am I not a man?" struck me the most for the political cartoons displayed. It clearly demonstrates the issue of morality regarding the enslavement of black Africans within the United States. The cartoon most definitely comes from the side of emancipation, regarding slavery as immoral and wrong. The man in chains asking if he too is a brother extends further than kinship, it alludes to the brotherhood of humanity that many emancipation advocates believed in. The idea of an entire, cohesive nation, where every person is equal and treated the same under the law. The statement humanizes the slave in question, rather than dismissing them as a non human, a sentiment that slave supporters carried at that time. This cartoon could have been effective in the 19th century for the simple imagery invoked and short statement regarding slavery that it had. Keeping the design minimal but poignant can serve as a constant reminder, even to slave supporters, that questions the idea of slavery being an ethical choice to undertake for the long term benefit of fellow human beings.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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The Promised Land

by Benjamin Hawley-Gamer - Monday, January 29, 2018, 9:23 PM

I see the cartoonist's opinion as being against the Catholic Church. The faces and expressions of those depicted are very serious and aggressive, they look as though they are being portrayed as conquerors as they look across the Atlantic to the United States. This cartoon may have been used as anti Irish propaganda due to the Irish being Catholic and the American biased against Catholics. I believe this would be very effective in the 19th century as Americans viewed the Irish as "Drunken barbarians," the shops held signs that read "NINA" or "No Irish Need Apply" and with the basis of American society being Protestant I believe this would be very effective.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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**Re: Anti Catholic**

by Jack Swisher - Friday, February 2, 2018, 6:57 PM

The promised land cartoon. From a first glance I get the sense that this is an anti-catholic cartoon. Why? Well, the biggest thing would be the number of weapons in the background. Next, all of these men look very mean and disturbing. My guess is that this cartoonist is a protestant who does not support the catholics. The cartoonist I believe is Thomas Nast. The men look as if they are plotting to take over the United States, from the looks of the guy with a telescope and a torch. I believe Nast was attempting to show the country that catholicism is bad. This cartoon was pointed more at the general population who were quickly becoming baptists and methodists. Page 341, "The United States only had 50 methodist churches in 1783; by 1820 it had 2,700. Over those same years, the number of baptist churches rose from 400 to 2,700." There were many new churches like the seventh day adventist, mormon church and disciples of christ. Nast was trying to portray the catholics as bad, mean men trying to take over or destroy the United States. This cartoon helps me out a lot with learning the religions, because I can remember that the catholics were "bad" to some people (the axes in the back and torch) and I can remember the protestant and all growing religions through the United States being seen as the promise land.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**"Promised Land" Another Nast Anti-Catholic Classic**

by Walter Bender - Monday, January 29, 2018, 9:42 PM

I elected to analyze the cartoon entitled Promised Land, by Thomas Nast (His signature appears in the bottom right). This is, as my title suggests, a clearly Anti-Catholic statement. The cartoon features the top of some religious building, presumably the Vatican, from which a gaggle of religious folk peer eagerly west across the Atlantic towards the United States, the "Promised Land" mentioned in the title. The key elements that point me towards the anti-Catholic sentiment here are the shadowy halberds lurking behind the cross, indicating that behind the religious movement comes military conquest; and the faces. These are some sinister faces, especially on the two central figures, who look to me like they're supposed to be the Pope and some kind of cardinal.

From the 19th century perspective of course, this is a widely held sentiment. We've seen in class and in other cartoons that lots of people in the U.S. are anti-Catholic. This is a little subtler than the Nast cartoon with the Gator Bishops, but the sentiment is the same: Catholics are coming to get you. I imagine the only large group who'd be against this would be the Irish, since they're the biggest Catholic group in the states at this time.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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by Tessa Holstein - Monday, January 29, 2018, 10:05 PM

The conclusion I came up in the The Scale cartoon is the the cartoonist thinks the blacks and the Irish are on equal terms on how they are treated. To me, I feel like the cartoonist is saying blacks in the south are treated the same as the Irish in the north. What lead me to this is the

black guy and white guy has the same face, which normally the Irish was drawn with the same face. The scale on both sizes are equal weight and on top of the scales it says north for the Irish and south for the blacks. I believe a Whig made this to point out slavery's wrongs.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Interpreting 'At the South'

by Elliot Rooy - Monday, January 29, 2018, 10:16 PM

I'd like to address the "At the South" cartoon. This cartoon seems to oppose the abolition movement in America by portraying the life of an enslaved person of color living a good life in the south and warning her child before bedtime of the scary abolitionist stealing him away if he isn't good. The statement this cartoon appears to make is that slaves lead a better life than the one they would have if they were freed. The slaves are shown well dressed and in a house with art work on the wall, a banjo for entertainment, a table with a clean cloth draped across it, an extra coat by the door and some bottle of alcohol and a glass for pleasure. If this picture is to be believed, one would assume that the slaves lead great lives for this period in time. This cartoon could have been drawn by a Southern Democrat and any Free Soil party member would not have been happy to see it. I think that this cartoon is effective at making its point but doesn't have an application today as slavery no longer exists.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Interpreting 'At the South'

by Chelsea Sheltman - Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 5:32 PM

I interpreted the cartoon a little differently. It seems to me the artist wanted to depict slaves as uneducated and easily manipulated. The woman is speaking in broken English. By saying that the abolitionists are bad, it's inferring that they would rather be slaves than free, which could have easily been convinced to them by their owners. I think it is also possible that you are correct about the fact that things would be hard for them if they were free.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The Promised Land cartoon

by Justin Oljace - Monday, January 29, 2018, 10:32 PM

I chose to examine the Promised Land cartoon. I came to the conclusion that this political cartoonist was against the idea of Catholics coming to America. He drew the pope and other members of the Catholic church looking across the Atlantic ocean. He depicted them holding weapons, looking as if they were plotting to take over the United States with their religion. I think the author's main point is to depict the Catholic religion as bad or evil. I came to this conclusion because he made it look like the members of the Catholic church were spying on the United States and plotting to take it over because they are holding weapons. I think this cartoon would have been really effective in the 19th Century because it would have taught people in America that the Irish people sailing over were bad because they were Catholic. It was political cartoons like this one that caused businesses to come up with "NINA" (No Irish need apply).

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Interpretation of "At The South" Political Cartoon

by Aidan Jewett - Monday, January 29, 2018, 11:12 PM

I found the cartoon "At The South" to be very interesting. I initially assumed that the cartoon was a racist cartoon originating from the South. The slave mother is portrayed as not very smart. She mispronounces every word that she says. The cartoon also portrays the Abolitionists in a negative light. The artist believes that the Abolitionists steal slaves from their owners. The mother is scaring her child using the Abolitionists as a boogeyman, per say. Everything initially pointed to the cartoon as a racist, pro-slavery message. However, I was looking at the picture, and I noticed a few things. First, the drawing of the slaves weren't caricatures or stereotypes. They look like real humans, especially when compared to cartoons as "Holy Horror" or "The Scale". I suspect that perhaps the artist was trying to appeal Southern blacks as well. He might have been trying to unite the slaves with whites against the Northern Abolitionists. The title also bugged me. It would make sense for the reader to assume that the artist is Southern, but I don't know why he would refer to the South in the way he did. "At The South" sounds like an outsider looking into the South from the outside. I still believe that the cartoon is pro-slavery, but I feel like parts of the cartoon don't agree with each other .

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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I agree

by Stephen Sorber - Thursday, February 1, 2018, 4:45 PM

I agree that the cartoon does show signs of pro-slavery, but I disagree with you in the sense that they look like real people. I feel like the cartoon portrays black slaves with exaggerated lips and eyes along with the baby looks abnormally muscular for a child.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

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"I'll take elitist human mind for \$1000, Alex."

by Scott Fails - Monday, January 29, 2018, 11:35 PM

I was most drawn to the "Am I not a man" cartoon. I believe the cartoonists opinion to be that of an "Equality" stand point. Clearly the art is representative of what looks like a slave in shackles. However, the banner below it stating "Am I not a man and a brother" implies that while the depicted image is a slave, the artist is forcing you to see and give thought to the core of the individual. A man, a brother. I believe this artist depiction is directed solely at those opposers of freed slaves. The opposers only see the skin color and the laborious benefits of the slave, missing completely that the individual is in fact so much more importantly a man and a brother. Speaking directly to the separation of the country during the 19th century, this particular cartoon would have been directed more towards those utilizing large amounts of slave labor in the southern states while the northerners pro dominantly would have been supporters of the cartoon. This can certainly be verified as you bring the Civil War of the 1860's into the conversation and identify each sides view of slavery and should it even be allowed?

Learning this material at this point in my life has a more profound effect on me than ever before. I believe that is not only due to maturity, but life experience as well. Slavery to me is the most disgusting representation of the bigger topic being racial inequality in my opinion. Aside from the atrocity that slavery and racial inequality represent, I also believe that the human elitist mentality plays the most significant role in this gravely disappointing subject. I wouldn't identify it as an "American" issue as Americans weren't even the biggest offenders in the slave trade. As shocking as the reality of slavery was as an adolescent learning for the first time in school, my modern day view and feelings are so much more regarding the issue. I spent 12 years as an adult in the United States Military in what I believe to be the most diverse population in the United States. People of all colors, backgrounds and positions all brought together to depend on each other in support and defense of this great country. When I think about who my "brothers and sisters" are, that statement doesn't just take me to my immediate family. It takes me to that very diverse population of former and current military members who to this day carry that same title in my mind. The very thought of slavery and racial inequality for me is a very sensitive subject. This is the heritage of my brothers and sisters we're talking about. Learning about this even in modern day America doesn't even remove you that far from the reality of racial inequality. This is the biggest social issue in America today. Sure, the 19th century was a long time ago, but what have we as Americans done with that time and done to rectify this issue? The times have changed, but the elitist human mind of so many has remained.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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"The Ballot Box" Interpretation

by Daniel Adams - Monday, January 29, 2018, 11:53 PM

After analyzing the six political cartoons, the one that had the most impact on me was "The Ballot Box" image. The image features two men, each holding one end of a voting ballot box stomping away from what appears to be a place where people vote. Both men are drawn with barrels of alcohol over their clothing to insinuate that they are drunks. The man on the left has a label on his barrel written "Irish Whiskey" to show that he is Irish while the other man's barrel is labeled "lager beer" to suggest that he is German. Both of the men's faces are drawn to show that there is a distinct difference between them. In the background there is a lot of fighting going on outside the voting house and there is even someone on the ground. Right next to the voting house is what appears to be the American flag and next to that is a bar. What I took away from this political cartoon is that in whatever election this was, the artist is suggesting that the election was decided by foreigners (Irish & German) more so than it was by the American citizens at the time. The reason this political cartoon interested me the most is because my mind instantly made the connection to the election of 2016. Although I do not know exactly what went on in this last election, I know that it's been said that Trump colluded with Russia to win the election. I believe nothing has yet been proven but I thought it was interesting how history from almost 200 years ago is still relatable in today's times.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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#5 The Scale Cartoon

by Jacob Spriggs - Monday, January 29, 2018, 11:55 PM

When first looking at this cartoon, I noticed that the words on the trays which the people are sitting in say black and white. Now if I hadn't looked at the "white" man's face, I would assume that this artist was saying that blacks and whites are all created equal, but based on what Joe has showed us in class, I know that the "white" man is actually an Irish man by the way his facial features were drawn. I also noticed the top of the scale says north and south. After taking the whole cartoon into consideration, I believe the artist was saying that the Irish were treated just as bad in the north as the blacks in the south.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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Re: #5 I agree

by Jack Swisher - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 6:40 PM

I agree with you in believing that the Irish were treated just as bad. The Irish were even seen as a different breed from white Americans, just as the blacks were. The Irish immigrants could also be compared to black people at the time because many Irish immigrants were poor, and their children had to elect to not attend class to work, and help support the family. Another reason blacks and the Irish might be classified with blacks, is because blacks were seen as "ignorant people". While the Irish were seen and drunk and disorderly. So really, the black Americans, and Irish immigrants were not seen as high class people in the United States in the 19th century.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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Re: Cartoon 4. Asking for god's help

by Jack Swisher - Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 7:08 PM

With cartoon number 4, Am I not a man and a brother? This cartoon signals a few things to me. Number one, obviously he is a slave in chains begging to god to help him. This must be a whig cartoon because of the fact that democrats believed that slavery was okay according to the bible. "Southerners preached that the chosen people of the old testament had been patriarchs and slaveholders." Page 355 of the textbook. Another example is also on page 355, "Some ministers claimed that blacks were descendants of Ham and thus deserved enslavement." If this were a democratic cartoon, he wouldn't be asking god to help him out. This brings me to what I think of this drawing. I think this man is pleading his case to god that he is a man and a brother and that is why he should be free and no longer treated like he had been being treated. He asks, am I not a man? Meaning, why am I so different from the white man?The second paragraph of the United States Declaration of Independence says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." The man should have the right to independence, and just like we talked about in class today, (Tuesday) there was a good chance this slave was born in the United States so really, there's a good chance he is a free man. This same picture is used on page 422, but as a woman, and it is underlying the participation of women, and the emerging centrality of women's issues in the American Antislavery movement.

Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

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**Re: Cartoon 4. Asking for god's help**

by Jack Swisher - Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 8:28 PM

To add on this post, if I was alive during this time in the 19th century and I saw this cartoon somewhere, I would automatically join a abolitionist group. I would be a proud member of the Whig party on this issue. This is obviously a Whig cartoon because the Whig party was big into moral reform. The cartoon here is portraying how slavery is morally wrong and should be remembered as the sin of the country. Learning about this has made me realize how sweet having freedom is. Yes, there were some "nicer" plantations, but for the most part, slavery was a terrible time in our nation's history. Learning about this also makes me think twice about our country. Racism has never ended and never will. In the 19th century, blacks were made fun of in shows, they were even seen as a different breed. Slavery was really just the beginning of lifetime of racism.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Cartoon 4. Asking for god's help**

by Kate Weiss - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 9:35 AM

I'm glad you mentioned the picture on page 422, because I thought I recognized a similar cartoon somewhere. In the caption on page 422, it states that the original artist of the "Am I not a Man" cartoon was, in fact, a member of the British anti-slavery forces. Slavery was abolished in England in 1833 with the Slavery Abolition Act, and this cartoon could've been used as propaganda by British abolitionists by showing the struggles of slavery and the slow emancipation process. The caption on page 422 also mentioned that American abolitionists also circulated the "Am I not a Man" cartoon, then added the similar woodcut drawing of a pleading female slave, tying in the women's issues of the time.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Abolitionist cartoon**

by Banyan Ryan - Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 7:13 PM

While the legalization of slavery was a hot issue during the mid-1800's, but Abolitionists like William Lloyd Garrison and the rest of the American Antislavery Society didn't want them simply shipped back to Africa should slavery be abolished. Instead, they believed that blacks should have the same rights as any other American white male citizen. The cartoon "Am I Not A Man" depicts a black man in chains asking the question "Am I not a man and a brother?" Nobody (or at least Abolitionists) would argue that his black man would be a 'brother' among his fellow African slaves, but to call him a man would be to say that he is entitled to the same rights as any other man. This tells me that this cartoon was drawn by an Abolitionist who was expressing his belief that blacks should be freed AND treated like citizens.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Am I Not a Man**



by Decker Robinson - Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 9:27 PM

It's clear to me that the cartoonist is on the anti-slavery side based on his powerful image. The message that the cartoonist was trying to convey was that even though the man is black, he is still human and that the only thing that is different is his skin color. I think the black man in chains on his knee with the caption "Am I not a man or a brother", portrays the cartoonist's message very clearly and it makes the audience really think about their mindset on slavery. I think an opposing viewpoint of this image is one of the pro-slavery people saying that they are different than us, and that "science" and God back them up that slavery is warranted. 19th century Americans that would support this cartoon would probably be abolitionists and slaves because this gave the other side an image with a powerful message that they would have to think about while supporting this inhumane practice. It's hard to say how effective this image was in the 19th century because even though there were definitely people that truly felt the message of the image; there probably were still a lot of hardheaded people that didn't feel remorse. I think this image is definitely effective when learning about slavery in the 19th century because it really does hit deep about the struggles these people faced and that this image was needed because of the mindset of society at the time. I believe in 2018 after learning and seeing all of the things that black people have gone through, society will reject any attempt of slavery of any kind.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Germans and Irish

by Jack Swisher - Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 9:31 PM

Cartoon six, the ballot box. Two men with irish whiskey and beer across the barrels they wear. The Germans and Irish came to the country in the 1840's and 1850's by the millions according to page 414. The Germans introduced lager beer to the country "thus providing a wholesome alternative for americans who wished to give up all spirits without joining the teetotalers." The German people built beer halls around towns in America which attracted many people. The Irish on the other hand, "reaffirmed their love for whiskey." Page 415. These bars caused drunkenness and fights, that would explain the brawl going on in the background. "A love that legitimized levels of males drunkenness and violence." The lager bier sign in the background is probably one of the family style of bars that the Germans created. I would assume that the drawer of this cartoon saw the Irish and Germans as drunks and fighters. The irish were big catholics, so possibly the cartoonist was a protestant who didn't like that the millions of irish immigrants brought their catholic views to a more protestant country. The cartoonist could have been a methodist or baptist who participated in temperance. "Southern methodist ministers preached against alcohol, while churchgoing women discouraged their husbands, sons and suitors from drinking." Page 416. Along with alcohol trying to be banned, this cartoonist might have been a Whig because of the fact that Whigs were about moral reform. This poster doesn't say much about the fact that alcohol should be outlawed, but it does show some fighting from alcohol and politics, so this cartoon could have been a start to states and counties prohibiting alcohol. Many mid-atlantic and Northern states. My reasoning on the fact that the two men are stealing the ballot box, is because these two men aren't totally legal citizens and are trying to cast a vote, there was a lot of voter fraud in those days.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Irish Whiskey, German Lager

by Lloyd Higgins - Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 11:54 PM

This cartoon seems to depict two stereotypes of common immigrants during the 19th century. Germans and Irish. On the one hand, I see the cartoonist blaming Germans and Irish with election meddling by 'stealing' the ballot and voting. This could potentially elect officials to office that Americans who were native born would not want elected. Having ethnic groups vote against their interest, in this case the cartoonists, could force them to highlight that potential conspiracy. Another interpretation of the cartoon could be the influence of German and Irish alcohol on the voting minds of the citizenry of a young America. Perhaps the artist sought to point out how people who are intoxicated, or even worse, have a financial stake in the import and sale of German and Irish alcohol. Could vote against the interests of parties that disliked immigrants.

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Am I Not A Man?

by Stephen Sorber - Thursday, February 1, 2018, 3:53 PM

Am I not A Man is clearly the point of view of an abolitionist who is against slavery. Am I not A Man is clearly depicted as a slave who is in chains asking the question "Am I not a man?". Now the artist is clearly an abolitionist who believes that African American people are not to be considered property but people. The African American man is in chains and tattered clothing leaving me to believe that he is a slave along with the fact that he is kneeling in the cartoon. The opposing view to this is obviously that slaves are considered property and not human but labor machines used as a tool. Abolitionists such as Harriet Beecher Stowe could have supported this message because it views the black man asking an honest question that may change the minds of white men and women who know slavery and have dealt in slavery to change their perspective's on slaves. I don't think that this cartoon is considered to be very effective simply because of the time period where lots of southern farmers owned and dealt in the slave trade.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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This is Not Your Promised Land

by Chelsea Sheltman - Thursday, February 1, 2018, 4:00 PM

The cartoonist is anti-catholic. The characters are drawn all fat and grinning, to show greediness and possibly gluttony (one of the catholic seven deadly sins). The head of the group, standing above everyone else appears to be the pope, leading (literally pointing) all of his fellow parish men to America. It seems to appear as more of a violent conquest rather than a spreading of religion, as there are sharp weapons in the background. The cartoonist must have done this to portray the catholic faith as vicious and unwelcome.

The United States was predominantly protestant, so many people, no matter the region would have been opposed to Catholicism. The immigrants from Ireland did hold the catholic faith, which caused disagreement, specifically with the creation of schools and the teachings of the protestant faith being pushed onto the children. This angered the Irish. Because of that, the cartoon must have been effective.

I do share some of the values expressed in the cartoon. The cartoon is meant to be an exaggeration, of course not all catholics have agendas, but growing up as a catholic for 13 years has caused me to hold opinions against the religion.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Am I Not A Man?

by Justin Oljace - Thursday, February 1, 2018, 11:20 PM

It is clear that this cartoonist is against slavery. He portrays an African American man wearing chains on one knee. On the cartoon it says, "Am I Not A Man And A Brother?" They capitalized all the words to grab the reader's attention as you see a poor man begging to be set free. The cartoonist's main point seems to be that slavery is unjust. People that would have supported this cartoon in the 19th century would have been people in northern states, including abolitionists. I think this cartoon would have been really effective and powerful during this time period because it would have made people sit down and really think about how terrible slavery was. It's a little more difficult to relate to this cartoon in 2018 because we can all see that slavery is awful and the United States abolished it over 150 years ago. It's terrible to think about how some countries still have slavery today.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Bobolitionist

by Jack Swisher - Friday, February 2, 2018, 12:19 PM

The "At south" cartoon looks to me like the cartoonist is opposing the abolition movement because the two slaves look like they are living a good life. The cartoonist was sending a message to the northern people, that slavery isn't as bad as the northern people think. I think this because of the nice artwork, nice clothes the slaves are wearing, and the nice table cloth. This picture does not portray the slave quarter pictures that we have seen in class. The cartoonist is for sure pro-slavery because of the comment at the bottom, "I'll call the big bad bobolitionist and let um run away with yer." This man obviously believes that slavery is better than being a free man, or that is just the mindset of the southern man. I would also say that this cartoonist is racist because of the way she talks. Pronouncing words like, bobolitionist, um, yer, and more. He portrays the blacks as being uneducated, as many were, but blacks were starting to read and write. He has the Horace Mann mindset that blacks aren't as smart as whites,

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Immigrants "stealing" the ballot box

by Kate Weiss - Friday, February 2, 2018, 3:14 PM

The Ballot Box political cartoon depicts an Irishman and a German "stealing" the ballot box in front of a poll building and a lager bier and cigar house. There is an angry mob of what appears to be immigrants fighting in front of the poll building. They're yielding the same hitting stick as the one the Irishman is waving above his head as he runs off with the ballots. The fighting mob most likely represents the "several ethnic riots between Protestant and Catholic

workers over the years culminated in pitched battles and numerous deaths in Philadelphia in 1844" (textbook 462). This cartoon shows the "Know-Nothing" parties nativist views and fears of "immigrants in power" (textbook 462), and it was used as propaganda to curtail their political power. Between 1845 and 1855, millions of Irish and German's immigrated to the United States when their countries were involved in revolutions or crop famines. These new immigrants settled in neighborhoods shaken by recent temperance movements, and most of them supported pro-slavery Democrats because "they tolerated immigrants when Whigs did not" (textbook 462), even though most immigrants settled in the northern free-states. The new immigrants "social and political life revolved around taverns and beer parlors at a time when the temperance crusade curtailed drinking among native-born Protestants" (textbook 462). I think that's why the artist drew the bier house next to the poll building in order to show their connection and importance in the lives of the Irish and German people.

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Am I Not a Man

by Rachel Gragg - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 2:10 PM

The cartoon that had a lot of impact on me is the "Am I Not a Man" cartoon. It features a slave cuffed and chained and in a position that seems like he is praying or pleading and the words, "Am I not a man and a brother?" under him. My interpretation of this is that in the Declaration of Independence, it states that, "All men are created equal" and in the Bible it states many times that all believers are brothers and sisters and family of God. The slave is asking "Am I not a man and a brother?" because these texts that are super significant to this time period are stating that all men are created equally and that all men are brothers and on the same level in God's eyes. It's no secret that at this time in history, slaves were not treated equally and like brothers and sisters.

The cartoonist's opinion on slavery is that it should be abolished because he is stating that this man in shackles is a man and a brother and, according to the important texts of this time period, should not be in those shackles. It is a very powerful cartoon with an incredible important message

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Round 2, maybe now I get it?

by Scott Fails - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 5:30 PM

After reading several other posts about the "Am I not a man" cartoon, another contributor has forced me to think about separating the analysis of the cartoon into 2 separate issues. First, is the blatantly obvious and at this point overly discussed portrayal of slavery that everybody had. However, the second part being what a freed slave meant. It's easy to get caught up in the drama of the situation when basing my entire analysis on the slavery portion alone and those negative effects of such disgust without giving due and equal credit to the advancement of the abolitionist party, a true freeing of not only "slaves", but more importantly the acceptance of an equal as it is summed up in the term "brother" in this comic. It's called a political cartoon for a reason and though I've already given my analysis of this cartoon in my first post, I believe I looked at the comic with only a moral scope vice the actual intended

purpose of its political propaganda intentions. I now believe the cartoon to be more clever than originally seen from my first take. It is using the the slavery issue to play on ones morals to sway their political decision. Much like political propaganda of modern day issues, this cartoon I believe is successful in its desired intent. Though very obvious now that I see it, I've never really put two and two together and been forced to think into the deeper meaning of the propaganda itself. This cartoon promotes the thought of equals. It applies to today. This is the proclaimed "land of the free", however, at this point in the 19th century the only ones pushing for that was the abolitionist party. In doing so, the Abolitionists were the first "BLM" movement of not only those oppressed, but those promoting "the land of the free" and most importantly equality. The best version of the United States of America we could be not only then, but moving forward through the generations. A permanent alteration in the way we view everyone living here.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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"At the South" Cartoon

by Rachel Gragg - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 6:45 PM

When I first saw this cartoon I was very confused as to who the creator would've been and what statement it was trying to make. The more I analyzed, I think the cartoonist was pro-slavery.

The first thing that made me think this was how the woman speaks very broken English. She can't pronounce "abolitionist" correctly, she uses words like "den" and "yer." I think this is a way in which the cartoonist is trying to make slaves look foolish. Also, another thought I had was that the child in the picture was meant to represent the entire population of slaves. This would make sense because it paints them as childlike and not smart enough to make decisions and not wise enough to have any say in politics or even their own freedoms. Then, the most obvious (I think) reason why this would be a pro-slavery cartoon is that it clearly says that the abolitionists are bad and scary and that you don't want to trust them. This is a very fascinating cartoon and I'm very interested to know how this was interpreted in the time period it was published.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: "At the South" Cartoon

by Jacob Spriggs - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 11:43 PM

Just like you, I was confused after first looking at the "At the South" cartoon. I had no idea whether the artist was pro- slavery or an abolitionist. However, after reading your post I definitely agree with you that this was a pro-slavery cartoon. A pro-slavery cartoonist would want to convey slaves as foolish, unintelligent, and dependent on whites. It makes sense that the cartoon portrays abolitionists as bad people or criminal-like, because they were trying to take away slaves from their masters, who saw slaves as property, and taking someones property is theft as long as they are allowed to own that property. After taking a second look at this cartoon, I got the idea that the cartoonist was trying to make it seem as if the slaves wanted to be in captivity rather than be freed. I believe the overall message of this cartoon is that the slaves were better off being slaves than being free.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: "At the South" Cartoon

by Aidan Jewett - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 11:51 PM

I was also very confused by this cartoon at first, as were you. The caption automatic made me assume that the cartoonist was pro-slavery, but the portrayal of the slaves and their quarters was very different than what I would expect from the average pro-slavery cartoon. The mother is speaking in broken English, but they are shown to be much more human than other racist cartoons at the time, such as "The Scale". It isn't perfect, as the child is still shown quite muscular with a stereotypically large face, but still better than most. I believe that the cartoon is meant for Southern slave owners to feel better about themselves for owning slaves.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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The Scale

by Justin Oljace - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 9:40 PM

From this cartoon I was about to conclude that this artist thinks that both African Americans and Irishman were treated equally. I came to this conclusion because the cartoonist made them look similar and both sit equally on the scale. I think it says north and south on each side of the scale because these two groups of people were equally looked down upon by others across the United States. Irish because of their religion and African Americans because of slavery.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0



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Re: Interpreting Ballot Box & Promised Land

by Jesse Elizondo - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 11:42 PM

The two cartoons I'm going to be examining in this post are The Ballot Box and The Promised Land. The first cartoon depicts an Irish immigrant and a German immigrant running off with a ballot box. Both characters are dressed in a barrel labeled according to an alcohol that is associated with the immigrant's country, while a riot appears to be taking place in the background. My interpretation of this cartoon is that the artist is obviously not happy with the rising immigration from Ireland and Germany and fears that they are going to start getting involved into the American political system. The reason for the dislike of Irish and German immigrants is from what I understand, because they were primarily catholic and at this time the United States was very anti-catholic.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: Interpreting Ballot Box & Promised Land

by Jesse Elizondo - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 11:42 PM

The second image I looked at was the Promised Land. In the cartoon there are a bunch of members of the catholic church sitting on the roof of some building. There's a man looking at the United States through a telescope while the Pope points to it with what appears to be a bishop next to him. There are also numerous weapons appearing in the background which appear to be pikes. My interpretation is that the Pope is setting his eyes on America and is calling for some kind of crusade to be launched to invade the United States. I think this was created due to the United States intolerance of catholics at the time. since the United States was primarily protestant and there were increasing numbers of catholic immigrants coming to the United States from Ireland and Germany I think this cartoon was as a response to the rising number of catholics coming to America and the fear that protestants might become a minority.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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