

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

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Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

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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.

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

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"Holy Horror" and "Am I Not a Man" Interpretations Mackenzi Knoll

by Mackenzi Knoll - Monday, January 29, 2018, 4:59 PM

One of the cartoons that stood out to me was the cartoon titled "Holy Horror" due to its perceived notions of race, status and stereotype. The black woman is seen as beautiful, more wealthy, and looks quite peaceful. The Irish woman looks messy, less wealthy (maybe a hard working woman?) a drunk (alcohol bottles in her basket she is holding) and looks far less beautiful/put together. I think that the cartoonist was trying to show viewers the stereotypes that they had for the two types of people at the time. You can see that the cartoonist wanted to exaggerate and depict specific aspects in the two, and wanted to make it clear how they were viewed and why they were viewed this way. I think this because the picture seems

exaggerated of the differences between the two women in not only their looks but personalities that shine through the artwork within the items in their laps and the attitude and looks on their faces.

Another cartoon that stood out to me is the cartoon "Am I not a man". It says "Am I not a man and a brother?" which represents the abolition of slavery movement. The cartoonist wanted to show the sad and terrible evils of slavery, as the man is in shackles, looks to have almost no clothes on, and is not being depicted as being a fairly treated slave. I believe that he looks to be praying for a better life for himself and others. The quote and the actions of the man lead me to believe this way. I believe that this cartoon was very effective in it's day and in today's day as well. The point of the cartoonist is made clear and is easy for anyone to see what the issue is and how the author feels about slavery.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Possible Truths Behind "Holy Horror"

by Mariah Goodman - Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 4:36 PM

I agree with your point, Mackenzi, that the two women are depicted here as being minorities on an equal level with each other, considering they are sitting alongside one another. I think though that the artist's opinion is more in favor of the black female than of the Irish woman. The black female is, like you mentioned, presented as beautiful and more poised, rich even, in comparison to the harsh, poor looking Mrs. McCaffraty. I think that the artist depicted the Irish woman as ugly because they personally view the Irish as lesser people than black people; and the artist may even be shocked that such a minority as the "ugly" Irish is equal to the more composed black population.

An interesting thought: there lies an irony here in that though the artist seems to favor black people over the Irish, yet the Irish woman herself is baffled that a black woman is coexisting *alongside* her, and hence, living at the same level as her. This may suggest an Irish resentment toward the black population for being compared to people who were, unlike themselves, slaves. Regardless of this difference, the Irish too were regarded as lesser people and were likely very angered over this comparison and, according to the picture, hated black people because of it.

I am curious as to what the significance of the pictures title itself, "Holy Horror", might be if you have any thoughts on that.

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2



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What is "holy" about "holy horror"?

by Mackenzi Knoll - Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 10:00 PM

Yes I agree with you, there is definitely irony in how the Irish woman may feel being seen as less favorable to the cartoonist than a black women since during this time period black women were not usually seen as the greater race. I also agree with you that the who "races" probably did not collide very well at the time. I too am not completely sure why the cartoon is titled "Holy Horror". Maybe it has something to do with the difference

in religious aspects between the two races along with the horror of comparing and degrading each as well. Anyone else have any perspective on the title of this cartoon? Good thoughts!

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Re: What is "holy" about "holy horror"?

by Jordan Hibbard - Friday, February 2, 2018, 11:03 AM

I did not really understand this comic until reading your post. It had not occurred to me that the other woman was Irish and that fact makes this cartoon a lot more logical. I agree it is probably called "holy" horror because most Americans were protestant and if the woman is Irish she was most likely catholic and Americans would not have liked that.

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Re: What is "holy" about "holy horror"?

by Mackenzi Knoll - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 4:01 PM

Jordan- I'm glad that helped you understand it! That does make a lot more sense because Americans disliked Catholicism so much. The black woman was most likely Protestant and the Irish woman Catholic, so it was probably called holy horror because the two of them sitting so close to one another yet disagreeing on so many things was a horror.

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Re: What is "holy" about "holy horror"?

by McKenna Wilson - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 4:36 PM

Thanks to both of you I understand this cartoon a little more. It makes sense that the white Irish woman is upset looking because she seems less than the black woman since people back then did not like Irish people. I was puzzled trying to figure out what they were trying to depict in this cartoon. This holy horror cartoon reminds me a lot of "The Scale" because the Irish man is at the same level as the black man on the scale. In my opinion, this picture of the women shows them sitting on the same "level" on the bus although the message might have been that the Irish woman is less than the black woman.

I am also curious if there is any meaning behind the Irish woman staring towards the black woman while the black woman looks away. Is the black woman minding her own business? Does she think she is better than the Irish woman? Is the Irish woman upset?

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**Re: "Holy Horror" and "Am I Not a Man" Interpretations Mackenzi Knoll**

by Anna Chan - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 7:53 PM

I agree with your assessment of the first cartoon. I definitely feel like the author of the cartoon wanted to make the clear definition between the two. While black women didn't have the highest level of importance during that time period this cartoon makes it clear that they had a higher standing in society than Irish women had. He was also trying to portray that they were still considered lower than everyone else. In the second cartoon "Am I Not a Man", I also agree with your statement about what the cartoon stands for. I didn't really think about the fact that he could be begging for a better life. I think that's a really interesting way to interpret the cartoon. It also is very easy for the reader to interpret what the author was trying to get across to his readers.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: "Holy Horror" and "Am I Not a Man" Interpretations Mackenzi Knoll**

by Daniel Vuong - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 10:20 PM

While reading your first interpretation of the cartoon *Holy Horror* it really put things into perspective for me in terms of adding different viewpoints on the cartoon, so great job! When I first looked at this cartoon, I had a difficult time trying to figure out which 'side' the artist was on. I first interpreted the cartoon as depicting both woman of equableness. Maybe an artist against both populations of African-American and Irish. This was because the Irish woman was displayed in a very vulgar manner, looking quite angry, and boarded on a bus with raw fish and alcohol. I had a hard time trying to figure out whether or not the black woman was supported or not as she looked well put together with nothing much in her lap, but she did look sad. Her body language displays this. And the fact that she is well put together, and still depicted as the same as the Irish woman made me believe that maybe though the author was against both populations, they were more against the black population. Although upon further inspection, I saw the sentence, "Holy Horror of Mrs. McCaffraty in a Washington City Street Passenger Car. [Mr. McCaffraty Voted *against* Negro Suffrage.]. This made me look at the cartoon in a different manner. One can assume that Mrs. McCaffraty is the one sitting next to the black woman, and her husband is also against the black population, hence maybe why the Irish woman is looking at the black woman in disgust. This lead to me thinking that although initially I was right in terms of the author viewing both parties in a condescending way, having them both sit next to each other and portraying them in negatives way, maybe the author had a different point. That although both populations were viewed as minorities, and therefore 'against' society, that even then the minorities at the time did not even get along. This is why the black woman is not even looking at the Irish woman. And why the subtitle portrays that the household she resides in does not even support black rights. I think the author is trying to portray that both populations at the time were against each other, although equal in condescending nature from the majority population.

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

by Mariah Goodman - Monday, January 29, 2018, 6:40 PM

The artist's opinion represented through the "Am I Not a Man and A Brother?" would suggest that they are anti-slavery. The art depicts a weak, barely-clothed, chained black man who appears to be either begging or submitting to some authority figure that he must bow down to. I think that this artist intentionally portrays the black men begging as physically strong to show the capability of slaves, emphasizing that they are not inferior or smaller than the white man. This strength conveys a sense of the black man's worth even though he is constantly demeaned and stripped (i.e. the lack of clothing) of not only his rights as a man and a brother of society, but of his dignity. The question itself that is being presented likewise conveys the tone that the man in the artwork, and likely its creator, do not understand why black men are slaves or why they are treated any differently from the white man who is really just another man.

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Re: Am I Not a Man and a Brother?: A Depiction

by Raleigh Emerson - Friday, February 2, 2018, 1:50 PM

I too saw this as a sort of appeal to emotions by the most likely abolitionist artist. Raising questions that simply have no answer, I believe this was made in some attempt to make southerners see the error in their ways and that these slaves were people the same as all of us.

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Re: Am I Not a Man and a Brother?: A Depiction

by McKenna Wilson - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 3:23 PM

I really like your interpretation of what the creator was thinking/trying to get their message across. I agree that the artist was probably on the side where they are not sure why the slave isn't treated the same as a white man. I wonder if this message/cartoon made people back then realize how inhumane these slaves were being treated and that they should free the slaves. Although it wasn't until later that slavery was abolished, maybe this helped people understand a slave's side to this issue. I feel that this is an extremely powerful drawing which may have gotten people thinking. In the 19th century I feel that people in the North would have supported this message that slaves should not have to feel less than others or that they deserve to be treated this way because nobody should feel like that. I think they would also agree slavery is inhumane since they were the ones who wanted slavery abolished.

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Re: Am I Not a Man and a Brother?: A Depiction

by Raleigh Emerson - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 3:32 PM

This depiction is entirely based on humanizing the slaves at the time, which would most likely be brought on by the abolitionists. They put this slave in position of inferiority, begging and praying on his knees. This seems like an attempt to show a softer and more relateable person when depicting the slave. This was meant as an appeal to emotions on the side of the southerners with the idea that these men are no different from then they are brothers with the white man all the same.

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Re: Am I Not a Man and a Brother?: A Depiction

by Anna Chan - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 8:24 PM

I agree with you on the aspect that the artist shows the slave in a physically stronger appearance. Slaves were probably one of the strongest, physically, during that time period simply because of the amount of physical work that they had to do during the day. The cartoon is a very strong resemblance of just how much of a force that these people were. I think that it's a very powerful statement that the author is trying to get across about how they feel about the rights and dignity that these slaves were due.

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Racial Inequality

by McKenna Wilson - Monday, January 29, 2018, 7:09 PM

This editorial cartoon depicts a slave chained up on his knees. I interpreted this as him wondering why he is not treated like any other man is. Because he is in chains/shackles on the ground with his hand I was led to believe this. I think the cartoonist was trying to display the issues going on during this time period regarding slavery and inequality by showing how badly the slaves themselves were treated and how alienated they felt. It makes me sad seeing this image with the words "Am I not a man and a brother?" because nobody should feel like they are less of a human than anyone else.

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Holy hypocrisy

by Julianne Sullivan - Monday, January 29, 2018, 7:35 PM

The cartoon that spoke to me the most out of the bunch was "holy horror". The cartoon showed a picture of two women, one white and one black, sitting on the bus. The black woman and the white woman are sitting next to each other, but the white woman is drawn super grotesque looking and is holding a basket of wine and other food. The message displayed at the bottom was "Holy horror of Mrs. McCafraty in a Washington City Street Passenger car" and under that is says "Mr McCafraty voted against negro suffrage". I dont know who the McCafraty's are, but by the way they displayed Mrs. McCafraty (as a pretty gross looking glutton), and the message at the bottom pointing out Mr. McCafraty's view points makes me think this was drawn by some racist slavery appreciator and I just find it so hypocritical. I believe they used the word "holy" as a religious appeal, but they also state that

Mr. McCafraty was anti black suffrage, which is pretty religiously hypocritical because I dont remember Jesus saying "Forgive them for they know not what they do - except the blacks" and the multiple ways the bible shows that God loves all his children, not just the white ones.

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Digging deeper into "holy horror"

by Mackenzi Knoll - Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 10:02 PM

The "Holy Horror" cartoon really stood out to me too. It is interesting how the cartoonist perceives the two types of women. I also found it interesting that it below said that about voting against negro suffrage. I agree that "holy" was used in a religious manner, but am also not entirely sure what they were meaning to refer to since obviously as you said there is truly nothing holy or religious really going on in the photo considering how the two races were treated and how they all treated one another as well. That is for sure religiously hypocritical to say that you are of that specific religion but exclude black people from being respected and loved.

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Am I Not a Man?

by Anna Chan - Monday, January 29, 2018, 7:56 PM

I chose the Am I Not a Man cartoon. From what I can see about this cartoon I can tell that this cartoonist is anti-slavery. I think that their main point is that the slaves are people too and that they should be treated as such. They got their point across by putting the slave on his knees in a begging position and in words on a banner underneath asks the question, "Am I not a man and a brother?" I think the begging position is the main this that lead me to my interpretation. It really shows how desperately these slaves wanted to be treated like regular human beings and have rights as any other man. An opposite view could be that the artist is mocking the slave and show how they are begging for freedom but that they don't think that the slave is worthy of having rights. I think that the people who lives in the North would have supported this message because they were anti-slavery for the most part. They were the ones who allowed slaves to become free. I think that this cartoon wouldn't have been very effective in the south because they were very steadfast in their ways and thrived off of slavery however in the north this would have been fairly effective because most people in the north supported the freeing of slaves and it would have convinced them to push their government for nationwide freedom. I think this is an important time for us to be learning about because it was such a huge part of our history and it was a sensitive time period. I think that it really gives me a full sense of what built our nation and the trouble that these slaves went through. I think that the fact that we're slowly becoming more open to all types of people is what really helped influence my position on this cartoon because I feel for the slave depicted and know that he wants the same rights as others. I think that because he's begging for his rights, I draw connections to now because there are still people who are fighting to be respected in the same way that others are.

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At The South

by Isaac Anderson - Monday, January 29, 2018, 8:53 PM

I am going to attempt to interpret the first cartoon "At The South." The cartoon features an African American woman pointing her finger at her son while grabbing him by the arm like he has done something wrong. In the caption she is telling him to be good or she will call the abolitionists to come take him away. I don't know who the artist is but I will assume that this is a piece of pro-slavery propaganda trying to portray abolitionists as the enemy during the time just before the civil war. "Antislavery, unlike other reforms, was a radical attack on one of the nations central institutions (Liberty, Equality and Power, pg 421)." This cartoon is an example of anti-radical and racial nativism (class notes). The mother seems to be saying "learn your place in this white mans world (racial-nativism) or I will send you away with the scary, radical abolitionists (anti-radical)."

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Re: The Promised Land and reasoning behind it.

by Oscar Medina - Monday, January 29, 2018, 9:23 PM

I believe the main point of the Promised land cartoon is that the Catholic church was seen as a cruel Government more so than a religion. What lead me to believe this was a majority of everyone in the photo looks to be plotting or discussing something about the United States. Catholics made to be seen only looking for a country to invade and rule over. The men in the back are holding weapons, showing that Catholic church will use any means necessary to take control of the United States.

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Without Chains Is he a Slave?

by Brogan Cornish - Monday, January 29, 2018, 10:10 PM

I think the cartoonist was trying to ask people what a man is? If a black male isn't a man than is a white male a man. Also he talks about brothers and I think he's trying to say that in some way that we are all family. The main point was that slaves are people too. With the chains and the black man on his knees I believe that they have supported their cartoon very well. That this black man may be a prisoner who has committed a crime and is not a slave. The northerners would have supported this message because they didn't not have a big stake in agriculture.

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He is not a slave; he is a man and a brother

by Mackenzi Knoll - Thursday, February 1, 2018, 9:32 PM

I found your interpretation on this super interesting! I didn't think of it this way so it opened up my eyes to a different way of thinking. I don't think I completely understood in detail as to why the cartoonist had written the words, "Am I not a man and a brother?", but your interpretation seems pretty spot on! I definitely agree with you that this could have been the motive for creating this art.

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Re: He is not a slave; he is a man and a brother

by Brogan Cornish - Friday, February 2, 2018, 11:04 PM

I agree because I really was confused by that line. Everything else I could interrupt, but I just couldn't figure it out for this line, "Am I not a man and a brother?" It was just confusing in the picture that it was in

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Interpreting the Editorial Cartoon: "The Scale"

by Josiah Sugai - Monday, January 29, 2018, 10:43 PM

In the editorial cartoon "The Scale," there is an African-American and a white ape-looking man sitting on a scale. The white man is on the part called "North" and the African-American is on the arm labelled the "South". They are both shown to be equal. However, this is not the case. For clarification, the comparison shown is like an intelligence comparison between these two men. This artist thought that that the intelligence of the African-American is **equal** to the White man's only if the white man is dumbbed down to the likeness of an ape. This shows that the author believes that African-Americans' of the South are not equally intelligent as the white men of the North. An opposing artist, most likely an abolitionist, would draw this same cartoon but make both men look equally intelligent and in human likeness. The message conveyed through this cartoon would mostly have been supported by southern slave holders and those who affiliated with the Democratic party, because this was a common view of slaves during this time-period. If this was shown in southern newspapers, then the response would be enthusiastic and accepting but abolitionists would be disgusted by this. Here is an example to prove my point. When American scientists came forth and proclaimed that African-Americans were a different specie altogether, the Democrats as well as Southern Slave holders rejoiced after hearing this news because it gave them reason to continue justifying slavery. Among these people this cartoon would be like a reiteration of that science report and just as they received that "scientific fact" warmly, they would also endorse this similarly. This is very effective in helping me understand the craziness of the "bizarre world" of the 19th century. By today's standards, this cartoon and the artist would be demonized for racism, but back then when viewed by Southerners or Democrats, it was perfectly acceptable!

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Re: Interpreting the Editorial Cartoon: "The Scale"

by Isaac Anderson - Friday, February 2, 2018, 10:33 AM

Hi Josiah,

I like your interpretation of this cartoon except I think there is a little bit more to say about this particular white man from the north. In our history 202 class we have seen white men drawn to represent ape-like creatures before. I believe these ape-like drawings were made to represent the Irish white man. The Irish white man was as unacceptable in society as a black man was at this time. The Irish were poor and they were Catholic. In this time period there was intense "anti-Catholic nativism" going on that dates back to the protestant reformation of 1517 (class Notes). Although they weren't slaves, business owners would hang signs on their buildings that said "NINA" or 'No Irish Need Apply' (notes)." I believe this cartoonist is trying to show us that the Irish white man from the north and the African slaves of the south were considered equal at this time in our country. It also shows that race isn't always the base for discrimination although that is where most of the conversation is taking place today. Culture and religion also play a huge part in the nativism that we see happening today, but most arguments seem to end up being a debate about race instead.

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Re: Interpreting the Editorial Cartoon: "The Scale"

by Josiah Sugai - Friday, February 2, 2018, 2:07 PM

Hello Isaac,

Thank you for that input. I agree with your assessment of the white man being Irish and this idea has helped me understand this cartoon better. One other detail in the cartoon that supports your assessment is how the Irish man's overall apparel was unkempt, showing lack of sophistication. This unsophisticated look is generally how Irish were portrayed in other political cartoons. Thanks again for the input!

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Re: Interpreting the Editorial Cartoon: "The Scale"

by McKenna Wilson - Friday, February 2, 2018, 5:32 PM

Hi Isaac,

Thanks for explaining this part of the cartoon! I also replied to the scale cartoon but did not take into account that the white man had an ape face. I noticed this at first but was confused by it. I thought since the Black male was dressed more casually that he was less than the White male. And the fact that I am used to having people assume that Black men are less than White men. It makes a little more sense now that I have this perspective of the ape part of the drawing. Do you think the cartoonist is only trying to make a point about both of them being equal? Or is there more to this drawing?

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Re: Interpreting the Editorial Cartoon: "The Scale"

by Isaac Anderson - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 9:34 AM

Hi McKenna,

The scale in this picture represents the “Scales of Justice. Symbolizing the impartial deliberation, or weighing of two sides in a legal dispute (1).” ”In the 1830s and 1840s, prominent Protestant leaders, such as Lyman Beecher and Horace Bushnell, attacked the Catholic Church as not only theologically unsound but an enemy of republican values (2).” By this time the Democrats were also mobilizing voters almost solely with threats of amalgamation and Negro rule (Liberty, Equality, Power. Pg 417). I stated before that the white Irish and the African Americans were considered equal at this time in history, but I really meant that they were considered equally threatening to American politics in the early to mid 19th century.

(1)<https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/symbolsoflaw.pdf>

(2)https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Catholicism_in_the_United_States

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2



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"The Scale" & "At the South"

by Jonathan Haskell - Monday, January 29, 2018, 11:18 PM

- The two cartoons that had the greatest impact on me are entitled “The Scale” and “At the South”. In “The Scale” I think the point they are trying to make is obvious. There is a scale with a black man on one end and a white man on the other. The black man is grinning as if telling I told you so and the white man has a look of bewilderment on his face. The black man and the white man despite their skin pigmentation of lack thereof, are weighed equally. The cartoon has no words other than the words BLACK and WHITE labeled on the scale under each character and yet its point seems to be easily interpreted that both men are equal. I think it would just have easily been interpreted in the 19th Century with the abolitionist and those in favor of freedom for all men finding it amusing and refreshing.
- The second cartoon I chose “At the South” as it is the only one that made me giggle a bit which at least in some cases a cartoon is known to do. It is labeled at the bottom “AT THE SOUTH” which I believe is similar to meaning as in the south and it shows a black woman scolding her child. He seems to be in pajamas or at least a one piece underclothing, and there is a candle burning making me think it is night so maybe he is refusing to go to bed? The mother to make her child act right is trying to scare him straight by telling him that if he doesn’t do what she tell him to do than the big bad abolitionist might come down and snatch him up and run away with him! The boy looks scared because the big bad monster abolitionist would take him away from his family, away from his mother and his home. Despite its setbacks that are obvious to us it is the only life he knows. The artist could of been trying to be humorous in its telling but with the trying times it could of easily also been a preservationist trying to relate that being free isn’t something a slave knows anything about. I don’t think in comparison its effectiveness is as strong as the other cartoon “The Scale”, but its context is deeper and it as a whole was more memorable.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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At the south

by Raleigh Emerson - Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 4:08 PM

This cartoon makes it seem as if it were illustrated by an abolitionist looking to discredit the south and their practices during the 19th century. The idea of a mother discouraging the idea of her child being taken away from slavery is meant to show just how brainwashed these slaves could be. My take away from this comic was that it was as if the mother was being fed bad information and instead of seeing the abolitionists as people looking for freedom and more of a gang of baby snatchers. Abolitionists would support this cartoon as it shines more of a negative light upon the slaveholders and allows for more traction in the eye of the public.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: At the south

by Jonathan Haskell - Thursday, February 1, 2018, 10:39 PM

I am not as sure as you are that it was drawn by an abolitionist as they were a pretty small group at least the most radical ones. I think if it was than it was done so to find a sick humor in the situation. "Baby snatchers" as you call it. I don't see it as discrediting the south though at least no more than their sinful actions did to themselves already. I see if a point at all is being made it would be the point that people of the south was trying to make for years that slaves do not know and wouldn't know how to be free. That they are in fact over all content. The point of fact that slavery is morally wrong didn't change the fact that this the lives they lived and they didn't know another. Scary stories of northern white men coming down to take away their babies seem a good defense mechanism to avoid both a child disobeying his mother as well as the mother from imagining anything other than enslavement. I could see abolitionist enjoying and supporting this cartoon, but on the other hand I can see how a southern person might find it just as amusing.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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How Art style and Stereotypes Play a Role in Interpreting Political Cartoons

by Jordan Hibbard - Thursday, February 1, 2018, 7:54 AM

Am I Not a Man?-

Due to the kneeling pose and clasped hands of the man in the picture it is assumed he is begging for something. Also, because he is black and the time period this was printed in it is implied that this man is a slave. This argument is furthered by the fact that his only clothes are a cloth around his waist and chains on his hands and feet. Because of his begging type pose and the evidence he is a slave combined with the words "Am I not a man and a brother?" this man is most likely begging for mercy or freedom from a slaveholder. With that idea in mind it becomes clear the cartoonist is on the side of anti-slavery and sees black men as men, as humans, as people and brothers in this country who deserve the same rights as white men. A rather bold statement for the time, however, the anti-slavery movement had many extremists and while not wholly accepted this kind of statement would most likely not be unusual for an abolitionist.

Irish and German -

The artist of this comic clearly believes the Irish and Germans carried the majority of the votes with elections. It is very likely they also believe the common stereotypes that Irishmen and Germans were drunkards and thieves as these two men's bodies are whiskey and beer barrels respectively and they have stolen the ballot box from the crowd of white voters at the polls behind them. Besides the bodies of booze the artist did not hold back on the stereotypes depicted here. There is a tall, lanky, curly haired, and freckled Irishmen and a somewhat short, fat, smoking German. This all leads to the conclusion that this artist did not think highly of the Irish or the Germans and was probably not happy they carried the vote.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: How Art style and Stereotypes Play a Role in Interpreting Political Cartoons

by Adrianna Rios Chinchilla-Ordoñez - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 6:30 PM

Jordan,

These were the two editorial cartoons I chose as well. I couldn't agree with both of your responses. I do think you made a more descriptive job of stating the stereotypes of the Irish and German men that I did not mention. I had the same thoughts, but didn't go into deeper, description where you pointed out their physical features. I think it's important to see how stereotypes are assumed here on these racial groups just how it's being assumed upon the Latino's in today's political issues with how they are seen as "criminals" and such.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The Scale

by McKenna Wilson - Thursday, February 1, 2018, 6:04 PM

In this cartoon there is a Black man and a White man who are sitting equally on a scale. Although it shows them as equal, it is obvious that the black man is lesser than the white man. The White male is wearing boots, a long coat, and a nice hat. The Black male is not wearing shoes, has a farming type hat and casual clothes on. This seems that the White man is more well off than the Black man. The scale is labeled "white" and "black" as well "North" and "South." It is interesting to note that the North side is above the White male while South is above the Black male. It is ironic that the Black man is smiling while the White man looks unpleasant because this shows the misperception of this cartoon and slavery in general. While slavery was not equal by any means, I am sure this was normal during the time of slavery but today would not be accepted.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Scale

by Jonathan Haskell - Thursday, February 1, 2018, 10:54 PM

I find myself disagreeing with you in general about the over all portrayal of "The Scale". Of course I agree that the cartoon is a black and white man sitting equally on a scale. This I think is the bigger truth. The fact that the white man is more well off than the black man to me does not make it obvious that the black man is less than the white man as you stated, and the fact that they are equal on the scale is suppose to prove it. I think this is why the

black man is smiling and the white man is shocked, because of the fact that there is an equality on the scale despite his top hat and coat and regardless of the skin color and his shoeless feet.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: The Scale

by McKenna Wilson - Friday, February 2, 2018, 11:48 PM

I should have clarified that I meant to me it was obvious even though I think I have changed my mind. After reading other interpretations about the scale, I think I was quick to assume the white man was better than the black man. The Irish/Ape face point makes me rethink what I really think is going on in this picture. I did not think about the intelligence factor that the artist may have been aiming for. It makes sense that the white ape man would have that look on his face since they were both equal on the scale. It also makes sense that the black man would have a grin on his face almost mocking the white man that they are actually equal for once!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: The Scale

by Josiah Sugai - Friday, February 2, 2018, 10:03 AM

I agree with your assessment that they are portrayed unequally, but did you notice that the white man has the face of an ape. Can't this then imply that those two men are "equal" when the white man was given the likeness of an ape and thus if the white man was actually shown as sophisticated he would be above the African American.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

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Re: The Scale

by Josiah Sugai - Friday, February 2, 2018, 3:54 PM

I would like to correct myself on my reply to your interpretation. When Isaac showed me how the white man was probably Irish, it really helped me understand the cartoon better. Both Irish and blacks during that time period were social outcasts and treated similarly on both levels. Does that help the cartoon make more sense?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: The Scale

by Jonathan Haskell - Friday, February 2, 2018, 9:32 PM

I admit am not sure if it has relevance, but the whole "Irish" immigrant thing does have me rethinking the cartoon a bit. In the place of the cartoon saying the black man is equal to the white man with the regard as they were equally both men, it definitely

could be saying that the white man being an Irishman, is equal to the black man in regard as both are animals. Like i said I don't know if we are over thinking, but does make ya think a bit longer! Good catch!

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0



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Racism Entropy

by Gavin Lambert - Thursday, February 1, 2018, 9:29 PM

In Editorial Cartoon 4, there is a man depicted isolated and seeking coexistence with other men of colour as he is shown to say "Am I not a man and a brother?". Being represented as a subordinate in culture, this cartoons display of social lives for African Americans during the 1800 era (despite abolitionists in the northern states attempting to abolish slavery) was miserable.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons: Am I Not A Man

by Daniel Vuong - Friday, February 2, 2018, 6:07 AM

A cartoon that stood out to me was the *Am I Not A Man* one. I can conclude that this specific cartoonist was against slavery, maybe even being an abolitionist. The whole point in this cartoon was to portray a slave, in this case a man, and with the statement, "Am I Not A Man And A Brother?", to contrast the similarities and differences between a slave and a regular man. To point at the question as to why slaves do not have the same humane rights of that of a white man, even going as far as to relating the two as "brothers". This appealed to the audiences' pathos and this was what really intrigued me about this specific cartoon. When looking at it, it was so straight forward that I could not see why anyone, even those who supported slavery, had a hard time relating to the message. As far as effectiveness, this is hard to measure as I do not know when the cartoon was created. I have to believe that at this time, this cartoon must have helped the fight against slavery in some sort of way, as we know that slavery was abolished in 1865. With everything going on in current society, I think it is very important to not forget the roots of the United States. To not forget the cruel history behind it all in order to deal with issues that most are afraid to face. That racism, even in the 21st century, is still very prevalent today. That is another reason why the cartoon stood out to me, because a cartoon in the 19th century is still relatable centuries later.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons: Am I Not A Man

by Adrianna Rios Chinchilla-Ordoñez - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 5:09 PM

Daniel,

I definitely agree with your interpretation of the "Am I not a Man" image. It shocks me to even learn about slaves having to fight for their freedom because that shouldn't have to be something a human has to fight for. Freedom is what one should be born into, not born into slavery like Harriet Tubman was (Murrin, p.453). We should all have the right to freedom, regardless of race. I had similar thoughts on this image, and I totally agree on your last two

sentences of your response. Although, slavery might have been abolished, racism with African-Americans, or even colored people will always be. We may have solved slavery, but perhaps looking at racism/discrimination that happens to this racial group as well is ongoing as you stated.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The scale

by Raleigh Emerson - Friday, February 2, 2018, 1:45 PM

The scale was one of the more powerful cartoons I have seen. In this picture we see the white and black men sitting at what seems to be even level on a scale. The thought of a black man being equal to a white would be upsetting enough for the southerners. The cartoon continues to take shots at the white man, even with his expensive jacket boots and other accoutrements yet still is unable to out weigh the lowly slave without even boots.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Thoughts on Slave Image

by Adrianna Rios Chinchilla-Ordoñez - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 2:49 PM

The image of an African-American who demonstrates the slave-trade and the movement of abolition in the 1830s. They were treated unfairly, from experiencing inhumane conditions to a race that felt superior in a way from being purchased, and it was presumed to be solved by the American Colonization Society by emancipating these slaves to Africa (Murrin p. 418). They saw an increase of free blacks and slaves in the United States. The abolitionists felt that emancipation and racial equality was of importance, which William Garrison supported. Having a kneeling African-American slave to portray the slaves' inequality, and not seen as a human being such as simply being a man, yet a brother brings the unfairness of this inferior population. No such human should be chained with a bare minimum of clothing who looks as if they are begging for rights of freedom. The southerners saw slavery as a need to live, and those who benefited from were those with religious beliefs and who harvested cotton.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Irish and German Immigrants

by Adrianna Rios Chinchilla-Ordoñez - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 6:21 PM

The image of an Irish and German man in barrels holding a ballot box displays immigration and nativism issues that arose in the 19th century. It was a decrease in the potato crop that led the Germans and Irish peasants to emigrate. Views on these two groups of people were not in favor due to suspicion to crime, being alcoholics (hence the Irish "whiskey"/beer kegs), and being unintelligent or unskilled. This was thought to damage economic growth. Then came the, Know-Nothings, which limited native-born Protestants their membership in the United States. The members were told to say nothing, which is how they got their nickname. The "ballot box" portrays the election in 1854 of the anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic. So, with the Irish and German man holding the ballot box, this showed of the time where it was to vote whether or not the immigrants were granted the same rights as the native-born.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Interpreting the Cartoon: At the South

by Josiah Sugai - Saturday, February 3, 2018, 9:55 PM

I am going to try and interpret the cartoon, "At the South." As I contemplated the cartoon, I believe that this cartoonist thought that the slaves were happy with their life. After all, they don't have to worry about wage cuts. If they were sick, then they would be taken care of. Also, it looks like there is a bottle of whiskey above the fireplace. The cartoonist was trying to imply that the slaves are even treated nice, they get to have their own whiskey! The cartoonist definitely made his opinion clear by making the "bobolitionist" the bad guy/punishment. The opposing view would probably be the abolitionists. They would probably argue that the slaves are grateful for being rescued. The supporters of this cartoon would most likely have been the Southern slave holders and southern Democrats. In the South, this cartoon may have been effective and possibly in the North with the Democrats. Since abolitionists at the time made up 1-2% of the population and were considered radical, the northern Democrats would probably agree with this view of the abolitionists.

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2

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