

HST 202: US History W20 (Escobar)

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Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, January 24, 2020, 9:36 PM

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

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IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

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The ballot box

by [Kelvin Johnson](#) - Saturday, January 25, 2020, 7:02 PM

In the center of the comic, the Irish and German immigrants flood into America, and swayed the impact of the voting system. Hence the depiction of the Irish and German, easily walking away with the ballot box. As the people by the poll office, riot for their fair share of the votes in the polls. At the left, the Irish bring into the country their whiskey and the Germans bring in their lager bier. The comic shows on the left, stores that now carry these products the immigrants have brought. The Irish is holding a stick and the German holding a smoke pipe. As you can see from the comic there was a lot of turmoil and distress, during this time.

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The Ballot box interpretation.

by [Raleigh Reese](#) - Sunday, January 26, 2020, 9:33 AM

When I was looking at this cartoon I did not get a positive view on german and irish immigrants from this artist. In my opinion the artist is trying to show that while the rest of the citizens are fighting amongst each other the immigrants are running away with the ballot box and changing the outcome of the elections. The artist in my opinion seems to be anti immigration so it is possible for them to be a democrat, but irish and german's in that time period usually voted democrat leading me to believe that this is a whig supporting artist. to me the cartoon in the 19th century would have been powerful in capturing the attention of "native" citizens and rallying them against immigration.

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the promised land cartoon

by [alex Henshen](#) - Sunday, January 26, 2020, 1:23 PM

This cartoon shows a ship of Catholics sailing toward the United States. We know that they are catholic because of the bishop hats, and all of the crosses. The cartoonist made a point to make religion a prominent feature in the image.

This cartoon relates to this time period because of the increased amount of catholic immigrants who came to the USA.

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At the South

by [Kaleah Holmes](#) - Sunday, January 26, 2020, 3:56 PM

This cartoon, in my opinion, shows a negative view on African Americans. I think that the women's way of talking shows how this cartoonist does not approve of African Americans. She sounds extremely uneducated. White people believed that they needed to baptise their slaves, so they would have become educated through the church. African Americans were not as educated as whites but they still learned to read the Bible so they had better language skills than what is shown in the cartoon. This woman also threatens her son by saying that the abolitionists would get him if he was bad. That is bad parenting. I think showing this lady as a mean or scary mom is another way the cartoonist is putting down African Americans.

Slave owners would approve of this cartoon. Whites in the 1800's believed that African Americans were not good beings so they would think that this cartoon is accurate.

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**Re: At the South**by [Brontae Sodeman](#) - Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 11:21 AM

Hey Kaleah, I also chose the same cartoon and noticed how stern the mother was being. She had a hard grasp on the son's arm, interpreting to us that she is aggressive. I agree with the fact that this is very biased towards African Americans. We also see use of the N word, showing us that this was drawn by a white person in the 1800s. I wonder also if it was used against abolitionist politics.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) [Show parent](#) [Edit](#) [Split](#) [Delete](#) [Reply](#)**Re: At the South**by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 5:03 PM

Hi there,

I too see the mother very stern to what appears to be her son. To me, however, it looks more like a warning, a warning to never fall out of line. Most slaves at the time were scared of their Master(s) for whatever reason. Slaves had nothing for themselves except for one another. If one fell out of line, sometimes everyone gets the punishment, even though it was just the one person. To me, the entire cartoon is a warning, a warning to never fall out of line, because if you do, you will feel the wrath of the Master(s). This is just sad.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) [Show parent](#) [Edit](#) [Split](#) [Delete](#) [Reply](#)**The Ballot Box**by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Sunday, January 26, 2020, 4:14 PM

When I looked at The Ballot Box cartoon, I saw a few things that made me think twice about what I was looking at. For starters, there is a guy in a Irish Whiskey barrel and a Lager Bier barrel carrying what looks like to be a Ballot Box. Knowing from history on how immigrant were depicted, what I see is an Irish man and a German stealing all of the votes of some type of election. Since the huge influx of Irish and German immigrant flocked to the United States in the mid 1800's, there was more people than ever. Most immigrant choose to be Democratic since they had ideas that these immigrant liked a lot.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) [Show parent](#) [Edit](#) [Split](#) [Delete](#) [Reply](#)**Re: The Ballot Box**by [Kelvin Johnson](#) - Monday, January 27, 2020, 10:58 PM

Hello Jarod,

I too had chosen the cartoon of the ballot box, and I received the same thoughts as you. The immigrants coming by the thousands changed the outcome at the voting polls. In the back of the picture, the people are so focused on the poll station that they don't even care to see the German and Irish taking the ballot box. Last Thursday, 21, our professor Joe Escobar talked about the immigrants cheating, but cheating as to getting more votes. For example, getting a hair cut, than going to vote again and so forth. I think this to be disrespectful for the land they were now living in.

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**Re: The Ballot Box**by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 9:51 AM

Hi there,

Thank you for putting what you said to my attention. I completely spaced out on the background and only focused on the foreground. I too would also say that it is disrespectful for these immigrants to do such things. However, I would argue that it wasn't just the immigrants that were doing it, but the people already living in the United States. Granted, immigrants did it more often, but we can't exclude those that aren't new to the county.

Sum of ratings:[0 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: The Ballot Box**by [Noah Francis](#) - Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 10:45 AM

I also decided to write about the Ballot Box, and I too got the same messages from the cartoonist. Something I previously failed to notice was how different the artist drew the German and Irishmen. Even though they're white, he drew them almost as if they're a complete other race. It just goes to show the bias on immigrants that was happening during this time. This could also explain the fighting that's going on in the background of the picture. I can't really tell who's fighting who, but if I were to guess I would assume that it was the immigrants fighting with the Americans. The two never really got a long and fighting was a lot of the times the only way to settle a dispute.

Sum of ratings:[1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**The Promised Land**by [John Kowalchik](#) - Sunday, January 26, 2020, 7:50 PM

While I was unclear on the precise meaning of the first 2 cartoons in this forum, this cartoon was so strikingly bigoted and plain in its meaning that I chose to address it. In "The Promised Land", a group of various very fat, Catholic clergy stand atop of the Vatican, a friar quite literally setting sights on America with a telescope. The other clergy, including the Pope, are gathered around with ominous (hungry?) grins on their faces.

The author of this cartoon seems to be creating a visual representation of one of protestant America's fears: the influence of the Catholic Church. Protestants came to America to escape the taxation and rules of Catholicism. All of the clergy are depicted as having gotten fat in a time when only the very rich were even able to afford enough food to BECOME fat. Protestants see them as becoming fat off the sweat of the poor. The author seems to be implying that the Catholic clergy is planning an invasion of America. With the influx of the Irish migrants in the 1840s, many cities were finding themselves inundated with large numbers of Catholics that were able to influence local politics. These migrants can now, in the authors view, influence politics in ways that benefit the Catholic Church.

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Re: The Promised Land

by [Thomas Lemelin](#) - Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 9:57 PM

John,

I think you make some great points on the topic and I agree with your conclusion that the illustration is trying to convey Protestant America's fear of Catholicism spreading from back east. I would like to add to your analysis, however, because I think there are a few different aspects of this cartoon you haven't addressed that also prove your point.

First, I'd like to point out the bottom-most character is leaning over the edge of the building waving a flaming thurible back and forth. Usually this instrument is used to infuse incense within a church for mass, but in this case we see that's its smoking profusely to indicate that this person isn't only trying to infuse their church hall, but rather the entirety of the U.S. I know it's intended target is the U.S. due to the direction of the smoke blowing in the wind.

Second, if you look behind the priest and other clergymen, you can see weapons and (presumably) an army of soldiers to follow those who proceed them. The artist is trying to warn this cartoon's viewers that if Catholicism spreads to America, it won't stop at infiltrating the minds of it's people, it will also come with violence and power over the American people.

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#5 The cartoon The Scale

by [Yibo Zhang](#) - Sunday, January 26, 2020, 8:12 PM

The cartoon The Scale is relatively easier one for me to understand and I believe it represents the social situation after 1830s in America. After two-party system came out, the competition between two parties became more intense in different fields, and Abolition is one of the most important issue in it.

The cartoon describes a scale which be balanced by a white man and a black man. The white man represents the north and black man represents the south. It is the reflection of two opposite camps during abolition movement. On the one hand, we could say that the author of this cartoon believes black men and white men are equal as the humans. On the other hand, we could consider that the unbalance of either side would break the entire scale, which implies some potential conflicts between north and south.

In the video, the author introduces some key events during abolition movement, such as the popular novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and slave's escape to the north (22:00-24:00). The author also points out that there were more than 250000 members joined Anti-slavery societies in 1838 (23:50). All information above reflects the abolition trend in 1830s and I believe that this cartoon was supported by the north.

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**Re: #5 The cartoon The Scale**by [Raleigh Reese](#) - Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 3:20 PM

Although I did not select this cartoon for my original analysis I did look at it before hand and came to a similar conclusion as you did Yibo. After coming back to look at the cartoons again and to read other peoples interpretations, I changed my original analysis of "the scales" cartoon. I believe that the white man on the right scale is a depiction of an Irish immigrant not just a ordinary white man, because of this I believe the artist was trying to equate the incoming Irish immigrants to southern slaves. In class we went over how in that time period Irish and German immigrants were viewed as a separate species from the "Native Americans" thus depicting them as lesser than themselves. I came to the conclusion it was an Irish persons depiction do to the resemblance of a leprechaun (tall hat, tail coat, mutton chops).

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: #5 The cartoon The Scale**by [John Kowalchik](#) - Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 9:04 PM

I agree more with this alternative analysis of the cartoon. The artist I believe was saying that the north viewed the recent Irish immigrants in much the same way that the south viewed their slaves: of little value morally or intellectually. Even though they are different colors, they are both of equal value in their respective localities.

It is interesting that as African Americans were later stereotypically portrayed, in this cartoon the Irish are shown with exaggerated simian features.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Good Analysis-Re: #5 The cartoon The Scale**by [Yibo Zhang](#) - Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 6:24 PM

Hi Raleigh,

I think you got more observations and understandings on this cartoon than me 😊 Yes, I didn't realize the discriptions on these two people's face and appearance and it really implies something of the author's idea about the Abolitionism. Both of two men are stereotypically depicted just like the apes which implyies the author's point about Soutern and Northern people: They are essentially same. However, it brings me more confusions because now I can't distinguish that if the author satires on North or South. The political cartoon usually depict one object exaggeratedly in order to reflect the opposite object. This cartoon uses ape's face on both of these two people but what is author's real idea?

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**Re: Good Analysis-Re: #5 The cartoon The Scale**by [Raleigh Reese](#) - Thursday, January 30, 2020, 2:05 PM

I don't think the artist was intending on attacking the north or the south but instead was trying to draw the connection between Irish immigrants and southern slaves. I believe its main purpose was to imply that they are of the same value and pose the same amount of threat to democracy and political influence if they are not contained. I would assume that this artist is a pro slavery, anti immigration democrat.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) [Show parent](#) [Edit](#) [Split](#) [Delete](#) [Reply](#)**Scale Cartoon**by [Thomas Lemelin](#) - Sunday, January 26, 2020, 11:41 PM

In this cartoon, I believe the artist is trying to convey the potential "evening of the scale" in terms of black and white people having equal rights. I believe this was a southern person who created the cartoon, and he is trying to warn northerners that their actions to try and free the slaves and give them more rights will ultimately make themselves unhappy. On the left side of the scale we see a black man sitting on his platform grinning with the word "south" written clearly over his head on the left arm. Across from him, a white man sits with the word "north" above him on the right arm. Both of the men are equally placed on the scale, showing that they have equal weight (and value) in this scenario. While the black man is grinning, the white man looks depressed and unhappy to see he is level with the black man. The artist even goes as far as to draw the white mans hat drooping down wards, and the black mans hat sitting upright and happy to prove this point. I believe this cartoon was published around the year 1848 or so due to the subject being around black rights. This was after the Mexican-American war when America was rapidly growing and slavery was an idea that was being pushed and pulled heavily from both sides of the Abolitionist Movement. In 1850, southerners started to get nervous and tried to utilize Cuba for it's slave-friendliness (book, 512) so it was clear that they were trying to do anything in their power to continue to benefit from slaves. The warning is clear: "if you allow black people to be equal with you, you will end up regretting it. Their equality is your unhappiness." This cartoon is another example of their relentless attempts to change the minds of the American people and bring slavery back to it's prosperous hay-day.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) [Show parent](#) [Edit](#) [Split](#) [Delete](#) [Reply](#)**Interpreting At The South**by [Brontae Sodeman](#) - Monday, January 27, 2020, 4:19 PM

The cartoon I chose was At The South, a drawing that depicts and mother speaking to her son. The family is clearly African American and the mother is trying to tell her son something important. The dialogue underneath the image shows a bias towards the way southern African Americans speak with each other, the grammar and pronunciation is incorrect, implying they are uneducated or incapable. I'm not sure how effective it was in the 19th century but I do know it displays a conservative view and flips the perspective on abolitionists, making them look bad or untrustworthy. In 2020, this cartoon is just offensive, it has very little political weight in the present, especially considering we've had a black president in our lifetimes. I believe the intention of the cartoon in the 19th century was to make African Americans look stupid, by misinterpreting the intentions of abolitionists as well as not speaking English in a more professional manner.

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The cartoon is an irony about South black people and their life

by [Yibo Zhang](#) - Saturday, February 1, 2020, 6:24 PM

I agree with your idea about this cartoon is an irony on South black people and their inaccurate accent. I believe this cartoon was made by north in order to describe that the black slaves was not worth to save.

By showing their accent and probably fatuous traditional values, the author was trying to deliver an wrong and prejudiced idea about south black people and their life. Abolitionism was getting more and more popular in north around 1830s, some free black people and related associations supported that movements and it seemed like an unstoppable trend. However, this cartoon demonstrated alternative idea and tried to persuaded people not to support Abolition. I donnot think this cartoon was made by south because it looks not an common southern people's idea about black people. It's more likely to be an objector in north who strongly disdain to save black people from slavery.

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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by [Sebastian Mertens](#) - Monday, January 27, 2020, 5:14 PM

The Ballot Box Cartoon

I choose to look at the cartoon depicting two men running away carrying a ballot box one dressed in a barrel of Irish whiskey and the other dressed in a barrel of Lager Bier. In the background of this cartoon you can see some sort of fight going on out front of the Election Poll building. I think this cartoon is showing the two men who are assumably immigrants running into the election poll office and stealing the election ballot box in order to influence or change the outcome of the election. Most immigrants during this time period were highly discriminated against especially the Irish. As shown in the week 3 lecture pictures a Poster of "Scientific Racism" showed that "the Irish are similar to Negroes and should be extinct!" (Week 3 slide 61/70) I would assume the Americans who would've supported this would have been the Americans who supported the discrimination against these immigrants and the ones who believed they had changed or influenced the election of this year. A big part of this discrimination stemmed from the Irish people catholic beliefs which were very frowned upon by the American people at this time.

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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by [Noah Francis](#) - Monday, January 27, 2020, 11:44 PM

The Ballot Box

After looking at several of the cartoons, I felt that I was most drawn to "The Ballot Box". In this cartoon, the artist shows an Irishman in a whiskey barrel, and a German man in a beer barrel while both of them are running away with the ballot box. In my view, it looks like the artist was trying to convey the message that the Irish and the Germans were stealing American votes from the American people. Around 1840, there was heavy migration of Irish and German people into America. This not only changed the polls, but also created the Know Nothing Party who were heavily against Catholics and immigrants coming into America. The Know Nothing Party didn't want the influx of Irishmen coming in and voting on laws that would perhaps affect the lives of Americans. The Know Nothing-ers knew that whoever won the votes of immigrants, would also more than likely end up winning the presidency as well.

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Ballot box

by [alex Henshen](#) - Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 4:53 PM

During the 19th century a lot of german and irsh immigrants came to the United states. As shown in this cartoon the major increase of people shifted the ballets making these groups have control of the votes. The cartoonist also presented them as drunks by having the two main figures wear barrels of their countries alcohol. All this caused more fighting which is depicted in the background.

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Am I A Man cartoon

by [Kaleah Holmes](#) - Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 10:25 PM

The left image of Am I A Man is of a shackled man who is a slave. This image is used to get emotion out of people. That is so white people would join in the process of abolishing slavery. If white people could see for themselves how terrible slavery looked then they would step up to help instead of staying silent.

The man has a banner under him that reads "Am I Not A Man And A Brother?". This also created sentiment in people because they could see how human this slave looked. White people tended to think of African Americans as a different race. They weren't civilized in the eyes of most Americans, so the southerners could do whatever they wanted to their slaves. This image shows African Americans as human beings so that hopefully other whites would protest the enslavement of human beings, instead of turning their heads at the idea of enslaving a different race. The media at this time often portrayed slaves as inhuman, that's why so many white people thought African Americans were so unlike them. This image is correctly showing how African Americans are just as human as whites, and so they don't deserve the cruelty that is being forced upon them.

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My understanding about "Am I not a man and a brother?"

by [Yibo Zhang](#) - Thursday, January 30, 2020, 1:36 AM

Hi Kaleah, I agree with your idea about this cartoon. In this cartoon, the man is shackled has an obvious comparison with the man who stand by the people he killed. Personally, the first man with shackle represents a kind of rational and philosophical desire of fairness and liberation. Different with other political cartoons at that time, this cartoon has a relatively "moderate" tone and attitude to describe author's idea about Abolition. "Am I not a man and a brother?" This sentence starts from humanistic perspective and hopes to awaken people's nature about kindness. Compared with the cartoon at right side, a violent black murderer can be considered as an opinion to black slave in the south. "All men are created equal." However, slaveholder at south fought against abolition because slavery brought them numerous of benefits. Looking black people and slaves as the murderer and violent guys can be considered as a common excuse for slaveholders to against abolition.

The man with shackle impressed me because I believe it represents some alternative ways to express people's idea to abolish slavery. In the video The [Abolition Movement](#), some peaceful and moderate protestors prove the idea that not all revolts are violent. In this video, Frederick Douglass was a protester who could be considered as a "peaceful protestor" of Abolition. (22:08). The novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" 's popular was also a social phenomenon to explain" peaceful demonstration." (22:50).

There are probably more implications on this cartoon, but I think the main purpose of the cartoon was to awaken people's rational thinking on [Abolition movement](#).

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Am I A Man cartoon Right side

by [Kaleah Holmes](#) - Thursday, January 30, 2020, 8:41 PM

I am replying to my own post because earlier I just examined the left half of this cartoon. I will now go into what I think of the right side of the image.

The right side of this cartoon is horrifying to look at. You can see that an African American is being demonized in this image. He seems to be more baboon than a person. He looks inhuman. This is how people back in the day expressed how they feel about a culture or ethnic person, they draw them as different so people can notice that they are not like the typical white American. The man has a savage look in his eyes. He is carrying a weapon in each hand, and seems to have just killed several people (lower left hand corner).

African Americans were not seen as friends to white Americans, and that is being shown in this image. It is interesting that it has the words "Am I A Man and a Brother" under him because this cartoonist has portrayed him as no brother, or any kind of peaceful person.

Having these two images next to each other is an interesting choice the cartoonist made. One is human looking, makes you feel bad for him, and makes you hate slavery. The right side does the opposite. The right side enrages white folks who don't want African Americans running about slaughtering their families. This image as a whole shows the two sides of how people viewed slavery in the 1800's.

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The Scale

by [Lauren Meyer](#) - Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 3:07 PM

In the cartoon "The Scale" you can come to the conclusion that the cartoonist believes that the two men are equal, regardless of their skin tone. An African American and a white man are sitting on a scale. One you would use to weight out two equals. The men are resting at the same height, looking each other in the eye. This insinuates that the man are equal, by literal meaning. The main point for this cartoon can be interpreted. Is the cartoonist showing us the two men as men weighting the same to show us they are equal members in the community or that the two men are equal yet not quite yet. The facial expression of the white man shows he's astonished. The African American man has a smiling grin, almost as he's teasing the white man with this happening. This is effective in what we are learning by showing us what the end of slavery looked like. Painting a picture of the feeling of that time. How African American mens rights were catching up to those of the white man. It's weird to look at today knowing that they are equal in every way. How the white man must not feel this way anymore. Equality is the new normal. This would be interesting for the cartoonist to add women in this picture and how that would look.

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Cartoon number 5 the scale

by [Sebastian Mertens](#) - Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 6:26 PM

In the "Scale" cartoon it shows two men sitting on a scale one black one white. In this picture they are both even with each other, staring into each others eyes and weighing equal on the scale. The white man in this cartoon does seem to be in shock where as the black man has a very large grin on his face perhaps he was implying that no matter how shocking it might seem, all men are in fact equal. From this cartoon you could make the assumption that the cartoonist is a believer in equal rights and doesn't believe that any people should be discriminated against no matter the color of their skin. I think this cartoon is coming from a time after the civil war, at the top of the compass it says South above the black man and North above the white man despite the North fighting to end slavery I seems this was not the true motive for most Northerners to fight and all though this was a massive outcome of the civil war it was still al shock for the white man to be seen as even with the black man.

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Re: Cartoon number 5 the scale

by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Thursday, January 30, 2020, 9:54 AM

Hi there,

In history, the North was not only fighting to preserve the Union, it was fighting to end slavery. That being said, some Northerners didn't care one bit about slavery in the South. For the longest time, the White Man idea was huge. Only after the Civil War that this White Man idea started to stop and the idea that, "all men [and woman] are created equally." Going back to the cartoon, some White Men were not all too thrilled to be equal with those who had a different colour of skin. The idea at the time was White was first and Black was somewhere below that. It will take some time after the war for the sides to be equal in shared ideas to coexist.

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**Re: Cartoon number 5 the scale**by [Lauren Meyer](#) - Thursday, January 30, 2020, 9:56 PM

While at this time we are fighting for the rights of African American people. Yet you say "all men [and women] are created equally", it would be interesting to see how the cartoonist would incorporate women into this cartoon. Especially with what race and placement on the scale.

Sum of ratings:[0 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: Cartoon number 5 the scale**by [Noah Francis](#) - Saturday, February 1, 2020, 8:49 PM

As you already mentioned, many of the whites in the north didn't care about slavery. I believe in class Joe said something about abolitionists only being about 1% of the population of the North. Growing up, I always assumed that every Northerner was an abolitionist, but as we all know that wasn't the case. Even after the Civil War, black men were still not equal to white men. In the later years, Jim Crow laws were placed to keep many African American men from being able to coexist with the white folk. I always find it interesting how the North fought for the freedom of slaves when a majority of them never cared much about the issue. As for the cartoon, I found it rather difficult to understand. I'm not entirely sure why the white man is depicted in the way that black men were drawn at the time, and why the black man is almost mocking him. It's an interesting cartoon to say the least and I'm interested in seeing what the true meaning behind the drawing is.

Sum of ratings:[1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**The Promise Land**by [Justin Adcock](#) - Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 11:24 PM

The Promise Land portrays the cartoonist's very anti-Catholic views. The image depicts the Pope, cardinals, friars, and other catholic figureheads looking towards the United States. The term "the promise land" was used by catholic crusaders to describe the city of Jerusalem, the city that every crusader fought to control in the name of the Catholic church. The cartoonist believes that the Vatican has turned their sights on America, and is warning readers that catholic immigrants are coming to take America in the name of the Pope much like the crusaders of the past. Another nod to the crusaders can be seen behind the scheming Catholic figureheads, as white hooded figures with lances and large shields, a common depiction of crusaders, can be seen standing at the ready to take this new "Holy Land". These anti-Catholic sentiments would hit home most in the northern states, especially areas like New York and New England. As seen in the map during last Thursday's lecture, foreign-born immigrants made up around 20% of the population by 1860. With over 200,000 Irish-Catholics arriving in 1850 alone. To the predominantly Protestant north, they were seeing this "Crusade: occur before their very eyes. To them, it would confirm the notion that the Catholics shouldn't be seen as immigrants, but as invaders who want to tear down all that northern protestants believed America stood for.

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Holy Horror editorial cartoon

by [Kelvin Johnson](#) - Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 11:37 PM

Holy Horror editorial cartoon,

Examining this cartoon, The first thing I notice is the very disorder of the white woman's face. It looks like her face is like an apes. I believe it was Tuesday the 28 of January that I learned in class, the Irish faces were also drawn as an ape's face. There is a white Irish woman on the left, and the clothes looked a little rough, so this means she is on the poorer side of life. In her basket are two bottles, since she is Irish she probably had whiskey in the bottles, She also has fish. The look on her face was one of disgust, probably towards the black women. The second part of the cartoon, is how the black women looks wealthy. Due to the clothes, it looks like to me, that she might be holding her purse in her hand. The words on this cartoon help distinguish who the white person is, Mrs. McCaffraty. Another thing that the words state, is how this cartoon is about the "negro suffrage". From this all we get how the Irish oppose black manhood suffrage at this time, and how the blacks are still able to move forward.

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at the south cartoon

by [alex Henshen](#) - Thursday, January 30, 2020, 4:33 PM

This cartoon portrays blacks as uneducated, strict people. The language used in the caption is an example of that. In this time period many whites believed that slaves needed to be educated through church and the Bible. But not literate enough to get their own ideas and escape or protest.

The cartoon also represents blacks as being mean. Threatening her child into behaving. Painting a bad picture of blacks making this cartoonist against blacks.

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Re: at the south cartoon

by [Lauren Meyer](#) - Thursday, January 30, 2020, 10:13 PM

I see where you're coming from on this perspective, yet I wouldn't go as far as saying that the artist was against African American people. If you look into African American literature it'll show that this is how they spoke. They are from an up-brining of little to no education, yet those who break away or practiced literature in private still brought this form of speech with them. It's cultural, along with the strictness. They had to be strict, they had to be proper. They truly had no other choice and were forced to be so careful during this grey period selected freedom. Id say the cartoonist is showing us this image with this text not to show he's against them, but to paint a picture of what it was like.

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Ballot Box Negativity

by [Kaleah Holmes](#) - Thursday, January 30, 2020, 10:16 PM

The Ballot Box cartoon is symbolizing immigration. There is an Irish, and a German stealing the Ballot Box. That is representative of how Americans felt at this time period. The immigrants were stealing the elections by coming into the country in such large numbers. The immigrants vote would go towards the candidate that catered to them most so Americans thought their voice wasn't being heard. Of course the average American did not want the immigrants in their country. The immigrants would accept pay lower than other Americans so employers would hire them over the Americans. Follow the money! Americans were getting fired or not being hired because of the immigrants. Naturally Americans wanted them out. On top of the economic issue, they were stealing the Ballot Box. The votes were in their favor because they were becoming the majority. Americans felt threatened, and cheated out of their own country. This cartoon depicts that. It also shows people fighting in the background. Perhaps Americans are fighting other immigrants because they want their Ballot Box back.

This cartoon also features the German, and Irish men in beer barrels. Americans saw these people as lousy, stealing, drunkards. This cartoonist did a good job in creating a cartoon that shows how Americans disliked the foreigners.

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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

by [Noah Francis](#) - Friday, January 31, 2020, 11:52 PM

The Scale

This cartoon was a little harder for me to decipher than the previous one I did on the ballot box. In this cartoon by Thomas Nast, it shows a black man and a white man sitting on an even scale. Above the black man it says south, and above the white man it says north. What really caught my attention of the cartoon is the way the white man is drawn. He's drawn ape like which is the way black men were drawn in the south during this time. Along with that, it's hard for me to understand what the cartoonists view of slavery is. If he really cared about the issue, the black man would probably be higher up than the white man, showing that he was more important. What also caught my attention is the way the black man is laughing at the white man, something you probably wouldn't see during this time. Overall it's an interesting cartoon to read and I'm interested in knowing what exactly Nast was trying to convey in this cartoon.

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Scale Cartoon

by [alex Henshen](#) - Saturday, February 1, 2020, 12:57 PM

This cartoonist would have to be a native white man because they at the time saw African Americans and Irish immigrants as equally bad. He drew these men as apes to show that they aren't as developed or civilized as the founding white men. It also shows that there was discriminatory issues in the north and south equally.

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**Re: Scale Cartoon**by [Thomas Lemelin](#) - Saturday, February 1, 2020, 11:30 PM

At first when I saw this cartoon, I thought they were saying that white and black people being equal were going to make the white people sad based on the disapproving look on the white person's face, but through further examination and analysis of your response, I see that the other person isn't a typical white person living in America at the time. The other person is actually an Irish immigrant that's being compared to the black person and saying that they are equal. It can be inferred that this means "equally bad" based on the concentration of the artist decision to draw them this way. I actually didn't see the two men draw "as apes", but I think that's an interesting take on the cartoon as well.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) [Show parent](#) [Edit](#) [Split](#) [Delete](#) [Reply](#)**The promised land**by [Sebastian Mertens](#) - Saturday, February 1, 2020, 6:55 PM

In the cartoon the promised land it shows a bunch of Catholics on top of what seems like a church. One of them is pointing off into the distance to what I'm assuming is America. I think that the author of this cartoon made this cartoon referring to all the catholic immigration to the United States at this time and how a lot of people believed they were coming in and taking over. Based off how the author drew the Catholics you can assume that he has a pretty negative view of them as did most Americans at this time, they all seem to be fairly fat and he makes it look like they're almost greedy the way they're looking out over the lands.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) [Show parent](#) [Edit](#) [Split](#) [Delete](#) [Reply](#)**The Scale cartoon**by [Kaleah Holmes](#) - Saturday, February 1, 2020, 8:46 PM

The Scale cartoon represents the African Americans becoming equals with the whites. I believe the cartoonist was a southern white man because of how the northern person looks like a monkey, and how the African American looks inhuman. I believe this southerner was trying to express how equality is a bad idea. If everyone is equal then it lowers the standard for whites. The northerner looks like a monkey because monkeys are seen as below humans. This cartoonist was emphasizing how the north is below the "regular" humans, and the southerners. The cartoonist believed that equality would bring down the white culture. There is clear racism in this image. The African American is drawn as inhuman. This African American is smiling because he was risen up on the totem pole by becoming equal with the northerners. The northerners are not smiling. They support equality between whites and African Americans but this cartoonist seems to think that as soon as the northerners achieve their goal of equality they will no longer be happy.

Sum of ratings: [0 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) [Show parent](#) [Edit](#) [Split](#) [Delete](#) [Reply](#)**The Holy Horror Interpretation**by [Kaleah Holmes](#) - Saturday, February 1, 2020, 9:15 PM

The Holy Horror cartoon took me a while to understand but then it hit me. This cartoon is about the fear of Catholicism spreading. You can see in small writing that these Catholics have their eyes set on America. They want to spread their religion. The Americans were very afraid of that happening. Most Americans disapproved of religions besides puritanism. Most immigrants were Catholic. This cartoon can also be seen as anti immigrant. Americans did not want immigrants or foreign religions in their country. They saw both of those as threats to their nation.

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**Re: The Holy Horror Interpretation**

by [Kaleah Holmes](#) - Saturday, February 1, 2020, 11:50 PM

I missed something when I was looking at this cartoon earlier. There are several people behind the Catholics who appear to be protestants, or older generations of people who came to America. They have weapons, and one man is even lighting the building they are all on on fire. These Americans are clearly not happy having foreign things in their country so they are fighting against it. They welcomed this religion with violence. These are very stubborn, conservative Americans who are stuck in their own way of doing things.

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