

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

The Abolitionist Movement

By **Professor Julie L. Holcomb**, Baylor University

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title. City: Publisher, Year.</i>
Stewart, James Brewer	<i>Holy Warriors: American Abolitionists and American Slavery.</i> New York: Hill and Wang, 1997.

Books

Author	<i>Title. City: Publisher, Year.</i>
Blackett, R.J.M.	<i>Building an Antislavery Wall: Black Americans in the Atlantic Abolitionist Movement, 1830-1860.</i> Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983.
Brown, Christopher Leslie	<i>Moral Capital: Foundations of British Abolitionism.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.
Burin, Eric	<i>Slavery and the Peculiar Solution: A History of the American Colonization Society.</i> Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2008.
Davis, David Brion	<i>Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World.</i> New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
Faulkner, Carol	<i>Lucretia Mott's Heresy: Abolition and Women's Rights in Nineteenth-Century America.</i> Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011.
Fladeland, Betty	<i>Men & Brothers: Anglo-American Antislavery Cooperation.</i> Urbana: University

	of Illinois Press, 1972.
Ginzberg, Lori D.	<i>Women and the Work of Benevolence: Morality, Politics, and Class in the Nineteenth-Century United States.</i> New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990.
Hansen, Debra Gold	<i>Strained Sisterhood: Gender and Class in the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society.</i> Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1993.
Hersh, Blanche Glassman	<i>The Slavery of Sex: Feminists-Abolitionists in America.</i> Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1978.
Hochschild, Adam	<i>Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves.</i> New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.
Holcomb, Julie L.	<i>Moral Commerce: The Transatlantic Boycott of Slave Labor, 1757-1865.</i> Ithaca,: Cornell University Press, forthcoming.
Jackson, Maurice	<i>Let This Voice Be Heard: Anthony Benezet, Father of Atlantic Abolitionism.</i> Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009.
Jeffrey, Julie Roy	<i>The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism: Ordinary Women in the Antislavery Movement.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.
Kraditor, Alison	<i>Means and Ends in American Abolitionism: Garrison and His Critics on Strategy and Tactics, 1834-1850.</i> New York: Random House, 1967.
Laurie, Bruce	<i>Beyond Garrison: Antislavery and Social Reform.</i> Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
Lutz, Alma	<i>Crusade for Freedom: Women of the Antislavery Movement.</i> Boston: Beacon Press, 1968.
Melder, Keith E.	<i>Beginnings of Sisterhood: The American Woman's Rights Movement, 1800-1850.</i> New York: Schocken Books, 1977.
Newman, Richard S.	<i>The Transformation of American Abolitionism: Fighting Slavery in the Early Republic.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002.
Plank, Geoffrey	<i>John Woolman's Path to the Peaceable</i>

	<i>Kingdom</i> . Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012.
Quarles, Benjamin	<i>Black Abolitionists</i> . New York, Oxford University Press, 1969.
Reynolds, David	<i>John Brown, Abolitionist: The Man who Killed Slavery, Sparked the Civil War, and Seeded Civil Rights</i> . New York: Vintage, 2006.
Richards, Leonard L.	<i>Gentlemen of Property and Standing: Anti-Abolition Mobs in Jacksonian America</i> . New York, Oxford University Press, 1970.
Robertson, Stacey	<i>Hearts Beating for Liberty: Women Abolitionists in the Old Northwest</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010.
Rugemer, Edward Bartlett	<i>The Problem of Emancipation: The Caribbean Roots of the American Civil War</i> . Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2008.
Salerno, Beth A.	<i>Sister Societies: Women's Antislavery Organizations in Antebellum America</i> . DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2005.
Yee, Shirley J.	<i>Black Women Abolitionists: A Study in Activism, 1828-1860</i> . Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1992.
Yellin, Jean Fagan and John C. Van Horne, eds.	<i>The Abolitionist Sisterhood: Women's Political Culture in Antebellum America</i> . Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1994.

Organizations

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
http://digital.library.cornell.edu/m/mayantis_lavery/	Samuel J. May Anti-Slavery Collection at Cornell University. The Cornell University Library owns one of the richest collections of anti-slavery and Civil War materials in the world, thanks in large part to Cornell's first President, Andrew Dickson White, who developed an early interest in both fostering,

	and documenting the abolitionist movement and the Civil War.
http://trilogy.brynmawr.edu/speccoll/quakersandslavery/	Quakers and Slavery is a project at Bryn Mawr College. The goal of this project is to increase public accessibility to rare historical materials formerly available only on-site at the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College and the Quaker & Special Collections at Haverford College.

Other Sources

Scholars

Name	Email
Julie Holcomb	julie_holcomb@baylor.edu
Bruce Laurie	laurie@history.umass.edu
Caleb McDaniel	http://wcm1.web.rice.edu
Stacey Robertson	smr@bradley.edu
Beth Salerno	bsalerno@anselm.edu

Topic Précis

Beginning with isolated, individual critics of slavery, antislavery rhetoric gained momentum in the mid-eighteenth century as colonial Quakers questioned the relationship between Christianity and slaveholding. In the revolutionary era elite white men organized societies in opposition to the slave trade. Early activists believed the abolition of the international slave trade would in time lead to the abolition of slavery. In contrast, antebellum abolitionism brought together a broad array of reformers — black and white, male and female, religious and secular — to work for immediate, sweeping political and social change. Radical Garrisonian abolitionists clashed with more conservative abolitionists over questions of strategies and tactics as well as issues of gender and race. In the 1810s and 1820s, a series of slave revolts rocked the Atlantic world. These rebellions coincided with renewed antislavery debate in the United States and Great Britain. Antislavery activists proposed colonization, establishing an American colony in Africa for freed slaves and free blacks, as a safe alternative to emancipation. Immediatism, or the immediate abolition of slavery, originated in the anti-colonization movement and agitation from immediatists resulted in Britain abolishing slavery throughout the British Empire in 1833. In contrast to the British abolitionist movement, the American abolitionist movement took more than forty years and a bloody civil war to achieve slave emancipation. William Lloyd Garrison published the inaugural issue of *The Liberator* in January 1831, which is

often cited as the beginning of a new, radical abolitionist movement in America. One year later, in 1832, Garrison helped found the New England Anti-Slavery Society, the first of many antislavery organizations to take an uncompromising stand against slavery. In May 1840 American abolitionists split over the question of strategies and tactics. Garrison and his supporters retained control of the American Anti-Slavery Society. Garrison and the AASS maintained a broad reform platform, including women's rights. Conservative members of the AASS, led by brothers Lewis and Arthur Tappan, formed the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society (AFASS) after the brothers and three hundred supporters left the AASS. The Tappans and their supporters claimed other reform movements threatened the antislavery cause, which had to remain orthodox and compatible with traditional cultural norms such as the proper role of women in society. In the 1850s the organized abolitionist movement was eclipsed by the growing political crisis in the United States. The coming of war in 1861 re-energized the American abolitionist movement. For abolitionists, the coming of the Civil War was the culmination of a decades-long struggle for the slave's freedom. Adoption of the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863 and the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment two years later assured abolitionists that their struggle, and the slave's fight, had truly reached a successful conclusion.
