



# The Second Great Awakening

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1800-1848



# Lecture Points

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- Much like the First Great Awakening, the Second Great Awakening used large-scale open-air revivals to spread its message to a wide audience. Though the audience for the First Great Awakening had been on the frontier, the Second Great Awakening had an even wider appeal—especially in the North.
- While the First Great Awakening gave its adherents a sense of leadership in their backcountry villages or frontier communities, the Second Great Awakening spread a very different message. The message of the Second Great Awakening was that people could improve their lives. In fact, it was their duty to create a better society.
- It could be said that the First Great Awakening was perhaps an indirect cause for the American Revolution. Without a doubt, the Second Great Awakening led to a number of important reform movements which challenged Americans to improve their society in education, prison reform, temperance (removing alcohol consumption and its evils), and women's rights. However, it also influenced the development of the first truly organized movement to pursue the end of slavery, as well.