The Second Great Awakening
By the end of the 18th century, ideas of religious skepticism, secularism, and rationalism spread throughout the United States.

The Age of Enlightenment had had a profound effect on the religious beliefs of the people. Many educated Americans no longer practiced traditional Christian beliefs.
In reaction to the Secularism of the Age, several episodes of Protestant revival movements gained momentum in the United States.

We call this movement The Second Great Awakening.
Age of Enlightenment

- The Age of Enlightenment had brought about changes in the way people viewed religion and practiced their faith.

- Attention had been shifted from Church tradition and dogmatic principles to individualism and rationalism.
The Second Great Awakening

• The Second Great Awakening revived national interest in religion.
  — Enrolled millions of new members in existing evangelical denominations
  — led to the formation of several new denominations throughout the country.
  — Paved the way for social reform throughout the country
The Second Great Awakening in American history consisted of several different kinds of social activity, mainly distinguished by location.
Major Areas:

- New England
- Kentucky
- Tennessee
- Western New York
New England

• The Spread of Evangelism caused by the Revivals in New England inspired many forms of organized social activism.

• The Second Great Awakening in New England gave rise to organizations such as
  — Abolition Groups
  — Interdenominational Missionary Societies.
  — The Society for the Promotion of Temperance.
  — American Bible Society
Western New York

- The Area from Lake Ontario to the Adirondack Mountains became known as the **Burned-Over-District**.

  - This was because the area had seen so many religious revivals in the past that almost all of its residents had been **heavily evangelized**.
  - Ergo there was no more fuel left to burn.
Charles Grandison Finney

- The Man who coined the term “Burned-Over District” was no other than Charles Grandison Finney, the man who’s largely responsible for the revival in the area.
  - “The Father of Modern Revivalism”
  - Lead the revival in the Burned-Over-District
  - Innovations in preaching and religious meetings,
    - Carefully planned
    - Advertising
    - Showmanship.
Appalachian Region:

- The Second Great Awakening spread very quickly throughout Kentucky, Tennessee, and southern Ohio.
- The rapid spread of Evangelism throughout the West was largely caused by the prominent denominations of the area.
  - Baptists
  - Methodists
Revival Characteristics

• The speed at which the revival spread benefited greatly from the strategies evangelists would use to recruit members.

  — Missionary Societies
    • Members would spread throughout the country as educators and apostles of faith.

  — Circuit Riders
    • Clergy men who would travel around to minister to settlers along the frontier.

  — Camp Meetings
    • An Evangelical event held for worship, preaching and communion on the western frontier.
    • Extremely common and effective.
Camp Meetings
Reforms

- The Revivals sparked interest in social reforms across the nation.
  - Abolition Groups
  - Education
  - Prison Systems
  - Care for Mentally Disabled Temperance Movement
