

**The
Antebellum
South**

Chapter 16: The South and the Slavery Controversy

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Describe the economic strengths and weaknesses of the Cotton Kingdom and its central role in the prosperity of Britain as well as the U.S.**
- 2. Outline the hierarchical social structure of the South, from the planter aristocracy to African American slaves.**
- 3. Describe the non-slaveholding white majority of the South, and explain why most poorer whites supported slavery even though they owned no slaves.**
- 4. Describe the workings of the peculiar institution of slavery, including the role of the domestic slave trade after the outlawing of international slave trading.**
- 5. Describe the African American life under slavery, including the role of the family and religion.**
- 6. Describe the rise of abolitionism in both the U.S. and Britain, and explain why it was initially so unpopular in the North.**
- 7. Describe the fierce Southern resistance to abolitionism, and explain why southerners increasingly portrayed slavery as a positive good.**

Antebellum Southern Economy

1. Describe the economic strengths and weaknesses of the Cotton Kingdom and its central role in the prosperity of Britain as well as the U.S.

Graniteville Textile Co.



Founded in 1845, it was the South's first attempt at industrialization in Graniteville, SC.

Southern Agriculture

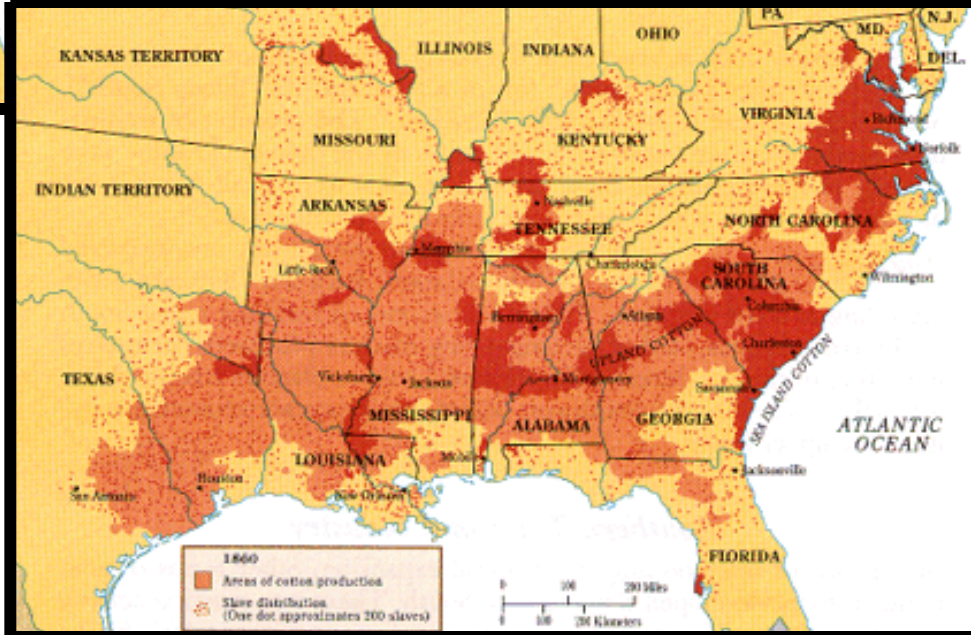
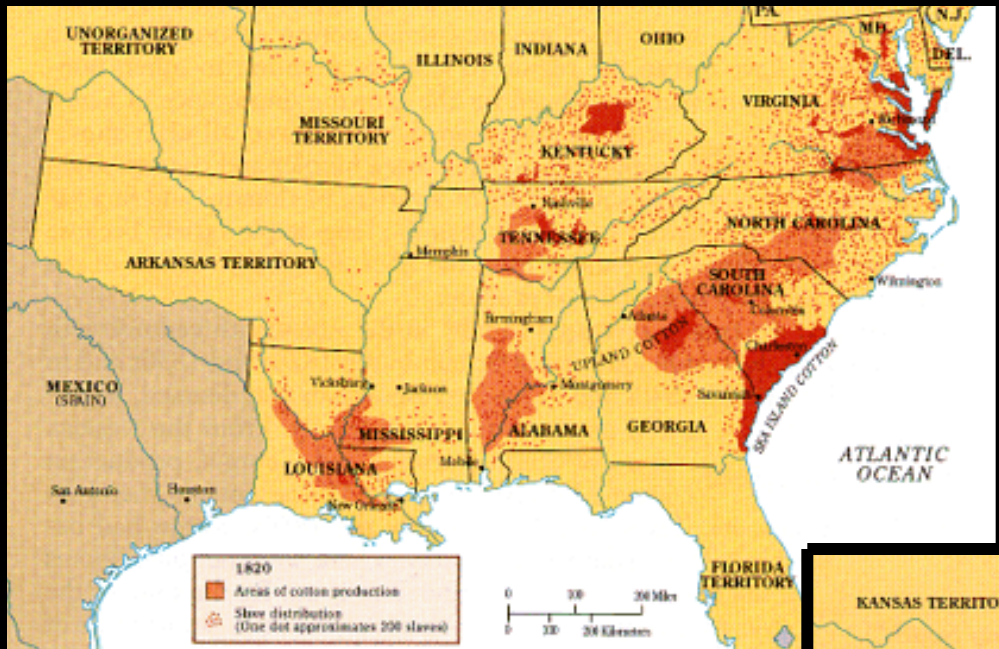


Slaves Using the Cotton



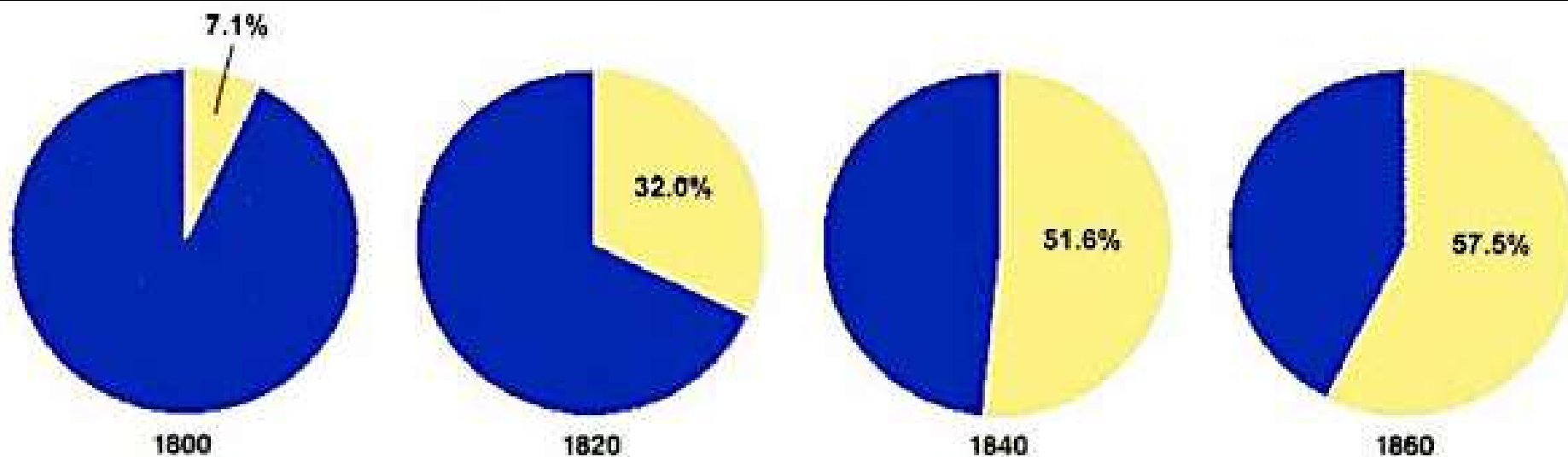
Changes in Cotton Production

1820



1860

Value of Cotton Exports As % of All US Exports



By 1840 cotton accounted for more than half of all U.S. Exports.

“Cotton Is King!”

Cotton gin made possible the wide-scale cultivation of a short-staple crop.

Cotton became dominant eclipsing tobacco, rice, and sugar.
It created an insatiable demand for labor.



“Cotton Is King!”

Economic power shifted from the “upper South” to the “lower South.”

More land= more slaves being bought.

Northern shippers reaped large profits as they would transport them to Britain.

While there they would buy manufactured goods.

Essentially the economy of Britain, the South and North rested on the institution of slavery’s ability to cultivate cotton.

1860→ 5 million bales a year (57% of total US exports).

The South produced more than ½ of the entire world’s supply.

Characteristics of the Antebellum South

1. Primarily agrarian.
2. “Cotton Is King!”
3. Very slow development of industrialization.
4. Rudimentary financial system.
5. Inadequate transportation system



What you **NEED** to Know!

- After 1800, the prosperity of both the N and S became heavily dependent on growing, manufacturing, and exporting cotton.
- Growing cotton on large plantations was economically inefficient and agriculturally destructive to the soil.
 - Plantation agriculture was wasteful largely because its excessive cultivation of cotton spoiled good land.
- A large portion of the profits from the South's cotton growing went to northern traders and European cloth manufacturers.
- By 1840, cotton had become central to the whole American economy because cotton exports provided much of the capital that fueled American economic growth.
- As a result of the cotton gin, slavery was invigorated.
- The plantation system was increasingly monopolistic.

Antebellum Southern Society

2. Outline the hierarchical social structure of the South, from the planter aristocracy to African American slaves.

The Planter Aristocracy

- South was more of an oligarchy, rather than a democracy.
 - The leading few were members of the planter aristocracy.
 - By 1850, only 1,733 families owned more than 100 slaves.
 - This select group provided most of the political and social leadership for the entire south.
 - Stereotypical: mint-julep, white, columned plantation.
 - Nicknamed “cottonocracy”.



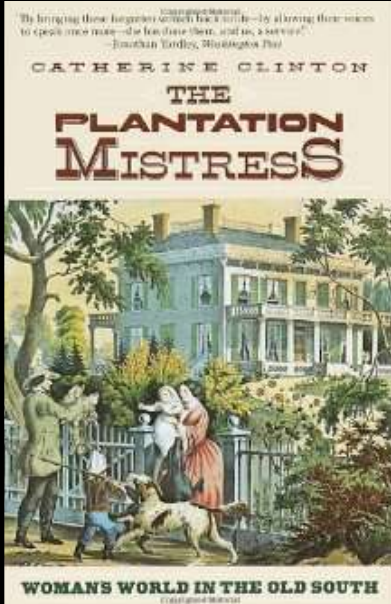
The Planter Aristocracy

- Cottonocracy
 - Educated their children in the finest schools, mostly North or abroad.
 - Hindered the tax-supported schools.
- John Calhoun, Jefferson Davis
- They felt a sense of obligation to serve the public.
- Widened the gap between rich and poor.



The Planter Aristocracy

- Southern women were shaped by a plantation society.
- The mistress of a great plantation did the following:
 - **Commanded** a sizeable household staff.
 - She gave **daily orders** to cooks, maids, seamstresses, laundresses, etc.
 - Mostly female slaves.
 - Relationships **varied** from affectionate to atrocious.
- Most slave holding women did **not** believe in abolition.
 - Few protested when family members of slaves were sold.



What you **NEED** to Know!

- Most white southern women strongly supported slavery.
- Characteristics of the few wealthiest southern plantation owners:
 - Educated their children elsewhere.
 - Promoted **hierarchical** ideals.
 - Controlled a large proportion of wealth and power in the entire South.
 - They felt a large sense of public obligation to pursue education and public service.
- Plantation mistresses commanded a sizeable household staff of mostly female slaves.

~~Slaves of the Slave System~~

- As the South became increasingly monopolistic and the land wore thin, small farmers sold their holdings to more prosperous neighbors and went N or W.
 - The big got bigger and the small got smaller.
- Financial instability of the plantation system.
 - Overspeculation of land and slaves caused many planters to go into debt.
- Expenses:
 - Slaves roughly \$1,200 each for strong field workers.
 - Could feed them for 10 cents a day.
 - Possibility of disease, runaways, injuries costing owners more.

~~Southern Society (1850)~~

6,000,000

“Slavocracy”
[plantation owners]

The “Plain Folk”
[white yeoman farmers]

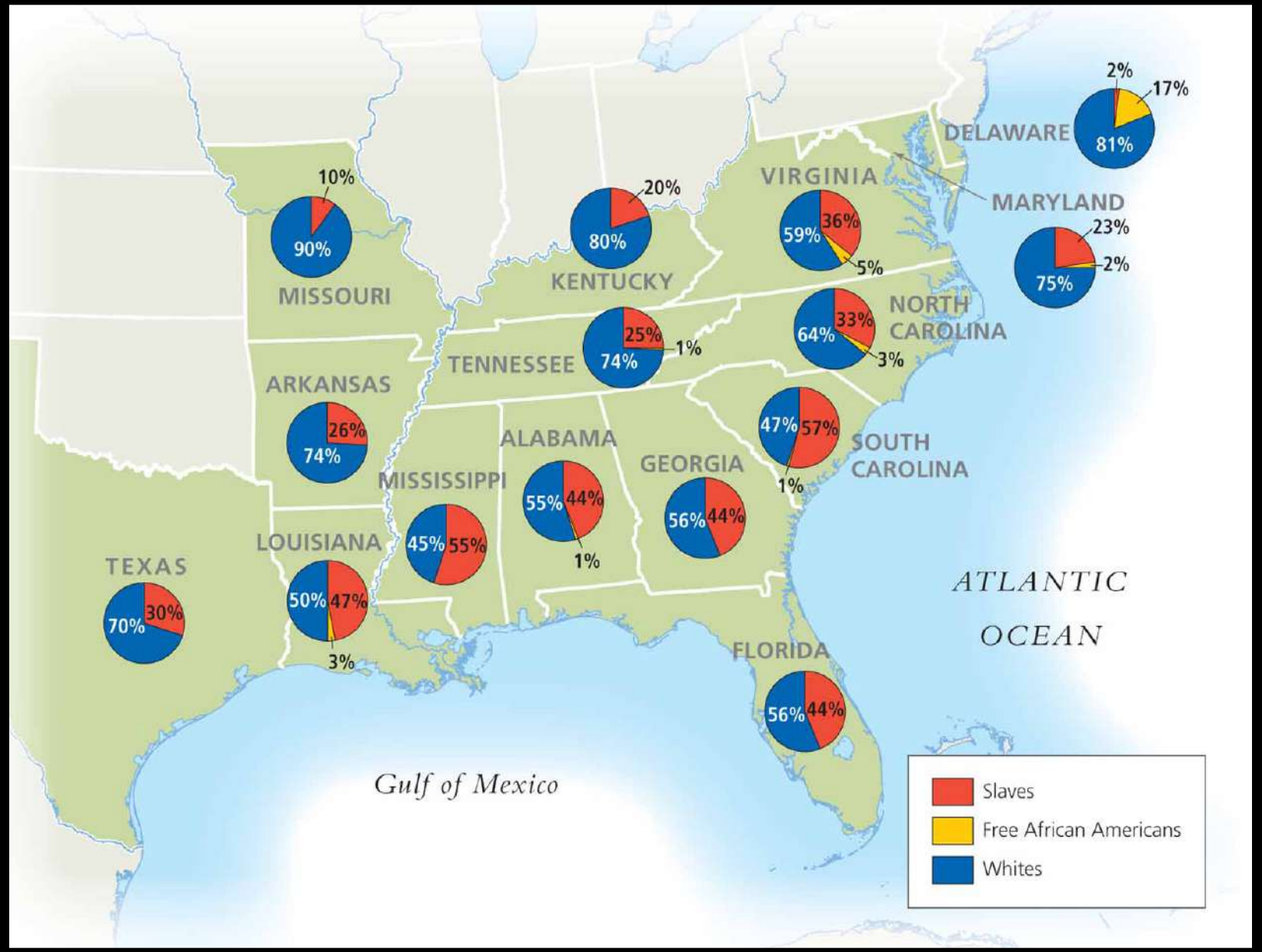
Black Freemen

← 250,000

Black Slaves
3,200,000

Total US Population → 23,000,000
(9,250,000 in the South = 40%)

Southern Population



The South's

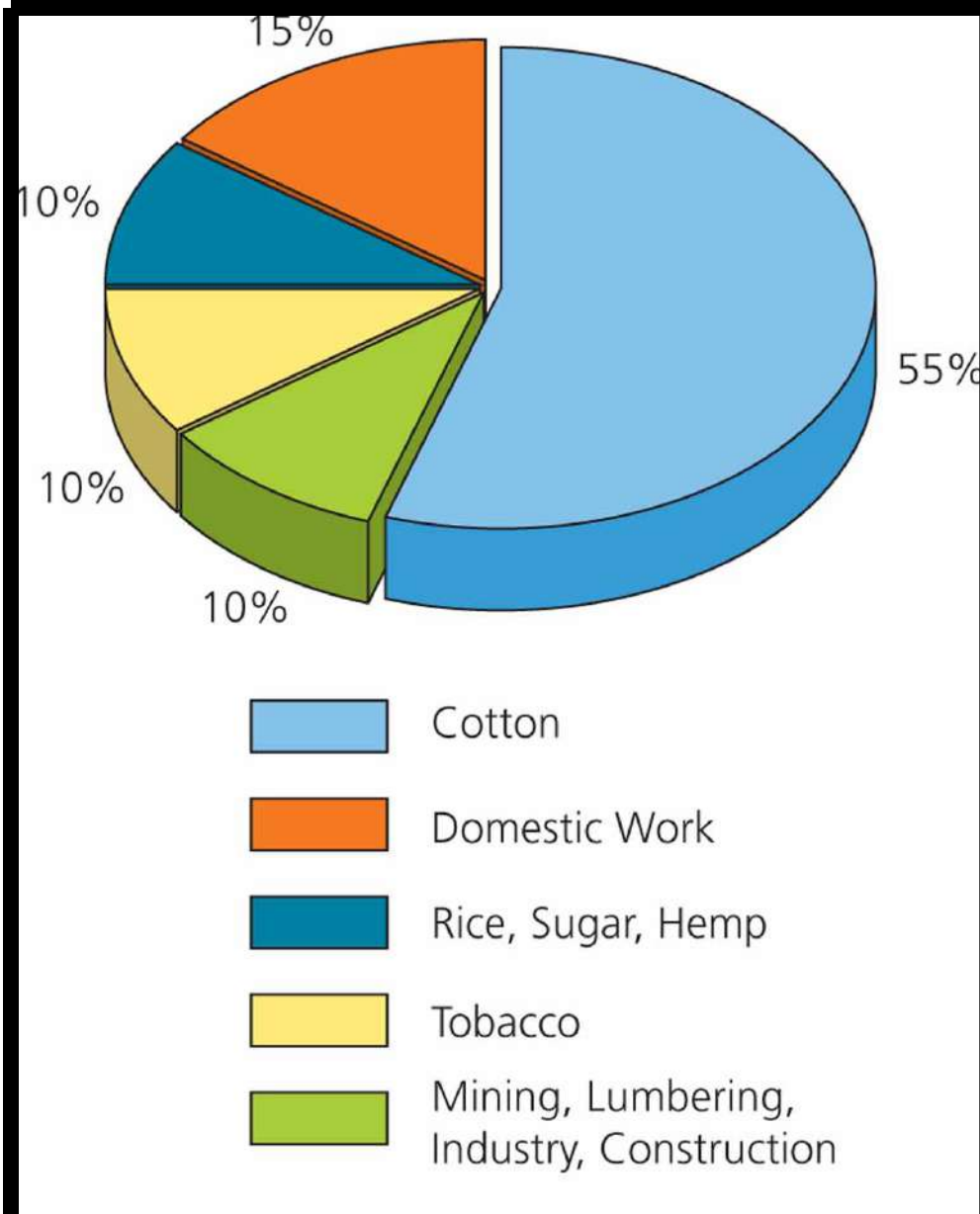
“Peculiar

Institution”

~~Slaves of the Slave System~~

- The plantation system discouraged a healthy diversification of agriculture and particularly on manufacturing.
- Southern planters resented the North for growing wealthy at their hard work.
 - Southerners had to deal with commissions, interest to northern middlemen, bankers, agents, and shippers.
- Repelled large-scale European immigration.
 - 1860, only 4.4% of the southern population was foreign-born.
 - **North** was 18.7%.
 - Irish and German migration to the South was discouraged due to slave labor, high cost of land, and European ignorance of cotton growing.
 - This caused the white South to become the most Anglo-Saxon section of the nation.

Distribution of Slave Labor in



Antebellum

Southern

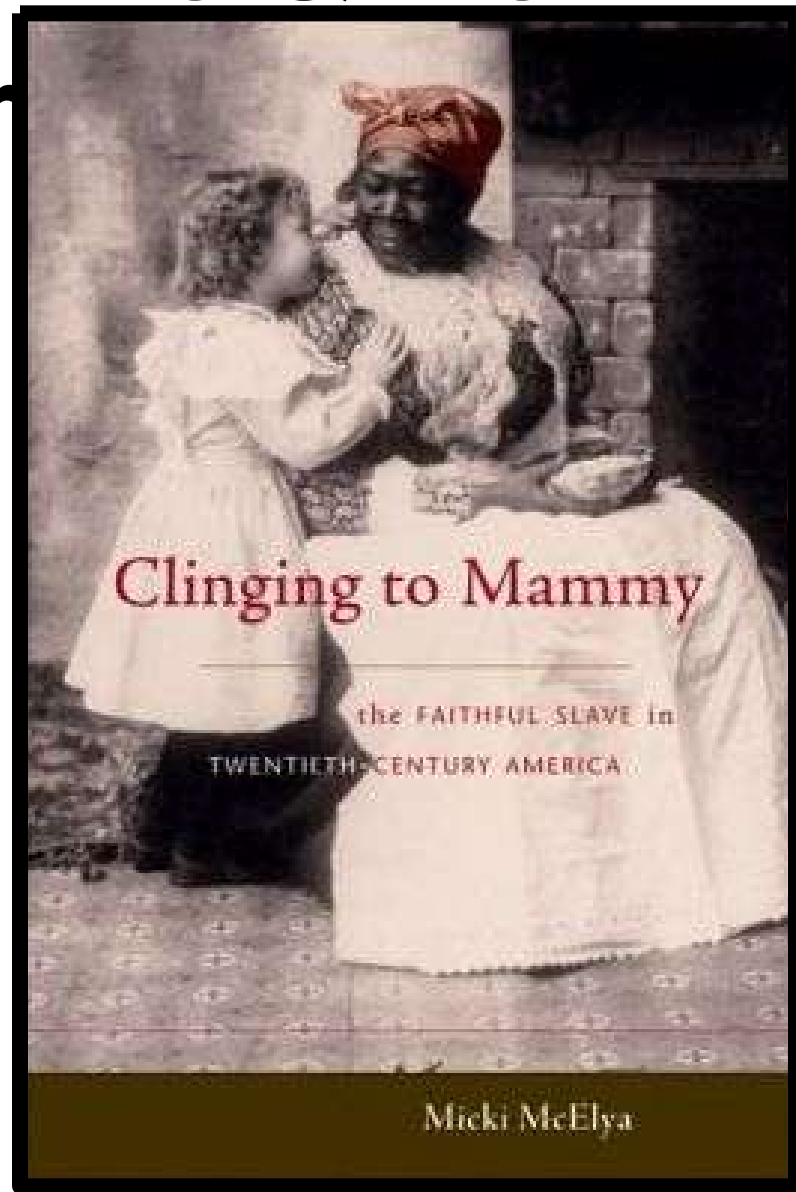
Plantation Life

Scarlet and Mammie (Hollywood!)



A Real Mammie & Her

an



The White Majority

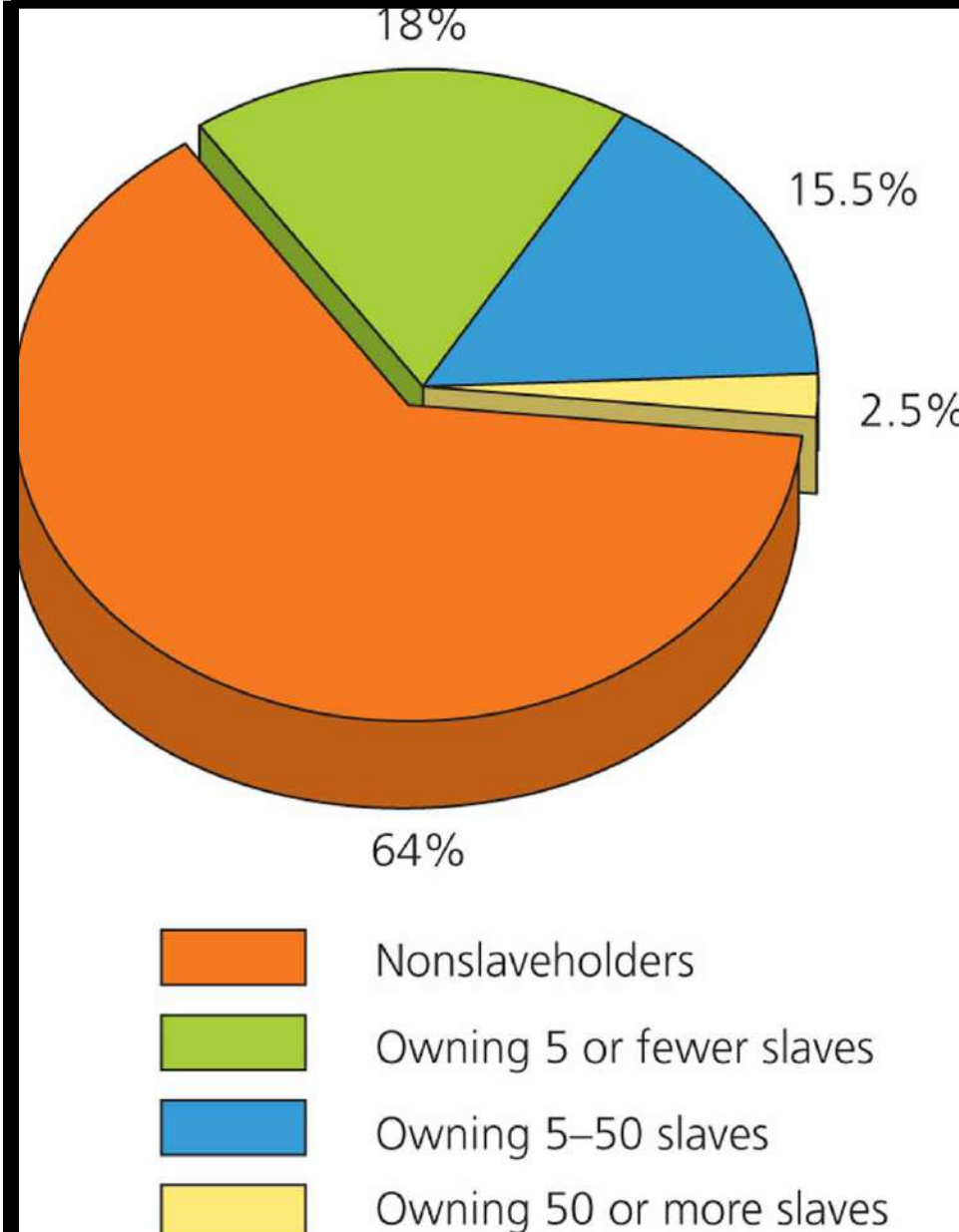
- Only about 1/4 of white southerners owned slaves or belonged to a slave-owning family.
- Most lived in modest farmhouses, labored in fields.
 - Subsistence farmers
 - Raised corn and pigs, not cotton
 - Lived isolated lives
 - “Poor white trash”, “Hillbillies
 - Suffered from malnutrition, and parasites (hookworm)
- Whites w/o slaves have no direct economic stake in the preservation of slavery.
 - Hoped to buy a slave- upward social mobility.
 - Pride in presumed racial superiority.

The White Majority

- Mountain whites
 - Valleys of the Appalachian range
 - Western VA to Northern GA and AL.
 - Frontier conditions.
 - Distant from King Cotton and slavery.
 - Hated haughty planters (Andrew Johnson).



Slave-Owning Population



A Real Georgia Plantation



Plantation Slavery

- 4 million by 1860.
 - 1808, Congress outlawed slave importation.
- Royal Navy's West Africa Squadron
 - Seized hundreds of slave ships and freed thousands.
 - Despite efforts, slaves shipped to Brazil and West Indies.
- Suppression of international slave trade fostered growth for internal slave trading.
- Natural reproduction of slaves distinguished North American slavery from other areas.

Slave Auction Notice 1823

10 LIKELY and VALUABLE
SLAVES
AT AUCTION.



On **THURSDAY** the 24th inst.

WE WILL SELL,

In front of our Office, without any kind of limit or reserve for cash,

AT 11 O'CLOCK,

10 AS LIKELY NEGROES

As any ever offered in this market; among them is a man who is a superior Cook and House Servant, and a girl about 17 years old, a first rate House Servant, and an excellent seamstress.

BROOKE & HUBBARD,

Auctioneers.

Wednesday, July 23, 1823.

Richardson & Co.

Key and Peele Slave Auction

Plantation Slavery

- Slaves as investments.
 - \$2 billion by 1860.
 - Slaves = wealth.
- Field hand in prime= \$1,800
- Contrary to popular belief, most owners did not want to endanger a slave's life, which would cost money.

Slave Auction: Charleston, SC



The Ledger of John White

- J Matilda Selby, 9, \$400.00 sold to Mr. Covington, St. Louis, \$425.00**
- J Brooks Selby, 19, \$750.00 Left at Home – Crazy**
- J Fred McAfee, 22, \$800.00 Sold to Pepidal, Donaldsonville, \$1200.00**
- J Howard Barnett, 25, \$750.00 Ranaway. Sold out of jail, \$540.00**
- J Harriett Barnett, 17, \$550.00 Sold to Davenport and Jones, Lafourche, \$900.00**

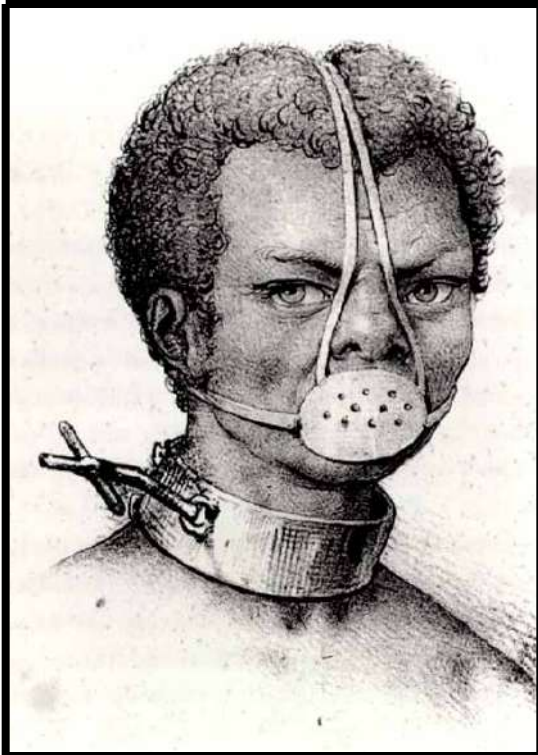
Plantation Slavery

- Migration from Upper to Lower South; Tobacco to Cotton.
- Women who had more than 10 children were sometimes promised freedom.
- Auction block:
 - Families split up.
 - Sometimes part of animal auction.
 - Part of the plot in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

~~Life Under the Lash~~

- Conditions of life varied by region, owner, size of farm/plantation.
- Overseer- could be white or black.
 - Floggings
 - Breakers
 - Serial abuse would hurt resale value.

Slave Accoutrements



Slave muzzle

Slave Master Brands



Anti-Slave Pamphlet

Leeds Anti-slavery Series No. 23.

SLAVE-BRANDING.



A LETTER from an officer on board the "Amphitrite," in the

Slave Accoutrements



Slave leg irons



Slave tag, SC

Slave shoes

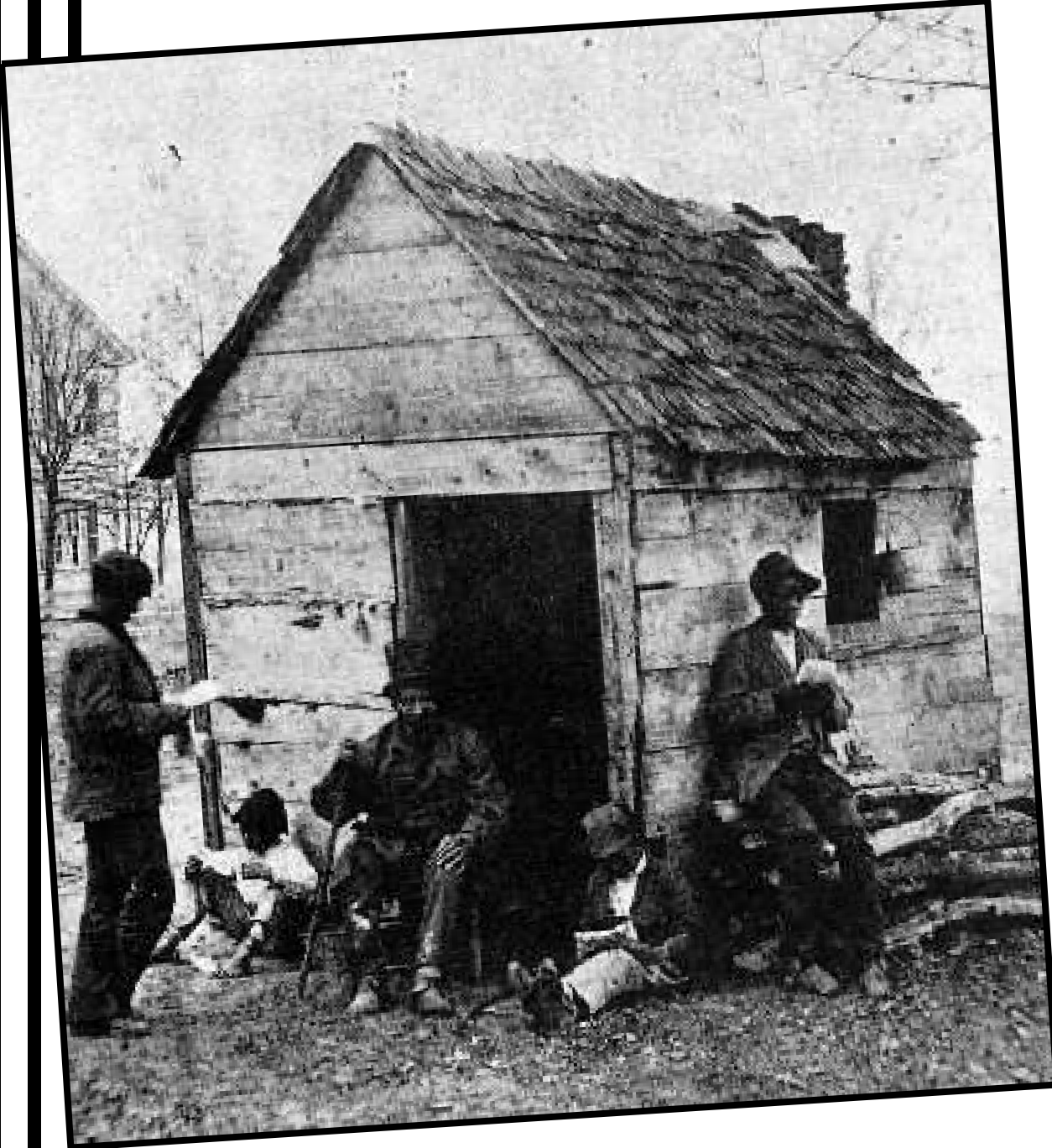


A Slave Family



Life Under the Lash

- Deep South= “Black Belt”
 - 75% of population in some areas.
 - Stable family life.
 - Distinctive slave culture.
- Marriage- “Until death or distance do you part.”
- Most children raised in 2 parent households.
 - Naming children after grandparents was common.
 - Naming children after a grandparents’ owner.
 - Avoided marriage between cousins, unlike some of the “cottonocracy.”
- Visible African roots in religion- mixed form of Christianity and African elements.
 - 2nd Great Awakening influence.
 - Responsorial style of preaching which was adapted by ringshout dance.



**Slaves
posing in
front of their
cabin on a
Southern
plantation.**

~~Tara Plantation Reality or Myth?~~



Hollywood's Version?

Free Blacks: Slaves Without

Masters

- 250,000 by 1860.
 - “3rd race”
- Purchased freedom by earnings from labor after hours.
- Property ownership, especially in New Orleans.
- Prohibited from working certain occupations and from testifying in court.
- Vulnerable to being put back into slavery.
- Deep South= More mulattos
 - Emancipated children of white planters.

~~Free Blacks: Slaves Without~~

- Unpopular in the North
 - 250,000
 - Some states barred them from school.
 - Hated by the Irish immigrants- job competition.
- White Northerners professed to like the race as a whole but dislike them individually.

Masters

US Laws Regarding

Slavery

- U. S. Constitution
 - 3/5s compromise
 - Fugitive Slave Clause
- 1793 → Fugitive Slave Act.
- 1850 → stronger Fugitive Slave Act.

~~Southern Slavery~~ → An

~~Aberration?~~

- J 1780s: 1st antislavery society created in Philadelphia.**
- J By 1804: slavery eliminated from last northern state.**
- J 1807: the legal termination of the slave trade, enforced by the Royal Navy.**
- J 1820s: newly independent Republics of Central & South America declared their slaves free.**
- J 1833: slavery abolished throughout the British Empire.**
- J 1844: slavery abolished in the French colonies.**
- J 1861: the serfs of Russia were emancipated.**

**Slave
Resistance
&
Uprisings**

Runaway Slave Ads



\$1200
TO
1250 DOLLARS!
FOR NEGROES!!

THE undersigned wishes to purchase a large lot of NEGROES for the New Orleans market. I will pay \$1200 to \$1250 for No. 1 young men, and \$850 to \$1000 for No. 1 young women. In fact I will pay more for likely

NEGROES,

Than any other trader in Kentucky. My office is adjoining the Broadway Hotel, on Broadway, Lexington, KY., where I or my Agent can always be found.

WM. F. TALBOTT.

LEXINGTON, JULY 2, 1852.

\$100 REWARD!

RANAWAY

From the undersigned, living on Current River, about twelve miles above Doniphan, in Ripley County, Mo., on 2nd of March, 1860, **A NEGRO MAN**, about 30 years old, weighs about 160 pounds; high forehead, with a scar on it; had on brown pants and coat very much worn, and an old black wool hat; shoes size No. 11.

The above reward will be given to any person who may apprehend this said negro at the time, and bring him to the State prison of Ripley County, or 212 if taken in Ripley County.

APOS TUCKER.

Quilt Patterns as Secret



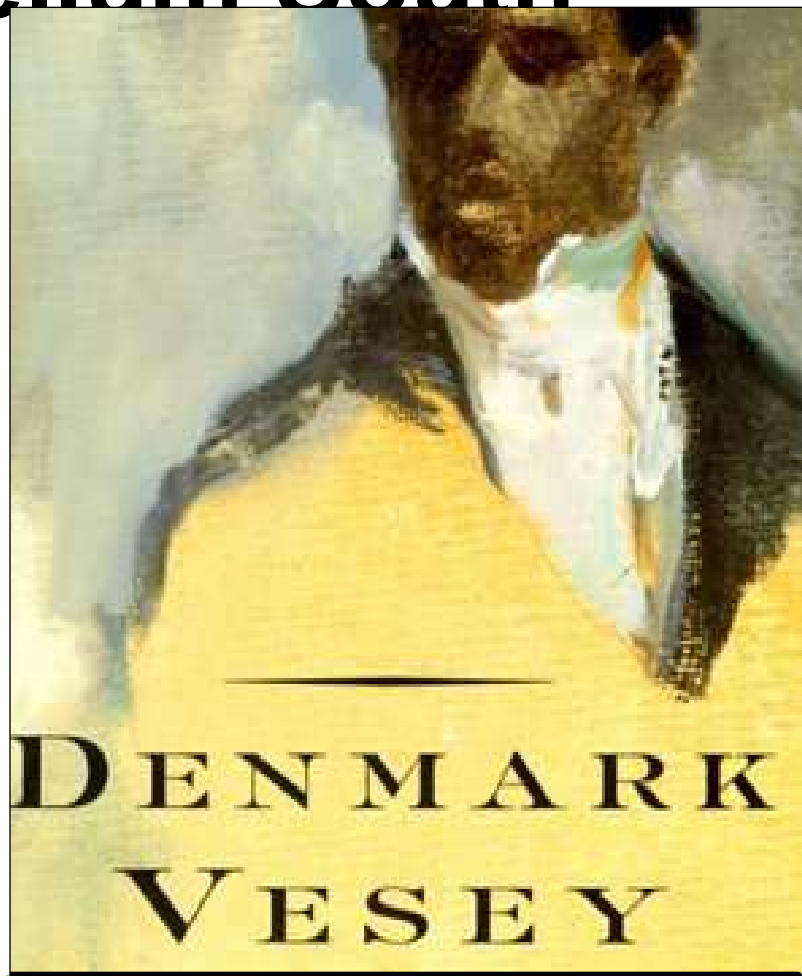
The Monkey Wrench pattern, on the left, alerted escapees to gather up tools and prepare to flee; the Drunkard Path design, on the right, warned escapees not to follow a straight route.

Slave Rebellions in the Antebellum South



Gabriel Prosser

1800



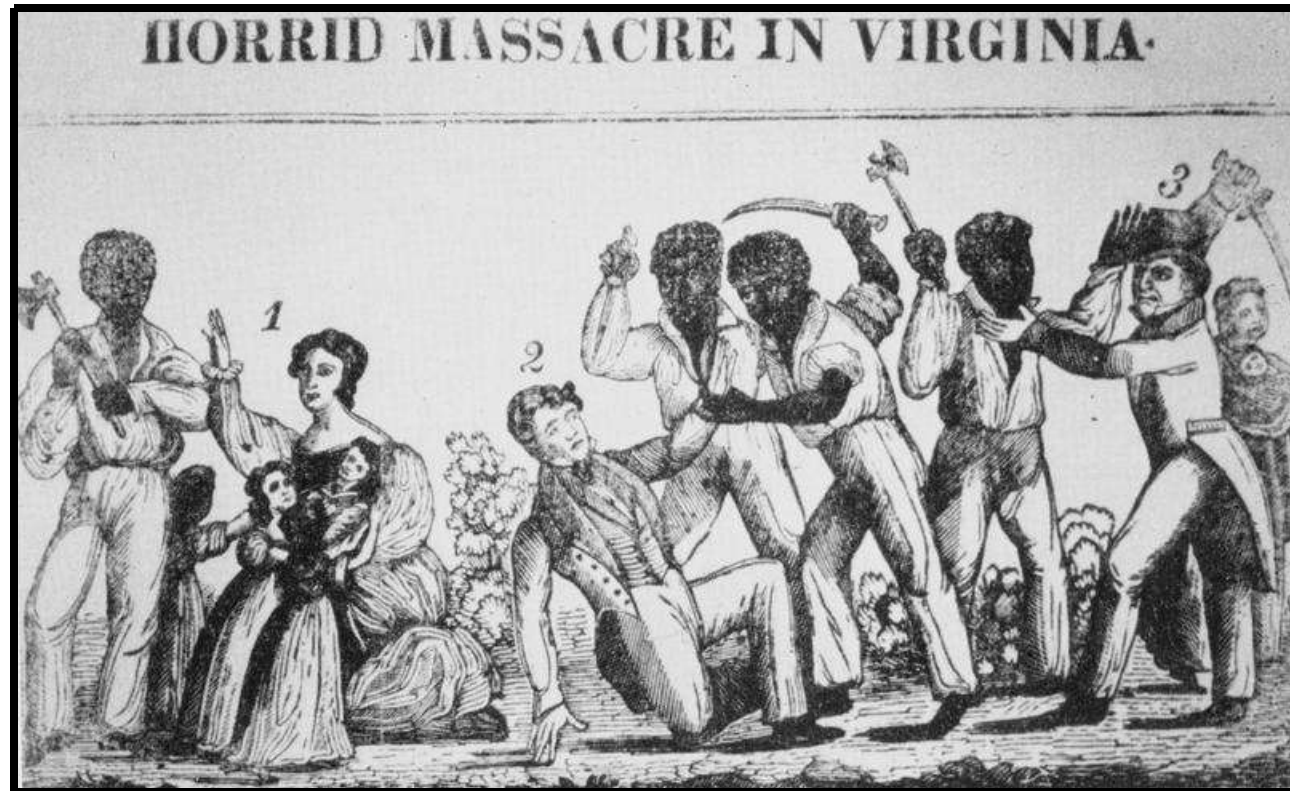
1822

Rebellions

- **Denmark Vesey**
 - **Free black led a rebellion in Charleston, SC in 1822.**
 - **Betrayed by informers**
 - **Vesey and 30+ were hanged publically.**
- Nat Turner, 1831
 - **Preacher**
 - **Literate**
 - **Used both to put together an uprising.**
 - **Killed 60+ Virginians, mostly women and children.**
- **Amistad, 1839**
 - **Spanish slave ship.**
 - **Slaves seized the ship and attempted to sail back to Africa.**
 - **Landed on Long Island.**
 - JQA secured most of their freedom in 1841.
 - **Most returned to Sierra Leone.**

Slave Rebellions in the Antebellum South:

Nat Turner, 1831



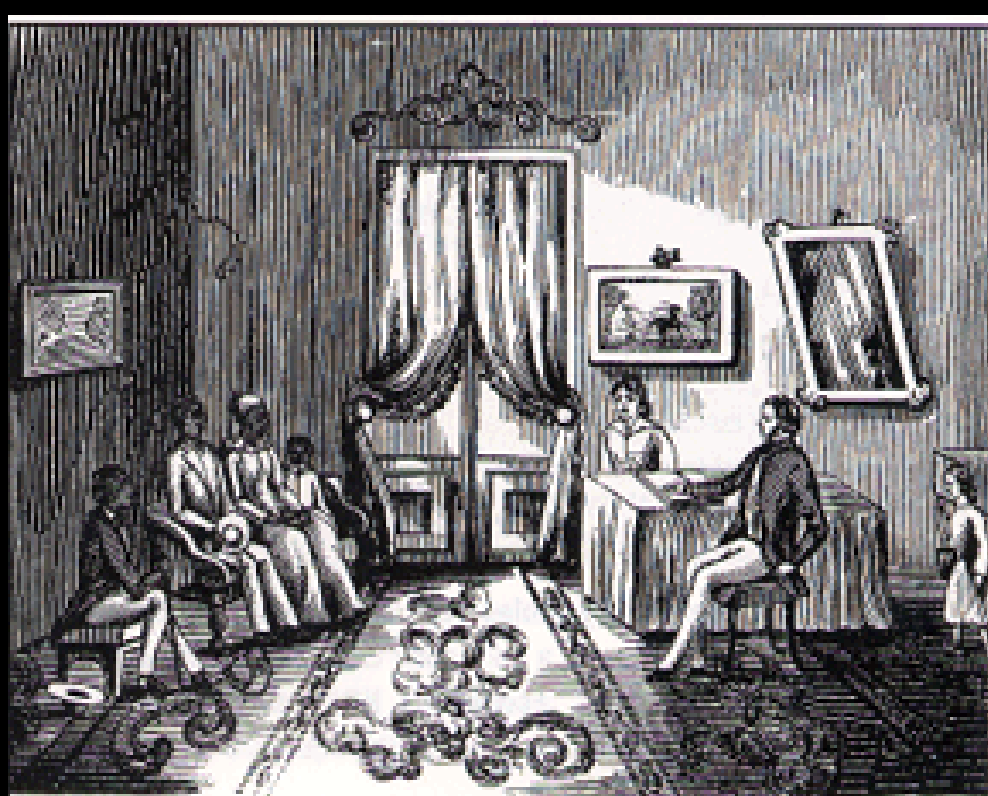
Cartoon

The Culture of Slavery

- Black Christianity (Baptists or Methodists):
 - More emotional worship services.
 - Negro spirituals.
- Responsorial style of preaching.
- Nuclear family with extended kin links, where possible.
- Importance of music in their lives. (especially spirituals).



Southern Pro-Slavery



THE NEGRO IN AMERICA.



THE NEGRO IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.

What You Need To Know!

Most slave owners held fewer than 10 slaves.

Even though they owned no slaves, most southern whites strongly supported the slave system because they felt racially superior to blacks and hoped to be able to buy slaves.

Most slave owners treated their slaves as profitable investments.

One major consequence of the outlawing of the international slave trade was a boom in slave trading inside the U.S.

The condition of the 500,000 free blacks was as bad or worse in the North than in the South.

The only group of white southerners who hated both slaveowners and blacks were the Appalachian mountain whites.

What You Need To Know!

Weaknesses of the slave plantation system:

Relied on a one-crop economy.

Repelled a large-scale European immigration into Southern states.

Stimulated racism among poor whites.

Created an aristocratic political elite.

European immigration to the South was discouraged by competition with slave labor.

Subsistence farmers raised mostly corn.

The majority of whites in the south were subsistence farmers.

4 million A-A slaves.

Most owned by plantations.

Most southern whites did not own slaves because they could not afford the purchase price.

Some slaves gained their freedom as a result of purchasing their way out.

What You Need To Know!

The great increase of the slave population was largely due to natural reproduction.

Slaves were usually spared from dangerous work.

Owners did not want to hurt their investments.

Greatest psychological horror was families being separated due to auctions or selling.

Black belt= Deep South states such as GA, AL, MS, LA.

Some counties, blacks accounted for more than 75% of population.

Northern attitude= disliking blacks as individuals but liking the race as a whole.

Opposed slavery but also hostile to immediate abolitionists.

Believed abolitionists would only create chaos and disorder.

Slaves fought the system by:

Working slowly

Breaking equipment

Running away

Pilfering goods that their labor had produced

Least successful form of fighting the system: insurrections.

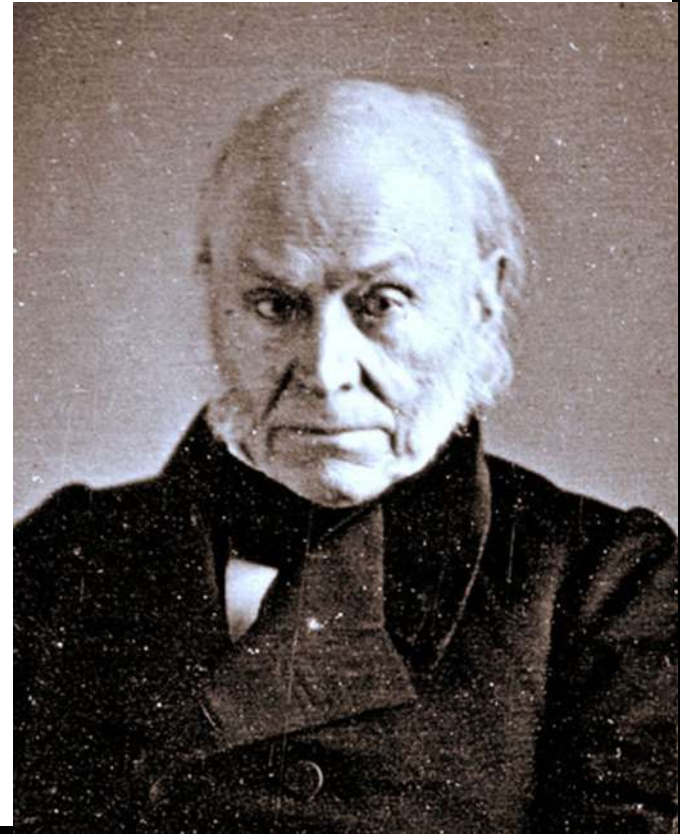
Gag Rule

Prohibited debate or action on antislavery appeals.

Driven through the H O Reps by pro-slavery Southerners.

Lasted 8 years.

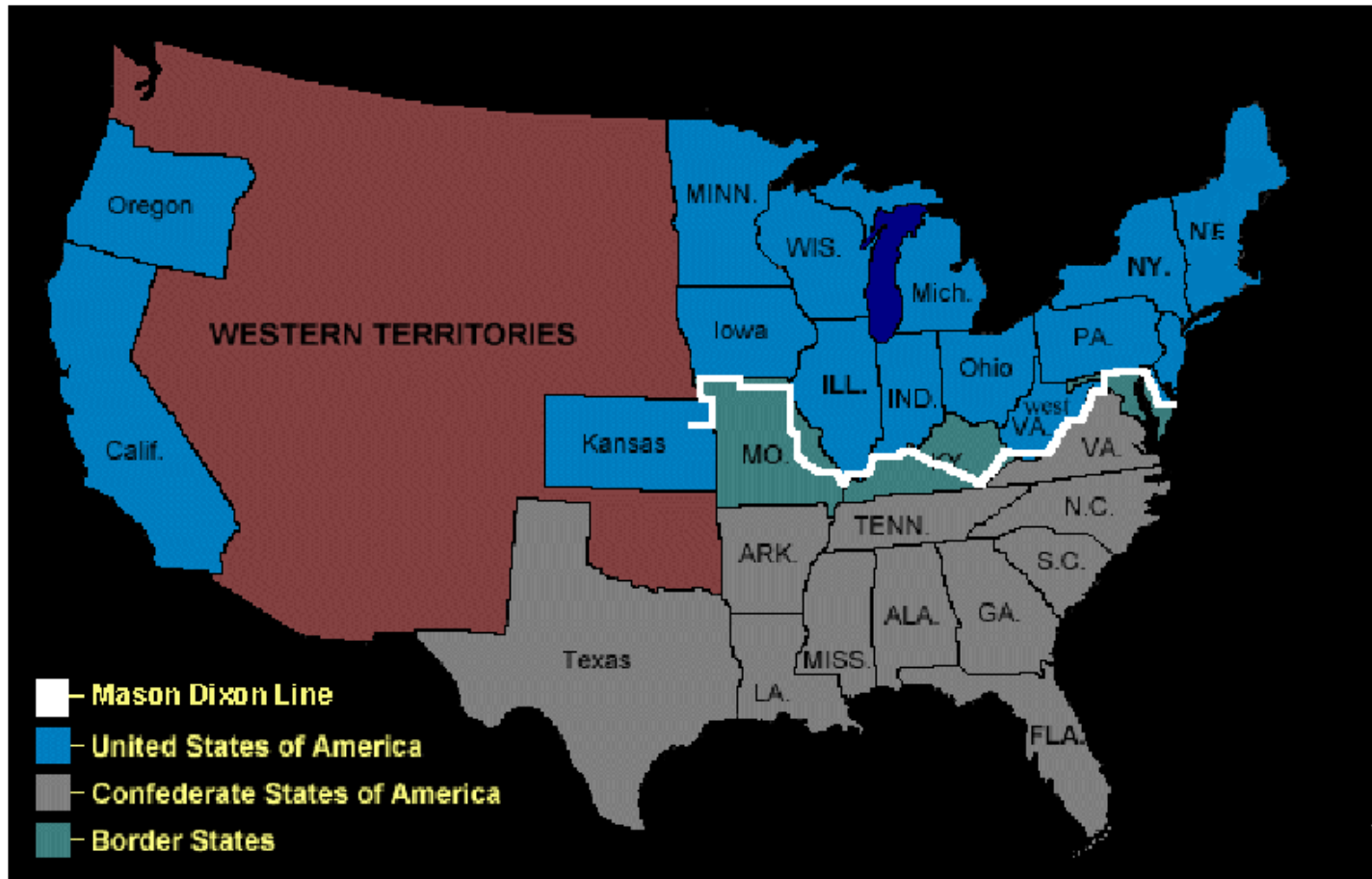
Eventually overturned by former President JQ Adams.



Mason-Dixon Line

Originally drawn by surveyors to resolve the boundaries between MD, DE, PA, and VA in the 1760's.

It came to symbolize the N-S divide over slavery.



Abolition

Most abolitionists were motivated by religious feelings against the sin of slavery.

Most political abs sought to end slavery by promoting antislavery political movements like the Republican Party.

William Lloyd Garrison

Dedicated to the immediate abolition of slavery.

Published an abolition newspaper called The Liberator.

Inspired by 2nd Great Awakening.

One of the founders of the American Anti-Slavery Society.

Inspired Wendell Phillips.

F. Douglass thought Garrison was more interested in his own righteousness than in the substance of the evil of slavery itself.

Stubbornly principled.

Frederick Douglass

Former slave. Escaped in 1838 at the age of 21.

Speaker and lecturer.

Published autobiography: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass.

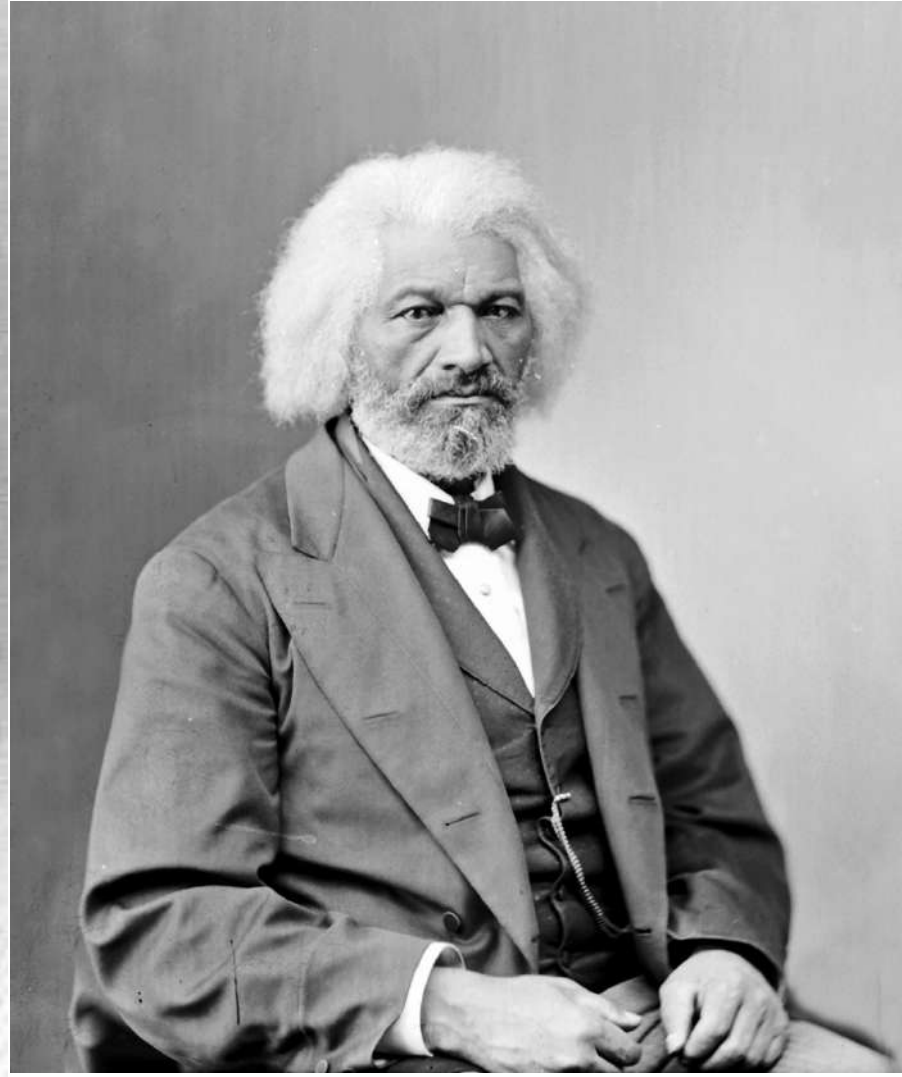
Mulatto, Literate.

More laid back than other abolitionists.

Flexible and practical.

Often referred to the North as virtuous and the south as wicked.

Involved in the Liberty Party, Free Soil Party and Republican Party.





UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

