

1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐ I. **“Cotton Is King!”**

- Cotton Kingdom:
 - Developed into huge agricultural factory:
 - In an economic spiral, planters bought more slaves and land
 - Northern shippers reaped large profits from cotton trade
 - Prosperity of North, South, and England rested on bent backs of enslaved bondsmen
 - So too did nation's growing wealth:
 - Cotton accounted for half the value of American exports

5 ☐ I. **“Cotton is King!”**

- Cotton export earnings provided capital for Republic's economic growth
- South produced more than half of world's supply of cotton
- About 75% of England's cotton came from South, and about 20% of England's populace worked in textiles
- Southern leaders knew Britain was tied to them by cotton threads
- This dependence gave South power
- In South's eyes, “Cotton was King”

6 ☐7 ☐ II. **The Planter “Aristocracy”**

- South was a planter aristocracy:
 - In 1850 only 1,733 families owned more than 100 slaves:
 - Select group provided political and social leadership
 - Enjoyed lion's share of southern wealth
 - Educated their children in finest schools
 - Money provided leisure for study, reflection, and statecraft:
 - Notable: John C. Calhoun (Yale), Jefferson Davis (West Point)
 - Felt keen sense of obligation to serve

8 ☐ II. **The Planter “Aristocracy”**

- Dominance by a favored aristocracy was basically undemocratic:
 - Widened gap between rich and poor
 - Hampered tax-supported public education
 - Idealized feudalism of medieval Europe
- Plantation system shaped lives of southern women:
 - Mistresses commanded sizable household staff
 - Relationships between mistress and slaves ranged from affectionate to atrocious
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10 ☐ II. The Planter “Aristocracy” (cont.)

- Some mistresses showed tender regard for their bondwomen
- Some slave women took pride in status as “members” of household
- But slavery strained bonds of womanhood
- Virtually no slaveholding women believed in abolition

11 ☐ III. Slaves of the Slave System

- Plantation life:
 - Plantation agriculture worrisome, distasteful, and sordid because despoiled good earth
 - Quick profit led to excessive cultivation or “land butchery”
 - Caused population to leave for West and Northwest
- Economic structure of South became increasingly monopolistic:
 - Big got bigger and small smaller

12 ☐ III. Slaves of the Slave System (cont.)

- Financial instability of plantation system:
 - Over-speculation in land and slaves
 - Slaves represented heavy investment of capital
 - An entire slave quarter might be wiped out by disease
- Dominance by King Cotton led to dangerous dependence on one-crop economy:
 - Prices at mercy of world conditions
 - System discouraged healthy diversification

–Southern planters resented North growing fat at their expense

13 ☐ **III. Slaves of the Slave System (cont.)**

- Cotton King repelled large-scale European immigration:
 - Immigrants added to manpower and wealth of North
 - 1860 only 4.4 % of southern population was foreign-born as compared to 18.7% for North
 - German & Irish immigration to South discouraged by:
 - competition with slave labor
 - high cost of fertile land
 - European ignorance of cotton farming
 - South became most Anglo-Saxon part of U.S.A.
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14 ☐ **IV. The White Majority**

- Southern life:
 - Only handful of southern whites lived in Grecian-pillared mansions
 - Only 1,733 families owned a hundred or more slaves (see Figure 16.1)
 - Most slave owners had fewer than ten slaves
 - Smaller slave owners didn't own majority of slaves, but were majority of masters
 - These lesser masters were typically small farmers

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16 ☐ **IV. The White Majority (cont.)**

- Beneath slave owners was great body of whites who owned no slaves (see Maps 16.1 and 16.2)
- Only ¼ of white southerners owned slaves or belonged to slave owning family
- Most whites were subsistence food farmers not part of cotton export economy
- Whites without slaves had no direct economic stake in slavery, yet they defended slave system:
 - Hoped to buy slaves (“American dream” of upper mobility)

- Took pride in presumed racial superiority
- Logic of economics joined with illogic of racism to buttress slave system

17 ☐ **IV. The White Majority (cont.)**

- In special category of white southerners were mountain whites:
 - Independent small farmers who lived in valleys of Appalachian range
 - Had little in common with whites of flatlands
 - When war came, mountain whites constituted vitally important peninsula of Unionism
 - Played significant role in crippling Confederacy
 - After Civil War, they were only concentrated Republican strength in solid Democratic South

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20 ☐ **V. Free Blacks: Slaves Without Masters**

- South's free blacks:
 - Numbered about 250,000 by 1860:
 - Some in upper South traced emancipation to idealism of Revolutionary days
 - In lower South, many were mulattoes
 - Some purchased their freedom
 - Many owned property
 - Were a kind of “third race:”
 - Banned from certain occupations
 - Vulnerable to being hijacked into slavery

21 ☐ **V. Free Blacks: Slaves Without Masters (cont.)**

- Hostile northern climate for free blacks (250,000):
 - Several states forbade their entrance
 - Most denied them right to vote
 - Some barred them from public schools
 - Northern blacks were particularly hated by Irish immigrants because two groups competed for menial jobs
 - Antiblack feelings in ways stronger in North than in South:
 - Southern whites liked blacks as individuals, but despised

race

–Northern whites professed to like race, but disliked individual blacks

22 ☐ VI. Plantation Slavery

- In South of 1860, nearly four million black slaves:
 - Legal importation of African slaves into America ended in 1808 by Congress
 - Britain abolished slave trade in 1807:
 - Royal Navy's West African Squadron seized hundreds of slave ships and freed thousands of captives
 - Yet three million enslaved Africans still shipped to Brazil and West Indies after 1807

23 ☐ VI. Plantation Slavery (cont.)

- Slavery:
 - In U.S.A., price of “black ivory” so high before Civil War that thousands of blacks smuggled into South
 - Ironically, suppression of international slave trade fostered growth of vigorous *internal* slave trade
 - Most of increase in U.S. slave population came from natural reproduction:
 - Distinguished North American slavery from slavery in more disease-ridden southerly New World societies

24 ☐ VI. Plantation Slavery (cont.)

- Planters regarded slaves as investments:
 - Worth \$2 billion in capital by 1860
 - Slaves were primary form of wealth in South:
 - Cared for as any asset is cared for by prudent capitalist
 - Sometimes spared dangerous work
 - Slavery was profitable, even though it hobbled economic development of region as a whole

25 ☐ VI. Plantation Slavery (cont.)

- Breeding of slaves not openly encouraged, but:

- Women who bore thirteen or fourteen babies were prized as “rattlin' good breeders”
- White masters forced their attentions on female slaves fathering sizable mulatto population, most of which remained enslaved
- Slave auctions were brutal sights:
 - Most revolting aspects of slavery
 - Families separated with distressing frequency
 - Slavery's greatest psychological horror
 - Abolitionists decried practice
 - Harriet Beecher Stowe 1852 novel: *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

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26 ☐27 ☐28 ☐29 ☐30 ☐ **VII. Life Under the Lash**

- How did slaves actually live?
 - Conditions varied greatly:
 - Slavery meant hard work, ignorance, and oppression
 - No political rights; minimal protection
 - Protection laws difficult to enforce since slaves forbidden to testify in court or to have marriages legally recognized
 - Floggings were common
 - Strong-willed slaves sometimes sent to breakers who lavishly used lash

31 ☐32 ☐ **VII. Life Under the Lash (cont.)**

- Savage beatings made sullen laborers & hurt resale values
- Typical master had too much money invested in slaves to beat them bloody on regular basis
- Blacks concentrated in black belt of Deep South by 1860:
 - Stretched from South Carolina to Georgia into new southwest:

- Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana
- Frontier life was harsh

33 ☐ **VII. Life Under the Lash (cont.)**

- Black living:
 - Most lived on large plantations of 20 or more slaves
 - In some Deep South areas, blacks 75% of population
 - Family life relatively stable, and distinctive African American slave culture developed
 - Forced separations more common on smaller plantations or in Upper South
 - Slaves managed to sustain family life
 - Most slave children raised in two-parent households

34 ☐ **VII. Life Under the Lash (cont.)**

- Family identity continued across generations
- Displayed African culture when avoided marriage between first cousins, unlike frequent intermarriage of close relatives among planter aristocracy
- African roots visible in slaves' religion:
 - Many Christianized during Second Great Awakening
 - Yet they molded their own distinctive religious forms that mixed Christian and African elements
 - African practice of responsorial style of preaching—give and take between caller and dancers

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36 ☐ **VIII. The Burdens of Bondage**

- Slavery intolerably degrading to victims:
 - Deprived of dignity and sense of responsibility that come from independence and right to make choices
 - Denied an education
 - Victims of “peculiar institution” devised ways to protest:
 - Slowed pace of labor to bare minimum
 - Filched food from “big house”
 - Pilfered other goods
 - Sabotaged expensive equipment

37 ☐ **VIII. The Burdens of Bondage (cont.)**

- Slaves universally pined for freedom:
 - Many took off as runaways
 - Others rebelled, though never successfully
 - 1800: armed insurrection led by slave named Gabriel in Richmond, Virginia—foiled by informers, its leaders hanged
 - 1822: Denmark Vesey, a free black, led rebellion in Charleston, South Carolina; foiled by informers, Vesey & 30 followers hung
 - 1813: Nat Turner, visionary black preacher, led uprising that slaughtered 60 Virginians—Nat Turner's rebellion soon crushed

38 ☐ **VIII. The Burdens of Bondage (cont.)**

- Enslaved Africans rebelled aboard Spanish slave ship *Amistad* in 1839
- Slavery also affected southern whites:
 - Fostered brutality of whip, bloodhound, & branding iron
 - Increasingly lived in state of imagined siege, surrounded by potentially rebellious blacks inflamed by abolitionist propaganda from North
 - Such fears bolstered theory of biological racial superiority

39 ☐ **IX. Early Abolitionism**

- Inhumanity of “peculiar institution” caused antislavery societies:
 - Abolitionist sentiment first stirred during Revolution, especially among Quakers
 - American Colonization Society (1817):
 - Transport blacks back to Africa
 - 1822 Liberia, on West African coast, established for former slaves
 - Its capital, Monrovia, named after President Monroe
 - 15,000 freed slaves transported over four decades

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41 ☐ **IX. Early Abolitionism (cont.)**

- Most blacks had no wish to move to a strange civilization after having become partially Americanized
- By 1860, most southern slaves were native-born African-Americans, with a distinctive history & culture
- Yet colonization appealed to some antislaverites, including Abraham Lincoln, before Civil War
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42 ☐ IX. Early Abolitionism (cont.)

- William Wilberforce:
 - Member of British Parliament & an evangelical Christian reformer ended slavery in West Indies
 - Wilberforce University in Ohio, an African American college, later sent many missionaries to Africa
- Theodore Dwight Weld:
 - Inspired by Second Great Awakening
 - Appealed with special power to rural audiences of untutored farmers

43 ☐ IX. Early Abolitionism (cont.)

- Weld (cont.):
 - Materially aided by two wealthy and devout New York merchants—brothers Arthur and Lewis Tappan
 - They paid his way to Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio
 - Expelled with several other students in 1834 for organizing an 18-day debate on slavery
 - Weld and his fellow “Lane Rebels” fanned out across Old Northwest preaching antislavery gospel
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44 ☐ IX. Early Abolitionism (cont.)

- Weld (cont.):
 - Assembled potent propaganda pamphlet, *American Slavery as It Is* (1839)
 - Compelling arguments made it among most effective abolitionist tracts and greatly influenced Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

45 ☐46 ☐47 ☐48 ☐ **X. Radical Abolitionism**

- William Lloyd Garrison:
 - Inspired by Second Great Awakening
 - The Liberator*—his militantly antislavery newspaper started in 1831:
 - Under no circumstances would he tolerate poisonous weed of slavery, but would stamp it out, root & branch
- American Anti-Slavery Society (1833):
 - Founders: Garrison, Wendell Phillips

49 ☐ **X. Radical Abolitionism (cont.)**

- Black abolitionists:
 - David Walker's Appeal to the Colored Citizens of World (1829)—advocated bloody end to white supremacy
 - Sojourner Truth—fought tirelessly for black emancipation and women's rights
 - Martin Delany:
 - one of few black leaders who took seriously notion of mass recolonization of Africa

50 ☐51 ☐ **X. Radical Abolitionism (cont.)**

- Delany (cont.)
 - In 1859 visited West Africa's Niger Valley seeking a suitable site for relocation
- Frederick Douglass—greatest black abolitionist:
 - Escaped bondage in 1838 at age 21
 - Was “discovered” by abolitionists in 1841 after giving impromptu speech at an antislavery meeting in Massachusetts
 - Continued to lecture, despite repeated punishment
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52 ☐ **X. Radical Abolitionism (cont.)**

–Douglass (cont.):

- *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass* (1845) his classic autobiography
- Depicted his remarkable origins, his struggle to learn to read and write, and his eventual escape to North

- Comparison of Garrison and Douglass:

–Garrison:

- Stubbornly principled
- More interested in his own righteousness than in substance of slavery itself

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53 ☐ **X. Radical Abolitionism (cont.)**

- Repeatedly demanded that “virtuous” North secede from “wicked” South.
- Never explained how creation of independent slave republic would end “damning crime” of slavery.
- Renouncing politics, he publicly burned a copy of Constitution as “a covenant with death and an agreement with hell” on July 4, 1854.
- Critics charged he was cruelly probing moral wound in America's underbelly, but offered no acceptable balm to ease pain.

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54 ☐ **X. Radical Abolitionism (cont.)**

–Douglas:

- Flexibly practical
- He and other abolitionists increasingly looked to politics to end slavery
- Backed Liberty party in 1840; Free Soil party in 1848; Republican party in 1850s
- Most abolitionists, including Garrison, followed logic of beliefs and supported war as price of emancipation

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55 ☐56 ☐57 ☐ **XI. The South Lashes Back**

- Antislavery sentiment existed in South
- In 1820s, more antislavery societies south of Mason-Dixon line than north of it
- After 1830 southern abolitionism silenced:
 - Virginia legislature debated and defeated various emancipation proposals in 1831-1832:
 - Marked turning point
 - Slave states tightened slave codes
 - Banned emancipation of any kind, voluntary or compensated

58 ☐ **XI. The South Lashes Back (cont.)**

- Nat Turner's rebellion in 1831:
 - Caused hysteria throughout South
 - Garrison bitterly condemned as terrorist and inciter of murder although he was unconnected with rebellion
 - State of Georgia offered \$5,000 for his arrest and conviction
- Nullification crisis of 1832 further implanted fear in white southern minds
- Jailings, whippings, & lynching greeted rational efforts to discuss slavery problem in South

59 ☐ **XI. The South Lashes Back (cont.)**

- Proslavery whites responded by launching massive defense of slavery as positive good:
 - Claimed master-slave relationships resembled those of a family
 - Were quick to contrast “happy” lot of their “servants” with overworked northern wage slaves
 - Proslavery arguments widened chasm between South and North

60 ☐ **XI. The South Lashes Back (cont.)**

Controversy increasingly limited free speech:

–Gag Resolution:

- Pushed through Congress by southerners
- Required antislavery appeals to be tabled without debate

–Southern whites resented use of mail for abolitionist literature:

- Congress (1835) ordered southern postmasters to destroy abolitionist material
- Called on southern states to arrest postmasters who did not comply

61 ☐ **XII. The Abolitionist Impact in the North**

–Abolitionists, esp. Garrisonians, unpopular in North:

- Northerners revered Constitution and saw its clauses on slavery as lasting bargain
- Ideal of Union had deep roots

–North had heavy economic stake in South:

- Southern planters owed northern bankers & creditors about \$300 million—would be lost if Union dissolved
- Disruption to slave system might cut off vital supply of cotton to northern mills and thus bring unemployment

62 ☐ **XII. The Abolitionist Impact in the North (cont.)**

- Abolitionists often suffered violent attacks.
- They had influenced northern opinion by 1850s:
 - Many had come to see South as land of unfree and home of a hateful institution
 - Few prepared to abolish slavery outright, but growing number opposed extending it to western territories

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