

Red text = questions
Bold = main ideas
Highlight = significant ideas

- **Northern and Southern interests had developed differently**
 - North wanted high tariffs on imports to protect its infant industries
 - South favored free trade because they wanted to import British goods in exchange for cotton that they provided to Britain
- **In a last ditch effort to preserve slavery, eleven southern states seceded from the nation**
 - Abe Lincoln preserved the Union through Civil War

The Old South

- ❖ **What were the dominant industries and forms of agriculture in the Old South?**
- ❖ **How did the dependence upon agriculture and slavery shape southern society?**
- ❖ **How did the anti-slavery movement emerge, and what were the South's reactions to it?**
- **Myths and stereotypes of the south**
 - Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
 - portrayed planters as arrogant aristocrats who raped women and abused slaves
 - *Gone with the Wind*
 - Paternalistic societies, rural values of independence, Jeffersonian values
- **Distinction of the South rely on two lines of thought**
 - Impact of the environment
 - Warm climate ideal for cultivation of tobacco, cotton, rice, sugarcane
 - Plantation system and slavery
 - Effects of human decisions and actions
 - Sectional conflict over the extension of slavery

The Distinctiveness of the Old South

- **Distinctiveness arose primarily from slavery**
 - Racial unity bridged class divisions among whites
 - **Biracial influence**
- **High proportion of native-born Americans**
 - Immigrants were not drawn, shipping lines went mainly to northern ports
 - Immigrant-slave competition
 - **Christian orthodoxy after the Revolutionary War era**
 - Blacks found refuge in their own version of Christianity
- **Differences in architecture**
 - Penchant for fighting and the agrarian ideal

Staple Crops

- **Stereotypical Cotton Kingdom**
 - **Tobacco** was the first staple crop, cotton came after

- **Indigo** in South Carolina, **rice** in the coastal states,
- **Sugar required heavy capital investment—limited to the Deep South**
 - **Sugar needed prop of protective tariff—anomaly in southern politics**
 - **Hemp in Kentucky and Missouri had similar necessity**
- **Cotton essentially replaced other staple crops**
 - **Two factors accounted for dramatic growth of cotton market**
 - **Voracious market for American cotton in Britain and France**
 - **New lands in the Old Southwest (Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana)**
 - Migration to fertile black belts of Mississippi and Alabama

Agricultural Diversity

- **Corn, wheat, oats, rye, potatoes, livestock**
 - Plantations commonly raised livestock for consumption
- **Cash crops exhausted the soil**
 - Migration west toward more fertile soil
- **Southeast and Old Southwest faced economic crisis**
 - **Proposals to deal with crisis followed two lines:**
 - **Reform vs. economic diversification through commerce and industry**
 - **Edmund Ruffin** stands out as a reformer—studied chemistry of soils
 - *Essay on Calcareous Manures*: seashell deposit could re-fertilize drained soils

Manufacturing and Trade

- **Many thought that the south needed its own industry and trade**
 - Increasing dependence on north for shipping and imports
 - South was economically dependent
- **Dependence on North prompted interest in a more diversified economy**
 - Industry balanced by agriculture
 - Great resources: raw materials, labor, waterpower, wood, coal, markets
 - South still lagged despite emerging manufacturing—**Tredegar Iron Works**

Economic Development

- **Lag in southern industry development**
 - **Blacks were presumed unsuited** for factory work
 - Ruling elite of the Old South had developed **aristocratic disdain** for industrial production
 - Factory owners bought and hired blacks

White Society in the South

- **Short-term gains at the cost of long-term development**
 - Focus on agriculture hindered innovation
 - Isolation from the world
 - Decreasing demand for Southern cotton was devastating

Planters

- **Plantations set the tone of economic and social life**

- Plantation vs. farm
 - Plantation is larger, more slaves, separate control and supervision, grew staple crops for profit
 - Management and labor set the planter apart
- **4% of population own slaves, 25% of population benefit from slaves**
- **1 in 30 whites in the south were planters**
 - Privileged elite—class interests were interests of the entire South
 - Small farmers aspired to be planters
- **Planter life was not as good as it is portrayed**
 - Less leisure

The Plantation Mistress

- Seldom led a life of leisure
- Supervised domestic household
- Manage slaves
- Exemplars of Christian piety but male authority

The Middle Class

- **Overseers of plantations emerged from middle class**
- Highest management position a slave could aspire was that of a “driver”: director of other slaves
- **More numerous white southerners were small farmers (yeomen)**
 - Lived in cabins instead of mansions
 - Few slaves
 - Mobile folk
 - Independent and suspicious of government
 - **Identified with Democratic party and Protestantism**
 - **Supported slave system**

“Poor Whites”

- **Poor whites were limited to the worst land, fishing, hunting**
 - Lankness and sallowness
 - Descended from indentured servants or convicts
 - Infections and dietary deficiencies
 - **Lazy diseases: hookworm, malaria, pellagra**
 - **Dirt eaters**—urge to chew clay was fatal

Honor and Violence

- **Moral code flourished in hierarchical rural societies**
 - Loyalty to family, locality, sensitivity, deference of elders, hospitality
- **Hunting, riding, gambling, cockfighting—masculine camaraderie**
- Reckless manliness apparent in all classes
- Dueling

❖ **To what extent was Southern culture distinctive?**

❖ **What role did violence and honor play in the culture of the Old South?**

Black Society in the South

- In 1790 there were fewer than 700,000 enslaved blacks in the US
- By 1830 there were more than 2 million and by 1860 there were almost 4 million
- Slavery was largely an uncodified system of forced labor practiced in most New World colonies
 - Before revolution: Black slaves were treated like indentured servants
 - After revolution: slavery became highly regulated, limited to the South
- Slavery was the most important force shaping American history in the first half of the nineteenth century.

“Free Persons of Color”

- Free blacks were of uncertain status
 - Subject to racist legal restrictions
 - Freedom obtained in many ways:
 - Purchase freedom
 - Military service
 - Freed by masters
 - 26,000 free blacks in the slave states by 1860
- Large number of mulattoes among free blacks
 - 412,000 people of mixed parentage, 10% of black population
 - Black slaveholders were few in number—most in South

The Trade in Slaves

- Rise in the slave population occurred mainly through a natural increase
- Expansion of cotton economy kept slavery alive despite outlawed slave trade in 1808
 - End of foreign slave trade gave rise to flourishing domestic slave trade
 - Slave trade peaked just before 1837
 - Slaves moved south and west with planters
- Worst aspect was separation of children from parents and husbands from wives
 - Only Louisiana and Alabama forbade separating child under ten from his mother

Plantation Slavery

- Most slaves labored on plantations
 - Preferred jobs were as household servants, skilled workers, special assignments, field hands
 - Most planters only resorted to doctors mainly in cases of severe illness
 - High mortality rate among slave babies
- 50,000 slaves a year escaped to Mexico, northern states, or Canada

The Experience of Slave Women

- During colonial period, there were more female slaves than male slaves
- By mid-century, there was a balance
- Fertile female slaves were profitable: babies were sellable
 - Incentives to reproduce
 - Workload increased after age 40
- Threat of sexual abuse
 - Resistance

- Seduction of master
- **Women had fewer opportunities to escape slavery**
 - Lacked physical strength and endurance
 - Mother's responsibility to children
 - Feigned illness, hid, sabotaged food or crops, started fires

Celia

- Celia was purchased as a sexual slave by Newsom but secretly had affair with another slave, George
- Celia killed her owner, George accused Celia
 - **Celia was not allowed to testify at her trial because she was a slave**
 - **Public opinion justified that white rape of a slave was not a crime**
 - **Celia was hanged at 19 years-old**
- **Shows skewed power structure of the South**

Slave Rebellions

- **Organized slave resistance was rare due to white supremacy**
- 1800: Gabriel hatched plot to seize key points near Richmond and kill whites—failed
- 1822: Denmark Vesey plot in Charleston planned to assault whites, seize ships, burn city—failed
 - Anti-slave insurrection legislation tightened as a result
- 1831: **Nat Turner** insurrection in Southampton County professed divine mission
 - Most slaves retaliated by malingering and sabotaging
 - **Slaves and masters were mutually dependent**
 - **Restrictions tightened**

Forging a Slave Community

- **Slave culture incorporated many African elements, especially in areas with few whites**
- Elements of African culture survived, adapted, interacted with those of the other cultures

Slave Religion and Folklore

- **Most important manifestation of slave culture was dynamic religion**
 - Mixture of African and Christian elements
 - Concept of Creator, Jehovah, and lesser gods
 - Belief in spirits, magic, conjuring
- **Slaves found comfort in religion**
 - Hope of a better world
 - Slaveholders encouraged Christianity
 - Songs eased strain of labor
- **Worship in secret—"bush meetings"**
- Humor became means of psychological release
- African-American folklore tended to be realistic in its images of wish fulfillment and reflected weak triumphing over the strong

The Slave Family

- Marriages had no legal status but owner accepted
- Nuclear family was the norm—father was head

- Childhood was short—work assigned early
 - By age 10, full time field hands
 - Often sold to new masters
- ❖ **How common were slave rebellions in pre-Civil war America?**
- ❖ **What role did religion, folklore, and family life play in the lives of slaves?**

The Culture of the Southern Frontier

- **Old Southwest: Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida**
 - Settlers were lured from Virginia, Georgia, Carolinas
 - Migrants brought new culture

The Decision to Migrate

- **By the late 1820s the agricultural economy of the upper South was suffering from depressed prices and soil exhaustion**
 - Planters wanted to be “self-made men”
- **Women were underrepresented among migrants**
 - Few were interested in relocating
 - The new region did not offer them independence or adventure
 - Fear that life on the frontier would dissipate morals and family ties
- **Enslaved blacks felt the same way as women**
 - Feared harsh working conditions
 - Didn’t want to break family ties

The Journey and Settlement

- **Most migrants headed to Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee**
 - Parcels of land were purchased
 - Alabama’s fertile black belt was more expensive
 - Hot climate, contaminated water, poor sanitation, disease
 - Malaria
- Tents and rude cabins

A Masculine Culture

- **Frontier environment prompted sex roles**
 - Young men indulged in activities that would be disapproved of on the coast
 - Most Old Southwest plantations had their own whiskey manufacture
 - Violence was commonplace
 - White men took sexual advantage of women
 - Women were dependent on husbands, so they had to endure

Anti-Slavery Movements

Early Opposition to Slavery

- **First organized emancipation movement appeared with American Colonization Society in 1817**
 - **Proposed to return freed slaves to Africa**
 - Supporters: Madison, Monroe, Clay, Marshall, Webster
 - Some saw it as a way to bolster slavery while others saw it as a humanitarian effort
 - **Leaders of free black community denounced it**
 - They stressed that America was their native land
 - **Free slaves were deported to allocated land (Liberia) in Africa in 1822—uncertain purpose**
- African colonization movement received meager support from abolitionists and slavery supporters

From Gradualism to Abolitionism

- **Initial anti-slavery efforts: promoting probation of slavery in new western territories, encouraging manumission—gave way into abolitionism**
 - 1831: **William Garrison** wrote in *Liberator*—anti-slavery newspaper
 - Garrison: pacifist, but bellicose language
- **Southerners were outraged by *Liberator***
 - Blamed Garrison for Nat Turner rebellion
- **Garrison was most fervent foe to slavery**
 - **Established New England Anti-Slavery Society**
 - Arthur and Lewis Tappan founded **American Anti-Slavery Society**
 - Hoped to emulate Parliament's successful abolition of slavery
- **American Anti-Slavery Society sought to convince people that slavery was a crime against God**
 - Promoted **immediate abandonment** of slavery
 - Promoted racial equality in addition to emancipation
 - Propaganda was issued

A Split in the Movement, 1840

- **Debate over anti-slavery tactics**
 - **Garrisonians**, mainly New Englanders, were radicals who felt that American society had been corrupted from top to bottom and needed universal reform
 - Garrison embraced many reform movements, refused to vote, opposed Constitution
 - **Other reformers** saw American society as fundamentally sound and concentrated on purging of slavery
 - Showdown in 1840 over women's rights: women joined abolition movements
- **Grimké sisters brought issue of women's rights to center stage**
 - Joined anti-slavery organization under Theodore Weld
 - Set out speaking to audiences of women, and later, men and women
 - **Their behavior prompted Congregational clergy of Massachusetts to chastise sisters for engaging in unfeminine activity**
 - Chairman of Connecticut Anti-Slavery Society declared that no woman shall speak or vote
 - **Angelina Grimské opposed cult of domesticity—woman's right to have a voice in law**
- Garrisonians supported women's right to participate equally

- Contrary opinion from **Tappans' New York** group

Black Anti-Slavery Activity

- African-American leaders were active in white societies from the beginning
- Former slaves were primary agents of anti-slavery—spoke from experience
- **Fredrick Douglass**: best-known black man in America
 - *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass*
 - Bought his freedom—admirers in Britain
 - Started abolitionist newspaper for blacks: *North Star*
- Harriet Tubman: facilitated escape efforts
- **Sojourner Truth**: intersection of abolitionism and women's rights

Reactions to Abolition

- There were pro-slavery elements in the North too
- **1817**: mob in Illinois killed anti-slavery editor, Elijah Lovejoy—martyr for abolition and free press
- **1830s**: Congress was deluged with abolition petitions—voted to ignore them
 - Seen as violation of First Amendment, repealed in 1844
- **1840**: Abolitionist national convention in New York
 - Launched **Liberty Party**—James Birney nominated for president
 - Purely anti-slavery party

The Defense of Slavery

- **Growing hostility in the South**
 - Gradual emancipation was defeated in Virginia legislature
- Christian churches became pro-slavery in the South
 - Biblical passages cited slaveholding
 - **Split**: formation of Southern Baptist Convention and Methodist Episcopal Church
- **Racial inferiority of blacks**
- **Slavery was socially necessary**—Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia*
- **Slavery was profitable**
- **Blacks could not assimilate into free society**
- **White workers feared competition**
- **George Fitzhugh**: work argument (pg 562)

- ❖ **How did women's rights groups both help and hinder the abolitionist movement?**
- ❖ **What do you think were the South's two most effective arguments for slavery?**