

1790s-1830  
**The South and Slavery**

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- Focus Questions**
- How did the slave system dominate southern life?
  - What were the economic implications of "King Cotton"?
  - How did African Americans create communities under slavery?
  - What was the social structure of the white South?
  - Why was the white South increasingly defensive?

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## Natchez Under-the-Hill

- Natchez and Natchez Under-the-Hill were adjacent communities.
- Natchez was an elegant planter community.
- Natchez Under-the-Hill was a mixed community of rivermen, gamblers, Indians, and blacks that was a potential threat to racial control.
- Rumors of a slave-insurrection plot led the planters to drive the gamblers and other undesirables away.

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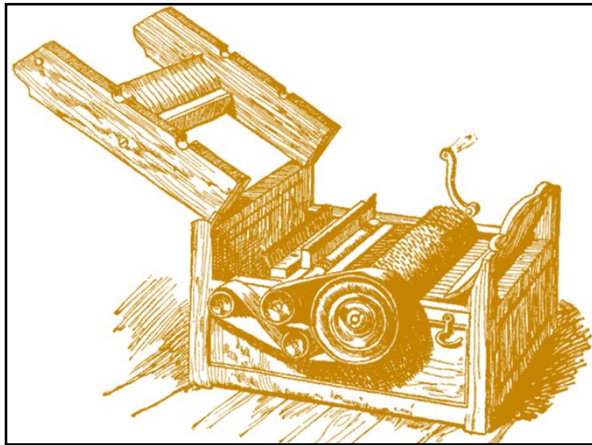
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### Changing Attitudes Toward Slavery

- The growth of the cotton economy committed the South to slavery.
- In other parts of the nation, attitudes toward slavery were changing.
- Congress banned the slave trade in 1808, so the South relied on natural increase and the internal slave trade.

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### The Internal Slave Trade



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**Sold "Down the River"**

- The opening of western lands contributed to the instability of slave life.
- Many slaves were separated from their families by sale or migration and faced new hardships in the West.

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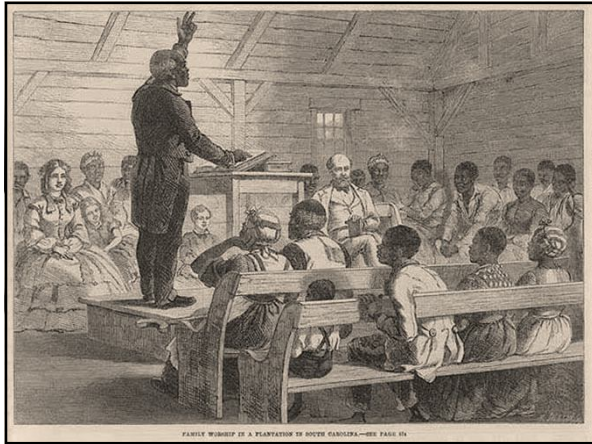
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### Free African Americans



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### The Middle Class

- A commercial middle class of merchants, bankers, factors, and lawyers:
  - sell southern crops on the world market;
  - lived in cities that acted as shipping centers for agricultural goods.

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### Yeomen



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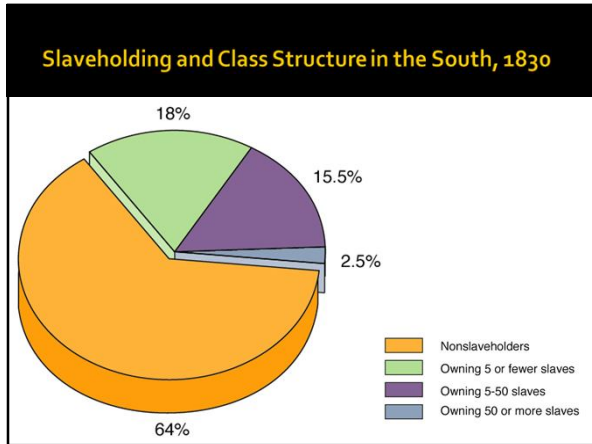
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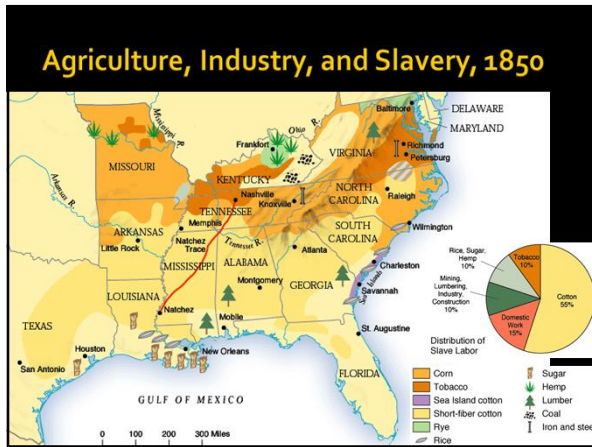
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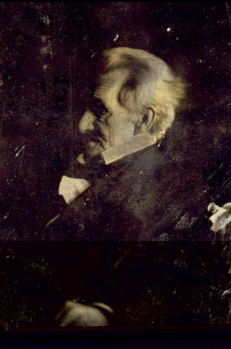
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### Small Slave Owners

- Most slaveholders owned only a few slaves.
- Bad crops or high prices
  - impacted income affected slave-holding status.
- Andrew Jackson used legal and political tools to rise in southern society.
- Began as landless prosecutor, died plantation owner with over 200 slaves.




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## Proslavery Arguments

- southern whites found justifications in the Bible or classical Greece and Rome;
- Constitution recognized slavery
  - property rights
- by the 1830s
  - slavery was good for the slaves.
- George Fitzhugh suggested that slavery was better for the worker than Northern factory work.

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## Southern Antislavery Arguments

- Despite efforts to stifle debate, some southern whites objected to slavery.
  - Growing cost of slaves meant that the percentage of slaveholders was declining and class divisions widening.

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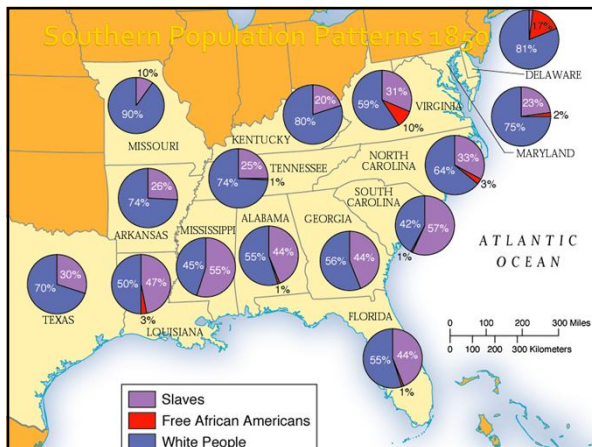
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