

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg  
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# The History of the United States from Independence to Secession, 1776-1860



# The Old South and Slavery

- ❑ The Cotton Kingdom and Slavery
- ❑ The Plantation System
- ❑ The Master–Slave Relationship
- ❑ Slavery and the Law
- ❑ The Non-slaveholders of the South

# The Centrality of Slavery



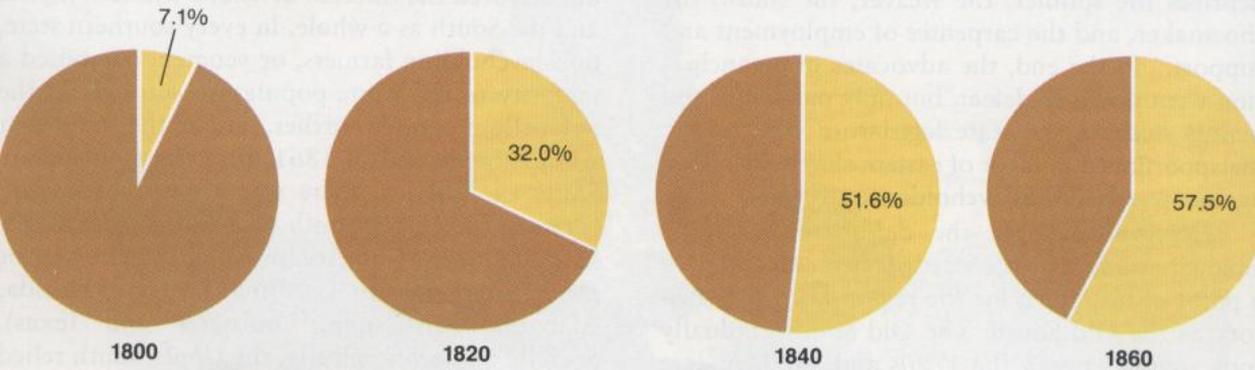
- “For most of its history the American colonies and then the United States was a society of slaves and slaveholders. From the first, slavery shaped the American economy, its politics, its culture, and its most deeply held beliefs.”

Ira Berlin, *Generations of Captivity*, 2003

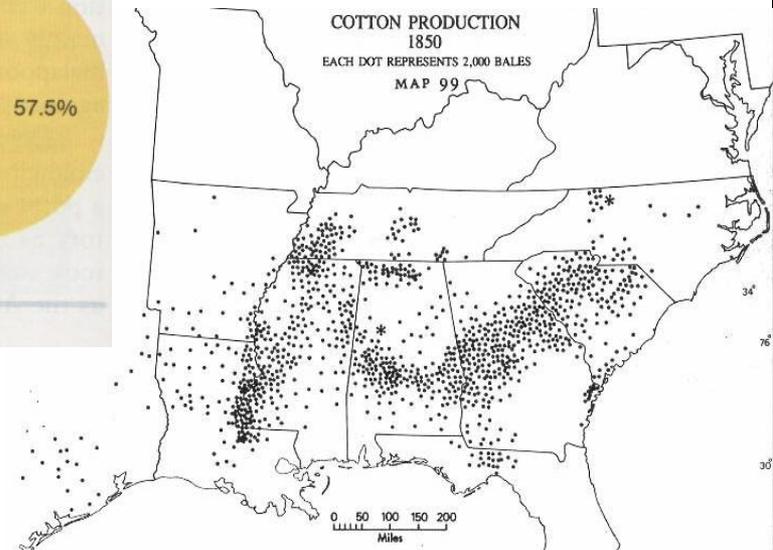


# King Cotton

Value of Cotton Exports as a Percentage of All U.S. Exports, 1800–1860



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



# Slave Auction

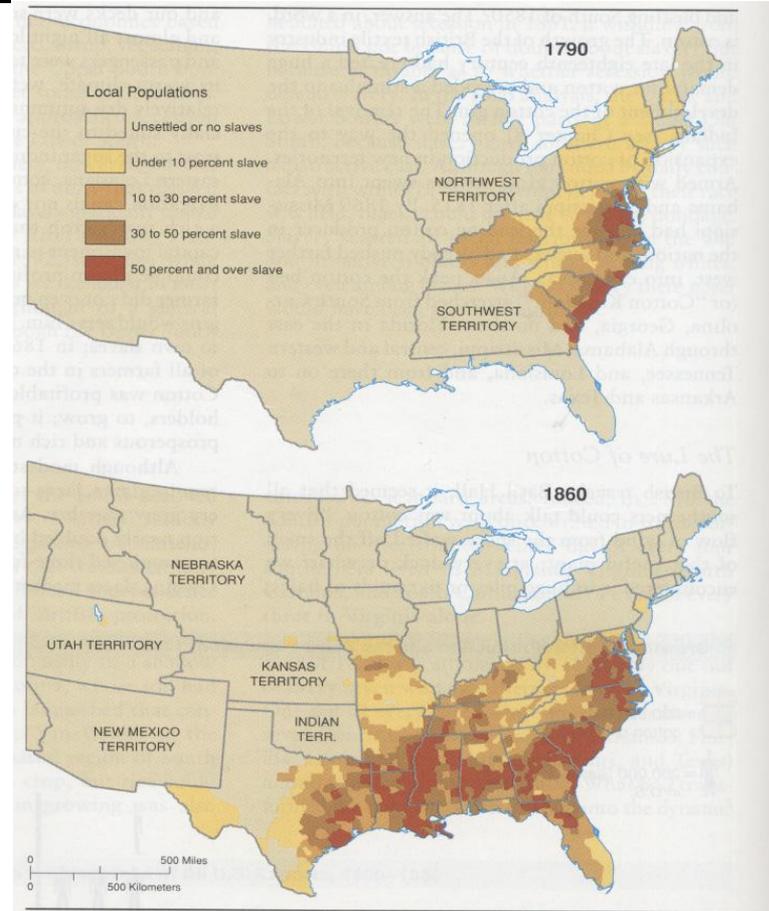




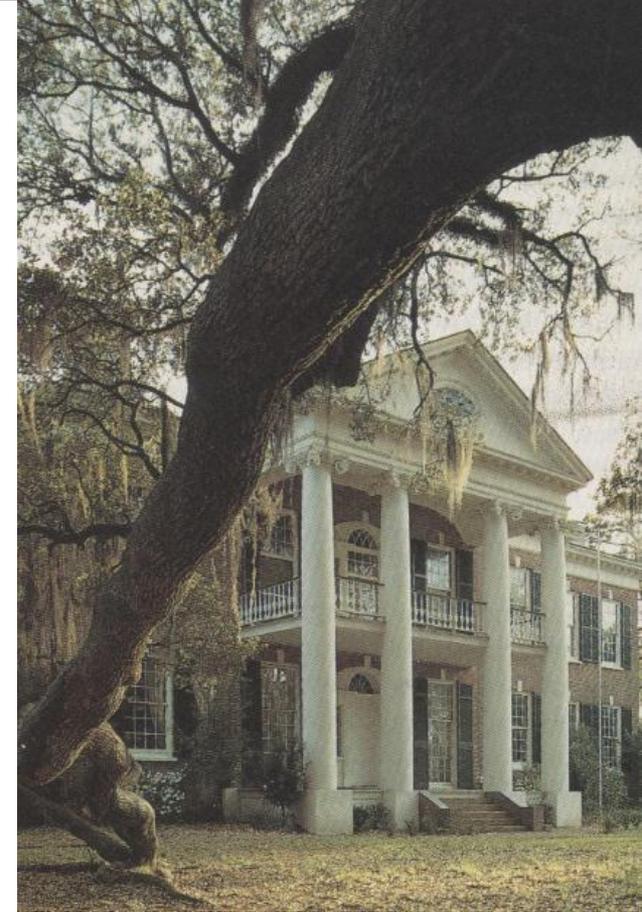
# Slave Population 1790-1860

SLAVE POPULATION AND DISTRIBUTION, 1790 and 1860

	1790		1860	
United States	697,897	(17.8%)	3,953,760	(12.6%)
North	40,370	(2.1%)	64†	(0.0%)
regional share	5.8%		0.0%	
South	657,527	(33.5%)	3,953,696	(32.1%)
regional share	94.2%		100.0%	
Upper South	521,169	(32.0%)	1,530,229	(22.1%)
regional share	74.7%		38.7%	
Deep South	136,358	(41.1%)	2,423,467	(44.8%)
regional share	19.5%		61.3%	



# The Southern Plantation





# Slave Holdings

- ❑ 25 percent of all slaves lived on small plantations (less than ten slaves)
- ❑ 50 percent lived on plantations with 10–50 slaves
- ❑ 25 percent lived on large plantations with more than fifty slaves
  
- ❑ Only 3 percent of all slaveholders owned more than fifty slaves!

# The Overseer

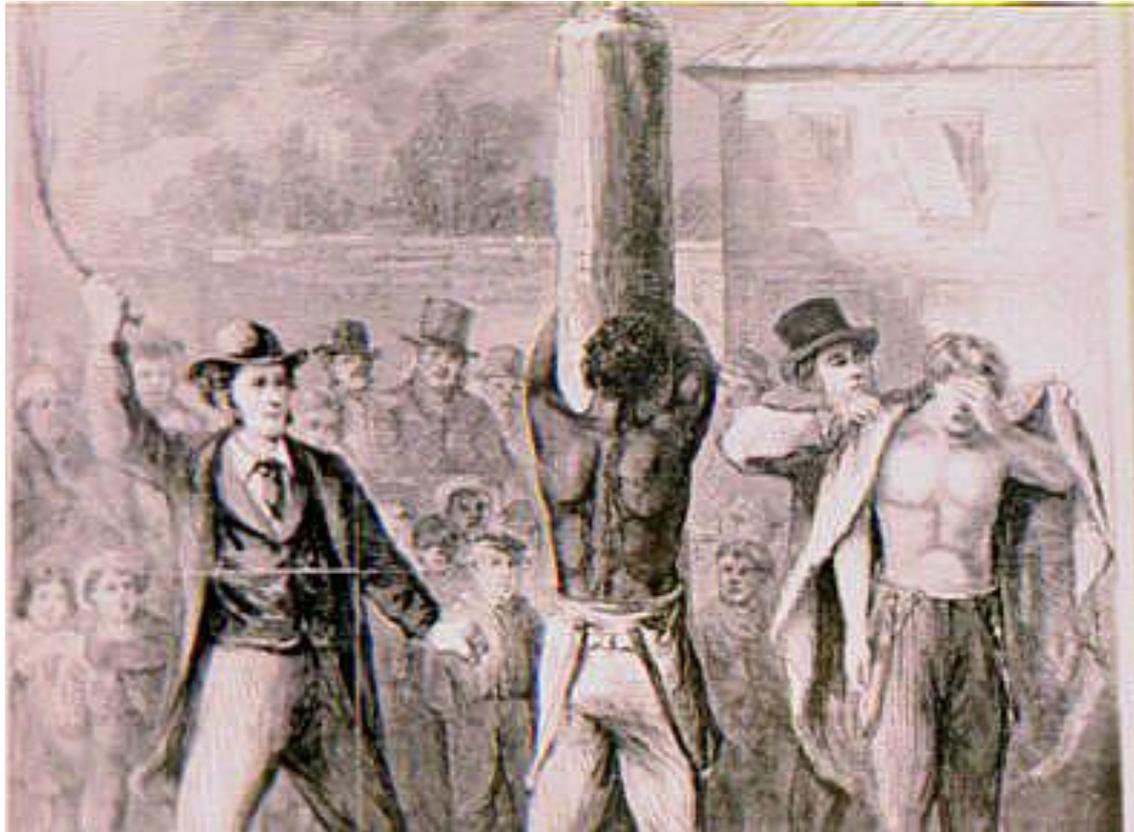




# Paternalism

- ❑ Slaves are viewed as members of an extended household with the master as the *pater familias*
- ❑ Mutual obligations of obedience and protection
- ❑ Slaves are seen as children
  
- ❑ “Organic Relationship” (Eugene Genovese)

# Punishment





# Sexual Slavery

- “Like the patriarchs of old our men live all in one house with their wives and concubines, and the mulattoes one sees in every family exactly resemble the white children.”

Mary Boykin Chestnut





# Persons or Property?

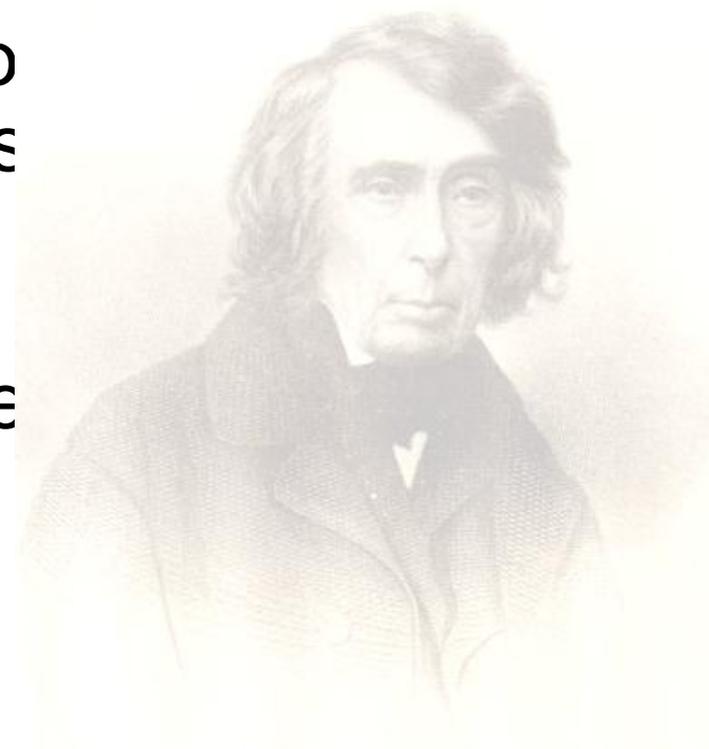
- “The slave is still a human being, and possesses all those rights of which he is not deprived by the positive provisions of the law.”  
Supreme Court of Miss.: *The State v. Jones* (1821)
- “The power of the master must be absolute to render the submission of the slave perfect.”  
Supreme Court of North Carolina: *The State v. Mann* (1829)



# United States v. Amy, 1859

- “The slave is a person and also property. As property, the rights of the owner are entitled to the protection of the law. As a person, he is bound to obey the law, and may, like any other person, be punished if he offends against it.”

Roger B. Taney





# Slaveholders and Non-slaveholders

- ❑ Large planters: Above 20 slaves
- ❑ Small slaveholders: fewer than 10 slaves
- ❑ Yeoman farmers
- ❑ Pine barren people
  
- ❑ Three-fourths of white Southerners did not own slaves!

# Southern Yeoman Farmers



# Why did Non-slaveholders Support Slavery?



- Regional Clustering in Piedmont and uphill regions
- Kinship with slaveholders
- Political influence
- Members of the ruling race
- Fear of race war and blacks as savages