Chapter 16
The South and the Slavery Controversy
1793–1860

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

- 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”

Cotton Production

The invention which changed the South, cotton and slavery.

1791: 4,000 bales of cotton are produced
1849: 2,246,900 bales of cotton are produced
6 cents a lb. to 14 cents in 1857

Expanded into Arkansas and Texas
Crop increase: 2,500,000 bales in 1850 to 5,300,000 in 1860
Crop Value: In 1800, $8 million; In 1860, $250 million
Tobacco by 1860: 200,000,000 lbs. to 430,000,000 lbs.
Trial of tears

- Total U.S. population was 3.5 million...
- 700,000 slaves in the U.S. at this time.
- Still bought slaves through the slave trade.

- Total U.S. population was 18 million
- 2 million slaves in the U.S. at this time.
- 1808, importation of slaves was illegal
- Slave trade within the U.S.
- Increase of slave population was from natural reproduction

33 million U.S. population, 4 million slaves in the South

Value of Cotton Exports As a Percentage of All U.S. Exports

By 1860 cotton accounted for more than half of all U.S. exports.
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

- 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

WHITE SOCIETY & CULTURE

Defense of Slavery & White Supremacy
- “necessary evil” → “positive good”
- Legal & constitutional
- History
- Religious
- Better than North – “wage slaves”
- Black Inferiority
- [Among Southerns] Elevated poor whites

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
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

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

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**Facts on Slavery**

- Conditions on a slave ship were horrible. This was called the Middle Passage.
- More slaves you had the greater social status
- 2/3’s of presidents since independence were slaveowners
- Majority of Supreme Court justices were from the South
- More millionaires in the South than the North
- 75% of the cotton harvest was done by plantations with 10 or more slaves.
- Slave population grew from natural reproduction
- There was a slave trade within the U.S.

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**Facts on Slavery**

- Slaves being sold at an auction was prevalent throughout the Southern U.S. right up to the Civil War.
- More political or civil rights to protect slaves
- U.S. was the largest slave institution in the world by 1860
- U.S. produced 7/8’s of world’s cotton supply
- Peculiar Institution, to own another human being is immoral.
- Cotton is King / King Cotton
- South was not willing to change
- Always felt isolated and threatened from the rest of the U.S.
Chart/Total slaves

Chart/Life expectancy

Paths of the Internal Slave Trade

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.

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

% of Southern white families owning slaves in 1860

About 1,150,000 Southern white families owned no slaves — 75%
About 285,000 Southern white families owned 1 slave or more — 25%
• Statistically only 25% of Southern families owned slaves
  • 384,000 Southern families owned 1 or more slaves.
  • 75% of Southern families did not own slaves.

Out of the 25% of slave owners, here is the breakdown of the number of slaves:
• 75% owned 1 to 9 slaves.
• 22% owned 10 to 49 slaves.
• 3% owned 50 or more slaves.

Beneath slave owners was the 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

Federal
• Southern society was similar to a Feudal system that existed in Europe during the Dark and Middle Ages...
  – Manorial System
  – Caste system and difficult to move up the social ladder.
  – Based on white supremacy and the slave was inferior.

• Southern society was similar to a Feudal system that existed in Europe during the Dark and Middle Ages...

SOUTHERN SOCIETY (1850)

- Slavocracy (plantation owners, small slave owners)
- The "Plain Folk" (white yeoman farmers, tenant farmers, sandhillers, hill people)
- Black Freedmen: 250,000
- Black Slaves: 3,200,000

Total US Population → 23,000,000
[9,450,000 in the South = 40%]
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

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

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

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

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
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

- 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
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

(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

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

SLAVERY & SLAVE CULTURE

4. Slave Life & Culture
  – Black Christianity [Baptists or Methodists]:
    • more emotional worship services; negro spirituals.
  – Nuclear family with extended kin links, where possible.
  – Importance of music in their lives. [esp.spirituals].
  – Slave codes
  – Resistance
    • Nat Turner
    • “Sambo”
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.
**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”
    - Pillared other goods
    - Sabotaged expensive equipment

**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

**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

**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

- Fugitive Slave Law was made law at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 as a compromise between the North/South.
- Any escaped slaves captured in the North or free state had to be returned to their plantation owner.
- Unpopular in the North and led to the creation of the *Underground Railroad*.
- Southerners became bitter towards the North because they refused to enforce it.

**Abolitionist Arguments**

- Abolitionists believed slavery was immoral... *Peculiar institution* or it is odd, strange or weird to own another human being.
- Abolitionists argued slavery was immoral because it violated the ideals that this country was founded on.
- All men are created equal (DOI)
- If the U.S. was to succeed as a democratic society, slavery had to be abolished.
Abolitionist Movement

- 1816 --> American Colonization Society created (gradual, voluntary emancipation.

Abolitionist Movement

- Create a free slave state in Liberia, West Africa.
- No real anti-slavery sentiment in the North in the 1820s & 1830s.

Abolitionism

- Free blacks, such as Frederick Douglass, who had escaped from slavery in Maryland, also joined the abolitionist movement.
- To abolitionists, slavery was a moral, not an economic question.
- But most of all, abolitionists denounced slavery as contrary to Christian teaching.
- 1845 --> The Narrative of the Life Of Frederick Douglass
- 1847 --> “The North Star”

Abolitionists

- Escaped slave in 1838
  - Mother was a slave and father was white
  - Great speaker against slavery
  - Bought his freedom for $600.00
  - Wrote his autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
  - Editor of the North Star—Abolitionist paper
  - Friends with Garrison
  - Organized the 54th Black Regiment of Mass

After hearing Frederick Douglass speak in Bristol, England, in 1846, Mary A. Estlin wrote to an American abolitionist:

“There is but one opinion of him. Wherever he goes he arouses sympathy in your cause and love for himself.....Our expectations were highly roused by his narrative, his printed speeches, and the eulogisms of the friends with whom he has been staying: but he far exceeds the picture we had formed both in outward graces, intellectual power and culture and eloquence.”

Abolitionists

- Harriet Tubman, Moses of her people.
- Led over 300 escaped slaves out of the South during the 1850’s.
- $40,000 bounty was placed on her head
- Conductor of the Underground Railroad
- Supplied money from abolitionists.
Black Abolitionists

David Walker (1785-1830)

1829 --> Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World

Fight for freedom rather than wait to be set free by whites.

Sojourner Truth (1787-1883)

1850 --> The Narrative of Sojourner Truth

Sojourner Truth, or Isabella Baumfree

1850 --

The Narrative of Sojourner Truth

In the closing scenes of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel, Uncle Tom’s brutal master, Simon Legree, orders the $1200.00 slave savagely beaten (to death) by two fellow slaves. Through tears and blood Tom exclaims,

“No! no! no! my soul ain’t yours Mas’r! You haven’t bought it----ye can’t buy it! It’s been bought and paid for by One that is able to keep it. No matter, no mater, you can’t harm me!”

“I can’t” said Legree, with a sneer; “we’ll see----we’ll see! Here, Sambo, Quimbo, give this dog such a breakin’ in as he won’t get over this month!”

Uncle Tom’s Cabin

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Harriet Beecher Stowe

Abolitionist, authored the book

Uncle Tom’s Cabin

• Book was used as propaganda to show the inhumanity of slavery.
• Southerners were enraged by this book and called it “lies”.

Anti-Slavery Alphabet

The Tree of Slavery—Loaded with the Sum of All Villanies!
The Underground Railroad existed as early as 1786. It was started by the Quakers and spread through most of the North by 1830.

One estimate places the number of African Americans who escaped through the Underground Railroad between 1830 and 1860 at 50,000.

- **Underground Railroad** provided food, shelter, and hiding places to runaway slaves as they escaped to Canada.
- **Violated the Fugitive Slave Law**

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The Underground Railroad

- **"Conductor"** ==== leader of the escape
- **"Passengers"** ==== escaping slaves
- **"Tracks"** ==== routes
- **"Trains"** ==== farm wagons transporting the escaping slaves
- **"Depots"** ==== safe houses to rest/sleep

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The **Gag rule** was passed in Congress which nothing concerning slavery could be discussed.
- Under the **gag rule**, anti-slavery petitions were not read on the floor of Congress.
- The rule was renewed in each Congress between 1837 and 1839.
- In 1840 the House passed an even stricter rule, which refused to accept all anti-slavery petition. On December 3, 1844, the gag rule was repealed.

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**SLAVE CODES AND LAWS**

Slave Revolts would lead plantation owners to develop a series of **slave laws/codes** which restricted the movement of the slaves.

- Slaves were not taught to read or write
- Restricted to the plantation
- Slaves could not congregate after dark
- Slaves could not possess any type of firearm
- A larger slave plantation than white in some states

Slave owners wanted to keep their slaves ignorant of the outside world because learning about life beyond the plantation could lead to more slave revolts and wanting to escape.
SLAVE CODES OR LAWS
Slave Codes of the State of Georgia, 1848

SEC. I. CAPITAL OFFENSES.

1. Capital crimes when punished with death.
The following shall be considered as capital offences, when committed by a slave or free person of color: insurrection, or an attempt to excite it; committing a rape, or attempting it on a free white female; murder of a free white person, or murder of a slave or free person of color, or poisoning of a human being; every and each of these offences shall, on conviction, be punished with death.

SLAVE LAWS
Georgia Slave Code, 1848

2. Punishment of free persons of color for encouraging slaves.
If any free person of color commits the offence of encouraging or enticing away any slave or slaves, for the purpose of, and with the intention to aid and assist such slave or slaves leaving the service of his or their owner or owners, or in going to another state, such person so offending shall, for each and every such offence, on conviction, be confined in the penitentiary at hard labor for one year.

3. Punishment for teaching slaves or free persons of color to read.
If any slave, Negro, or free person of color, or any white person, shall teach any other slave, Negro, or free person of color, to read or write either written or printed characters, the said free person of color or slave shall be punished by fine and whipping, or fine or whipping, at the discretion of the court.

ARGUMENTS FOR SLAVERY

- Economically profitable
- Slavery was in the Bible
- Duty of Southerners to Christianize the slaves, Positive Good
- Provided a better life for slaves than in Africa, Positive Good
- 5th Amendment legalized and protected slavery because slaves were considered property.

*Gag rule* was passed in Congress which nothing concerning slavery could be discussed.
*Under the gag rule, anti-slavery petitions were not read on the floor of Congress*
*The rule was renewed in each Congress between 1837 and 1839.*
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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

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

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

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*
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

Through his newspaper, The Liberator, William Lloyd Garrison spoke out against slavery and for the rights of black Americans for 35 years. The tone of the paper was established in the first issue of the paper with Garrison’s editorial entitled, “To the Public,”

"On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. No! no! Tell a man whose house is on fire, to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hand of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen; -- but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am in earnest -- I will not equivocate -- I will not excuse -- I will not retreat a single inch -- AND I WILL BE HEARD”.

Abolitionism

- William Lloyd Garrison, publisher of the The Liberator, first appeared in 1831 and sent shock waves across the entire country
  - He repudiated gradual emancipation and embraced immediate end to slavery at once
  - He advocated racial equality and argued that slaveholders should not be compensated for freeing slaves.

The Liberator

Premiere issue ➔ January 1, 1831
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

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

X. Radical Abolitionism (cont.)

- Comparison of Garrison and Douglass:
  - Garrison:
    - Stubbornly principled
    - More interested in his own righteousness than in substance of slavery itself

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

- 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.
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

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

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

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
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

- 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
### CHRONOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1765</td>
<td>William Penn's colonial policies stimulate southern economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1786</td>
<td>Early slave rebellion in Virginia</td>
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<td>1787</td>
<td>Boston sheet factories open</td>
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<td>1788</td>
<td>Congress confirms slave trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>1789</td>
<td>Royal Navy secures West Africa drainage</td>
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<td>1797</td>
<td>American Colonization Society founded</td>
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<td>1824</td>
<td>Missouri Compromise</td>
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<td>1825</td>
<td>Anti-slavery movement in Charleston, South Carolina</td>
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<td>1826</td>
<td>Republic of Liberia established in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>1827</td>
<td>School publishes Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World</td>
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<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>Nat Turner slave rebellion in Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1831-1832</td>
<td>Virginia legislature debates slavery and colonization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1832</td>
<td>abolition society in West Indies</td>
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<tr>
<td>1838</td>
<td>American Anti-Slavery Society founded</td>
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<tr>
<td>1839</td>
<td>Abolitionists students expelled from Lane Theological Seminary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>U.S. Post Office orders destruction of abolitionist mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>“Broadside Method” attacks Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>House of Representatives passes “Dug Revolutionary”</td>
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<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>Mark Fisk establishes Lawsuit in Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Ward publishes American Slavery as F In</td>
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<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Foreign publishers Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Free soil party organized</td>
</tr>
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