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
 - · Northern shippers reaped large profits from cotton
 - 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

I. "Cotton is King!"

- · Cotton export earnings provided capital for Republic's economic growth
- · South produced more than half of world's supply of
- · 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"

COLLON PRODUCTION



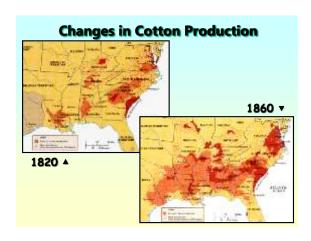


1791: 4,000 bales of cotton are produced 1849: 2, 246, 900 bales of cotton are produced 6 cents a lb. to 14 cents in 1857

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.





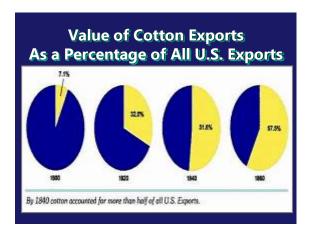














II. The Planter "Aristocracy"

- · 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

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

WHITE SOCIETY & CULTURE

Defense of Slavery & White Supremacy

- "necessary evil" → "positive good"
- Legal & constitutional
- History
- Religious
- Better than North "wage slaves"
- Black Inferiority
- [Among Southerners] 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

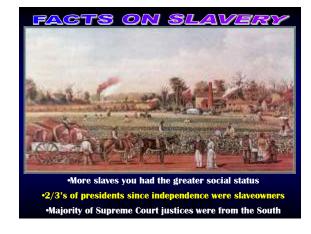
III. Slaves of the Slave System

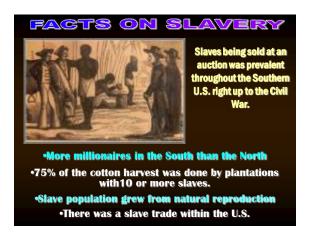
- · Plantation life:
 - Plantation agriculture worrisome, distasteful, and sordid because despoiled good earth
 - Quick profit led to excessive cultivation or "land butchery"
 - · Caused population to leave for West and Northwest
 - Economic structure of South became increasingly monopolistic:
 - Big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

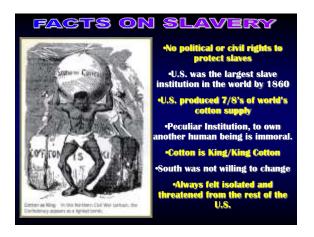
III. Slaves of the Slave System (cont.)

- 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

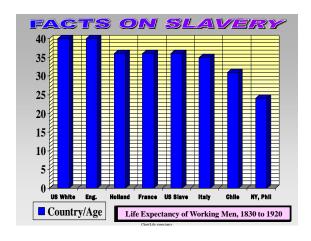








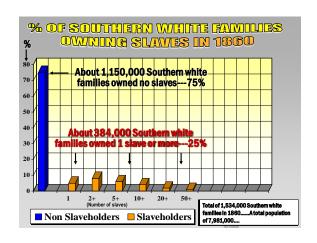
Year ^P	Total of Blacks in U.S. Population	Total of Free Blacks in U.S. Population	Percent of Free Blacks in Total Black Population	Percent of Slaves in the Total Black Population
1790	757.200	59,527	7.9%	92 1%
1800	1,002,037	108,435	10.8	89.2
1810	1.377,808	186,446	13.5	86.5
1820	1,771.656	233.634	13.2	86.0
1830	2,328,642	319,599	13.7	96.3
1840	2,873,648	386 293	13.4	86.6
1850	3,638,808	434,495	11.9	88.1
1860	4,441,830	488,070	11.0	89.0

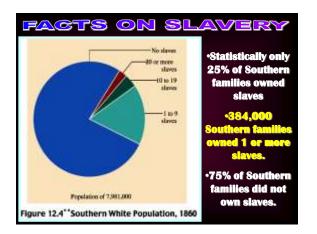


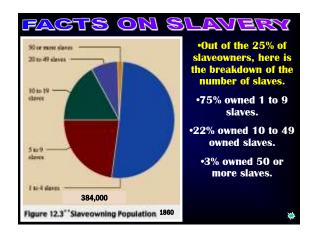


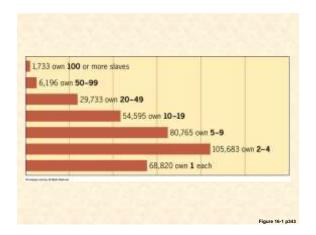


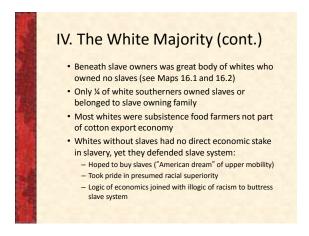
IV. The White Majority • Southern life: - Only handful of southern whites lived in Grecianpillared mansions • Only 1,733 families owned a hundred or more slaves (see Figure 16.1) • Most slave owners had fewer than ten slaves • Smaller slave owners didn't own majority of slaves, but were majority of masters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

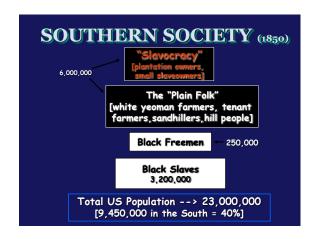


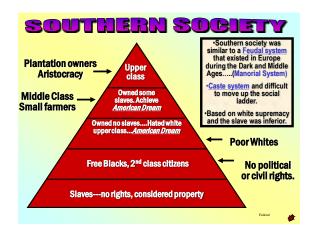












WHITE SOCIETY & CULTURE

• Why did many Southerners support the slave system when 75% didn't own slaves?







Plantation House, St. Mary's, MD (1830s)

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.)

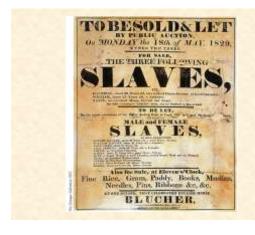
- Planters regarded slaves as investments:
 - Worth \$2 billion in capital by 1860
 - Slaves were primary form of wealth in South:
 - · Cared for as any asset is cared for by prudent capitalist
 - Sometimes spared dangerous work
 - Slavery was profitable, even though it hobbled economic development of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

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









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"













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



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

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

fucitive slave law

CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE

OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,

Tou are herely respectfully CAPTIONED and
advised, to avoid currerstong with the

Watchmen and Police Officers
of Boston,

For ALL DEL PERON OF THE NATION AND ALL DEL PERON

KIDN APPERS

Stave Catchers,
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BLAYEN CONTROL

BLA

Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have •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.

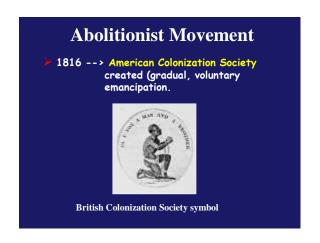
•All men are created equal (DOI)

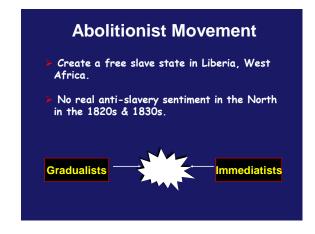
•If the U.S. was to succeed as a democratic society, slavery had to be abolished

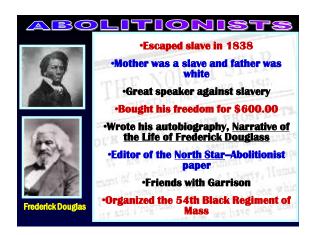


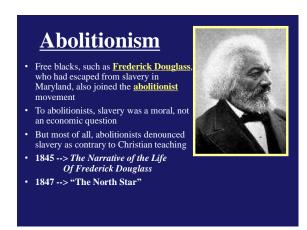








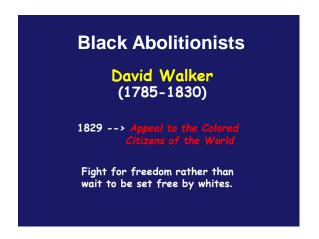




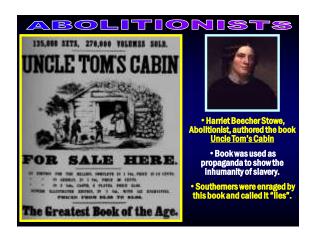


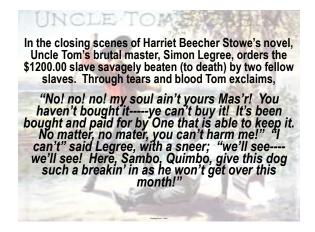
eulogisms of the friends with whom he has been staying: but he far exceeds the picture we had formed both in outward graces, intellectual power and culture and eloquence."

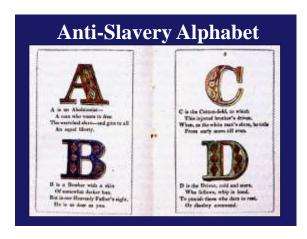


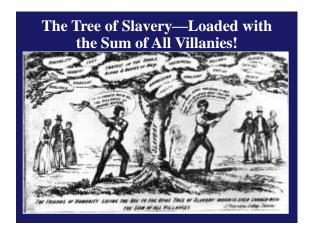












The Underground Railroad existed as early as 1786. It was started by the Quakers and spread through most of the North by 1830.

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

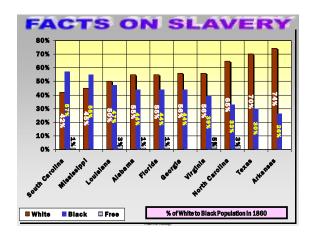
*Violated the Fugitive Slave Law



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



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 GODES 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.

SLAVE LAWS

Georgia Slave Code, 1848

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.





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.)

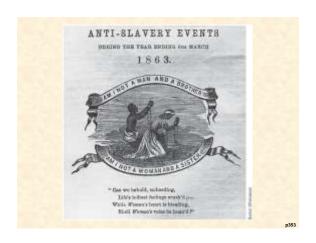
- Weld (cont.):

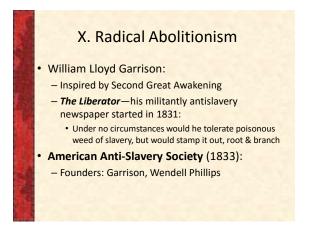
- Assembled potent propaganda pamphlet, American Slavery as It Is (1839)
- Compelling arguments made it among most effective abolitionist tracts and greatly influenced Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

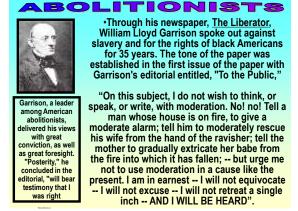


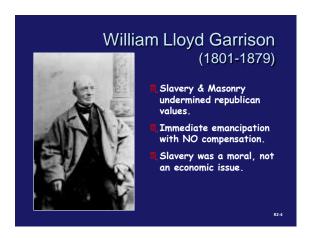


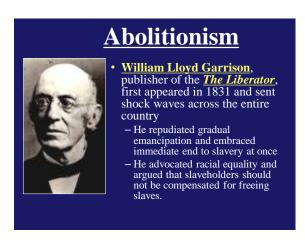
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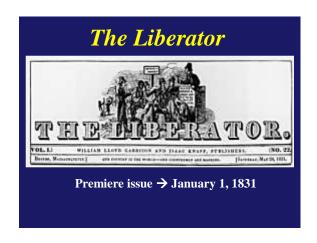












X. Radical Abolitionism (cont.)

- · 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.)

- 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

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.

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





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

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





