

The South and the Slavery Controversy

Context

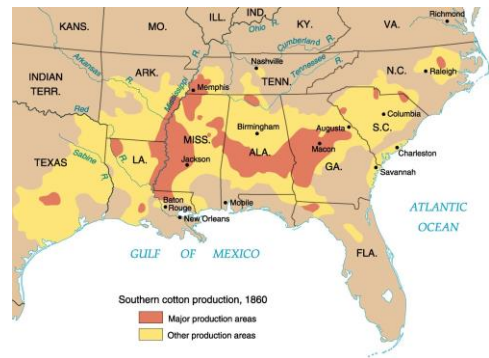
- Pre 1793- slavery is dying business b/c of ...
 - Cotton Problems
 - depressed prices
 - no markets
 - soil exhaustion

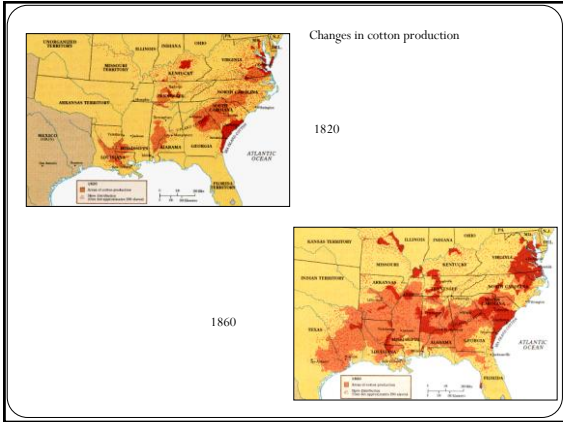


- 1793- cotton gin (Whitney)
 - profitable and easier
 - more land, slaves



- South = 1/2 of world supply of cotton
- made other countries dependent (England)
- felt England would support South in war

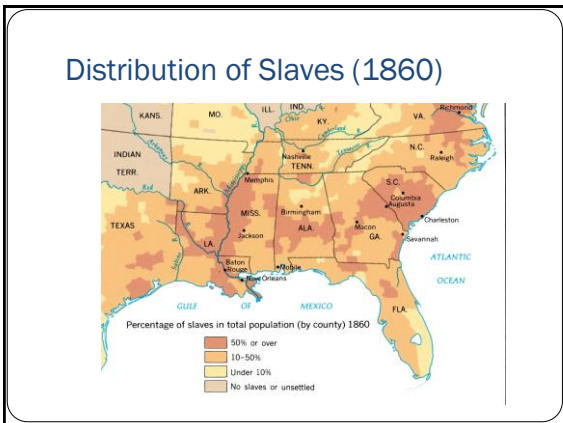
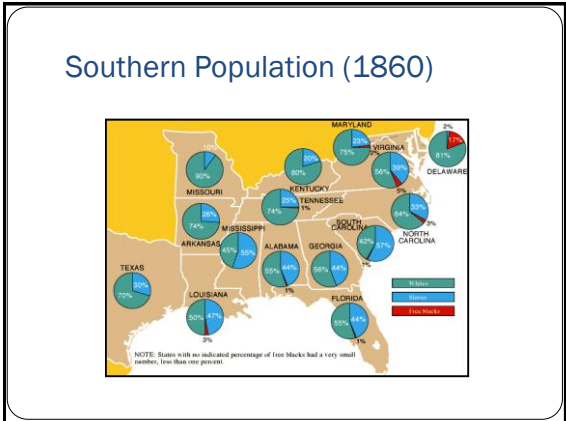




Plantation Slavery

Overall Characteristics

- 1860- 4 million slaves in plantation South
- natural reproduction
- planter investment = \$2 billion
- investment = safe jobs



- Slave Auctions
- inspection
- separation of families

Work Conditions

- 15-16 hrs a day
- ½ on Saturday, off on Sunday

Work Roles

- field work
- butlers, drivers, mechanics, craftsmen
- women – seamstress, cooks, maids



Work Organization

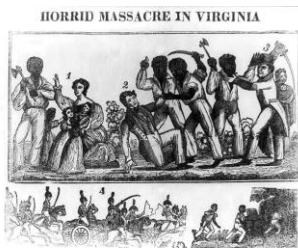
- gang system
 - white or black overseer
 - supervised 20-25 adults
 - widely used on cotton plantations
- task system
 - specific daily assignments for each slave
 - work at own pace, little supervision required
 - most common on rice plantations

Slave Resistance

- Making life bearable
 - work slowly
 - stole food
 - sabotage equipment



- Nat Turner Rebellion (1831)



- “Confessions”



- Reasons for few slave rebellions
 - white presence
 - guns and soldiers
 - no allies