

Chapter 15

I. The Old South

- A. Southern mythology
 - 1. Some truth in myths: planters raped slave women; paternalistic; aristocracy
- B. Explanations of distinctiveness
 - 1. Geography and weather
 - a. Promoted plantation agriculture → labor intensive
 - 2. Human factors
 - a. Biracial population
 - b. Conscious and defensive minority
 - i. White population defensive of slavery towards north
 - c. Farming
 - d. Belief in distinctiveness
- C. Agriculture
 - 1. Staple crops
 - a. Tobacco (VA & MD → KT & MO), indigo (SC but vanishes with British), rice (NC & Georgia), sugar (Deep south), and hemp
 - b. Cotton
 - i. Huge demand
 - I. British & French textiles
 - II. New lands in Southwest
 - 2. Self-sufficient general farming
 - a. Slaves states produced $\frac{1}{2}$ corn, $\frac{1}{3}$ wheat, $\frac{1}{5}$ oats, $\frac{1}{5}$ rye, $\frac{1}{10}$ white potatoes & almost all sweet potatoes
 - b. Upper south practiced farming like northwest
 - c. South had $\frac{1}{2}$ nation's cattle
 - 3. Economic worries
 - a. Soil exhaustion by staple crops; could not compete with new land in west
 - i. **Edmund Ruffin** (VA) proposed chemical modification of soil
 - b. Agricultural diversification as a possible solution
- D. Manufacturing and trade
 - 1. Decline in manufacturing b/c expansion of cotton
 - 2. Calls for diversification
 - a. Dependent on north to sell all raw materials & to get needed finished products
 - 3. Tredegar Iron Works – most important manufacturing in Old South
 - 4. Example of **Daniel Pratt**
 - a. Gristmill, shingle mill, carriage factory, Foundries, tin mill, blacksmith shop
 - b. Iron business & coal mining
 - 5. Explanations for lack of development
 - a. Blacks presumed unsuited to factory work
 - b. Ruling elite had contempt for industrial production
 - c. Slaves & cotton land more profitable investments at the time

II. White society in the South

- A. Plantations
 - 1. Defined – larger than farm, large labor force, staple crops
 - 2. The planter

- a. Few owned more than 500 slaves (11 in 1860)
 - b. <4% of white males owned >1/2 the slaves
 - c. Splendor of ledged (often, not always): wealth, arts of hospitality, good manners, learning, politics
3. The plantation mistress
 - a. Supervisor of domestic slaves: responsible for domestic slaves, food, linens, housecleaning, the sick, etc.
 - b. Sexual double standard – women expected to be modest vs. men could rape slaves
 4. Overseers – generally middle class or sons of planters; generally didn't care about plantation or slaves, just about the quantity of crop
- B. The middle class
1. Largest group: Small farmers (**yeomen**); 2 room cabins
 2. Land ownership: mountain valleys, Shenandoah of VA → N. Alabama; most <100 acres
- C. Poor whites
1. Characteristics – least desirable land, lankness, sallowness, hunting, fishing, hound dogs, moonshine whiskey
 2. Health – caused by dietary deficiencies → hookworm, malaria, pellagra
 - a. Many had a desire to chew clay b/c lacked mineral; 1900 med. Cured them
- D. Culture of honor and violence
1. Code of honors
 - a. Origins among Germans and Celts
 - i. Protestant religion, classical philosophy, medieval chivalry; dependent on hierarchical social system
 - b. Components
 - i. Loyalty to family, state, region; respect to elders & social elite; hospitality; defense of female purity; personal insults → HUGE DEALS
 2. Role of southern "lady" – subjects of male rule; ruled household but submitted to male
 3. Outlets in popular rituals
 - a. Manliness – hunting, horse riding, gambling (no cards, dice, races, cockfights)
 - b. Duels – more common in south
 - i. Anti-Dueling societies try to stop it

III. African Americans in the Old South

- A. Free persons of color
1. Legal status – between slavery & freedom; possible to purchase freedom
 2. Mulattos – mixed white & black
 - a. Rich mulattos: **Jehu Jones, Cyprien Ricard, William Johnson, William Ellison** (richest free black in S.C.)
 3. Slaveholders – minority, 2% of free blacks owned slaves; generally bought family member slaves to free them
- B. Slaves
1. Slave trade
 - a. # of slaves: 698,000 (1790) → 4 mil (1860)
 - b. End of African slave trade (1808)
 - c. Domestic trade – value increased after African slave trade outlawed
 2. Plantation slavery
 - a. Conditions
 - i. Value of slaves ↑, wage laborers used for dangerous

- ii. Treated like good animals; clothes 2x/year; shoes 1x/year
 - iii. > ½ babies died within 1 year
 - b. Discipline – good owner: didn't whip too much; bad owner: whipped till slave is bloody & blistered
 - c. Insurrections
 - i. **Denmark Vesey** plot in Charleston (1822)
 - I. Plan of free back to assault white population, seize ships, burn city, go to Santo Domingo; 35 executed, 34 deported
 - ii. **Nat Turner**
 - I. Divine mission to lead slave rebellion; killed master's family & neighbors; 55 whites killed, militia killed random blacks; 17 slaves hanged
 - d. Malingering and sabotage – ways of little rebellions, constant resistance
 - C. Slave women
 - 1. Value for reproduction – children could be sold off
 - a. Incentives to be pregnant
 - 2. Expected to do a man's work
 - 3. Threat of sexual abuse; white master/overseer could rape them or male slave forced to rape her so she would be pregnant
 - 4. Opportunity for escape – smaller than for males b/c lacked stamina
 - D. The slave community
 - 1. Diversity
 - 2. Cohesion and pride
 - E. Slave religion and folklore
 - 1. African and Christian elements
 - a. Africans already had idea of Supreme God; they could recognize Jehovah; link between old & new religions
 - b. Most retained belief in spirits & magic
 - 2. Use of religion as an instrument of white control and black refuge
 - a. White control: preachers talked about how it was necessary to obey masters
 - b. Refuge: singing provided release; promise of salvation;
 - 3. The uses of folklore – release, motivation; generally how the weaker outwitted the stronger
 - F. The slave family
 - 1. No legal status; owners accepted b/c stability
 - 2. Father the head of the family
 - 3. Children expected to grow up fast & work like adults; often sold off
 - 4. Families split up
- IV. The Old Southwest
- A. Description: Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, TX, Arkansas; Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida
 - B. Migration
 - 1. Reasons to move – fertile soil; start new life; economic opportunity; blah blah blah
 - 2. Women underrepresented – not interested in disease, violence, or primitive territory; no independence or adventure
 - 3. Reactions of slaves – harsh working conditions, heat & humidity; split of families
 - 4. Nature of journey – avg. 500 mi; death common
 - C. Masculine culture – drinking, gambling, fighting, sex; beating of wives
 - D. Example of **Celia**

1. **Robert Newsom** bought her as a sex slave; she killed him b/c after 5 yrs. She had enough when he tried to rape her again; jury said she was guilty of murder → hanged
2. Defense against sexual assault not extended to slaves

V. Antislavery movements

A. Early opponents of slavery

1. Few white southerners
2. **American Colonization Society** (1817) – tried to send slaves back to colony in Africa (now Liberia)
 - a. Anti-slavery group OR way to get rid of troublesome free blacks (proslavery)

B. Movement toward abolitionism

1. From gradualism to abolitionism by 1830 – demands for immediate change
2. **William Lloyd Garrison** – editor of anti-slavery news paper *The Liberator* (1831)
3. **New England Anti-Slavery Society** (1832) – founded by Garrison & followers
4. **American Anti-Slavery Society** (1832) – founded by **Arthur & Lewis Tappan**
 - a. Slaveholding is a crime & blacks are = to whites

C. Splits in abolitionism

1. Radical (**Garrison**) - America has been corrupted & need complete reform
2. Reformers – America is okay, just needs to get rid of slavery
3. Role of women
 - a. **Sarah & Angelina Grimké** – Connecticut Anti-Slavery Society wouldn't let them speak b/c women
 - b. Garrisonians thought men = women
 - c. Tappans' New Yorkers were anti-feminine

D. Black abolitionists

1. Critical of white antislavery efforts b/c expected them to not participate in efforts
2. Garrison said best qualified to speak to public: **Frederick Douglass** (escapee, wrote *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845), went to England to avoid capture, bought his freedom), **Henry Bibb**, **William Wells Brown**
3. Sojourner Truth – message from god: preach sins of slavery

E. Reaction to antislavery agitation

1. Hostile crowds disliked blacks or antislavery was bad for business
 - a. Killed antislavery editor **Elijah P. Lovejoy** (martyr)
2. "Gag rule" in Congress (1836)
 - a. Abolition petitions automatically tabled & ignored
 - b. Adams fought it as a 1st amendment violation; repealed in 1844
3. Development of Liberty party w/ James G. Birney; abolitionist party
4. Defenses of slavery
 - a. Role of churches
 - i. Slavery present in Old Testament; St. Paul told servants to obey masters; Jesus remained silent on topic of slavery
 - b. Inferiority of blacks
 - c. Practical considerations
 - i. Slavery profitable; southern necessity;
 - d. Compared to northern industry
 - i. Slavery guaranteed work & protection in old age vs. wage workers could be homeless &