

Antebellum South

Film Clip:

Artwork:

Songs:

TIMELINE:

1640-1860	Evolution Of The South
1636	Introduction of Slavery
1660-1865	Plantation System
1800	Slave Revolts: -Gabriel Prosser [1800] -Denmark Vesey 1822] -Nat Turner [1831]
1820-50	Emergence of John C. Calhoun
1820	Slave breeding farms
1845	George Fitzhugh - <i>Sociology of the South</i>
1850	Compromise of 1850 Clayton Bulwer Treaty
1852	Harriet Beecher Stowe - <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> Know-Nothing Party formed
1853	Gadsden Purchase
1854	Kansas-Nebraska Act Republican Party formed Ostend Manifesto
1856	Brooks attacks Sumner
1857	Dred Scott
1857	Economic Panic
1858	Lincoln-Douglas Debates
1859	Brown's Raid-Harpers Ferry
1860	Secession-lower South
1861	Ft. Sumpter

OUTLINE:

- I. Myth and reality of the Old South
 - A. Geographic evolution
 - B. The Southern condition
 1. Causal effect of the environment
 2. Factors that contribute to sectional distinction.
 - a. Weather
 - b. Biracial population
 - c. Native population
 - d. Agrarianism and work ethic
 - C. Myth of the " Cotton Kingdom"
 1. Actual variety of staple crops
 - a. Cotton
 - b. Tobacco
 - c. Indigo, Rice & Sugar

2. Voracious demand for cotton
3. Reality of other agricultural products: grains, potatoes, peanuts
4. Soil exhaustion problems
5. Agricultural diversification
- D. Demand for economic development
 1. De Bows *Review*
 2. Examples of southern industry
 3. Extract industries
 4. Manufacturing enterprises
- E. Causes for southern lag in economic development:
 1. Traditional claims
 2. Aristocracy precluded trade
- F. South's link to the demand for cotton
- II. White Society in the South
 - A. The plantation defined
 - B. The planter
 1. Relative ownership of slaves
 2. Style of life
 3. Overseers
 4. Country-gentlemen
 - C. The middle class
 1. Largest group of whites
 2. Land ownership
 3. General style of living
 - D. Poor Whites
 1. General characteristics
 2. Effects of disease & diet
- III. Black Society in the South
 - A. Free blacks
 1. Methods of obtaining freedom
 2. Occupations of free blacks
 - B. Slaves
 1. Statistics of population
 2. Standards of care for property
 3. Domestic slave trade
 4. Plantation slave life:
 - a. Classes among the slaves
 - b. Provision for necessities
 - c. Work schedules
 - d. Punishment
 5. The nature of slavery as an institution.
 - C. Forging the slave community
 1. Union of African cultures
 2. Slave insurrections
 3. Evidence from slave narratives

- 4. Use of African survivals
- D. Slave religion and folklore
 - 1. Syncretic nature of the religion
 - 2. Use of religion
 - 3. The uses of folklore
- E. The slave family
 - 1. Legal status
 - 2. Importance of the nuclear family
 - 3. Sexual exploitation of slaves
- IV. Antislavery Movements:
 - A. Early opposition to slavery
 - 1. Manumission
 - 2. American Colonization Society
 - B. Movement toward abolition
 - 1. David Walker's demand for insurrection
 - 2. William Lloyd Garrison's call for immediate emancipation
 - C. Creation of the American Anti-Slavery Society.
 - 1. Aims of the organization
 - 2. Propaganda efforts
 - D. The Antislavery movement split
 - E. Black antislavery advocates
 - F. Underground Railroad
 - G. Discrimination in the North
- V. Reactions to antislavery agitation
 - A. Suppression of abolitionist efforts
 - B. "Gag Rule"
 - C. The *Armistad* case
 - D. Development of Liberty Party
 - E. Defense of slavery
- VI. The Mind of the South
 - A. The South lagged behind the North the West
 - B. Intellectual pursuits were confined to upper class
 - C. Fundamentalism retarded change
 - D. Slavery overshadowed all other considerations
 - E. Education was private and restricted
 - F. Literature was often propagandistic
 - G. Almost no publishing facilities
- VII. Quarrels arising from the conquest of Mexican territory in the Southwest
 - A. The Wilmot Proviso
 - B. Calhoun's resolutions
 - C. Other proposals:
 - 1. Extension of Missouri Compromise
 - 2. Popular sovereignty
 - D. Controversy over admission of Oregon

- VIII. Presidential election of 1848
 - A. Democrats nominate Lewis Cass
 - B. Whigs choose Zachary Taylor
 - C. Development of Free-Soil Party
 - D. Liberty Party nominates Van Buren
- IX. The Push for California Statehood
 - A. California gold rush
 - B. Zachary Taylor as president
- X. The development of Compromise of 1850
 - A. Clay's compromise package of eight resolutions
 - B. Calhoun's response
 - C. Webster's plea for union
 - D. Seward's response for the abolitionist
 - E. Taylor's death
 - F. Millard Fillmore supports Compromise
 - G. Terms of the Compromise
 - 1. California admitted to union
 - 2. Popular sovereignty: Utah & New Mexico
 - 3. \$10,000,000 dollars to Texas
 - 4. Abolition of slave trade in Washington D.C.
 - 5. Effective fugitive slave law
- XI. Reaction to the Compromise
 - A. The Fugitive Slave Law
 - B. The effects of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- XII. "Manifest Destiny" on the world scene
 - A. Young America movement
 - B. The Ostend Manifesto
 - C. Perry's Expedition to Japan
 - D. Gadsden Purchase
- XIII. The Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - A. Ideas for a transcontinental railroad
 - B. Repeal of Missouri Compromise
 - C. Antislavery opposition to the proposal
 - D. Support from Pierce
 - E. Mob action in Boston
 - F. Free Soil vs pro-slavery forces
 - G. The counter government Topeka
 - H. Sumner-Brooks-Butler clash in Congress
- XIV. Election of 1856
 - A. Fremont Republican candidate
 - B. Buchanan Democrat candidate
 - C. Financial panic of 1857
- XV. Steps to conflict:
 - A. Dred Scott Decision
 - B. Lincoln-Douglas Debates

- C. Freeport Doctrine
 - D. John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry
 - E. Election of 1860
 - F. Constitutional Union Party to support Bell and save the Union
 - G. Secession begins
- XVI. Lincoln win the Election of 1860

DISCUSSION:

Why did the institution of slavery command the loyalty of the vast majority of antebellum Southern Whites, despite the fact that only a small percentage of them owned slaves?

How important was slavery to the economy of Old South effects agriculture, industry, and commerce.

How did its obsessive defense of slavery affect the intellectual life of the Old South?

CONCEPTS, TOPICS, NAMES, AND TERMS:

Yeoman farmers
 Wm Gilmore Simms
 William Gregg
Uncle Tom's Cabin
 Fred Law Olmsted
 free negroes
 Wendell Phillips
 David Walker
 abolitionists
 James G. Birney

black belt
 George Fitzhugh
 John C. Calhoun
 Frederick Douglass
 Edgar Allan Poe
 cotton gin
 Sojourner Truth
 Gag Rule
 Edmund Ruffin

Denmark Vesey
 Hinton R Helper
 Robert Y Hayne
 Dorothea Dix
 Grimike Sisters
 mountain whites
 Theodore D Weld
 Elijah Lovejoy
 manumission

NOTES

The American Revolution impact on Civil War – the revolution made slavery an issue
James Otis in 1764 asked about equality

1774 Benjamin Rusk said slavery would be gone in 40 years
Many were under the illusion that slavery would end in time – and white workers would fill the space

Virginia had relaxed slave codes by the 1780's – mixed church meetings were held – lawsuits were brought – prove if a slave had an ancestor of white or Indian blood automatic freedom.
1790's there were 30,000 freed Black and by 1810 there were 94,000 freed Blacks

The Constitutional Convention did not use the word slave

Deep South held a different view they grew rice and indigo
Georgia and South Carolina still imported slaves – threatened to walk out of the Convention
Slave population increased at the same rate as whites
Evil of slavery before 1792 that changed with the Cotton Gin
Reluctances of breaking up families
3/5 Clause allowed South greater representation in Congress

Issue of Slavery

Mayor of Philadelphia held 31 individuals' slaves
Livingston, Dixon, and Hancock had slaves
Jefferson used climate to explain the differences between North and South not slavery
Madison saw slavery as the division

Party was the division in the country during the 1790's not slavery – French Revolution
Jefferson on Revolution and blood to feed the tree of liberty

The North: workers and a "Calling" was noble anti-aristocratic belief to make one industrious

The South: Aristocratic leisure class - Work was demeaning and shameful and beneath manliness

Large planters dominated society in the South and did not develop industrially as the North. The development of internal improvements and education were for the benefit of the Planter Class. Ordinary farms in South did not develop as those in the North.

1792 Cotton shift to new source of income for South and upper South sold off slaves to the Deep South and West

Between 1700 and 1807 there were some 200,000 to 300,000 slaves arrived in the colonies. The U.S. Constitution ended international slave trade not the Atlantic slave trade (sec.#9). The U.S. allowed coastal trade that conducted the trade between 1808 and 1864 some 50,000 slaves transported from the upper South to the Lower South and maybe another 50,000 illegal imported slaves.

Slave Trade

- * Ships stayed off coast and deal with African businessmen to make deals
- * Used barter system – cowrie shells used at some locations
- * Slaves held in pens or cells and African port
- * Examined on shore and only the best taken and chained together
- * Middle Passage up to 3 months in 36-foot-long at times in a space 3 and ½ high that held 400 individuals
- * Estimates of numbers transported to New World was 9 million low number / 50 million high – most to Central and South America
- * Conditioning and seasoning was done in West Indies by “specialist” in “breaking – in” slaves
- * Sugar Plantations 16-20 hours in harvest time – low reproduction rate – life expectancy 10 years
- * Brazil life expectancy 9 years in mines
- * France ended slavery in first – on paper
- * British in 1833 ended slave trade

U.S. Slave Trade ended 1808 only International slave trade only could trade within states

New Jersey had 7% slavery

Rhode Island 12%

N.Y. City 14%

Fear of Slave Rebellions:

Haiti Revolution and cotton began a change Mixed churches ended by 1800.

Manumission declined and new slave codes were written Free Black population slowed after 1810

Haiti first successful slave revolt 1804 Toussaint L’Ouverture killed by French trick Jean Jacques Dessalines and Henri Christopher won victory Jan. 1, 1804

Abolitionists and other saw slavery as ruining white workers and society – lazy

Abolitionist

Salmon P. Chase

William H. Seward

Thaddeus Stevens never married and had a close relationship with Lydia Smith

Charles Sumner

1819 Missouri Crisis new states Free or Slave?

1820 Missouri Compromise – expansion of Slavery

Epistemology crisis in 1830’s – anti – elite argument celebration of common man

Jackson - common man

It was a time of mistrust of authority (Elites)

P.T. Barnum used this “Trust your own Eyes”

Alexis de Tocqueville talked about Americans celebration of work (Labor) Aristocrats had no idea of what a “week-end” was – U.S. elites loaned money for interest – South did not like paper money wanted gold and silver in trade with English

Revolt on the *Creole* slave ship in Bahamas

1833 the British abolished the slave trade in their colonies making free water and lave water territory. The British allowed slaves to make the choice once in free water. At Nassau the *Creole* arrived with 19 rebels arrested and guarded by a regiment from India. The issue of free water had unintended events. The leaders of the revolt on the *Creole* understood the concept of free water. These four leaders went to the Bahamas for that very reason.

The South owners and property Rights vs. Human Rights (Liberty) Abolitionist.

The British allowed 53 passengers to walk off the ship and four stayed to continue to New Orleans. Lucy Ann Cheatham and John Hagan had a relationship and children. When John died, he emancipated Lucy and her children given her \$10,000.00 and \$5,000 for the maintenance of the children plus they were provided the home they lived in. New Orleans had a very complex society.

By the Mexican War

Liberal Revolution of 1848 failed democracy

Napoleon III – France used to take power and become Emperor

Bismarck – Prussia used to make Germany and under control of Prussia Kaiser

America supported these revolutions and when Austria/Hungary complained Daniel Webster yes, we are

1846 – 1857 Dred Scott was set up as a test case and he lost case and later given freedom. Before that case slaves that went to court for freedom won a little better than 50% of the time.

Phrenology – 37 distinct faculties from shape of skull and size
Minstrel Shows -

Compromise of 1850 – Federal law to return slaves part of deal

1850 Slave work

10% in mining, transportation, construction

15% domestic

75 % agriculture

55% cotton

10% tobacco

10% sugar, rice, hemp

12% of whites held slaves

3 groups of non-slave holders

1. People in Hills of Appalachians – Maryland to Arkansas
2. People in Piney Woods – North Carolina and Georgia to Mississippi (poor whites)
3. Those that were linked to plantation at the Piedmont – largest group

Virginia sold 6,000 slaves per year to the west
Virginia was 40% Slave
South Carolina was 60%
Indiana and Illinois divided between slave and free

Escape Routes:

By sea - 1,000 escaped north best escape was at sea on ships (always need of sailors)
Underground Railroad

Lincoln saw the control of slavery and its expansion will end the institution
Lincoln – Douglas Debates

1857 Lecompton Constitution

1860 Lincoln win the Election
Lincoln “Last Best Hope”

Major Anderson had 75 soldiers at Fort Moultrie on Sullivan Island and moved to Fort Sumter on December 26, 1860 – The President sent a supply shipment on a commercial steamer the *Star of the West* so that the Carolinians would not be threaten. Then on January 9, 1860 the Carolinians fired on the ship hit it and the captain reversed course.

Crittenden Compromise (Amendment) was not a compromise and only addressed the Southern point of view. All concessions were to be done by the North. It was to be the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and could never be repealed once ratified. It set slavery in permanent and unchangeable right in the Southern States and in Federal territory. It nullified State laws that thwarted the recapture of fugitives and establish the Mason-Dixson Line to the west coast. Plus prohibited Congress interfering with the slave trade and allowed compensation to slave owners that had slaves assisted by activist.

Clement L. Vallandigham the Representative from Ohio had strong Southern sympathies and roots. He claimed to have no New England blood. He put forth a plan to divide the nation into four parts. New England with New York and Pennsylvania, the Mid-west Ohio to Kansas, the South from Delaware to Texas, and the West California and Oregon.

The South in Congress were walking out of the Union.

Alfred Iverson of Georgia “ You may whip us, but we will not stay whipped”

Robert Toombs of Georgia “We want no negro equality, no negro citizenship, we want no mongrel race to degrade our own.”

Seven States had left the Union by January 29, 1860 went Thaddeus Stevens stood and delivered a speech on how the radicals would pursue the conflict. “They cannot expect to make us love slavery” or that slavery is “a divine institution”. At the end of the speech the remaining Southern senator rush to beat Stevens who was protected by other members. The 36th Congress saw the country into a Civil War.

The South feared they were losing power in Congress with new states. Plus, the new Republican party was no longer intimidated by the threat of duels. The fear of slave rebellion was always present. Nat Turner and John Brown intensified that fear. All white males were to stand ready to defend the threat of a slave rebellion. Patrols were established to monitor slave movements.

The South had built a fortress to control the community.

Gordon Wood *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*