

# CHAPTER 16

## The South and Slavery, 1793–1860

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**1. Part Three Introduction (pp. 348–349)** This introduction gives you a preview of the authors’ answers to certain key questions about the causes and consequences of the nation’s “awesome trial by fire,” the Civil War. Look at this section and list three major questions you think the authors will be addressing in the next seven chapters.

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)

**2. Southern Economy and Social Structure (pp. 350–356)**

a. Explain the connection between the invention of the cotton gin by Eli \_\_\_\_\_ in 17\_\_\_\_ and the rapid expansion of short-staple cotton production based on slave labor in the South. If the cotton gin actually made picking seeds from cotton much easier, why did planters perceive a vastly increased need for slave labor?

b. Cotton was king in both the South and in Britain. By 1840, cotton amounted to \_\_\_\_\_percent of U. S. exports and accounted for more than \_\_\_\_\_percent of the world’s supply. Britain’s economy was based on cotton textiles, and Britain got \_\_\_\_\_percent of its fiber supply from the South. (No wonder Southerners thought England would “be tied to them by cotton threads” in the event of conflict with the North.)

c. List two negatives of this Southern plantation economy mentioned by the authors (pp. 352–353).

- (1)
- (2)

d. Although most slaves were owned by the large-scale planters, most slave-owners held only a few slaves each, and often worked together with them in the fields. The chart on p. 353 shows that, out of about 345,000 slave-owning families, only about \_\_\_\_\_ families owned fifty or more slaves, representing about \_\_\_\_\_percent of the total. Fully \_\_\_\_\_percent of Southern whites owned no slaves at all. List two reasons cited by the authors to explain why many poor whites without slaves remained staunch defenders of the slave system.

- (1)
- (2)

**3. Conditions of Slavery (pp. 356–362)**

a. If northerners were really against slavery, why do you think they treated individual free blacks with such disdain?

b. With slave importation outlawed since 1808, the slave population grew to a total of \_\_ million by 1860 primarily by natural reproduction. Unlike the North, wealth in the South was not held in monetary form, but rather in the form of land and \_\_\_\_\_. What did it mean to sell a slave “down the river”? Slaves were being sold from where to where?

c. List two examples of the fact that slaves had absolutely no political or civil rights.

(1)

(2)

d. What do the authors conclude on pp. 360–362 about black family and religious life?

e. \*\*\* Did anything surprise you about the extent of slave resistance and rebellion (p. 362)?

#### 4. Abolitionism (pp. 362–368)

a. The \_\_\_\_\_ (a religious sect) were among the first to advocate abolitionism. In the early 1820s, the emphasis was on sending ex-slaves back to Africa, especially to the West African country of \_\_\_\_\_. A small minority of fervent abolitionists emerged in the 1830s, encouraged by the freedom given by \_\_\_\_\_ (a country) to its West Indian slaves, and by the religious spirit of the Second Great \_\_\_\_\_. What is the essential difference between a radical abolitionist, such as William Lloyd \_\_\_\_\_, and a more practical or political abolitionist, such as the ex-slave Frederick \_\_\_\_\_? \*\*\* Had you been against slavery at the time, put an (\*) by the approach you would have favored.

(1) Radical:

(2) Political/practical:

b. \*\*\* If you had been a moderate Southerner at the time, list two legitimate arguments you might have used against the call of the radical abolitionists for the immediate release of all slaves with no compensation to their owners.

(1)

(2)

c. Look at the cartoon on p. 367. In reaction against increasingly perceived threats to their way of life, Southerners began advancing arguments as to why slavery was a “positive good.” \*\*\* What do you think of the argument that the North was hypocritical because southern slaves had it better than did the “wage slaves” of the North? Was there any truth in this charge?

d. Were the abolitionists popular or unpopular in the North? Why?

#### VARYING VIEWPOINTS



## CHAPTER 16 TERM SHEET

### The South and Slavery

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#### **Pages 350–356**

Eli Whitney

“Cotton Kingdom”

Planter aristocracy

Sir Walter Scott

“Poor white trash”/“hillbillies”/“crackers”

#### **Pages 356–362**

Free blacks

Sold “down the river”

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Denmark Vesey (1822)

Nat Turner (1831)

#### **Pages 362–368**

Abolitionism

American Colonization Society (1817)

Liberia (1822)

British emancipation (1833)

Theodore Dwight Weld

Lyman Beecher

William Lloyd Garrison/*The Liberator* (1831)

American Anti-Slavery Society (1833)

Wendell Phillips

David Walker

Sojourner Truth

Martin Delaney

Frederick Douglass

Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy (1837)

“Free-soilers”