

Study Guide Ch. 16 The South and the Slavery Controversy, 1793-1860

AP US History

Theme: The cotton-producing slave system created a complex social order in the South, which deeply affected whites as well as blacks.

Theme: The small but energetic radical abolitionist movement caused a fierce pro slavery backlash in the South and a slow but steady growth of moderate antislavery sentiment in the North.

Summary: The South's dependence on cotton production tied it to the plantation system and slavery. The cultural gentility and political supremacy of the plantation aristocracy concealed slavery's great social and economic costs.

Most slaves were held by a few large planters. But most slave owners had few slaves, and most southern whites had no slaves at all. Nevertheless, except for a few mountain whites, the majority of southern whites strongly supported slavery and racial supremacy.

The treatment of the economically valuable slaves varied considerably. Within the bounds of the cruel system, slaves yearned for freedom and struggles to maintain their humanity, including family life.

The older black colonization movement was replaced by radical abolitionism demanding an immediate end to slavery. Abolitionism and the Nat Turner rebellion caused a strong backlash in the South, which increasingly defended slavery as a positive good.

Most northerners were hostile to radical abolitionism but gradually came to see the South as a land of oppression, and slavery as a threat to free society.

Key Terms:

The cotton gin

"King Cotton"

"cottonocracy"

Harriet Beecher Stowe

the "black belt"

Denmark Vesey

Nat Turner

American Colonization Society

Theodore Weld

William Lloyd Garrison

Sojourner Truth

Frederick Douglass's

"Gag Resolution"

Elijah Lovejoy

Key Questions:

1. How did the reliance on cotton production and slavery affect the South economically? How did this reliance affect its relations with the North and with Europe?
2. Describe the complex structure of southern society. What role did each of the following groups have in the southern social order?
 - a) plantation owners
 - b) small slave holders
 - c) independent white farmers
 - d) poor whites
 - e) free blacks
 - f) black slaves
3. Describe the physical conditions and social developments of the antebellum slave era. How did slaves cope with their conditions?
4. Compare the attitudes and practices regarding slavery and race relations in the North and the South. Explain the common statement that southerners liked blacks as individuals but despised the race, while northerners claimed to like blacks as a race but disliked individuals.
5. A large majority of Americans, both North and South, strongly rejected radical abolitionism. Why, then, did abolitionism and antislavery come to shape American politics in the 1840s and 1850s? What effects did the abolition movement have on the north, the south, and the relationship between the two sections?

Identification *Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.*

- _____ 1. Term for the South that emphasized its economic dependence on a single staple product.
- _____ 2. Pro southern New England textile owners who were economically tied to the southern “lords of the lash”
- _____ 3. British novelist whose romantic vision of a feudal society made him highly popular in the South
- _____ 4. The poor, vulnerable group that was the object of prejudice in the North and despised as a “third race” in the South
- _____ 5. Theodore Dwight Weld’s powerful antislavery book
- _____ 6. The area of the South where most slaves were held, stretching from South Carolina across to Louisiana
- _____ 7. Organization founded in 1817 to send blacks back to Africa
- _____ 8. The group of theology students, led by Theodore Dwight Weld, who were expelled for abolitionist activity and later became leading preachers of the antislavery gospel.
- _____ 9. William Lloyd Garrison’s fervent abolitionist newspaper that preached an immediate end to slavery
- _____ 10. Garrisonian abolitionist organization, founded in 1833, that included the eloquent Wendell Phillips among its leaders
- _____ 11. Strict rule passed by pro southern Congressmen in 1836 to prohibit all discussion of slavery in the House of Representatives
- _____ 12. Northern antislavery politicians, like Abraham Lincoln, who rejected radical abolitionism but sought to prohibit the expansion of slavery in the western territories

Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

- _____ The last slaves to be legally imported from Africa enter the United States
- _____ A radical abolitionist editor is murdered, and so becomes a martyr to the antislavery cause
- _____ A radical abolitionist newspaper and a slave rebellion spread fear through the South
- _____ A new invention increases the efficiency of cotton production, laying the basis for the vast Cotton Kingdom
- _____ A group of seminary students expelled for their abolitionist views spread the antislavery gospel far and wide

Matching People, Places and Events

Match the person, place or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

___ 1. Sir Walter Scott

___ 2. Harriet Beecher Stowe

___ 3. Nat Turner

___ 4. Liberia

___ 5. Theodore Dwight Weld

___ 6. Lewis Tappan

___ 7. Lane Theologian Seminary

___ 8. William Lloyd Garrison

___ 9. David Walker

___ 10. Sojourner Truth

___ 11. Martin Delany

___ 12. Frederick Douglas

___ 13. Virginia legislature

___ 14. John Quincy Adams

___ 15. Elijah Lovejoy

A. Wealthy New York abolitionist merchant whose home was demolished by a mob in 1834

B. Visionary black preacher whose bloody slave rebellion in 1831 tightened the reins of slavery in the South

C. Midwestern institution whose president expelled eighteen students for organizing a debate on slavery

D. New York free black women who fought for emancipation and women's rights

E. Leading radical abolitionist who burned the Constitution as "a covenant with death and an agreement with hell"

F. Author of an abolitionist novel that portrayed the separation of slave families by auction

G. Site of the last major southern debate over slavery and emancipation, in 1831-1832

H. English novelist whose romantic medievalism encouraged the semi feudal ideals of the southern planter aristocracy

I. Black abolitionist who visited West Africa in 1859 to examine sites where African-Americans might relocate

J. Former president who fought for the right to discuss slavery in Congress

K. Illinois editor whose death at the hands of a mob made him an abolitionist martyr

L. West African republic founded in 1822 by freed blacks from the United States

M. Escaped slave and great black abolitionist who fought to end slavery through political action

N. Black abolitionist writer who called for a bloody end to slavery in an appeal of 1829

O. Leader of the "Lane Rebels" who wrote the powerful antislavery work *American Slavery As It Is*.

Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause

- ___1. Whitney's cotton gin and frontier expansionism
- ___2. Excessive soil cultivation and financial speculation
- ___3. Belief in white superiority and the hope of owning slaves
- ___4. The selling of slaves at auctions
- ___5. The slaves' love of freedom and hatred of their condition
- ___6. The religious fervor of the Second Great Awakening
- ___7. Politically minded abolitionists like Frederick Douglas
- ___8. Garrison's *Liberator* and Nat Turner's bloody slave rebellion
- ___9. White southern defenses of slavery as a "positive
- ___10. The constant abolitionist agitation in the North

Effect

- A. Often resulted in the cruel separation of black families
- B. Kept poor, nonslaveholding whites committed to a system that actually harmed them
- C. Aroused deep fears of rebellion and ended rational discussion of slavery in the South
- D. Made abolitionists personally unpopular but convinced many Northerners that slavery was a threat to American freedom
- E. Caused slaves to work slowly, steal from their masters, and frequently run away
- F. Stirred a fervent abolitionist commitment to fight the "sin" of slavery
- G. Turned the South into a booming one-crop economy where "cotton was king"
- H. Opposed Garrison and organized the Liberty party and the Free Soil party
- I. Created dangerous weaknesses beneath the surface prosperity of the southern cotton economy
- J. Widened the moral and political gap between the white South and the rest of the Western world

Answers:

Identification:

1. Cotton Kingdom
2. Lords of the loom
3. Sir Walter Scott
4. free blacks
5. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
6. black belt
7. American Colonization Society
8. Lane Rebels
9. *The Liberator*
10. American antislavery Society
11. gag resolution
12. Free-spoilers

People, Places, Events

1. D
2. F
3. B
4. L
5. O
6. A
7. C
8. E
9. N
10. D
11. I
12. M
13. G
14. J
15. K

Putting Things In Order

- 2, 4, 3, 1, 5

Matching Cause and Effect

1. G
2. I
3. B
4. A
5. E
6. F
7. H
8. C
9. J
10. D