

# BR: D13

What groups in the **North** were **marginalized** during the 1820-60s?

# U.S. History

## Ch. 13.3 Southern Cotton Kingdom

Goals for today:

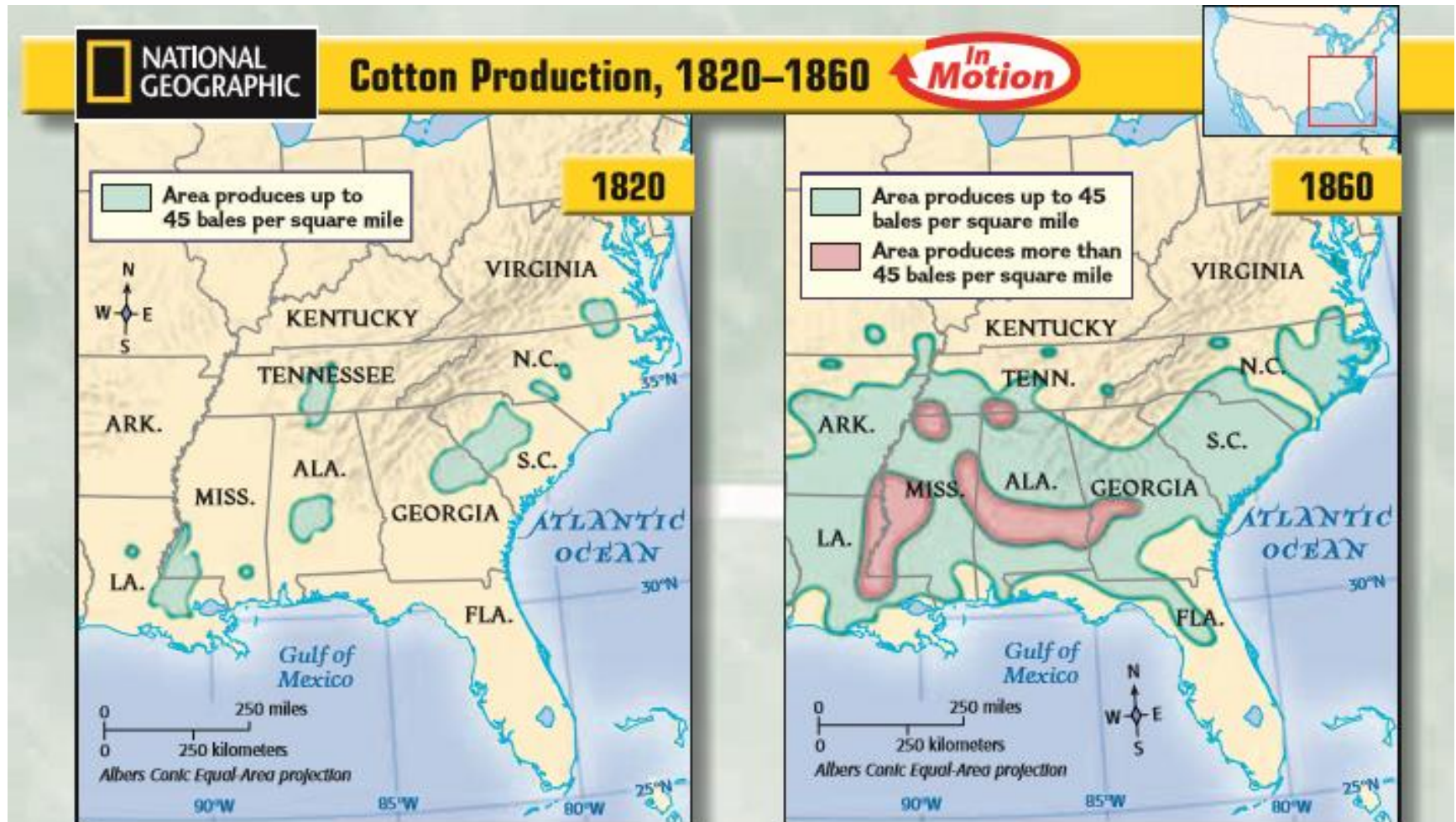
*Investigate the tech and climate that allowed the South to become King Cotton.*

*Discover the many different ethnic groups that made up the South, and the conflict between them.*

# Rise of Cotton

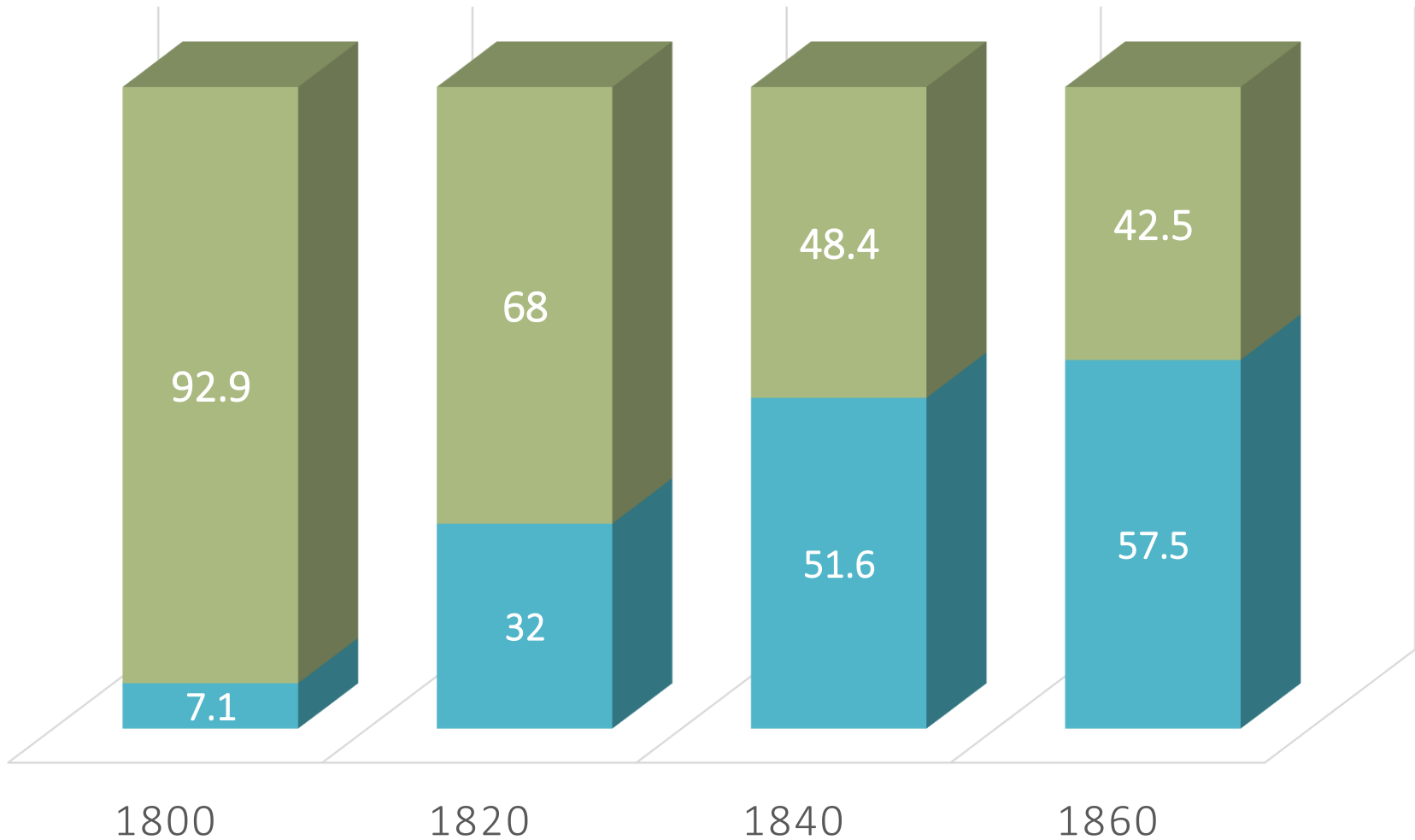
In many ways, slavery in the South by the time of the American Revolution was gradually disappearing, just as it was in the North. But in 1793, something came about that changed everything. The [Cotton Gin](#)

As a **result**, cotton truly did become **king**, as shown below:



# COTTON EXPORTS AS A % OF TOTAL U.S. EXPORTS

■ Cotton Exports    ■ Other Exports

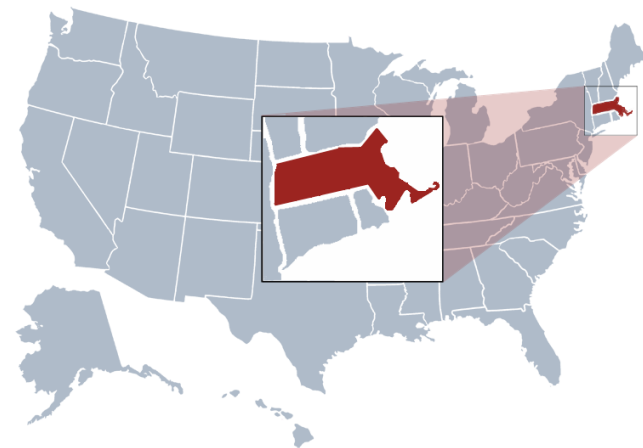


# Value of Slavery

Sadly, the **value** of slavery only increased with the invention of the Cotton Gin. It allowed the Deep South to focus exclusively on this one product, and demand for **cheap / slave labor** remained very high.

In the Upper South, they still produced a lot of other things, like Tobacco, Wheat, etc. The economy as a whole **prospered**, but it remained quite **rural**, compared with the **urbanization** of the North.

For example, in the 1850s, **Massachusetts** alone for example manufactured more goods than all of the South combined!



# Why the Lack of Industrialization?

“**Cotton was king**” was a big one...it was such an easy way to make money, why change?

Another issue was the **lack of capital**. Southerners had wealth, but it was tied up in land and slaves, and most didn't want to sell that to build a factory, etc.

Also, the only people who could really afford to buy manufactured goods were the **rich plantation owners**, and they made up less than 1% of all whites living in the south, not to mention the blacks living there...and they were happy the way things were. One southerner is quoted saying this:



““We want no manufactures; we desire no trading, no mechanical or manufacturing classes. As long as we have our rice, our sugar, our tobacco and our cotton, we can command wealth to purchase all we want.””

# Advances Made

Not every Southerner agreed with this idea however. Many in the Upper South realized that they could not live on cotton alone. One such southerner was [William Gregg](#), who toured several mills in New England, and returned to South Carolina and opened up his own **textile mill** in 1844.

Another Southerner that felt other industries were useful was **Joseph Reid Anderson**, who took over the [Tredegar Iron Works](#) in Richmond, Virginia, in the 1840s. He helped turn it into one of the countries leading iron producers, which was crucial to the South when the Civil War broke out.

**Railroads** spread in the South as well, but at a slower pace. Natural waterways were easier to use, and free! Thus, cities weren't as well connected, and they grew more slowly, since there weren't lots of new jobs in the cities like there were in the North. The fact that the South was not as well connected as the North would be a big factor as to why the South would lose the Civil War.

# U.S. History

Ch. 13.4 The South's People



# Farms & Plantations

While many picture the South as being a land of large, stately plantations, this is actually mostly false. The vast majority of Southern Whites lived as small farmers with few if any slaves. Whites fit into **4 categories**:

**Yeomen:** These farmers had no slaves. They usually owned land, 50-200 acres, grew their own variety of crops, etc. Largest group.

**Tenant Farmers:** these were people who **rented** the land they farmed. They aspired to one day be yeomen, or perhaps more.

**Rural Poor:** these people lived in land others didn't want, often called "**hillbillies**", since the rocky hill land where they lived was less desirable. They got by on **sustenance farming**, and were fiercely independent.

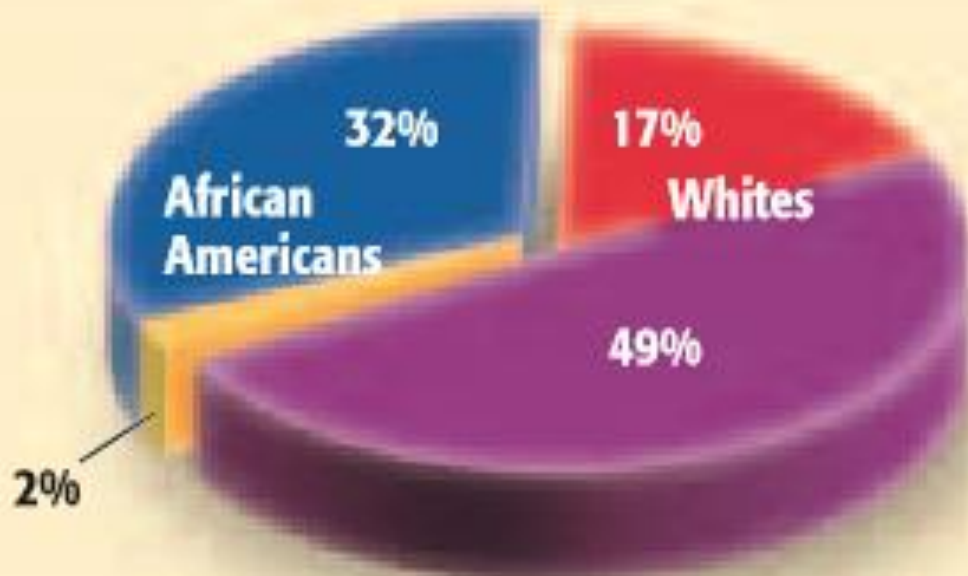
**Plantation Owners:** The smallest group, but the most wealthy, more on next slide:



## Southern Population, 1860

In 1860 about 400,000 households in the South held slaves. Nearly 4 million African Americans remained in slavery.

**Total Population = 12 million**



**African Americans**

Enslaved

Free

**Whites**

Slaveholders

Not slaveholders

# Plantations

Not a lot of people could afford the lifestyle that we often see associated with **plantation owners**. Only about 10% of plantation owners held more than half of all the slaves in the South, and these select few match the **stereotype** found in films like “**Gone with the Wind**” [Scene1](#), [Jeff.Davis](#)

These are exaggerations, of course. The main goal of all plantations was to **earn profits**. Each plantation had **fixed costs**, such as housing and feeding workers, maintaining farming equipment, etc. These costs remained about the same year to year.

Cotton prices varied however, and the best place to sell cotton was in the larger cities, like **New Orleans**, **Charleston**, **Savannah**, etc. The planters would sell their cotton to **agents**, who would give them **credit** until they sold the cotton when prices were good. This however kept plantation owners always in debt...

# Plantation Life:

The **wives** of the plantation owners were usually in charge of the house, and the house slaves that kept it up. She usually was in charge of the fruit and vegetable gardens, tending for sick slaves, and sometimes as the accountant for the plantation.

It could be a lonely life for the women, as their husbands were often away looking for new land to buy, or dealing with agents in far away cities.

Plantations required all sorts of workers:

**House Slaves:** many worked cooking, cleaning, sewing, etc. Known as **Domestic Slaves**

**Skilled Slaves:** many slaves were trained as **blacksmiths, carpenters, shoemakers, barbers,** etc. to help around the plantation or home

**Workers:** Many worked caring for animals, but most worked in the fields, planting, harvesting, and plowing the land.



# Life as a Slave



Life as a slave was not great. However, it could vary a lot. If the master was a kind, thoughtful person, slaves could be treated fairly and well. Many times this was not so, sadly.

They had to **work hard**, earned little / no money, and had only the smallest hope of getting freedom. Still, they did the best they could in a tough situation.

## Slave Life

Many of these slaves attempted to escape their harsh lives. Many ran away on what was called the Underground Railroad. Many were caught and severely punished.

# Education

Most people in the South, if they wanted to get an education, had to send their kids to a **private school**. Public schools did not really exist in the south, although some cities had their own public schools.

As time passed, people agreed that public schools were a good thing, and more were established throughout the South. However, **literacy** rates were still really low, and it was often difficult for families to send their children to school, and so they didn't go.

Most southerners believed that **education** was a private matter, and if you wanted it, you should pay for it yourself, not ask the state to do it. Slaves were not allowed to read, and only taught what their masters deemed necessary.

