The invention of cotton gin in 1793 made short-staple cotton profitable.

- Pre-1793: 1 worker = 1 lb cleaned cotton per day
- 1793: Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin
- Post 1793: 1 worker = 50 lbs cleaned cotton per day or more

Thereafter, cotton and slavery began to expand - from the Atlantic Coast to Texas.

After 1800, cotton rapidly emerged as the country’s most important export crop and quickly became the key to American prosperity.

Cotton production expanded westward between 1820 and 1860 into Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and western Tennessee forcing Native Americans off their land.

Between 1820-1860, cotton fueled the entire American market economy!

Northern factories made money by turning raw cotton into cloth and northern merchants profited from shipping the cotton and reshipping the finished textiles.

Southern planters sold the cotton and used the income to purchase supplies from the West and goods and services from the North.

Slavery provided the labor for this American market economy; thus, slavery was a NATIONAL institution that spread its influence throughout the entire nation!
Because slave labor produced the cotton, increasing exports strengthened the slave system itself.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>1860</th>
<th>1820</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>3,093,708</td>
<td>2,500,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>1,150,028</td>
<td>952,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>1,943,680</td>
<td>1,547,862</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper South</td>
<td>870,214</td>
<td>647,628</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower South</td>
<td>1,073,466</td>
<td>890,234</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>259,611</td>
<td>223,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>227,752</td>
<td>208,031</td>
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<td>Maryland</td>
<td>191,201</td>
<td>154,209</td>
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<td>Missouri</td>
<td>199,222</td>
<td>174,438</td>
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<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>168,000</td>
<td>145,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>425,050</td>
<td>368,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>3,121</td>
<td>3,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower South</td>
<td>552,902</td>
<td>472,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>181,181</td>
<td>133,115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>26,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>149,054</td>
<td>120,508</td>
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<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>275,264</td>
<td>231,758</td>
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<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>32,844</td>
<td>28,675</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>234,675</td>
<td>206,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,093,708</td>
<td>2,500,480</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Made with data from Census 2010.

Slavery spread southwestward from the upper South and the eastern seaboard following the spread of cotton cultivation.

**Slavery Expands**

1. King Cotton: cotton replaced sugar as the world’s major crop produced by slave labor.
2. 3/4ths of the world’s cotton supply came from the southern U.S.
3. Southern cotton supplied the textile mills in the North and Great Britain.
4. After 1840, cotton production made the southern economy stronger and wealthier than the northern economy.

**Slavery and Southern Society**

- The Southern Economy: economic growth was different from the North.
- There were few large cities in the South.
- The cities were mainly centers for gathering and shipping cotton.

**Southern Society in 1850s**

- Planter Elite
  - 20 or more slaves
  - 3% of white pop.
- Middle Class
  - 6-19 slaves
  - 9% of white pop.
- Lower Middle Class
  - 1-5 slaves
  - 13% of white pop.
- Lower Class – Had No Slaves
  - 75% of white pop.
- Slaves
  - 33% of TOTAL pop.

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Most slaves worked in the fields. On large plantations they worked in gangs under the direction of an overseer. Some slaves worked in cities as skilled craftsman or domestic servants. 8% of African Americans in the South were “free” – still faced many problems due to racism.

By 1800 a slave culture was forming in America. Strong religious convictions, close personal bonds and music helped slaves to endure the harsh conditions in which they lived. Whites used religion to try to control slaves. African Americans looked to religion as a promise of a better life. Spirituals were sung during work to help pass the time and to pass coded messages. “Go Down Moses”

Slaves took comfort in families. Many married and raised children. Some slave owners kept mothers and children together. The sale of slaves often broke up many slave families. Many runaway slaves were trying to unite with family members.

The most severe form of resistance was open rebellion. Nat Turner’s Rebellion in Virginia in 1831 scared many southern slave owners. It led to harsh laws being passed to keep African Americans from having weapons or being able to organize together.