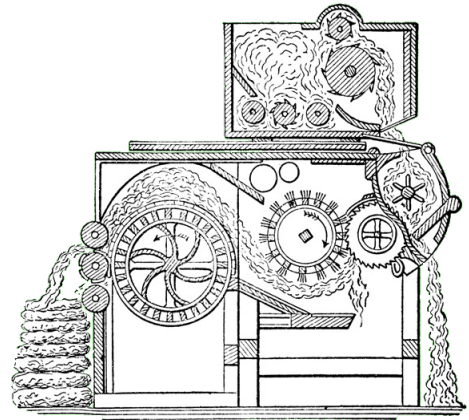


Unit 3: *Slavery in America*

Lecture 3.1 • *Our Peculiar Institution*

Rise of the Cotton Kingdom

- In 1793, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, which could clean more cotton than 100 enslaved people. Plantations expanded, and slavery increased as a result.
- Within five years, cotton replaced tobacco as the dominant cash crop in the South.
- In 1790, the South produced 3,000 bales of cotton per year. By 1800 the number had risen to 75,000.
- The slave owners — or “planters” tried to keep the enslaved powerless with laws called “Slave Codes”, which banned them from ...
 - meeting together
 - possessing weapons
 - and even learning to read and write
- It’s a myth that all enslaved people were passive. In the 1820s and ‘30s, slave revolts rocked the South.
- The most famous was a failed month-long revolt in 1831 in Virginia, led by an enslaved preacher named Nat Turner. Turner and his 70 followers killed 200 white people. In retaliation, thousands of black people were killed all across the South.



**This is a diagram
of what?**

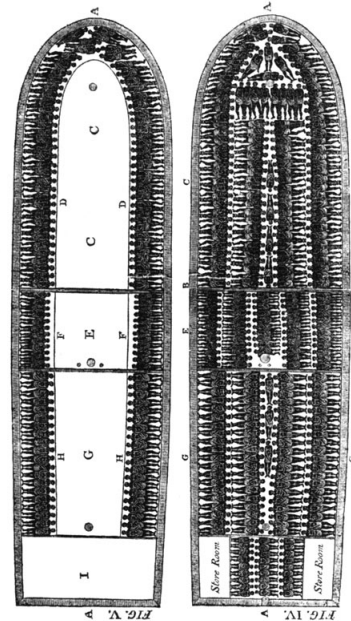
Defending Slavery

- Southern planters justified slavery by claiming that ...
 1. Banning slavery would destroy the cotton plantations, and ruin the Southern economy.
 2. Slavery was no worse than the abuses against workers in Northern factories.
 3. In the Bible, Abraham owned slaves, so it must be alright in the eyes of God.
 4. Slavery actually helped the enslaved by civilizing them through exposure to white culture and religion.

Lecture 3.2 • *Changes in the North*

Questioning Slavery

- As slavery grew in the South during the first decades of the 1800s, so did anti-slavery feelings in the North. But not everyone opposed to slavery was motivated by the same reasons:
 - A small minority thought it was morally wrong.
 - The majority however were opposed to slavery because slave labor was a threat to wage labor, and no one wanted to lose their job to a slave.
- In 1808, Congress banned the cruelest part of slavery... the slave trade. Owning slaves though, was still legal.
- And even though the slave trade was officially outlawed by Congress, the illegal smuggling of slaves would go on for another 57 years!
- So, with the federal government unwilling or unable to end slavery, many Northern states stepped up, and passed state laws banning slavery in their states.
- As a result, by the early 1830s, most Northern blacks were “freemen”, who owned businesses, had families, and lived free — but not necessarily equal — lives.
- But even with slavery banned in many states, the cotton industry, and slavery were still powerful economic & political forces in America. They weren’t going to go away overnight.



What is this a drawing of?

Lecture 3.3 • *Northern Complicity*

It is a long-standing myth that slavery was only a Southern phenomenon. In actuality, millions of non-slave-owning Northerners also benefitted from, and helped prolong American slavery.

The Economics of Slavery

- Cheap cotton fed the profitability of the textile industry throughout New England.
- Thousands of Northern businesses supplied the food, clothing, and equipment that Southern plantations needed to operate.
- The ship-building industry in Connecticut and Rhode Island made a fortune by constructing the ships used in the slave trade.
- Even after the African slave trade was outlawed by Congress in 1808, slave smuggling continued in the open for almost another six decades!
- Hundreds of Northerners were involved in the illegal kidnapping of free black people, who were taken south as slaves.
- Cotton was traded on the New York stock market, and cheap cotton meant a profitable industry, which meant more demand for stock.

The “Free” States

- So while the anti-slavery movement was growing, the North was not the safe haven for free black people that we would like to think that it was.
- In 1837, anti-slavery newspaper publisher Elijah P. Lovejoy was murdered in Illinois for daring to speak out against slavery.
- Dozens of judges and congressmen were cotton planters, and even 10 of the first 14 presidents owned slaves!

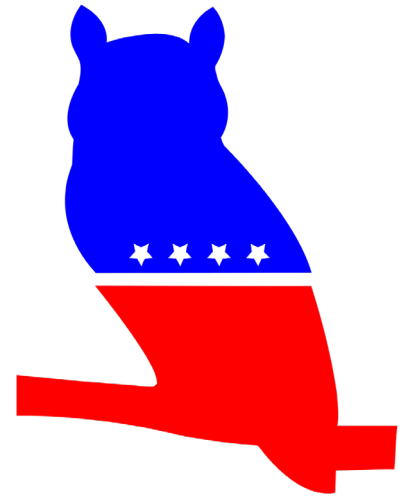


This is the logo of what US bank, which got it's start financing and insuring the slave industry?

Lecture 3.4 • *The Politics of Slavery*

The Balance of Power

- Starting in the 1790s, new states tended to be admitted in pairs: one free state, and one slave state. So by 1819, there were 11 free states that made up the North, and 11 slave states that comprised the South.
- Since each state sends two senators to the Senate, there were 22 senators from the North, and 22 from the South.
- So, there was a balance of political power in the Senate. Neither the North nor the South could pass laws without some support from the other half.
- The balance was good in that it kept the country at peace, but it also kept things from getting done. For years Congress debated slavery, but neither side was ever able to pass laws to change it.



What's this?

The Missouri Compromise

- In 1819, Missouri applied for statehood. Adding Missouri as either a free state or a slave state threatened to upset the voting balance in the Senate.
- Very few politicians wanted to rock the boat and push a debate on slavery, so an easy solution was crafted. It was called ... the Missouri Compromise:
 1. Missouri was admitted as a slave state and Maine was admitted as a free state in order to maintain the balance.
 2. A line was drawn to determine the slavery status of any future states made from the Louisiana Purchase lands ... new states above the line would be free states

New Political Parties

- Around the same time, two new political parties came into being in the U.S. The Democratic Party was created to support western expansion, while the Whig Party was formed to oppose expansion.
- Increasingly though, both parties found themselves divided internally over the issue of slavery. For example, a congressman wasn't just a "Democrat" ... they were a Northern Democrat, or a Southern Democrat.

Lecture 3.5 • *Cracks in the Union*

The Nullification Crisis

- In the 1820s, the U.S. economy was struggling. To aid American businesses, Congress passed two tariffs in 1828 and 1832.
- South Carolina opposed the tariffs, and in 1833 passed the Ordinance of Nullification, which they said nullified the federal tariff law within their state.
- As was the case with the Whiskey Rebellion, the question then became, “do individual states have the right to ignore federal laws?”
- After weeks of debate about how to handle this challenge to federal authority, Congress passed a “force bill”, which gave President Jackson the authority to send troops into S.Carolina.
- Cooler heads prevailed though, and both sides compromised to end the crisis. But once again, the country was left with the question of who has more legal authority: the states or the federal government?



What types of products do you think the U.S. places protective import tariffs on today?

The Amistad Case

- In 1839, a group of Africans were found adrift off the coast of the U.S. onboard the Spanish ship La Amistad. Once they were taken into custody, the question became what rights did these Africans have?
- Southern, pro-slavery politicians and President Van Buren pushed to have the Africans declared slaves, and returned to Cuba, while the growing U.S. anti-slavery movement wanted them freed.
- After months of testimony, the U.S. district court in Connecticut surprisingly ruled that the Africans were free. The White House appealed the ruling.
- The case went to the Supreme Court, and in 1841, the Supreme Court affirmed the lower court’s ruling, and freed the Africans.
- The case added steam to the anti-slavery movement, but it also increased the tension between pro- and anti-slavery forces in the North and South.

tariff:

a tax placed on goods imported from another country

nullify:

to make previous legislation null and void; cancel a law