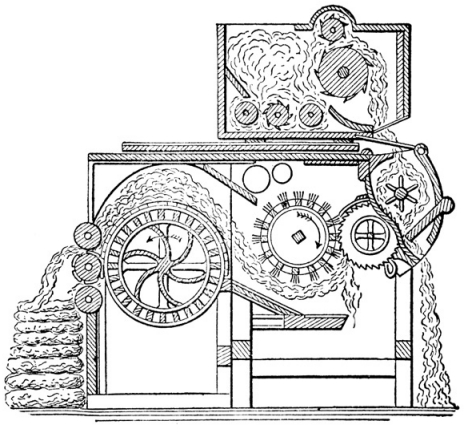
Unit 3: *Slavery in America*

Name: _____

Lecture 3.1 • Our Peculiar Institution



This is a diagram of what?

Rise of the Cotton Kingdom

- In 1793, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, which could clean more cotton than 100 slaves. 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 planters tried to keep slaves powerless 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 slaves 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 a slave & preacher named Nat Turner. Turner and his 70 followers killed 200 white people. In retaliation, thousands of blacks were killed all across the South.

Personal Reflection:

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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 black slaves 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 irst 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.

- So with Congress unwilling or unable to outlaw slavery nationally, laws, many Northern states decided to act, and passed state laws banning slavery in their states.

- As a result, by the 1830s, most Northern blacks were "freemen", who owned businesses, had families, and lived free — but not necessarily equal — lives

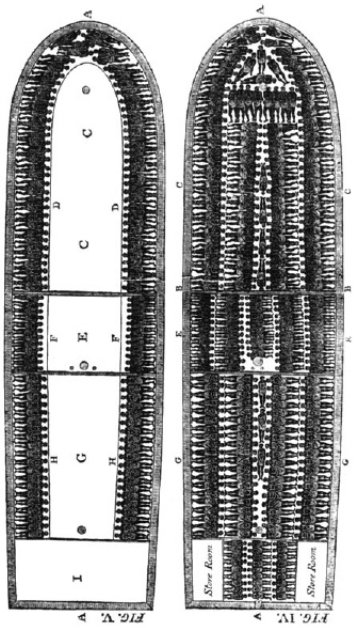
The Economics of Slavery

- But even with slavery banned in many states, the cotton industry was still a powerful economic & political force in the North:

  - Cotton fed the textile mills throughout New England.

  - Cotton was traded on the stock market, so even non-slave owners profitted from cotton.

  - Dozens of judges and congressmen were cotton planters, and even 10 of the first 14 presidents owned slaves!

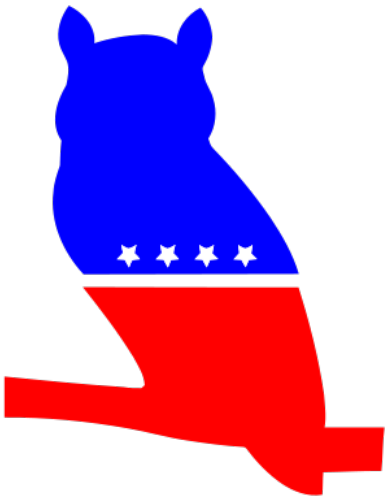


What is this a drawing of?

<u>Personal Reflection</u>:

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.

Personal Reflection:

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?

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 President's office 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.

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

Personal Reflection:

tariff:
a tax placed on goods imported from another country

nullify:
to make previous legislation null and void; cancel a law