

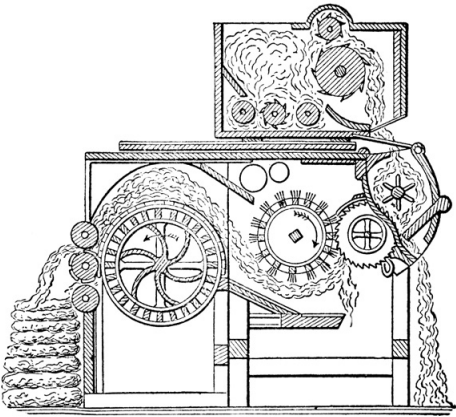
Unit 3: *Slavery in America*

Name: _____

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 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 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.



This is a diagram of what?

Personal Reflection:

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 3.4 • *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?

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