

# **The South and Slavery**

**1793-1860**

# “King Cotton”



**Cotton replaced tobacco as the staple of the Southern Economy**

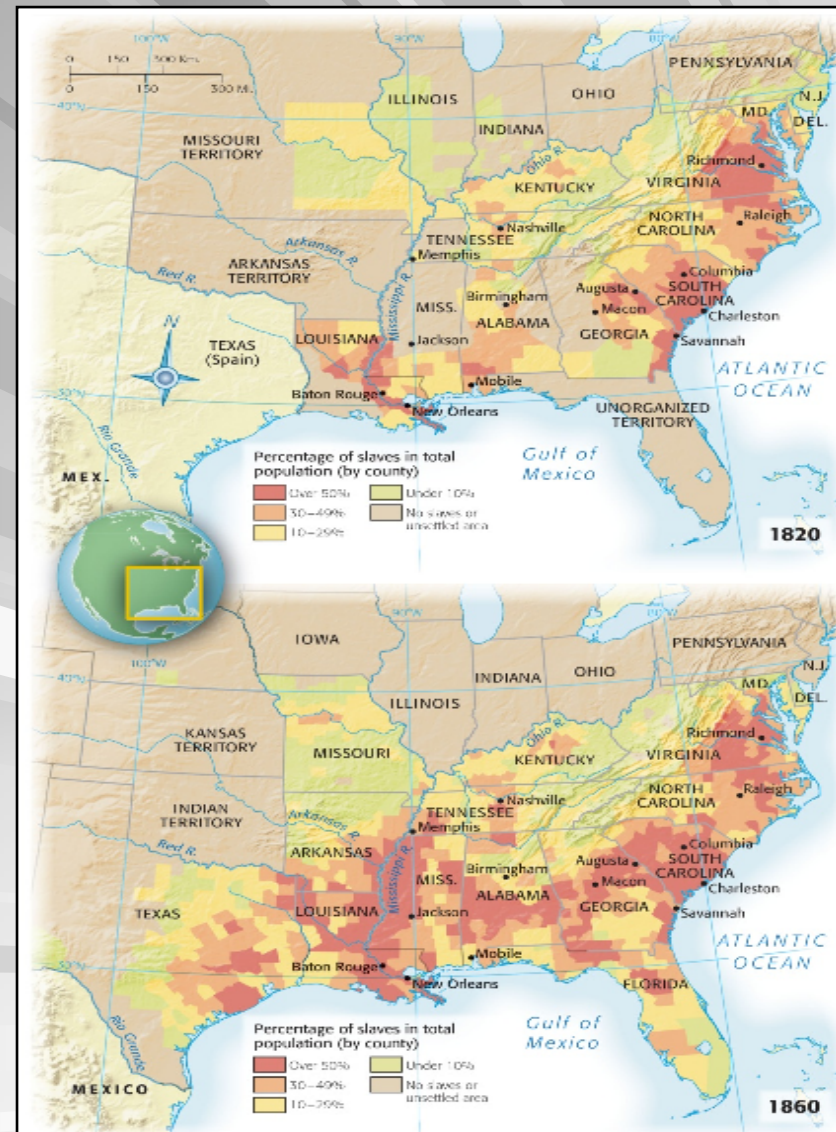
**1/2 of world's cotton supply produced in South**

**75% of Britain's textiles produced w/ U.S. cotton**

**In 1800, \$8 million: In 1860, \$250 million**



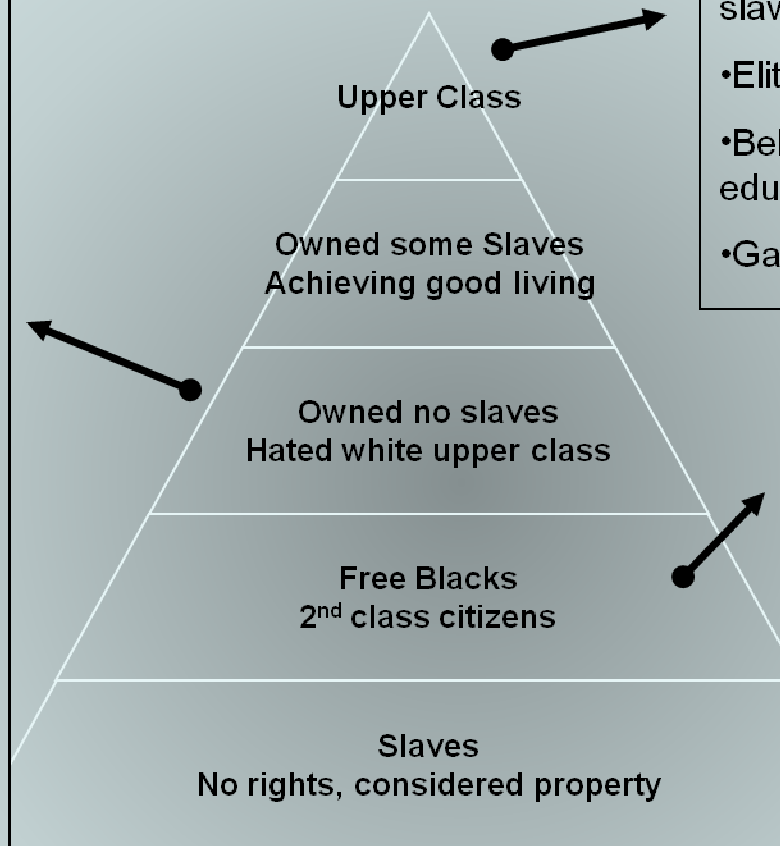
# Cotton Production and Slave Distribution in the South





# Economic Pyramid

- Agriculture was wasteful
- Despised wealthy for this
- Small farms sold land; moved west & north
- Land over-speculation
- Cost of slaves expensive: \$1,200 for solid field hand
- Dependence on one-crop economy; lacked diversification
- Planters tired of seeing North grow of their work
  - Bankers
  - Agents
  - shippers

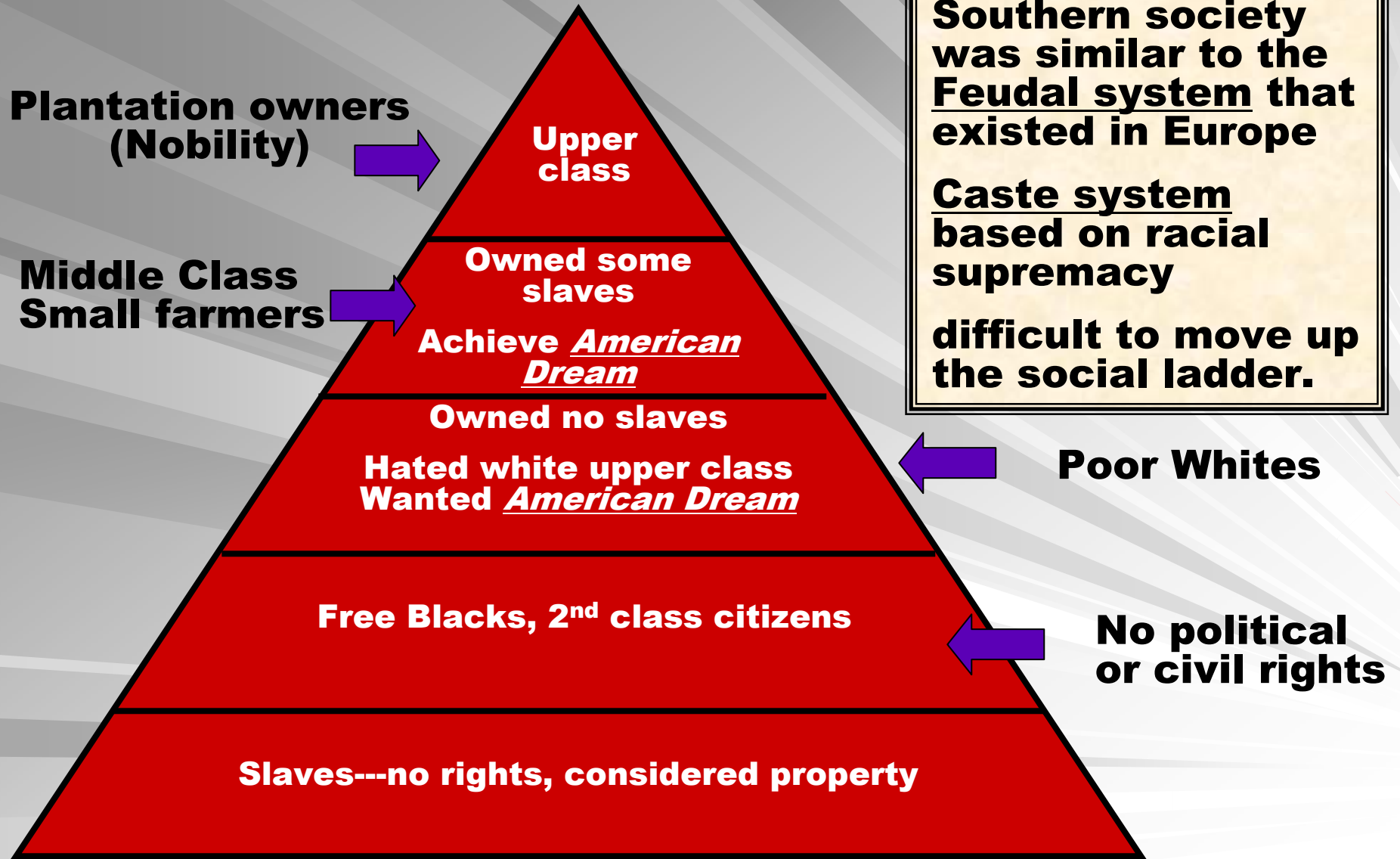


- 1850: 1,733 owned more than 100 slaves
- Elite political leadership
- Believed their objective was to get an education & serve public
- Gap widened between rich and poor

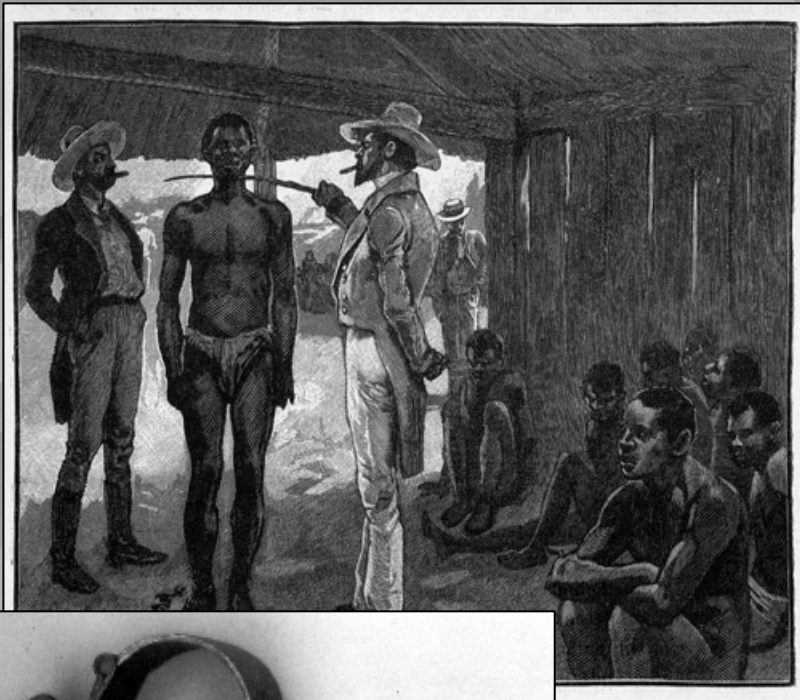
- By 1860: 250,000 free blacks in South
- Prohibited from certain jobs
- Couldn't testify against whites
- Vulnerable to being hi-jacked & sold back in to slavery
- Resented & detested
- North: 250,000 free blacks
- Barred from schools, voting
- Hated by laborers: competition for work



# Social Pyramid



# Plantation Slavery: Life



**Thousands of slaves smuggled into South after 1808**

**Cotton farming drained profits from entire region & shifted majority of slaves to deep South**

**Slave auctions were horrendously dehumanizing: slaves treated as livestock**

**Planters regarded slaves as investments: encouraged & forced reproduction**



# Plantation Slavery: Daily Life

**Slaves were denied:**

- **Education**
- **Right to make choices**
- **Humanity**

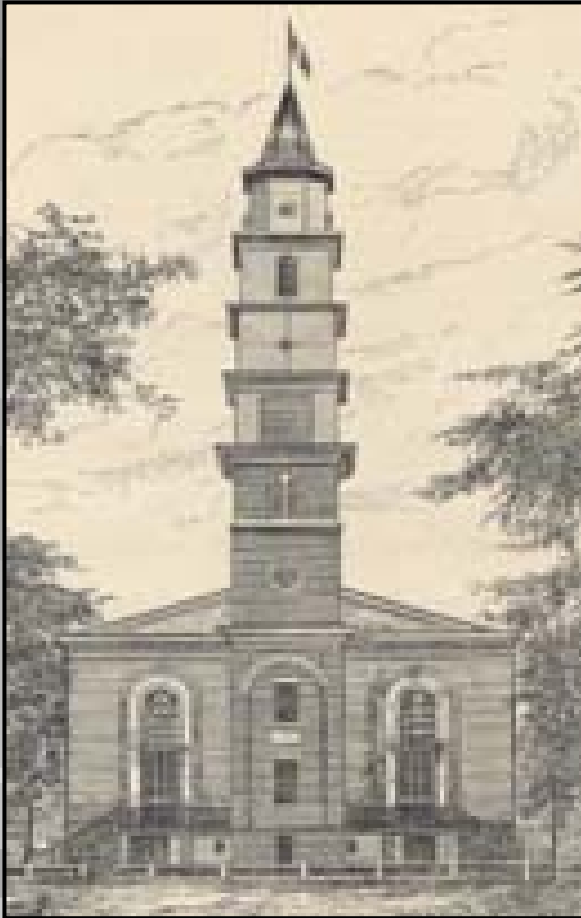
**Slaves usually worked  
from dawn to dusk in  
fields**

**Personal care (mending  
tools, clothes, cooking,  
social interaction, etc.  
done at night)**





# **Plantation Slavery: Religion**



First Colored Baptist Church in  
North America. Savannah,  
Georgia, 1788

**Throughout the 1730s-1740s, the First Great Awakening led to a wave of proselytizing slaves**

**Masters emphasized the aspects of Christianity that taught:**

- obedience**
- acceptance**
- promise of reward in the afterlife**

**For the slave Christianity offered solace and hope, especially the idea of a Messiah and the Old Testament stories of bondage and freedom**

# **Slave Rebellions: Nat Turner's Revolt 1831**

**solar eclipse = Sign from heaven**

**Turner and seven followers entered his owner's home and killing the entire family except for a small infant**

**They moved from one farm to the next, killing all slave-owning whites they found. As they progressed through Southampton county, other slaves joined in the rebellion**

**After hiding for 2 months, Turner was captured, tried, and executed**



# Slave Rebellions:

## Amistad (1839):



**Slaves captured the vessel they were sailing on and tried to sail back to Africa**

**The case was appealed to the Supreme Court Issue:** Were the blacks found on board the *Amistad* property?

**The decision was that the Africans were “kidnapped Africans” and entitled to their freedom**

**The decision was not a repudiation of slavery**



# Abolitionism



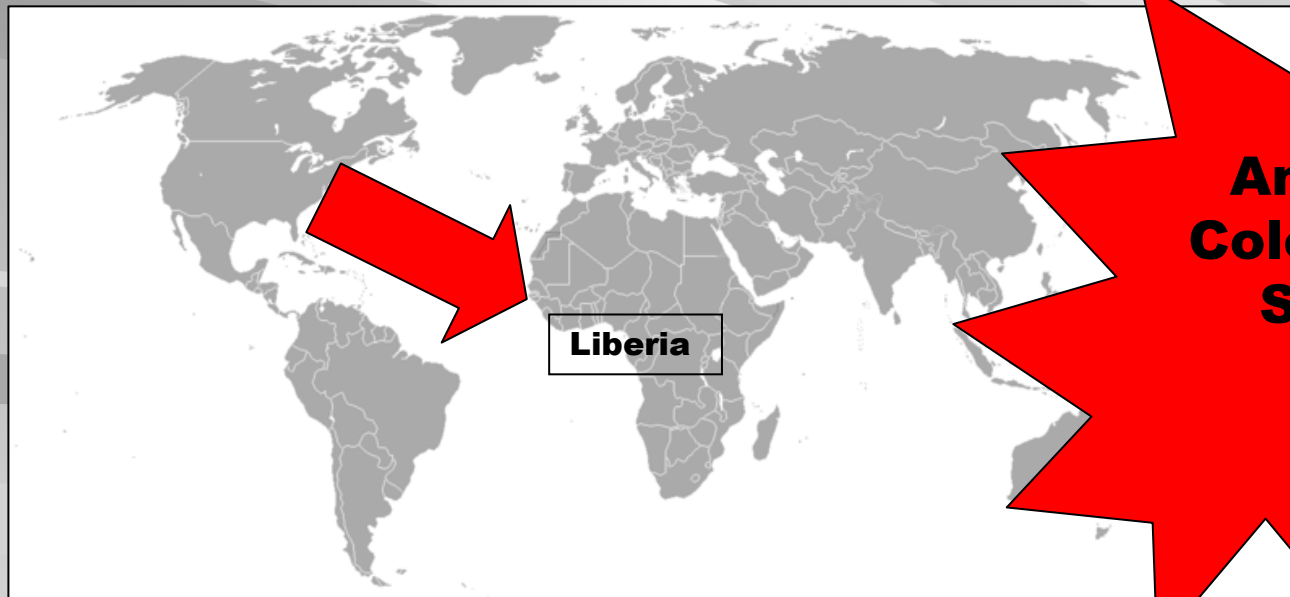
**The William Lloyd Garrison  
“The Liberator”**



**Frederick Douglass**



**Sojourner Truth**



# Southern Apologetics



**Comparison of Industrial England and Southern slavery**