

Chapter 8: Regional Societies

Section 1: The North and the Midwest

Northern Society

- Gap btw rich & poor
- 3 classes
 - Wealthy: bankers, manufacturers, merchants--
few of them--lavish homes
 - Middle Class: farmers, lawyers, other
"professionals"
 - Simple but comfy homes
 - Created desire for entertainment
 - **Specialization** of roles for men &
women
 - Children went to school & not work
 - Poor: lived in cities--overcrowded apartments
w/ no conveniences
 - Crime, disease
 - Whole family worked for survival

Changing Industrial and Farm Production

- **Skilled** craftsmen made goods in small shops
- **Francis Cabot Lowell:** MA merchant toured England during Industrial Revolution
 - Brought English ideas back
 - Created **factory system**--all workers & machines do work in 1 building
- Lowell, MA: one of 1st "factory towns"
 - Hundreds of workers
 - Mostly single women b/c cheaper than men (**Lowell Girls**)
 - Easy to replace workers
 - Easy to train workers
- New machines made factory/farm work easier/faster
 - **John Deere:** invented a new steel plow
 - Other inventions: Power Loom, mechanical reaper, sewing machine, water pumps

The Rise of Trade Unions

- Many Americans worked long hours for little pay
- Children & women worked for less pay
- Children & blacks faced worst working conditions
- Should a child work to help their family? Why can't a man get a "living wage?"
- Labor unions grew more popular
- **Labor Union:** group of workers pushing for rights/salaries for all workers
- How can a labor union help workers?
 - Strike
 - over 100 strikes in 1830s
- Some states shortened work day

Growth in Immigration

- 1861: 13% of population was foreign born
- Most immigrants (1.6 million) from Ireland
 - Escaped poverty
 - **Potato Famine:** disease killed most of Ireland's potato crops through 1840s
 - 1:8 Irish died of disease or starvation
 - Travelled to America in cramped ships
 - Still poor in America--lived in slums
 - Did most dangerous & lowest paying jobs
 - Dealt w/ racism
 - Created Irish towns in America

The Nativist Response

- Native-born Americans uncomfortable w/ foreigners
- America should be "melting pot"
- **Nativism**: belief that Americans are superior to immigrants
 - Blamed immigrants for crime & poverty
 - Wanted to limit rights of immigrants
- **American Party**: political party started to limit rights of immigrants
 - Wanted 21-year wait for citizenship
- **Know-Nothing Party**



The Midwest

- Immigrants from Germany & other places moved to midwest
- Easier to buy land in midwest (Ohio, Illinois, Indiana)
- Easier to avoid poverty if not in cities
- Industrial Revolution made women's lives at home easier



Section 2: The Cotton Kingdom

The Southern Economy

- Northern economy relied on factories
- Southern economy was built around farming & slaves
- **Cotton Boom:** invention of Eli Whitney's **cotton gin** made it 5x faster/easier to pull seeds from cotton
- Cotton became most important part of US economy (1/2 of all US exports)
- South also farmed tobacco, corn, hemp, sugarcane
- Large cities on coast turned into huge **ports** (New Orleans & Baltimore)
- Factories were built but not many--slave labor & farming was too important to invest \$ into factories

The Cotton Kingdom 1840



The Southern Class Structure

- **Antebellum:** pre-Civil War South; 3 major classes of WHITE people
 - Wealthy planters: 1 of 4 people owned slaves--few owned more than 20 slaves
 - Lived in huge mansions w/ HUGE plantations
 - Slave quarters
 - Life of ease
 - "Southern Gentleman"
 - Small farmers: **yeoman farmers**
 - Most people in South
 - Small farms that made just enough to feed their families
 - Simple homes
 - Owned few slaves
 - Poor whites
 - Very few
 - Owned no slaves
 - Owned small farms on bad soil



White Southern Culture

- Most farmers didn't grow food--most foods were simple (corn & pork)
- Simple log cabins
- Only richest built 2-story homes
- Slaves impacted Southern culture
 - Art, pottery, music all influenced by slaves
- Churches became powerful in South
 - Religion was important to most people
 - Slave owners saw their mission to make slaves Christian

The Urban South

- Less slaves in cities
- Slaves sometimes "hired out" to city businesses
- Slaves sometimes worked in factories, offices, restaurants
- Slaves treated better in cities
 - Better food & clothes and more freedom

Free African American Society

- Most blacks were slaves
- 260,000 free blacks in South by 1860
- More common in "Upper South"
- Either were never slaves or bought their freedom
- Rights were still restricted
 - Couldn't vote
 - Not allowed to learn to read/write
 - Couldn't own a gun
 - If unemployed you could be sold into slavery
 - Had to carry papers proving you were free & not a runaway slave

Section 3: The Slave System

Southerners and Slavery

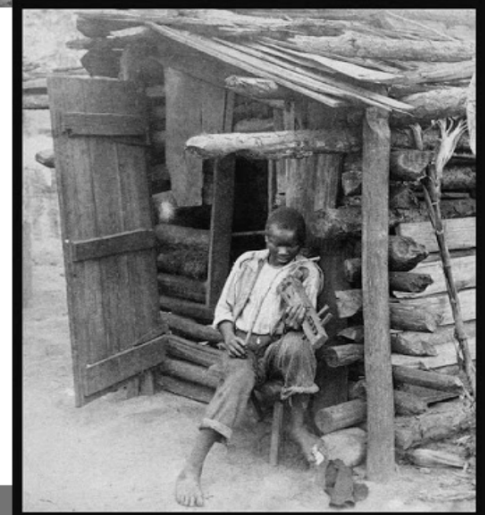
- Growth of cotton needed more workers/slaves
- 500,000 in 1790 to 4 million in 1860
- Debate over economy vs. liberty
- Many argued slave owners helped slaves (food, medicine, God)
- Many believed slaves were treated better than poor immigrants living in Northern cities

Slave Labor

- 75% of slaves lived on plantations
- Life of slaves in cities was more pleasant
- 18-20 hour days during harvest season
- Female slaves often worked in home
- Some male slaves worked as coach drivers, blacksmiths, & carpenters
- **Overseer:** employee/son of slave owner that managed slaves
- **Driver:** overseer's assistant--picked from slaves--often hated by other slaves
- **Gang labor:** slaves organized into groups to do specialized work

Slave Life

- Quality of life depended on slave owner
- Some slaves could earn money/food/rewards for hard work
- Some slaves punished severely
 - Sweat box, whippings, or be "sold down the river" to separate families
- Slave quarters were small & had little in them (little furniture)
- Food was rationed to slaves--forced them to hunt/farm in little free time
- Cheap wool clothes--rarely cotton




Slave Culture

- Life was strictly controlled
- After dark, Sundays, holidays allowed slaves to create lives
- African heritage + American experiences created slave culture
- Hard to keep families together
- Most slaves were illiterate
- Oral storytelling of **folktales**
- **Communal singing** helped ease pain & entertain
- Woodcarving & pottery were popular



Slave Religion

- Christianity was popular
- Stories of Jewish slaves gave hope
- Stories of Jesus saving them
- **Spirituals:** relaxing, religious, and sad songs 

Rebellion & Resistance

- No legal methods to fight slavery
- Faked illness & sabotaged their work
- Could run away
- **Underground Railroad**: network of white & black **abolitionists** that helped hide runaways on trip to North or Canada
 - Forced to hide during day & move at night by "conductors"
 - **Harriet Tubman** was most famous (300 slaves over 19 trips--never lost "passenger")
- Slave uprisings sometimes happened
 - 1831: **Nat Turner** led small group to free slaves--killed 60 whites
 - God wanted him to free people
 - 2 month search by state militia led to death of 100 innocent slaves
 - Scared whites
 - Refused to plead guilty--"I don't feel guilty."
 - Found guilty & hanged
 - Led to strict **Slave Codes** in many states



Nat Turner's revolt

Underground Railroad: