

# **Life in the South: Ordered Society and Economy of the Southern States**

# Southern Economy

- Invention of the Cotton Gin Impacted the South
- Other cash crops (tobacco, sugar, and rice) are changed to cotton
- Cotton is KING
- more than 3 million bales of cotton were produced annually, accounting for 2/3 of all U.S. exports by 1860

- Founding Fathers - Necessary evil to our system
- Remember - importing new slaves had been abolished in 1808
- CHANGE – Southern attitudes towards slavery were also changing with the economic reality.
- Realize that without slaves their economy will fail.

# Southern Industry

- Some industry in South (under 20%)
- Factories made items only needed in the South (flour, textile, limited)
- Not a lot of export items to North or overseas
- Banks, Farming, Commerce (import/export), services were all intertwined or connected.
  
- Most ignored the need for economic diversity and commercial development
- Did not join the industrial revolution
- Isolated the South

- Rather than wishing to see the system abolished, poor whites aspired to the lifestyle of the planter class.

# Southern Society

- A tiny fraction of the population owned large plantations with many slaves
- Planters ruled politics and society for everyone
- Like the old nobility of Europe

- 75% of all Southern whites didn't even own a single slave
- Those that did own slaves had less than 6
- Worked next to their slaves in the field
- Only 0.25% owned more than 100 slaves
- That small percent made the rules/politics and held the power.