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1 Section A

This paper seeks to investigate the question: < *How did the Import of Raw Cotton to Great Britain Influence Its Willingness to Recognize the Confederate States of America?*>. It is well-known that the southern United States is a largely agrarian region of the nation, and further that the economy of these states has, since the colonial era, been heavily dependent on the exportation of various <cash crops>. Cotton, the crop with which the 19th century south is most associated, became the staple export of the region, and indeed may be argued to have kick-started or at least supported the lucrative textile industry of Great Britain. In this paper I examine the economic codependency of the Antebellum South (and subsequently the of the Confederate States of America [CSA]) with Great Britain, and the effects of this relationship on the prospect of the British Parliament's diplomatic recognition of the CSA as a sovereign nation. To do this, I shall rely on the vast contemporary records of exports and manufactures, the body of post- contemporary literature regarding the relations of both nations, and the large base of correspondences and personal records of those involved.

A source that shall be relied upon heavily in assessing the economic reliance of the Antebellum South on cotton in the decades leading up to the war is Douglass C. North, [The Economic Growth of the United States 1790 - 1860](#) (1966). In this book, North argues that the critical period of economic development in the United States was, contrary to the accepted narrative at the time, not in

2 Section B

[1](#)

3 Section C

References

House of Representatives, U.S. Congress. *H. Misc. Doc. no. 49*. 48th Cong., 1st. sess., 1884.

1. The data for figure [2](#) comes from: (Total Exports) North, [The Economic Growth of the United States 1790 - 1860](#), Table A-III; (Cotton Exports) U.S. Congress House of Representatives, *H. Misc. Doc. no. 49* (48th Cong., 1st. sess., 1884), Part 2, Table 2.

North, Douglass Cecil. *The Economic Growth of the United States 1790 - 1860*. The Norton Library 346.
New York: Norton, 1966. ISBN: 978-0-393-00346-8.

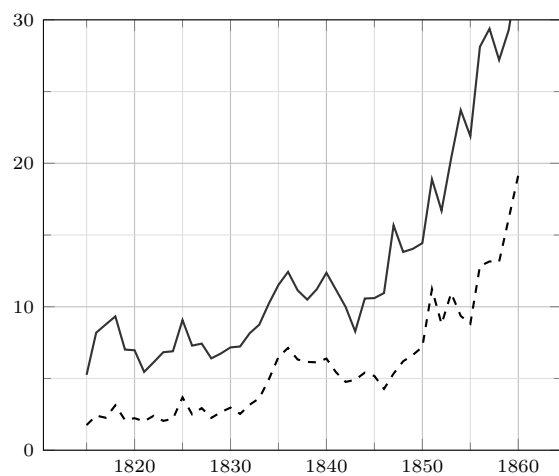


Figure 2.1: Value (hundreds of millions of dollars) of
Total Exports (solid) and of Total Raw Cotton Ex-
ports (dashed) in the U.S.: 1815-1860