

AP United States History

The West and South

- The Midwest Region
 - Becomes the chief source of grain
 - Leads to the development of large farms
 - Banks spread to make loans to the farmers
- The South's "Peculiar Institution" (Slavery)
 - At this point, the south is primarily agrarian
 - Economic power shifts from upper south to lower south
 - Cotton is valuable and the chief export of the south
 - By 1860, 5 million bales a year (57% of US exports)
 - Very slow development of industrialization
- Eli Whitney's Cotton Gin—1791
 - Mechanical device that makes processing cotton much easier
 - As a result, more slaves are used in the south to pick cotton
 - The cotton can be processed easier so more cotton can be grown
- Impact on the North and International Economy from Slavery
 - Southern cotton furnished the raw material for manufacturing in the northeast
 - Bigger impact on the international economy
 - Few bankers, investment, etc.
- Poor, Southern Whites
 - Many southern whites lived in poverty
 - They lived in Squalor almost as bad as slaves
 - Formed a true underclass
- Life for Women
 - Worse to northern counterpart
 - Less opportunities, only role in the home
 - lower class women worked on the farm, rare education