Prateek Wadhavkar

ECON 451

Professor Amanda Gregg

Spring 2023

***Topic and Source List***

My final paper will study the relationship between pro-abolitionist sentiment and rates of slave ownership in the American South during the Antebellum period. To assess the number of slaves in plantations across the Southern United States, I will be using data from the Parker-Gallman sample for the year 1860, as well as the 1850-1860 Slave Samples from IPUMS. Moreover, I plan to develop a sentiment analysis model to evaluate abolitionist and anti-abolitionist sentiment in local newspapers across the American South and obtain these local newspapers from ProQuest and the Library of Congress website. Additionally, I will use data on elected officials and their political parties from the Library of Congress to gain a sense of abolitionist and anti-abolitionist sentiment in each region. Plantations, which were dependent on slave labor and extremely profitable, were a cornerstone of the economy of the Antebellum South. Through my research, I hope to disentangle the extent to which the fear of political repression - in the form of abolitionism - and a change in morality can influence the behavior of firms.

To assist my understanding of slavery and plantations in the Antebellum South, I have identified several books and papers. Currently, I am reading Accounting for Slavery by Caitlin Rosenthal, which details the accounting practices of plantations and seeks to integrate the history of slavery into the history of American business practices. Her thesis goes against Alfred Chandler’s notion of the plantation as an unsophisticated and unprofitable business form, as detailed in The Visible Hand.

***Bibliography:***

**Data:**

Parker, William N., and Gallman, Robert E. Southern Farms Study, 1860. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 1992-02-16. https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR07419.v1

Russell Menard, Trent Alexander, Jason Digman, and J. David Hacker

Minneapolis: Minnesota Population Center,

Public Use Microdata Samples of the Slave Population of 1850-1860

University of Minnesota, 2004

<http://usa.ipums.org/usa/slavepums>

Chronicling America historic American newspapers . [Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 2007] Web.. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <lccn.loc.gov/2007618519>.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>

History, Art & Archives, U.S. House of Representatives, “31st Congress (1849–1851),” https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/31st/ (March 20, 2023)

**Literature:**

Rosenthal, C. (2018). Accounting for Slavery: Masters and Management. Harvard University Press.

Wright, G. (1986). Old South, New South: Revolutions in the Southern Economy since the Civil War. Basic Books.

Chandler, A. D. (1977). The Visible Hand: The Managerial Revolution in American Business. Belknap Press.

Wright, Gavin. 2022. "Slavery and the Rise of the Nineteenth-Century American Economy." Journal of Economic Perspectives, 36 (2): 123-48.

Conrad, Alfred H., and John R. Meyer. “The Economics of Slavery in the Ante Bellum South.” Journal of Political Economy 66, no. 2 (1958): 95–130. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1827270>.

Hilt, Eric. “Economic History, Historical Analysis, and the ‘New History of Capitalism.’” The Journal of Economic History 77, no. 2 (2017): 511–36. doi:10.1017/S002205071700016X.