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Chapter 12

**Directions**: answer the following questions completely. No answer should be one word or sentence. Use the who, what, when, where, why, and how as a guide to answering the questions.

1. **What were the environmental and economic consequences of the South’s emphasis on cotton?** The environmental and economic consequences of the South’s emphasis on cotton was the increase of demand for slave labor. Due to the profitable one-crop economy of cotton in the South, the economy was rapidly expanding. But, in order to maintain the economy, slavery would be needed to continue farming cotton and profits. One environmental consequence of the South’s emphasis on cotton was the massive plantations that were built to grow and sell cotton. Industrial machines began to appear to help with cotton manufacturing and efficiency. Railroads and other forms of transport began to appear as a result of the increase of cotton. As there was more cotton to grow, the demand for slavery began to increase. Also, the technology began to improve because of the cotton and slavery. Furthermore, as cotton was being planted, the soil got worn out and slowed the growth of crops in the area, which decreased profits. This destruction of fertile soil for cotton made southerners expand into the west for more land to farm cotton.
2. **What were three major slave rebellions and why did none succeed?** The three major slave rebellions in the United States during the 19th century were Denmark Vesey’s rebellion in South Carolina in 1822, the Nat Turner’s rebellion in Virginia in 1831, and Gabriel Prosser’s rebellion in Virginia in 1800. Gabriel Prosser was a slave revolt leader who was inspired by the Haitian slave revolt, which was successful. Prosser wanted to kill the whites with the exception to Frenchmen, the poor, Quakers and Methodists. He formed a group of slaves to revolt against his master and the whites in 1800 and unfortunately, someone exposed their plan and they got caught. Prosser’s rebellion was unsuccessful since the militia captured more than a dozen slaves and the slave laws in Virginia became more strict. Denmark Vesey’s rebellion in 1822 had plans to burn the city, destroy ships in the harbor and kill their master. However, two of the members in the revolt group told the authorities and their plan immediately halted. Many of the slaves were killed or deported. Furthermore, Nat Turner’s rebellion in 1831 was somewhat successful because they killed over 50 whites, going from plantation to plantation. Nat Turner’s posse of slave rebels got shut down by the militia. These were major slave rebellions that didn’t succeed and were stopped. The members involved in the rebellions were punished very harshly and resulted in more strict slave laws in the South.
3. **Why did southern whites who did not hold slaves defend the “peculiar institution”?** The southern whites who didn’t hold slaves defended the peculiar institution because it helped the society and economy of the South. It unified the South and were able to grow cash crops that profited the South. The peculiar institution was slavery and the southerners thought it was needed to maintain the economy. People would defend the peculiar institution so they could be higher up on the social hierarchy than a group of people. To be put themselves above someone else. Furthermore, the southern whites who didn’t own slaves still supported the peculiar institution because of the wealthy planter elites who already developed the model for southern white culture. The agriculture done in the South was dependent on slavery, and the southerners knew that. To prevent the Southern economy from falling, slavery must be kept in the south.
4. **Describe how enslaved people responded to their bondage during the antebellum period.** Enslaved people responded to their bondage during the antebellum period in many ways. One way the enslaved people responded to their bondage was attempting to run away from their masters to gain their freedom. Slaves who managed to escape successfully used tactics to hide from capture and received help from people who took care and sheltered the fugitive slaves. Many would use the Underground Railroad in the 19th century to gain freedom. Then, others would attempt to rebel against their masters and get revenge on them. Although there were many punishments and consequences if a slave was caught doing one of those actions. Slaves would be captured and brought back and be publicly executed or tortured to be set as an example to what would happen if you tried to escape. The slaves would try to escape to the northern states in America or go to Canada, where there are many abolitionists to help the slaves. Then, if rebellions were successful, the slaves would’ve gotten revenge by killing the master and other whites. Furthermore, if a slave didn’t try to escape or rebel, they coped and relied on family ties, entertaining themselves by singing, and religion.
5. **How was the experience of plantation slavery different for men and women?** The experience of plantation slavery was different for men and women because of how varied their tasks were. But also, the slave owners in the United States would still force the men and women to perform exhausting and daunting labor in the fields with little regard for sex. Usually, the slaves were forced to construct projects, carry heavy objects, farm in the sunlight for hours, and had to entertain the master. In addition, women had more household tasks such as cooking, cleaning, and taking care of children. The women served a very important role because they were able to reproduce and make babies born into slavery. Due to the high demand for labor because of the increase of cotton, slave owners wanted more slaves and women were the solution because they could give birth to more slaves. These slave babies could be sold for profit or be kept to help with work.
6. **Discuss how free persons of color fit into southern society.** Most of the free persons of color were still discriminated against in southern society. Although they were free legally, they were not seen as an individual. They were seen as different and became the punching bag of many. The free persons of color were segregated and had limited rights in politics and society. Moreover, free persons of color in southern society were very impoverished and had an uncertain status. This was because of the racial restrictions and many free persons of color were mulattoes. Mulattoes were people with mixed European ancestry and African ancestry. Despite many of the mulattoes living in poverty and having to work in the factories to maintain a living, some of the mulattoes were successful and even owned slaves of their own. They even bought some of their own family.
7. **How did expansion into the Southwest influence slavery and its defense?** The expansion into the Southwest influenced slavery and its defense. The expansion was a result of the soil in the South becoming exhausted and because of the falling prices of the crops in the South. The people in the South believed they needed to expand in the West to grow their economy and to gain a profit. With this idea of expanding into the Southwest, the Southerners said it was apart of their government to have slavery and that slaves would be required to help the Southerners with farming. The Southerners wanted to buy land in the Southwest and expand to take advantage of the cheap land. The slaves that were brought to the Southwest were exhausted from working to maintain and construct the land for farming. The Southerners wanted to expand their land, as well as slavery too. Although, Northerners did not think that expansion of slavery in the west was necessary.
8. Identify each of the following and their **significance**:
   1. **Yeomen** – Yeoman were part of the common people who farm, and they were small landowners. The yeomen made up most of the white Southerner population in the United States during the 19th century and they lived in small two-room cabins. These farmers would begin to domesticate and raise farm animals for food, such as chickens and pigs. Furthermore, they would raise crops like corn and cotton to sell and eat. Most of the Yeoman did not own any slaves and were very independent. They were the back backbone of voting and were the only pure voters. Thomas Jefferson thought that the Yeoman were the chosen people of God because of their relation to democracy. The significance of the Yeoman was that there were many efforts to expand land and make room for more Yeoman to generate more authentic and pure votes for America.
   2. **“planters”** – Planters were people who owned 20 or more slaves. In 1860, only one out of every thirty white males in the South were considered a planter. Planters had immense influence and were very powerful in politics, economics, and society. They held most of the wealth in the South and owned large businesses. The planter class in the South were made up of less than 4% of white men, yet they held more than half of all the slaves and made most of the cash crops. Many planters owned more than 100 slaves. Planters were significant in history because they helped develop the country of the United States through their wealth and their contributions towards trade and the economy.
   3. **Mulattoes** – Mulattoes were people of mixed racial ancestry in the United States. Essentially, mulattoes were people who had one white parent and one black parent. They were treated like slaves and many people rejected the term, “mulatto,” because of its connection to slavery. According to the 1860 census, about 10% of the black population were mulattoes. In cities, the mulattoes who exhibited a status between the whites and the blacks, and virtually became a third new caste. Slave owners could have children with their slaves and can consider that child a slave or a white with rights. They are significant to history because they had both European and African descent, which differentiated the races. This caused many dilemmas and new situations to occur.
   4. **Denmark Vesey** – Denmark Vesey was an African American slave from the Caribbean who was brought to the United States. Vesey was the man who was the leader of a slave rebellion in Charleston that took place in 1822. Denmark Vesey planned to rebel against the whites after the African Church closed down. Denmark Vesey’s plan in his rebellion was to destroy the ships in the harbor, burn down the city, and escape to Haiti. Despite his efforts, two slaves who were involved and opposed Vesey’s plan had snitched and exposed the plan. The authorities got involved where they executed 35 slaves and 34 of them were deported. The significance of Denmark Vesey was that it caused anxiety amongst the slave owners, knowing that their slaves could revolt at any time. It showed that slaves had the power to band together and increase in strength.
   5. **Nat Turner** – Nat Turner was a slave preacher who planned on leading a slave rebellion. Nat Turner was born into slavery in the 19th century and lived in Virginia. Turner’s master appointed Turner has a supervisor amongst the others, and this greatly influenced and inspired Turner. Nat Turner believed it was his destiny to lead a slave rebellion to get revenge on the whites who discriminated against him. Nat Turner’s original plan was just to only execute his master with a small group of slaves. Eventually, in the summer of 1831, he led a rebellion of around 70 slaves and killed more than 50 whites going from plantation to plantation in Virginia. The situation got so bad; the Virginia militiamen got involved to stop the rebellion. Nat Turner’s rebellion was important to history because it showed the potential and power of the slaves. It proved that slaves were capable of rebelling against their master.
   6. **Uncle Tom’s Cabin** – Uncle Tom’s Cabin was an anti-slavery novel published in 1852 by the author, Harriet Beecher Stowe. Uncle Tom’s Cabin had a large impact in the South and North. The novel opened the eyes of people to the inhumanities and problems of slavery. The novel shined light on how cruel and evil slavery is, and to convince people to protest against the Fugitive Slave Law. The Fugitive Slave law made it illegal to support and look after runaway slaves. It allowed for the capture and return of runaway slaves in the United States. Although Harriet Beecher Stowe would be considered a criminal in the South and her books became banned in the South, her novel was very successful in spreading the message about the evils of slavery to Americans.
9. **Explain how the dependence on agriculture and slavery shaped the distinctive culture of the Old South?** The Old South being dependent on slavery and agriculture shaped the distinctive culture greatly. The cash crops of the Old South helped to develop the economy and structure. The Old South depended on slavery to maintain their agriculture because of the south’s ideal climate for farming cash crops. The South’s economy would be challenged by the tax tariffs on the country and industrialization, such as the Tariff of 1828. To combat this and prevent the economy from becoming weak, the culture and people of the South banded together to fend any negative revolutions made against the South. The culture to defend the South from a collapsed economy grew and hatred towards the policies began to increase. The southerners started to come together to defend the dependencies, and this greatly shaped the culture of the Old South.