Chapter 1 : WOMEN MAKE MOVIES | Old South

What is this place? Is it different, anymore? People have been asking them for decades. Where is the South? That tells us something. It tells us that the South is, to begin with, a concept and a shared one. As a geographer would put it, the South is a "vernacular" region. Stop and think about that. Why should that be? Those problems may be less and less obvious, but most are still with us to some extent, and we can still use them to locate the South. But the South is more than just a collection of unfavorable statistics. It has also been home to several populations, black and white, whose intertwined cultures have set them off from other Americans as well as from each other. Some of us, in fact, have suggested that Southerners ought to be viewed as an American ethnic group, like Italian- or Polish-Americans. If we can use distinctive cultural attributes to find Southerners, then we can say that the South is where they are found. Southerners are also like immigrant ethnic groups in that they have a sense of group identity based on their shared history and their cultural distinctiveness in the present. If we could get at it, one of the best ways to define the South would be with what Hamilton Horton calls the "Hell, yes! Southern businesses, Southern magazines, Southern voluntary associations, colleges, and universities many such have at least aspired to serve the South as a whole. We can map the South by looking at where the influence of such enterprises extends. All of these are plausible ways to go about answering the question of where the South is. For the most part, they give similar answers, which is reassuring. Nobody would exclude Mississippi from the South. But is Texas now a Southern state? How about West Virginia? Allow me a homely simile. The South is like my favorite pair of blue jeans. The Socioeconomic South "Let us begin by discussing the weather," wrote U. The weather, that distinguished Southern historian asserted, "has been the chief agency in making the South distinctive. It fostered the cultivation of the staple crops, which promoted the plantation system, which brought the importation of Negroes, which not only gave rise to chattel slavery but created a lasting race problem. These led to controversy and regional rivalry for power, which. Some vegetable life loves that. But another plant has been far more consequential for the South. That plant, of course, is cotton. Dixie was "the land of cotton," and Figure 3 shows that in the early years of this century Southerners grew cotton nearly everywhere they could grow it: Certainly cotton culture affected the racial makeup of the South and slowed the growth of Southern cities. Figure 4 shows what the region looked like, demographically, in Few cities interrupted the countryside. A band of rural counties with substantial black populations solidly shaded on the map traced the area of cotton cultivation and plantation agriculture, in a long arc from southeastern Virginia down and across to eastern Texas, with arms north and south along the Mississippi River. This is the Deep South what a geographer would call the "core area" of the region defined by its staple-crop economy. Here some Southern characteristics and phenomena were found in their purest, most concentrated form. Lynchings, for example Figure 5. Or peculiar, single-issue politics that issue, as a politician once put it, "spelled n-i-g-g-e-r" , reflected in support for third-party or unpopular major-party presidential candidates Figure 6. Two out of three Southerners are now urban folk, and most rural Southerners work in industry anyway, but the fossil remains of this old South can still be found as concentrations of poor, rural black Southerners compare Figure 7, for , to Figure 4. This population, together with poor, rural white Southerners in the Southern highlands, means that most Southern states are still at the bottom of the U. Virginia, Texas, and Florida barely involved in plantation agriculture, and with little or no mountain population are exceptions. This means, in turn, that almost any problem of poor people, or of poor states, can still be used to map the South. A policeman once offered me another explanation. In a few respects, South and non-South have traded places: Consequently, those who view the South primarily in economic terms are likely to believe that the region is disappearing. If we map the South with the same criteria people used even fifty years ago, what we get these days looks more like a Swiss cheese than a coherent region. What if we somehow identify Southerners, and then define the South as where they come from? We could say, for example, that people who eat grits, listen to country music, follow

stockcar racing, support corporal punishment in the schools, hunt possum, go to Baptist churches, and prefer bourbon to scotch if they drink at all are likely to be Southerners. Look at the geographical distribution of Baptists, for example Figure Early on, members of that faith established their dominance in the Southern back country, in numbers approached only by those of Methodists. As Southerners moved on to the west and south, they took their religion with them. In this respect, the mountain South, too, is virtually indistinguishable from the rest of the region. And when it comes to Southern music, the mountains and the Southwest are right at the heart of things. Figure 13 shows where country music-makers come from: The South has had a higher homicide rate than the rest of the United States for as long as reliable records have been kept, and the mountains and Southwest share fully in this pattern. Around the world, societies with high homicide rates tend to have low suicide rates, and the same is true for American states. It very much looks as if there is some sort of trade-off at work. Figure 15 shows where homicide is about as common as suicide one of the few things the South has in common with New York. Regional cultural differences are also reflected in family and sex-role attitudes. These differences have even surfaced in the legal system: The percentage of women in predominantly male occupations remains lower in the South than elsewhere Figure Usually, when families move they carry these patterns with them. Those areas were marginal, at best, to the plantation South, but they were settled by Southerners, and by measures like these they are quite comfortably Southern. Mapping things like this makes it easy to figure out who settled most of Missouri, too, as well as the southern parts of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. And many of the same features can be found in scattered enclaves of Southern migrants all around the United States among auto workers in Ypsilanti, for instance, or the children and grandchildren of Okies in Bakersfield. So if we define the South as a patch of territory somehow different from the rest of the United States because it is inhabited by people who are different from other Americans, we still have a great deal to work with. Indeed, we have new things to work with all the time. We need to recall that country music came of age only with the phonograph, and NASCAR only with the high-performance stock car. Consider also Figure 18 , which locates colleges and universities that publish their own sports magazines. Southern institutions of higher learning have seldom been on the cutting edge of innovation, but they seem to be out front on this one. Southern Identification I suggested earlier that we can look at the South, not as just a distinctive economic or cultural area, but as the home of people somehow bound together by ties of loyalty and identification. Figure 19 , for example, shows where to find chapters of the Kappa Alpha Order, a college fraternity with an explicitly Confederate heritage. For many, the word Dixie evokes that same heritage, and Figure 20 shows where people are likely to include that word in the names of their business enterprises. Now the Southwest, too, has largely abandoned Dixie turn about: Most of Florida would probably be gone as well if there were no Dixie Highway to keep the word in use. Even in the city of Atlanta, Dixie seems to be gone with the wind or at least on the way out. Only in what is left of the old plantation South is Dixie really alive and well. We can ask, in other words, not "where do people display Southern ways? The South defined this way naturally coincides pretty well with the area where one is actually apt to encounter Southern accents, Southern food, and Southern women a bigger region than what remains of the Confederate South, just as the cultural South extends well beyond the domain of the old plantation system. Regional Institutions Regional institutions play a part in sustaining the South, as both idea and reality, tying the region together economically and socially and contributing to a sense of distinctiveness and solidarity. Here, too, we find a close analogy to the life of American ethnic groups. Like some of those groups, Southerners have their own social and professional organizations, organs of communication, colleges and universities, and so forth. In fact, they probably have more of them now than they ever did before. But now the Southern Historical Association, the Southern Railway, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Southern Growth Policies Board these and other, similar institutions establish channels of communication and influence within the region, making it more of a social reality than it would be otherwise. At the same time, even the names of organizations like these serve to reinforce the idea that the South exists, that it means something, that it is somehow a fact of nature. Southern Living magazine, for instance, implies month after month that there is such a thing as Southern living, that it is different and by plain implication better. Figure 22 shows where that message falls on fertile ground. Notice that Floridians are relatively uninterested in it. So are Texans, despite heroic efforts by the magazine including

a special Southwestern edition. Here we see plainly a development that regional sociologists were predicting fifty years ago, something maps of regional culture and regional identification only hint at: Texas has its own magazines. The University of North Carolina, in Chapel Hill, has long been a center for the study and nurture of Southern culture. It has also helped to educate a regional elite. Figure 23 shows where an appreciable percentage of all college graduates are Chapel Hill alumni. In particular, Chapel Hill has little market penetration west of the Mississippi. Texas has its own universities.

Chapter 2 : The Old South? | Yahoo Answers

Creating an Old South has 19 ratings and 0 reviews. Set on the antebellum southern frontier, this book uses the history of two counties in Florida's panh.

The presence and practices of Native Americans and the landscape also played a role in Southern culture. The climate is conducive to growing tobacco , cotton , and other crops, and the red clay in many areas was used for the distinctive red brick architecture of many commercial buildings. People[edit] In the time of their arrival the predominant cultural influence on the Southern states was that of the English colonists who established the original English colonies in the region. Following them were larger numbers of English indentured servants from across the English Midlands and Southern England, they would be the largest group to settle in the Southern Colonies during the colonial period. This usage can be found in a passage from a letter to the Earl of Dartmouth , "I should explain Those from the Tidewater area of Virginia and the Tidewater region of North Carolina identified themselves almost exclusively as of English origins, while those from the Piedmont areas were a mixture of English, Scotch-Irish , Scottish and Irish origins. South Georgia has a large Irish presence, the ancestors of whom were largely at one time Roman Catholic ; however, many were converted to various Protestant sects due to the lack of a missionary presence of the Catholic Church in the 18th and 19th centuries. The predominance of Irish surnames in South Georgia has been noted by American historians for some time. People of many nationalities established communities in the American South. Some examples are the German American population of the Edwards Plateau of Texas , whose ancestors arrived in the region in the s. German cultural influence continues to be felt in cities like New Braunfels, Texas near Austin and San Antonio [11] Much of the population of East Texas, Louisiana and coastal Mississippi and Alabama traces its primary ancestry to French colonists of the 18th century. Also important is the French community of New Orleans dating back to the s. African-American culture The other primary population group in the South is made up of the African American descendants of the slaves brought into the South. South Florida has a large Jewish element that migrated from New York. The evangelical religion was spread by religious revivals led by local lay Baptist ministers or itinerant Methodist ministers. The Revolution turned more people toward Methodist and Baptist preachers in the South. The Cane Ridge Revival and subsequent "camp-meetings" on the Kentucky and Tennessee frontiers were the impetus behind the Restoration Movement. Traveling preachers used music and song to convert new members. Shape-note singing became a fundamental part of camp meetings in frontier regions. In the early decades of the 18th century, the Baptists in the South reduced their challenge to class and race. Rather than pressing for freedom for slaves, they encouraged planters to improve treatment of them, and ultimately used the Bible to justify slavery. Baptist and Methodist churches proliferated across the Tidewater region, usually attracting common planters, artisans and workers. The wealthiest planters continued to be affiliated with the Episcopal Church. Elsewhere in the region, Catholics are typically a minority and of mainly Irish, German and French or modern Hispanic ancestry. Atlanta , in comparison to some other Southern cities, had a relatively small Roman Catholic population prior to the s. The population has been growing rapidly since then. The number of Catholics grew from , members in to , members in , an increase of percent. The population was expected to top 1 million by In the s, the Catholic population rebounded with the mass immigration of Irish due to the Great Potato Famine. The first were Sephardic Jews who had been living in London or on the island of Barbados. They were connected to Jewish communities in New England as well. The community figured prominently in the history of South Carolina. Richmond also had a Sephardic Jewish community before the Revolution. They built the first synagogue in Virginia about Twentieth-century migration and business development have brought significant Jewish and Muslim communities to most major business and university cities, such as Miami , Atlanta , Dallas , Houston and more recently, Charlotte.

Chapter 3 : Digital History

Creating an Old South: Middle Florida's Plantation Frontier before the Civil War / Edition 1 Set on the antebellum southern frontier, this book uses the history of two counties in Florida's panhandle to tell the story of the migrations, disruptions, and settlements that made the plantation South.

Various definitions, including that of the Census Bureau of the East and West South Central United States; [37] in another informal definition, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and sometimes adjoining areas of other states. Missouri , Kentucky , Maryland , and Delaware were states on the outer rim of the Confederacy that did not secede from the United States in the s, but did have significant numbers of residents who joined the Confederate armed forces. Kentucky and Missouri had Confederate governments-in-exile and were represented in the Confederate Congress and by stars on the Confederate battle flag. These states share commonalities of history and culture that carry on to the present day. Oklahoma was not a state during the Civil War, but all its major Native American tribes signed formal treaties of alliance with the Confederacy. Most of the southâ€"except for the higher elevations and areas near the western, southern and some northern fringesâ€"fall in the humid subtropical climate zone. Crops grow readily in the South; its climate consistently provides growing seasons of at least six months before the first frost. Another common environment occurs in the bayous and swamplands of the Gulf Coast , especially in Louisiana and in Texas. History of the Southern United States Native American culture The first well-dated evidence of human occupation in the south United States occurs around BC with the appearance of the earliest documented Americans, who are now referred to as Paleo-Indians. Several cultural stages, such as Archaic ca. Natives had elaborate and lengthy trading routes connecting their main residential and ceremonial centers extending through the river valleys and from the East Coast to the Great Lakes. Other peoples whose ancestral links to the Mississippian culture are less clear but were clearly in the region before the European incursion include the Catawba and the Powhatan. European colonization Benjamin Hawkins , seen here on his plantation, teaching Creek Native Americans how to use European technology painted in European immigration resulted in a corresponding die off of Native Americans who had not been exposed to various diseases. In the 17th century, most voluntary immigrants were of English origins who settled chiefly along the coastal regions of the Eastern seaboard but had pushed as far inland as the Appalachian Mountains by the 18th century. The majority of early English settlers were indentured servants , who gained freedom after enough work to pay off their passage. The wealthier men who paid their way received land grants known as headrights, to encourage settlement. The Spanish settled Florida in the 16th century, reaching a peak in the late 17th century. In the British colonies, immigration began in and continued until the outbreak of the Revolution in Settlers cleared land, built houses and outbuildings, and on their own farms. The rich owned large plantations that dominated export agriculture and used slaves. Many were involved in the labor-intensive cultivation of tobacco, the first cash crop of Virginia. Tobacco exhausted the soil quickly, requiring that farmers regularly clear new fields. They used old fields as pasture, and for crops such as corn and wheat, or allowed them to grow into woodlots. They were the largest group of non-English immigrants from the British Isles before the American Revolution. Those living in the backcountry were more likely to encounter Creek Indians , Cherokee , and Choctaws and other regional native groups. Presidents Jefferson , Monroe and Tyler , all from Virginia. Indeed, the entire region dominated politics in the First Party System era: The two oldest public universities are also in the South: American Revolution 1st Maryland Regiment holding the line at the Battle of Guilford in North Carolina With Virginia in the lead, the Southern colonies embraced the American Revolution , providing such leaders as commander in chief George Washington , and the author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson. In and , the British largely halted reconquest of the northern states, and concentrated on the south, where they were told there was a large Loyalist population ready to leap to arms once the royal forces arrived. The British took control of Savannah and Charleston, capturing a large American army in the process, and set up a network of bases inland. There were many more Loyalists in the South than in the North, [49] but they were concentrated in larger coastal cities and were not great enough in number to overcome the revolutionaries. There were

numerous battles large and small, with each side claiming some victories. By , however, British General Cornwallis moved north to Virginia, where an approaching army forced him to fortify and await rescue by the British Navy. The British Navy did arrive, but so did a stronger French fleet, and Cornwallis was trapped. American and French armies, led by Washington, forced Cornwallis to surrender his entire army in Yorktown, Virginia in October , effectively winning the North American part of the war. Many others were removed by Loyalist owners and became slaves elsewhere in the Empire. They were moved by the principles of the Revolution, and Quaker and Methodist preachers worked to encourage slaveholders to free their slaves. Planters such as George Washington often freed slaves by their wills. In the upper South, more than 10 percent of all blacks were free by , a significant expansion from pre-war proportions of less than 1 percent free. After the invention of the cotton gin, short staple cotton could be grown more widely. This led to an explosion of cotton cultivation, especially in the frontier uplands of Georgia, Alabama and other parts of the Deep South, as well as riverfront areas of the Mississippi Delta. Migrants poured into those areas in the early decades of the 19th century, when county population figures rose and fell as swells of people kept moving west. From the s through the s, more than one million enslaved Africans were transported to the Deep South in forced migration, two-thirds of them by slave traders and the others by masters who moved there. Planters in the Upper South sold slaves excess to their needs as they shifted from tobacco to mixed agriculture. Many enslaved families were broken up, as planters preferred mostly strong males for field work. One of these issues concerned the protective tariffs enacted to assist the growth of the manufacturing sector, primarily in the North. In , in resistance to federal legislation increasing tariffs, South Carolina passed an ordinance of nullification , a procedure in which a state would, in effect, repeal a Federal law. Soon a naval flotilla was sent to Charleston harbor, and the threat of landing ground troops was used to compel the collection of tariffs. Horse racing at Jacksonville, Alabama , The second issue concerned slavery, primarily the question of whether slavery would be permitted in newly admitted states. The issue was initially finessed by political compromises designed to balance the number of "free" and "slave" states. The issue resurfaced in more virulent form, however, around the time of the Mexicanâ€"American War , which raised the stakes by adding new territories primarily on the Southern side of the imaginary geographic divide. Congress opposed allowing slavery in these territories. Before the Civil War, the number of immigrants arriving at Southern ports began to increase, although the North continued to receive the most immigrants. Hugenots were among the first settlers in Charleston, along with the largest number of Orthodox Jews outside of New York City. Germans also went to New Orleans and its environs, resulting in a large area north of the city along the Mississippi becoming known as the German Coast. Still greater numbers immigrated to Texas especially after , where many bought land and were farmers. Many more German immigrants arrived in Texas after the Civil War, where they created the brewing industry in Houston and elsewhere, became grocers in numerous cities, and also established wide areas of farming. By , New Orleans was the wealthiest city in the country and the third largest in population. The success of the city was based on the growth of international trade associated with products being shipped to and from the interior of the country down the Mississippi River. New Orleans also had the largest slave market in the country, as traders brought slaves by ship and overland to sell to planters across the Deep South. The city was a cosmopolitan port with a variety of jobs that attracted more immigrants than other areas of the South. People relied most heavily on river traffic for getting their crops to market and for transportation. Civil War Main articles: The states in stripes were considered " border states ", and gave varying degrees of support to the Southern cause although they remained in the Union. This illustration depicts the original, trans-Allegheny borders of Virginia, thus does not show West Virginia separately. Although members of the Five Tribes in Indian Territory today part of Oklahoma aligned themselves with the Confederacy, the region is not shaded because at the time it was a territory, not a state. By , the South had lost control of Congress, and was no longer able to silence calls for an end to slaveryâ€"which came mostly from the more populated, free states of the North. The Republican Party, founded in , pledged to stop the spread of slavery beyond those states where it already existed. After Abraham Lincoln was elected the first Republican president in , seven cotton states declared their secession and formed the Confederate States of America before Lincoln was inaugurated. The United States government, both outgoing and incoming, refused to recognize the

Confederacy, and when the new Confederate President Jefferson Davis ordered his troops to open fire on Fort Sumter in April , there was an overwhelming demand, North and South, for war. Only the state of Kentucky attempted to remain neutral, and it could only do so briefly. When Lincoln called for troops to suppress what he referred to as "combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary" judicial or martial means, [59] four more states decided to secede and join the Confederacy which then moved its capital to Richmond, Virginia. Although the Confederacy had large supplies of captured munitions and many volunteers, it was slower than the Union in dealing with the border states. By March , the Union largely controlled Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri, had shut down all commercial traffic from all Confederate ports, had prevented European recognition of the Confederate government, and was poised to seize New Orleans. In the four years of war â€"65 the South was the primary battleground, with all but two of the major battles taking place on Southern soil. Union forces relentlessly squeezed the Confederacy, controlling the border states in , the Tennessee River, the Cumberland River and New Orleans in , and the Mississippi River in Lee beat off attack after attack in its defense of their capital at Richmond. But when Lee tried to move north, he was repulsed and nearly captured at Sharpsburg and Gettysburg The Confederacy had the resources for a short war, but was unable to finance or supply a longer war. The Union blockade stopped most commerce from entering the South, and smugglers avoided the tax, so the Confederate tariff produced too little revenue to finance the war. Inflated currency was the solution, but that created distrust of the Richmond government. Because of low investment in railroads, the Southern transportation system depended primarily on river and coastal traffic by boat; both were shut down by the Union Navy. The small railroad system virtually collapsed, so that by internal travel was so difficult that the Confederate economy was crippled. The Confederate cause was hopeless by the time Atlanta fell and William T. All the Confederate forces surrendered, and the region moved into the Reconstruction Era. The South suffered much more than the North overall, as the Union strategy of attrition warfare meant that Lee could not replace his casualties, and the total war waged by Sherman, Sheridan and other Union armies devastated the infrastructure and caused widespread poverty and distress. The Confederacy suffered military losses of 95, men killed in action and , who died of disease, for a total of ,, [60] out of a total white Southern population at the time of around 5. It established military districts and governors to rule over the South until new governments could be established. Many white Southerners who had actively supported the Confederacy were temporarily disenfranchised. Rebuilding was difficult as people grappled with the effects of a new labor economy of a free market in the midst of a widespread agricultural depression. In addition, what limited infrastructure the South had was mostly destroyed by the war. At the same time, the North was rapidly industrializing. To avoid the social effects of the war, most of the Southern states initially passed black codes. Eventually, these were mostly legally nullified by federal law and anti-Confederate legislatures, which existed for a short time during Reconstruction. Other freed people moved from plantation areas to cities or towns for a chance to get different jobs. At the same time, whites returned from refuges to reclaim plantations or town dwellings. In some areas, many whites returned to the land to farm for a while. Some freedpeople left the South altogether for states such as Ohio and Indiana, and later, Kansas.

Set on the antebellum southern frontier, this book uses the history of two counties in Florida's panhandle to tell the story of the migrations, disruptions, and settlements that made the plantation South.

It was widely mistakenly believed, however, that the North and South had originally been settled by two distinct groups of immigrants, each with its own ethos. In the eyes of many pre-Civil War Americans this contributed to the evolution of two distinct kinds of Americans: According to the popular stereotype, the cavalier, unlike the Yankee, was violently sensitive to insult, indifferent to money, and preoccupied with honor. The Plantation Legend During the three decades before the Civil War, popular writers created a stereotype, now known as the plantation legend, that described the South as a land of aristocratic planters, beautiful southern belles, poor white trash, faithful household slaves, and superstitious fieldhands. This image of the South as "a land of cotton where old times are not forgotten" received its most popular expression in in a song called "Dixie," written by a Northerner named Dan D. Emmett to enliven shows given by a troupe of black-faced minstrels on the New York stage. In the eyes of many Northerners, uneasy with their increasingly urban, individualistic, commercial society, the culture of the South seemed to have many things absent from the North--a leisurely pace of life, a clear social hierarchy, and an indifference to money. Despite the strength of the plantation stereotype, the South was, in reality, a diverse and complex region. Though Americans today often associate the old South with cotton plantations, large parts of the South were unsuitable for plantation life. In the mountainous regions of eastern Tennessee and western Virginia, few plantations or slaves were to be found. Nor did southern farms and plantations devote their efforts exclusively to growing cotton or other cash crops, such as rice and tobacco. Unlike the slave societies of the Caribbean, which produced crops exclusively for export, the South devoted much of its energy to raising food and livestock. The pre-Civil War South encompassed a wide variety of regions that differed geographically, economically, and politically. Such regions included the Piedmont, Tidewater, coastal plain, piney woods, Delta, Appalachian Mountains, upcountry, and a fertile black belt--regions that clashed repeatedly over such political questions as debt relief, taxes, apportionment of representation, and internal improvements. Large slaveholders were extremely rare. In only 11, Southerners, three-quarters of one percent of the white population owned more than 50 slaves; a mere 2, owned as many as slaves. Over half of all slaves lived on plantations with 20 or more slaves and a quarter lived on plantations with more than 50 slaves. Slave ownership was relatively widespread. In the first half of the 19th century, one-third of all southern white families owned slaves, and a majority of white southern families either owned slaves, had owned them, or expected to own them. These slaveowners were a diverse lot. A few were African American, mulatto, or Native American; one-tenth were women; and more than one in ten worked as artisans, businesspeople, or merchants rather than as farmers or planters. Few led lives of leisure or refinement. The average slaveowner lived in a log cabin rather than a mansion and was a farmer rather than a planter. The average holding varied between four and six slaves, and most slaveholders possessed no more than five. White women in the South, despite the image of the hoop-skirted southern belle, suffered under heavier burdens than their northern counterparts. They married earlier, bore more children, and were more likely to die young. They lived in greater isolation, had less access to the company of other women, and lacked the satisfactions of voluntary associations and reform movements. Their education was briefer and much less likely to result in opportunities for independent careers. The plantation legend was misleading in still other respects. Slavery was neither dying nor unprofitable. In the South was richer than any country in Europe except England, and it had achieved a level of wealth unmatched by Italy or Spain until the eve of World War II. The southern economy generated enormous wealth and was critical to the economic growth of the entire United States. Well over half of the richest 1 percent of Americans in lived in the South. Even more important, southern agriculture helped finance early 19th century American economic growth. In addition, precisely because the South specialized in agricultural production, the North developed a variety of businesses that provided services for the southern states, including textile and meat processing industries and financial and commercial facilities.

Chapter 5 : Creating an Old South : Edward E. Baptist :

But this myth of an "Old," changeless South only papered over the struggles that transformed slave society in the course of its expansion. In fact, that myth continues to shroud from our view the plantation frontier, the very engine of conflict that had led to the myth's creation.

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Civil War History University of North Carolina Press, Unable to control the yeoman farmers and slaves they hoped to dominate, Florida planters shaped a historical and cultural narrative that put them in a position of power at the top of a society that had never really existed. This mythological story became a means to as well as an end product of the hegemony the planters hoped to exercise. The extent to which this myth became a social reality in the years just before the Civil War was illustrated by the devotion of a generation of planters and farmers who were willing to sacrifice their lives on the battlefields of a conflict that they believed would preserve the world they had created in their minds. Creating an Old South is a masterful example of the ways in which historians can bring together the contributions of the past thirty years of scholarship in a style that promises to reach a broader public audience as well as other academics and college students. This study falls within the new "identity" history that has become [End Page] quite popular of late. The author reveals that identity, in this case regional identity, is not static, but contested and contingent, something changing across time and place, something created by those motivated by the desire to secure their own honor and power in society. He studies two counties in the panhandle of Florida, a state largely neglected by historians, and finds the frontier to be a seething world of conflictâ€"filled with fighting among groups all vying for power, all hoping to create a community that they might dominate. For the elite members of the planter class, this frontier experience was especially troubling as they fought for their honor and the economic, political, and social hegemony that their role as the producers of staple crops required. They hoped to be masters of their world, but that world seemed beyond mastery during the frontier period. Honor and masculinity were at the very heart of their struggle and became the center of planter identity. Once a more stable community was developed, the planters created their mythâ€"a story of how they had transplanted the society and culture of the Old South to the wilderness of Florida. This mythology carefully masked the reality of conflict in favor of a unified world where planters easily established their power. In the minds of the elites on the eve of the Civil War, theirs was indeed an "Old South," a timeless place where they had always been the honorable masters. The power of myth drove them on to the battlefields of the coming war and they continued to build that myth by adding tales of heroic manhood on the part of brave planters who died for the Confederate cause. He offers the reader spellbinding vignettes and introduces interesting individuals in meaningful ways. He provides critical examinations of the people who were at the very center of his story, analyzing in context the choices and actions of those who lived the past. Thus, he puts a human face You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

Chapter 6 : The South: Where is it? What is it?

Set on the antebellum southern frontier, this book uses the history of two counties in Florida's panhandle to tell the story of the migrations, disruptions, and settlements that made the plantation calendrierdelascience.com after the United States acquired Florida from Spain in , migrants from older southern states began settling the land that became Jackson and Leon Counties.

Chapter 7 : Creating Creative Fashion in the Old South

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