

Homework #31 – Due Tomorrow

Aim: How was the USA changed by the invention of the cotton gin?

Do Now: Read the handout side labeled “**The Economics of Slavery**” and answer the question at the bottom of the page. Answer in your notebook.

Please DON’ T Write on the handout!

The Expansion of Slavery

- Existed since the early 1600' s
- Dominant in the south, but present everywhere
- **Impact of the cotton gin?** Read the document by Joan Brodsky Schur.

DOCUMENT: Joan Brodsky Schur, *Eli Whitney's Patent for the Cotton Gin*, U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

THE EFFECTS OF THE COTTON GIN:

"...After the invention of the cotton gin, the yield of raw cotton doubled each decade after 1800. Demand was fueled by other inventions of the Industrial Revolution, such as the machines to spin and weave it and the steamboat to transport it. By midcentury, America was growing three-quarters of the world's supply of cotton, most of it shipped to England or New England where it was manufactured into cloth. During this time tobacco fell in value, rice exports at best stayed steady, and sugar began to thrive, but only in Louisiana. At midcentury, the South provided three-fifths of America's exports — most of it in cotton.

However, like many inventors, [Eli] Whitney (who died in 1825) could not have foreseen the ways in which his invention would change society for the worse. The most significant of these was the growth of slavery. While it was true that the cotton gin reduced the labor of removing seeds, it did not reduce the need for [use of] slaves to grow and pick the cotton. In fact, the opposite occurred. Cotton growing became so profitable for the planters that it greatly increased their demand for both land and slave labor. In 1790, there were six slave states; in 1860 there were 15. From 1790 until Congress banned the importation of slaves from Africa in 1808, Southerners imported 80,000 Africans. By 1860, approximately one in three Southerners was a slave...."

- (a) According to Joan Brodsky Schur, how did the cotton gin contribute to the growth of the United States economy?
- (b) According to Joan Brodsky Schur, what was *one* negative impact of the cotton gin on American society?

Cotton Industry Grows

- “*America the Story of US*” – Chapter “Division” scene 2, cotton expands (starts at 8 minutes, ends around 16 minutes).
- While watching the film record the following in your notebook:
- **What were 3 results/effects of the expansion of the cotton industry?
Create a list.**

Growth of the Factory System

- Read the second side of the handout and answer the questions that follow.
- Consider: **How did the cotton industry affect the South AND the North?**

Final Summary

- **Answer the Aim:**
- How was the USA changed by the invention of the cotton gin?
- Include the economic, social, and/or political ways that the country was changed.