Rough Course Schedule:
1. The Colonial World: 1607-1790
2. The “Market Revolution,” 1790-1830
3. The Civil War Era: 1830-65
4. “Reconstruction” to “Reform,” 1865 to 1920

Today’s Topics: The Civil War Era: 1830-65
I. The “Market Revolution” and the First Age of Reform
II. King Cotton & Jacksonian Agrarianism
III. Lincoln: Whig in the White House
IV. The 37th Congress and the “Second American Revolution”
Seneca Falls Convention, 1848

Frederick Douglass

“The Burned Over District” & Abolitionism. Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass

 getaway drank read write and educated, Douglass spoke and wrote on behalf of a variety of reform causes:

Frederick Douglass

• Women’s rights
• Temperance
• Peace
• Land reform
• Public education
Margaret Fuller: “This Cancer of Slavery” Linked rights for women and anti-slavery

Harriet Beecher Stowe
_Uncle Tom’s Cabin_ (1852)

An Enormous Success
- Serialized in the abolitionist _National Era_
- Published as book, March 1852
- Sold 300,000 copies in first year

Henry Clay & the “American System” A National Vision
Could a genuinely national economic development program lessen sectionalism?

Clay’s vision of an economy less dependent on slavery

Clay never enjoyed the political success to see it implemented

- High tariff, home market

- A national bank
- A national currency
- Regional Branch banking; development

- Federal subsidies for roads & canals
- Rivers & Harbors Improvements

- Federal subsidies for bridges, tunnels

John Quincy Adams & the “American System”

Internal improvements

Loathed slavery. Supported federal aid to transportation, education, and industrialization

Adams foresaw civil war & emancipation, but also the mechanism of emancipation: presidential war powers!

Abraham Lincoln, Whig
Questions?

King Cotton
During the early national and antebellum period, export trade, particularly in cotton, was of prime importance as a stimulant to the economy.

Economists:  
- Agree: 69 percent  
- Disagree: 31 percent

Historians:  
- Agree: 83 percent  
- Disagree: 17 percent

Cotton surpassed tobacco as the primary cash crop of the South.

Cotton is key to understanding the origins of American capitalism.
Cotton: by far the most important commodity in the 19th-century global economy

Cotton enormously enhanced the U.S. in the world economy

Cotton from the South to Cotton Mills in the North

Wealth generated from slave-harvested cotton financed the massive expansion of the Northern industrial revolution

Capital created by enslaved labor flowed to northern manufacturers, merchants & bankers

Cotton became the raw material of the early Industrial Revolution
Paradoxically, the rapid expansion of slavery drove American economic modernization.

The South was transformed from a narrow coastal strip of tired tobacco plantations ... into a continental cotton empire.

And, the US grew into a modern, industrial, capitalist economy.
Several factors led to the tremendous growth of the cotton industry in the US:

1. Inexpensive land (frequently taken from Indians)

2. An inexpensive (enslaved) labor force

Indian expulsion: A precondition to the introduction of slavery & cotton

3. Innovations in spinning & weaving

4. A (largely Northern) semi-skilled population of low paid laborers
5. Insatiable world demand for textiles: US production soared from 70,000 bales in 1800 to 800,000 in 1820 (when the US surpassed India)

Annual cotton production:
1790: 3,000 bales
1800: 70,000 bales
1810: 180,000 bales
1820: 800,000 bales
1860: 4 million bales

In 1801, 9% of the world’s cotton came from the US and 60% from Asia

By 1830 the US produced the majority of the world’s cotton

Cotton soon exceeded the combined value of all U.S. exports
Cotton provided the US with its leading export staple

The enslaved: the most vital asset in cotton cultivation

The U.S. economy in the 19th century was built on the backs of enslaved laborers

Enslaved cotton pickers enabled the US to buy manufactured goods from Europe

Enslaved cotton pickers also enabled the US to pay interest on its foreign debt ...

... and to import capital to invest in transportation and industry
Paradoxically, America’s abundant land promoted slavery (Russia & serfdom).

Legal importation of slaves from abroad ended in 1808.
This resulted in an enormous uprooting of enslaved people from Maryland & Virginia.

Slavery spread into the states along the Gulf.

One million slaves transported to the southwest from the upper south.

Historian Ira Berlin characterizes this as a “Second Middle Passage.”

For African Americans, the domestic slave trade was devastating.