

**Professor Mary Murphy: New South?
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How different was the south after the Civil War?

After 1877, whites tried to put blacks into position that was all but slavery in legal terms

Keeping control

Legal rights, but no protection for those rights

Rise of the Jim Crow south

Sharecropping, Agriculture and Industry

Textile Mills

New South

Symbolized by dependence on cotton

Move towards textile mills

Reconstruction period: many blacks elected, voting in great numbers, public social and political role

Scenario ends in 1877: Ku Klux Klan explodes, Grant's death, end of occupation (another way to look at Huck Finn and Grant's and Clements' relationship)

Fails: physical intimidation of African Americans

*Lynching (sources I have)

Could buy souvenir postcards of the lynching; becomes a public spectacle of white supremacy and way to demonstrate what would happen to others if they stepped out of line

North: no political movement to keep violence from happening. Did want votes, but didn't want to protect because were racists.

Desire of African Americans after Civil War to claim dignity (wearing nice overcoat over overalls)

Enormous time and energy put into Jim Crow

*Rise and Fall of Jim Crow video series in the library

Atlanta International Cotton Exposition, 1881

Newness of the New South founded upon changes in the economy not in race relations or political policies

South going through rapid industrial change, but doesn't compare at all to what is happening in the North

Southerners manufactured less than 10% of nation's output in '77. Birmingham, AL didn't exist in early 70's. Explosion of southern steel towns

Duke University and the tobacco industry

Coca Cola production beginning in Atlanta

John Pemberton wanted head ache medicine that would taste good. Makes recipe, then sells to Asa Candler who marketed it very well

Early sign for Coca Cola was "shooting up"

Railroads of a different gauge and had to make a standard gauge

Wages much lower in the South

1860-1900 declined from 72% of national average to 51% per capita income

For all the dependence on cotton, cotton is falling

Greater numbers of whites and blacks are becoming poorer

Southern industrial workers earning half the national industrial wage

Good for capitalists, but poorly paid workers do not pay for goods, can't pay taxes to support public work systems

Immigrants that look to America as land of promise do not come to south

Anglo-American and African American society

Still too dependent on cotton

Before civil war, south fed itself, after civil war (people acquiring more capital) south has to import food

25 years after the war, people aren't growing enough food

Shift comes at the same time cotton becomes a major cash crop in other parts of the world, Brazil and Egypt

5c cotton, 40 c meat, how in the world can a poor man eat?

Share wages emerged after the civil war

Paid ex-slaves to work the land, not paid in cash but in a portion of the produce

Former slaves wanted it to be a system of partnership between themselves and owners of the land

Many worked for the same plantations in the same manner

Wanted to work at own pace, have say in how crop is done

Wanted women out of the fields (19th century women and gender ideals)

Wanted women to replicate what the ideal American family should be

Men wanted to be the providers gain the manly status

Landowners wanted it to remain the same

Created conflict

Large plantation owners in late 60's, start renting the land to blacks

Can pay with a share of crop at end of the season

African Americans had more control over their work. Still a system maintained by "riders" making sure that things are being done properly

Found out all had to work

Seed, tools, supplies, and land by African Americans from the landowner (don't want to learn math, etc because will realize being "taken") deducted at the end of the year

White landowners write contract to maintain their control

Legal ease of the contract (cultural)

So many loopholes that easy to break contract and "lose"

Couldn't make any money until owner paid in full; owner decides where left over is to be sold

Big distinction in post-reconstruction America is the division of class

Creation of elaborate racial ideology to support black inferiority since slavery is no longer in the picture

Poor white farmers in the South

South has a shortage of banks and cash

Rise of furnishing merchants; furnished to cash-poor white farmers for the credit

Set terms of loan and defined what crop would be

Charged 25-50% interest for the loan

Charged more for the goods they sold

Required payment prior to selling crop

Put up land for collateral, lose and become sharecroppers

Less than 1/3 were sharecroppers or tenant farmers prior to civil war, by 1890s were 1/2

Textile Industry

So, if in the same bag, why maintaining racial superiority?

Textile mills saw as the (no jobs up even until 1970s inside the mill) savior for white farmers who lost their land. Blacks can be sharecroppers, and whites can be industrial workers.

Textile mills were a way to distinguish whites from blacks and their status

Seen as a symbol as the south's progress, rescuing white workers

Capital for textile industry comes from furnishing merchants

Recruiting campaigns (made it look good even though objectively it wasn't)

Sell as a "family" affair

Long-term plan of creating an indoctrinated labor force

*Louis Hine, National Child Labor Committee (Loc/American Memory/Prints and Photographs)

**Kids at Work*, Chief Joseph Library has

*Transparency 50% and over is black population in 1880 in the South