

**THE SOUTH AND
SLAVERY,
CHAPTER 10
NOTES**

History of Slavery in America

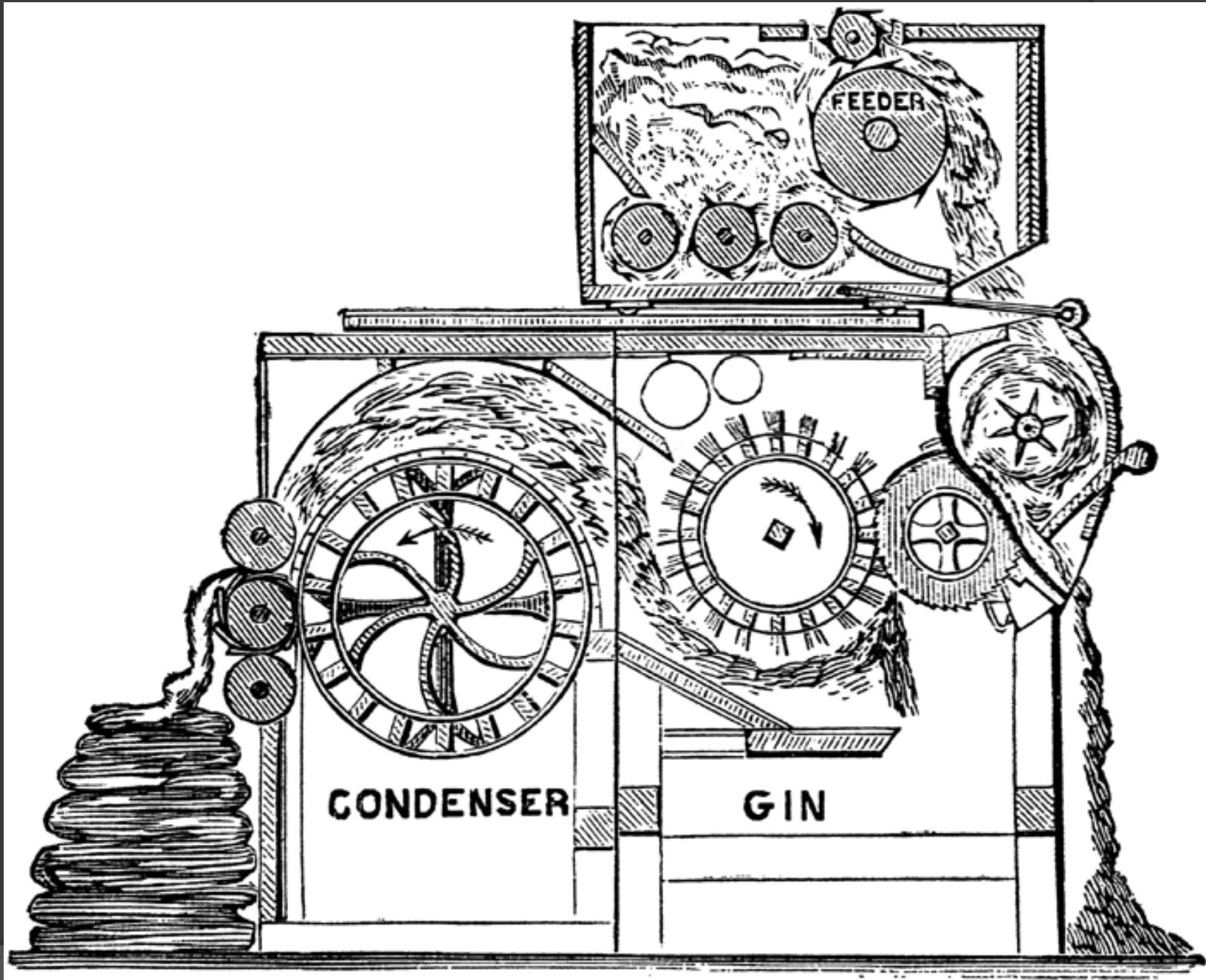
- ⦿ In the pre-Revolution South, African American slaves grew export crops—tobacco, rice, and indigo
- ⦿ Short-staple cotton had a drawback:
 - The seeds were so difficult to remove from the lint that it took an entire day to hand-clean a single pound of cotton
- ⦿ Slavery was becoming less profitable after the Revolution
 - Land was not as productive after generations of farming

Cotton Gin

- In 1793, a young Northerner named Eli Whitney, a Yale graduate, was hired by a South Carolina plantation owner and widow to tutor her children
- Whitney built a prototype cotton “gin”—a device consisting of a hand-cranked cylinder with teeth that tore the lint away from the seeds

Cotton





Cotton Gin's Impact

- A hand-cranked cotton gin could clean more than fifty pounds of cotton per day
- By 1811, the area of Georgia and South Carolina was producing 60 million pounds of cotton per year, and exporting most of it to England

Cotton Migration

- ◎ Cotton depleted the soil, so plantations moved west
 - Alabama and Mississippi (and western Georgia) were in the “black belt”, so named because of the fertile soil
 - After the War of 1812, southerners had “Alabama Fever” and moved west quickly
- ◎ Nearly half of all white South Carolinians born after 1800 eventually left the state
- ◎ Natives pushed out

Cotton Continued....

- ⦿ Export of Cotton from the South was the largest factor in developing the American economy from 1790 to 1840
- ⦿ Southern slavery paid for northern industrial development
- ⦿ Demand for cotton:
 - Industrial Revolution allowed for mechanized spinning and weaving of cloth in the factories of England
- ⦿ Cotton Gin was timed perfectly to provide an abundant source of cotton to Europe

Cotton in the North

- Most services connected to the cotton trade (insurance, shipping, selling cotton internationally) were in the North

Slavery in America

- ⦿ After the Revolution, attitudes toward slavery changed
 - The states in the north abolished slavery
 - Jefferson thought that perhaps total voluntary emancipation was not far off
- ⦿ Jan. 1, 1808—a bill to abolish the importation of slaves became law

Slavery in the South

- ⦿ Attitudes toward slavery in the South changed after the Cotton Gin
- ⦿ White Southerners believed that only African slaves could be forced to work day after day, year after year
- ⦿ The South was a “slave society”
 - The social relationship of master-servant was the model for all relationships
 - Husband-wife
 - Politics
 - South was rural, not industrial
 - Transportation was lacking in the South
- ⦿ South became dependant on Slavery

