

THE SOUTH AND  
SLAVERY,  
CHAPTER 10  
NOTES, PART 2

# American Slave System

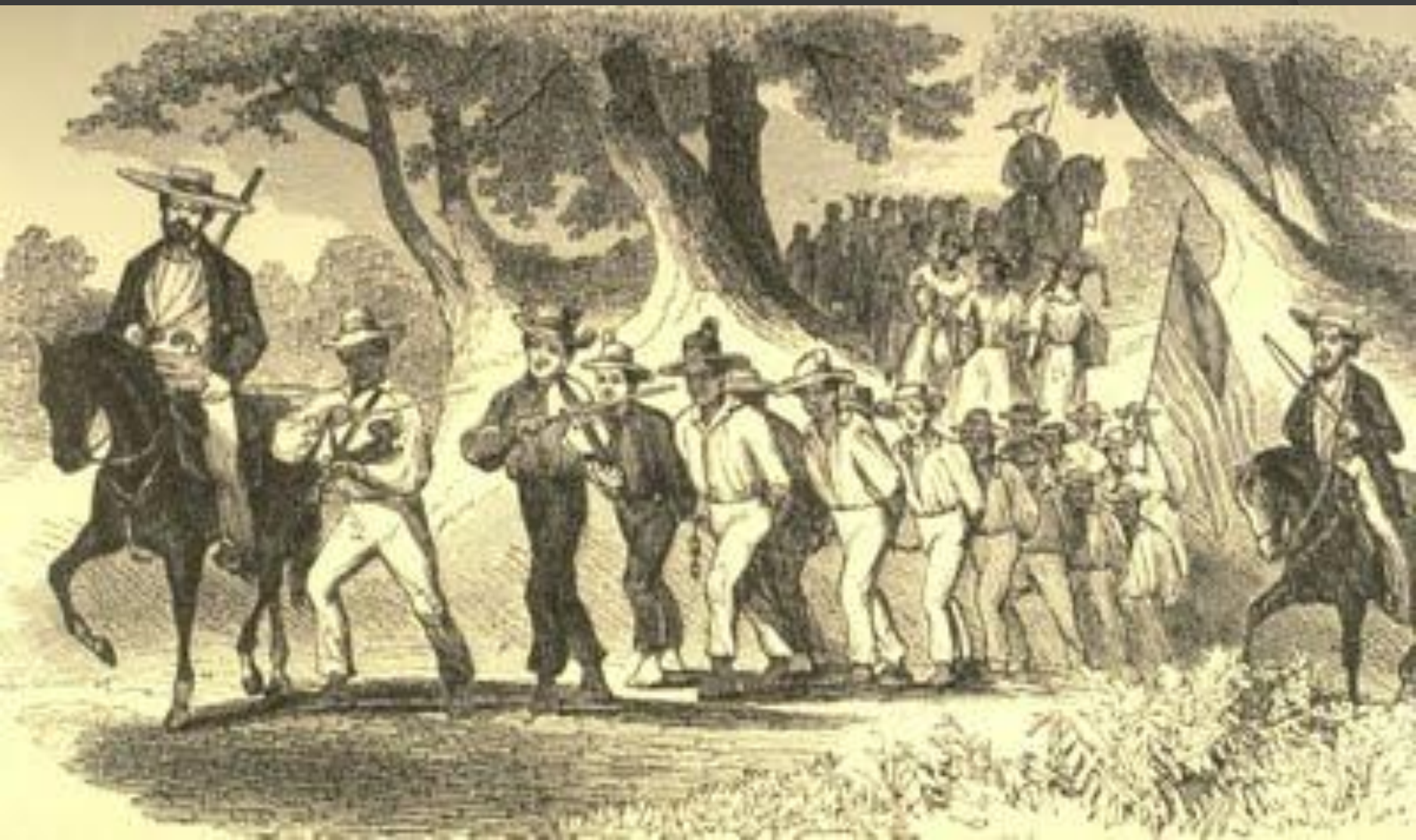
- ◎ 1850
  - 55 percent of slaves were engaged in cotton growing
  - 20 percent produced other crops
  - 15 percent were domestic servants
  - 10 percent were in mining, lumbering, industry, construction, etc.
- ◎ 75 percent of all slaves lived in groups of ten or more

# Internal Slave Trade

- Plantation owners in the Upper South (Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, Tenn.) sold slaves to meet the demand for cotton growing regions in the Old Southwest
- Between 1820 and 1860, almost 50 percent of the slave population of the Upper South were moved to the Old Southwest
- More slaves were sold internally (1 million) than were brought to North America during all of the legal international slave trade

# Sold Down the River

- ⦿ Carried as cargo in steamboats on the Mississippi
- ⦿ Moved by boat or train
- ⦿ Slaves were then inspected and sold at auction
- ⦿ Slave traders were well respected in the community (typically)





A GREAT MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AT THE GREAT NATIONAL CONVENTION

10 LIKELY and VALUABLE  
**SLAVES**  
AT AUCTION.



On **THURSDAY** the 24th inst.  
WE WILL SELL,

*In front of our Office, without any kind of limit or reserve for cash,*  
AT 11 O'CLOCK,

**10 AS LIKELY NEGROES**

As any ever offered in this market; among them is a man who is a superior Cook and House Servant, and a girl about 17 years old, a first rate House Servant, and an excellent seamstress.

**BROOKE & HUBBARD,**

*Auctioneers.*

Wednesday, July 23, 1823.

*Richmond Va*

# Cotton Plantations

- ① Uniformity and strict discipline were the rule
- ① Work was intense and slaves were forced to work very hard

# Field Work

- 75% of all slaves were field workers
- Field hands, men and women, worked from “can see to can’t see” (sunup to sundown)
- Hour for lunch
- Work
  - Tedious, hot and humid in the summer
  - Overseer had a whip
- Strong slave was worth \$1,000 to the master

# Impact

- Slaves aged fast due to poor diet and heavy labor
- Older slaves were honored by fellow slaves, and generally the owners put up with them by feeding and clothing them until their deaths—until 1860s when slave system was about to end, then they were evicted

# House Servants

- ⦿ Physically less demanding work
- ⦿ Better fed and clothed
- ⦿ More access to information
  - Gossip
  - Changes in laws
- ⦿ Bad part:
  - Constant present of white owners and their supervision
  - Forced to act grateful
  - Risk of mistreatment

# Artisans

- Small numbers of slaves were skilled workers:
  - Weavers, seamstresses, carpenters, blacksmiths, etc.
  - Opportunities for skilled black laborers were actually better in the South