

Regional Landscapes of the United States and Canada

The Changing South

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EXAM TWO

- New Date for 2nd Exam.
- **Thursday, April 18**
- **Chapters 4-11.**
- Same format as Exam One.
- Take-home extra credit for exam 2 is due no later than April 18.

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The South

From N Virginia to E Texas and up the Mississippi Valley to E Kentucky.

Includes areas called the **Old South** or **Deep South** but excludes the Florida peninsula, South Texas and usually southern Louisiana.

WHY?



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The South's Sub-regions

Major sub-regions:

- Atlantic coastal plain
- Piedmont
- Gulf coastal plain
- Mississippi River flood plain



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OVERVIEW of the South

- ✓ **A subtropical climate**
 - heat and humidity.
- ✓ **A strong sense of regional identity**
 - similar beliefs, customs, attitudes throughout the region.
- ✓ **A long standing relationship between people and the land**
 - rural and agricultural.

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OVERVIEW

- ✓ **Regionalism is reinforced from outside the region.**
 - Often it is perceived/portrayed superficially and in caricature.
- ✓ **"Southern culture":**
 - Manners, charm
 - Hospitality
 - Cuisine
 - Architecture
 - Formal gardens



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OVERVIEW

- ✓ **There's diversity within the regionalism:** many sub-regions with their own version of *southern culture*.
- ✓ **Population: the largest concentration of African-Americans in the U.S.**
- ✓ **An area with testy race relations** based on a history of slavery and policies (both political and cultural) of discrimination and segregation.
- ✓ **Rapid changes** have occurred since the 1960s.

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What's "changing" about *The Changing South*?

- Growing urbanization.
- A growing "non-Southern" population.
- New manufacturing enterprises.
- New agricultural orientations.
- Improved race relations.
- Federal intervention has altered the Southern way of doing things.
- Feeling less regional and more national.

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Vernacular Regions of the South

Bible Belt. Coined in 1925 by a journalist during the Tennessee vs. Scopes teaching-of-evolution trial.

- Implies a region whose people espouse religious fundamentalism - particularly, literal interpretation of the Bible.

Dixie. Its origin is uncertain.

- Could be from French Louisiana currency (dix = 10) or the Mason-Dixon Line (area south of the line).

❖ During the U.S. Civil War, the song *Dixie* became the unofficial anthem of the Confederate States of America.

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Landforms

1. **Coastal plain:** generally flat to rolling terrain.
2. The lower **Mississippi River Valley:** ancient delta now sedimentary rock overlain with fertile alluvial deposits.
Has a unique **landform pattern** of **meanders, scars** and **oxbow lakes**.



3. The **Piedmont:** the foothills of the Appalachian Mts.
The **sharp boundary** between the Piedmont and coastal plain is called the **Fall Line**.

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The Fall Line

- **Border between landform units of different elevation.**
- **Marked by rapids and waterfalls** (as rivers flow over it).
- **A prime location for water mills.**

➤ Note the line of major cities located along the Fall Line.



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Lower Mississippi Valley Landscape



A portion of the Mississippi River boundary between the state of Mississippi (right) and Arkansas and Louisiana.

Formation of an Oxbow Lake

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Meander Scars

The channels of meandering streams change course, especially in times of flood.

When the old channel dries up, a "scar" is created.

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Climate

Humid subtropical climate.

- Mild winters.
- No month's ave. temperature is below 32°F.
- Year-round precipitation.
- Long growing season.

Subject to weather extremes.

- Spring and autumn conflict between tropical and polar air masses.
- Heavy downpours from summer thunderstorms; flooding results.
- Ice storms. Tornadoes. Hurricanes.

Note uniform climate region.

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Soils

Soils tend to be fertile and productive.

Benefit from subtropical climate and ample precipitation.

Thick top horizons rich in organic material.

Percent of clay determines use and crops.

- **Coastal Plain soils** are best for forests and pasture. They tend to be sandy.
- **Piedmont soils** are very old yet remain fertile. They are subject to gully erosion.
- **Mississippi Flood Plain soils** are extremely fertile and support the highest density of agriculture in the region.

High clay content = rice paddies.

Note uniform soil region.

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Settlement Sequence

- **Jamestown, VA and Roanoke Island, NC:** sites of the earliest English settlements.
England settled the coastal areas from Virginia to Georgia.
Spain controlled Florida and Gulf Coast.
- **Early European settler goals were commercial and exploitative.**
- **Geographical advantages:**
 - ✓ Areas were very suitable for agriculture.
 - ✓ Game was plentiful.
 - ✓ Navigable rivers allowed movement away from coast and access to interior forests and resources.

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Settlement Patterns

- **Did not experience the influx of the urban Europeans as did the Northeast.**
 - Little immigration from Europe during 1800s; very small proportion foreign-born by 1900.
 - Most Southerners are still of English and Scots-Irish ancestry.
- **Ports/small market centers developed in 1800s.**
 - Collection/transshipment points for cash crops
 - Little linkage with each other
 - Distinctly local allegiances
 - Most people lived in isolation on farms
- **Areas remained strongly rural until late 1900s.**

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Plantation Agriculture

Plantations established for cash crops.

- Highly structured agricultural organization.
- Usually tied to a single cash crop for export.
- Plantations were self-sufficient units requiring people with many skills.
- Needed **much land** and a **large labor force**.
- Small local population led to use of slave labor: first local Indians and indentured Englishmen, then African.
- Only the richer plantations had mansions.

rice
tobacco
cotton
indigo
sugar

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James River Plantations VIRGINIA



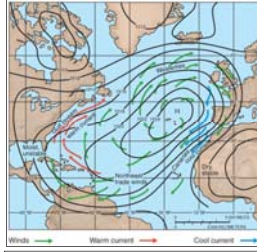
<http://www.shirleyplantation.com/index.html>



Triangle Trade Route



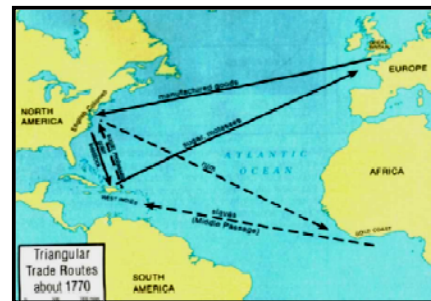
It is believed that c.12 million Africans were taken as slaves and brought to the Americas.



Sailing ships on the Triangle Trade route (1600s-1800s) used global winds and ocean currents to cross the Atlantic.

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Triangle Trade Route



See maps in historical atlas

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Slavery's Impact

- African slaves were integral to the economy, organization and social environment of the South from the start (1600s; South American and Caribbean models).
- Contributed key elements of Southern life by incorporating African culture into daily lives
 - Ex: speech patterns, religion, diet, music.
 - Blacks and whites lived in close proximity to each other on the plantations.

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Boone's Hall Plantation, SC



Slave quarters



Main entrance to manor house

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Pre-Civil War

- Before the Civil War slaves were found in almost every county outside of the Appalachian Highlands.
- Greatest concentrations were in the original plantation areas and in areas most suited to cotton production.

(FYI: Invention of the cotton gin (1784) by Eli Whitney made it easy to remove cotton seed and created a great demand for cotton and the associated need for farm workers and processors.)

➤ See map, page 41 Historical Atlas

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Economics: North vs. South



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The Civil War 1860-1865

See Section 5 of Historical Atlas

- **Most Civil War battles were fought on Southern soil.**
 - Railroads were disrupted or in disrepair.
 - Equipment was confiscated or destroyed.
 - Shipping terminals were in ruins.
- **Confederate currency/bonds were worthless.**
- **Large portion of the labor supply legally eliminated** (emancipation of slaves).
- **Large land holdings were heavily taxed and/or subdivided.**

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Post-Civil War Transition

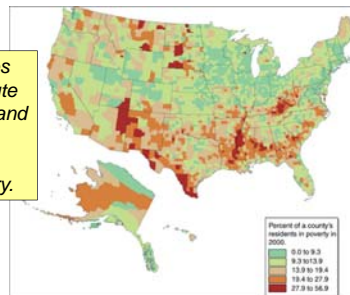
(1865-1880s)

- **Southern White reaction to emancipation was institutionalized segregation.**
- **Few opportunities for blacks until World War I** (Great Migration to northern areas).
- **Greater isolation of the South nationally.**
- **Persistent regional poverty:**
 - Destruction of economic infrastructure and plantation economy by Civil War battles
 - Lack of factors for economic development
- **Continued dependence on agriculture.**

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Pockets of Poverty Today

Together the counties of the South constitute the most populated and one of the largest contiguous areas of poverty in the country.



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Agriculture's Plight

in late 1800s

- **Less farm workers:**
 - Emancipation of slaves
 - White labor pool decimated by Civil War fatalities.
- **Few jobs outside of farming**
 - This encouraged poor farmers, both blacks and whites, to make arrangements with land owners.
- **Sharecropping System**
 - Rent and repayment of loans for a share of the crop.
 - Debt perpetual, sharecropper bound to land until paid.
 - Reinforced by "Black Codes" restricting black movement.

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Other Minorities in the South

- **Cajuns** (Southern Louisiana)
 - Name derived from “Acadian,” French settlers in Acadia (now Nova Scotia and New Brunswick)
 - Left when British conquered New France (1763)
 - Remain distinctive:
 - French dialect
 - Catholic religion
 - Food
- **Native Americans**
 - Forcible removal of Indians by 1830s
 - Descendents of those who escaped removal
 - Eastern Cherokee (North Carolina)
 - Choctaw (central Mississippi)

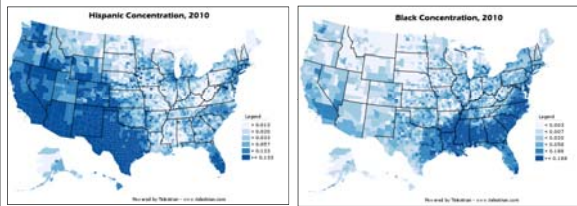
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Other Minorities in the South

- **Hispanics** (South Texas and South Florida)
 - From Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Rep
 - Remain distinctive:
 - Spanish-speaking
 - Catholic
 - Cuisine
- **Caribbean Islanders** (South Florida)
 - From Haiti and the West Indies
 - French, English and Asian backgrounds
 - Cultural conflict between Caribbean and American Blacks

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Racial Patterns in the South

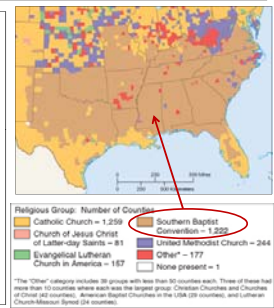


Percent of total county population, 2010 US Census

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Religious Patterns

- **Small, rural churches**
- **Baptist denomination dominant**
 - Evangelists
 - Resisted formal organization
 - Lack of influence from later immigration
- ❖ *Note difference in southern Louisiana, southern Texas and Florida peninsula.*



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Southern Baptist Message Boards



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Dual Social Landscapes

- **Segregation outlawed:**
 - Common workplaces, retail shopping, educational institutions, etc.
- **Yet different human landscapes still exist:** one black and one white
 - Little overlap in Mississippi, Louisiana, eastern Texas.

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Development of Manufacturing early 1900s

- **Attractions of Piedmont South:**
 - High levels of *underemployment*
 - Opportunity to modernize factories
 - Lower taxes
- **Cotton textile industry**
 - Originally based in New England
 - Shifted south in late 19th century
 - Carolina Piedmont and northern Georgia
 - Drew other industries
 - Economic impact
 - Workers paid low wages
 - Low land tax rates
 - Less regulations

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Other Industrial Developments

- **Railroads:** construction, other public improvements increased access
- **Cigarettes:** manufacturing; nearby tobacco farms (NC, VA)
- **Timber resources:**
 - Furniture manufacturing (NC, VA)
 - Pulp and paper
- **Atlanta (GA)-Birmingham (AL)-Chattanooga (TN) Triangle**
 - Resources plus low wages encouraged manufacturing

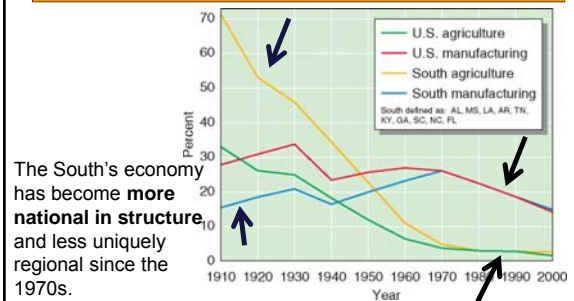


1930s South

- **Still heavy dependence on agriculture**
 - Animal power (usually mules)
 - Hand labor
 - Sharecropping and tenant farming
 - Little processing within the South
- **Capital deficient**
- **Low-wage industry, oriented to narrow local markets**
- **Urban structure based on small towns**

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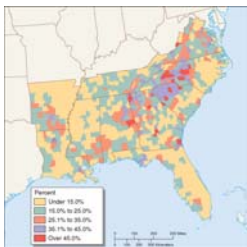
Changes in Economic Structure



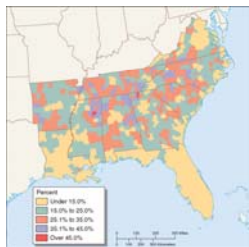
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Changes in Employment Structure

Percent non-agricultural labor force in manufacturing, 1950



Percent non-agricultural labor force in manufacturing, 2000



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Post-World War II Agriculture

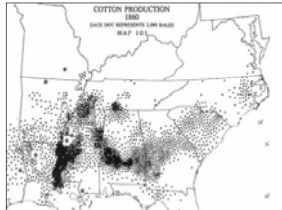
- **Declined as percentage of economy**
- **Diversified**
 - Traditional crops still grown
 - New crops:
 - Soybeans
 - Livestock
 - Poultry
- **Mechanization**
- **End of sharecropping**
- **Increase in farm size**



Cotton Growing Areas

1860

2007



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Harvesting Cotton



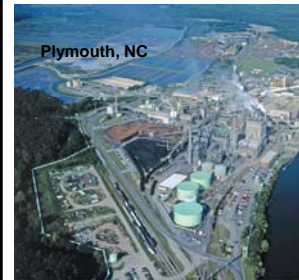
Automobile Assembly Plants

Toyota Motor Corporation (North America)
and the New Globalized Auto Plant Corridor



- 1. Right-to-Work states
- 2. Toyota plants opened before 1990
- 3. Toyota plants opened 1990 and after
- 4. Other foreign-owned plants opened before 1990
- 5. Other foreign-owned plants opened 1990 and after
- 6. Foreign-owned parts plants

Pulp Manufacturing



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Pine Tree Plantation

Trees in reforested areas and commercial tree farms are planted in rows and harvested by age of growth.



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Apparel Manufacturing

Figure 15. Location of Textile Mills, 1991

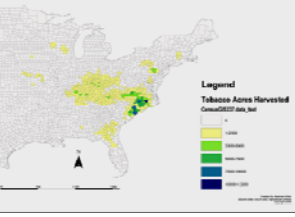


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Tobacco Harvest

Acres of Tobacco Harvested in 2002



Legend:
Tobacco Acres Harvested
Greater than 500,000
400,000-500,000
300,000-400,000
200,000-300,000
100,000-200,000
Less than 100,000

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Urban Experience

- Great rural-to-urban migration** since WW II
- Site of relocated northern industries
- Site of foreign-owned U.S. factories.
- Regional in-migration: recipient of migrants from other areas of the U.S.
- Number of cities with a population of more than 50,000 has tripled since 1950.**
- Charlotte, Memphis, Nashville and Atlanta are major regional metropolitan areas.**

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Atlanta, Georgia

South's largest business, financial, commercial center.

- Home to many global corporations.
- Hosted 1996 Olympic games.
- Airline hub
- Problem of urban sprawl.

Large metro area
Long commutes
Congested highways







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Charlotte, NC

One of the fastest growing large urban areas in the U.S.

A major center of banking and finance.


A regional airline hub.




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Nashville, TN

Nashville, aka "Music City," is the entertainment center of the south and has a long history associated with broadcasting.





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