

Industry and Transportation in the South

Between 1820 and 1860, the Southern economy flourished. However, the South developed along a much different path than the industrial North. How did it differ?

In the century that followed the American Revolution, the South remained overwhelmingly rural and agrarian. Little industry developed because cotton and other cash crops were incredibly profitable. Wealthy Southerners staked their money in land and slaves, leaving little capital to invest in manufacturing.

Words to watch for:

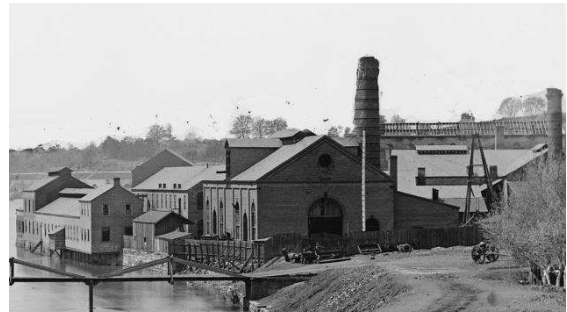
agrarian artillery

annual freight

A smaller population also meant that the South had a smaller market. Slaves, which made up over 1/3 of the population, had no money at all to purchase goods. The institution of slavery also deterred immigrants from moving to Southern states. While a steady stream of low-skilled, cheap labor fueled the Northern economy, the South remained a closed society.

Many Southern politicians did not want any industry at all. They feared it could emerge as a challenger to the planter class and attract Northern and foreign investment, as well as immigrants who might threaten the slave system. This meant that the South depended on the North and Great Britain for manufactured goods (just as they depended on the South for cotton).

Despite the anti-industrial stance of many Southerners, some factories were built in the South. In the 1840s, Joseph Reid Anderson purchased Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, Virginia. Tredegar would produce about half of the artillery built in the South during the Civil War. Charleston and Atlanta also had limited manufacturing. However, on an annual basis, the entire South as a whole manufactured fewer goods than the state of Pennsylvania.



The South did experience a railroad boom in the 1850s but on a much smaller scale than in the North. Southern rail lines were short, local, and did not develop into regional networks. They also carried much less traffic with far fewer stops. In addition, lines in the South were built to connect plantation districts to seaports, and thus, they did not open up new territories as they did in the North. As a result, the South lagged far behind in the development of railroads by a factor of nearly three to one.

In the South, waterways remained the primary mode of shipping and transportation. Most towns were located along the coast or on major rivers, and roads were rarely in good condition. Steamboats were essential because of their freight-carrying capacity and their ability to move against the currents. Along the Mississippi River, Memphis, Tennessee, and St. Louis, Missouri developed into significant shipping hubs.

Investors poured enormous sums of money into the development of steamships. By 1860, over 3,500 steamers were operating out of New Orleans. They transported more than \$220 million worth of cargo in that year alone. By the onset of the Civil War, New Orleans had developed into a thriving metropolis that rivaled New York City in importance. In 1860, New Orleans boasted 12 percent of the country's banking capital.

Guided Reading: *Fill in the blanks below to create complete sentences.*

1. In the century that followed the American Revolution, the South remained overwhelmingly rural and _____.
2. Little industry developed because cotton and other cash crops were incredibly _____.
3. Slaves, which made up more than _____ of the population, had no money to purchase goods at all.
4. In fact, many Southern _____ did not want any industry at all.
5. The South was dependent on the North and Great Britain for the production of _____ goods.
6. However, on an annual basis, the entire South manufactured fewer goods than the state of _____.
7. The South did experience a _____ boom in the 1850s but on a much smaller scale than in the North.
8. Southern rail lines were short, local, and did not develop into _____.
9. On rivers, _____ were essential due to their freight-carrying capacity and their ability to move against the currents.
10. By 1860, over 3,500 steamers were operating out of _____.

Multiple Choice: *Select the choice that completes the statement or answers the question.*

1. _____ Which of the following is *NOT* a reason that the South lagged behind in industrial development?
 - a. because cotton and other cash crops were incredibly profitable
 - b. wealthy Southerners invested their money in land and slaves
 - c. a steady flow of immigrants drove down wages
 - d. a smaller population meant that the South had a smaller market

2. _____ How did the South go about obtaining manufactured goods?
 - a. Immigrant workers built manufactured goods in Southern factories.
 - b. Slaves produced manufactured goods in Southern factories.
 - c. The manufactured goods were imported from Mexico.
 - d. The manufactured goods were purchased from Northern states and Great Britain.

3. _____ What company produced half of the Confederate-made artillery used during the Civil War?

a. Tredegar Iron Works	c. Beech and Rigdon
b. Atlanta Machine Works	d. Bellona Arsenal

4. _____ Which of the following statements about Southern railroads is true?
 - a. Southern rail lines developed into strong regional networks.
 - b. Trains traveling across the South made frequent stops.
 - c. Rail lines in the South were built to connect interior cities to seaports.
 - d. The South lagged far behind the North in the development of railroads.

5. _____ Which Southern city grew to rival New York City in terms of economic importance?

a. Memphis, TN	c. Charleston, SC
b. New Orleans, LA	d. Savannah, GA

Vocabulary: *Match each word with its correct definition. Consider how the word is used in the lesson. This might help you define each term. Use a dictionary to help if necessary.*

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| a. agrarian | d. freight |
| b. artillery | e. metropolis |
| c. annual | |
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6. _____ relating to cultivated land or the cultivation of land
 7. _____ a very large and densely populated industrial or commercial city
 8. _____ occurring once every year
 9. _____ large-caliber guns used in warfare on land
 10. _____ goods transported in bulk by train or ship

Summarize: *Answer the following questions in the space provided. Attempt to respond in a complete sentence for each question. Be sure to use correct capitalization and punctuation!*

1. Who purchased Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, Virginia?

2. Which Southern cities were mentioned as having some manufacturing?

3. When did the South experience a railroad boom?

4. Where did the South get its manufactured goods from?

5. Why did waterways remain the primary source for shipping goods in the South?

6. How did the institution of slavery impact immigration in the South?

Student Response: *Write a paragraph addressing the questions raised below. A thorough response should consist of at least five complete sentences.*

7. In your opinion, why do you think the roads in the South were typically in such poor condition? What reasons could be a likely cause for this? Use the information from the lesson to help form a hypothesis.