

Ch 3 Section 2 The Agricultural South

A Plantation Economy Arises

The Rural Southern Economy

- Fertile soil leads to growth of agriculture
- Farmers specialize in **cash crops** grown for sale, not personal use
- Long, deep rivers allow planters to ship goods directly to markets
- Plantations produce most of what farmers need on their property
- Few cities grow: warehouses, shops not needed

Life in Southern Society

A Diverse and Prosperous People

- In 1700s, many German, Scots, Scots-Irish immigrants settle in South
- Southern population mostly small farmers
- Planters are minority but control economy
- By mid-1700s, growth in export trade makes colonies prosperous

The Role of Women

- Women have few legal or social rights, little formal schooling
- Most women cook, clean, garden, do farm chores
- Rich and poor women must submit to husbands' will

Indentured Servants

- In 1600s, male indentured servants are 1/2 to 2/3 of immigrants
- In 1700s, reports of hardship keep European laborers away

Slavery Becomes Entrenched

The Evolution of Slavery

- **Slaves**—people who are considered the property of others
- English colonists increasingly unable to enslave Native Americans
- Indentured servant price rises; slaves work for life, are better buy
- Most white colonists think Africans' dark skin justifies slavery

The European Slave Trade

- 3-way **triangular trade** network ties colonies, Africa, West Indies:
 - New England exports rum to Africa
 - Africa exports slaves to West Indies
 - West Indies export sugar, molasses to New England

The Middle Passage

- **Middle passage**—middle leg of transatlantic trade, transports slaves, carried Africans from Africa to the West Indies and North America
- 20% or more of Africans on ship die from disease, abuse, suicide

Slavery in the South

- 80–90% of slaves work in fields; 10–20% work in house or as artisans
- Slaves work full-time from age 12 until death
- Owners beat, whip slaves considered disobedient, disrespectful

Africans Cope in Their New World

Culture and Family

- Africans in North America have different cultures, languages
- Slaves preserve cultural heritage: crafts, music, stories, dance
- Merchants, owners split families; slaves raise children left behind

Resistance and Revolt

- Slaves resist subservient position, try to escape
- 1739 **Stono Rebellion**—conflict between southern slaves and planters - planter families killed, militia defeats slaves
- Colonists tighten slave laws, but slave rebellions continue