

# Southern Industry

**GUIDING QUESTION** Why did industry develop slowly in the South?

Industry developed more slowly in the South than in the North. Why was this so? One reason was the boom in cotton. Agriculture, especially cotton farming, produced great profits. Building new industry is costly. Planters would have had to sell enslaved people or land to raise the money to build factories. They chose instead to invest in profitable agriculture—including enslaved Africans.

In addition, the market for manufactured goods in the South was small. Enslaved people, who made up a large share of the population, had no money to buy goods. This limited local market discouraged industries from developing.

For these reasons, some white Southerners simply did not want industry. One Texas politician, Louis Wigfall, summed up that Southern point of view:

## PRIMARY SOURCE

“We want no manufactures: we desire no trading, no mechanical or manufacturing classes. As long as we have our rice, our sugar, our tobacco and our cotton, we can command wealth to purchase all we want.”

—quoted in Louis T. Wigfall, *Southern Fire-Eater*

## ECONOMICS SKILL

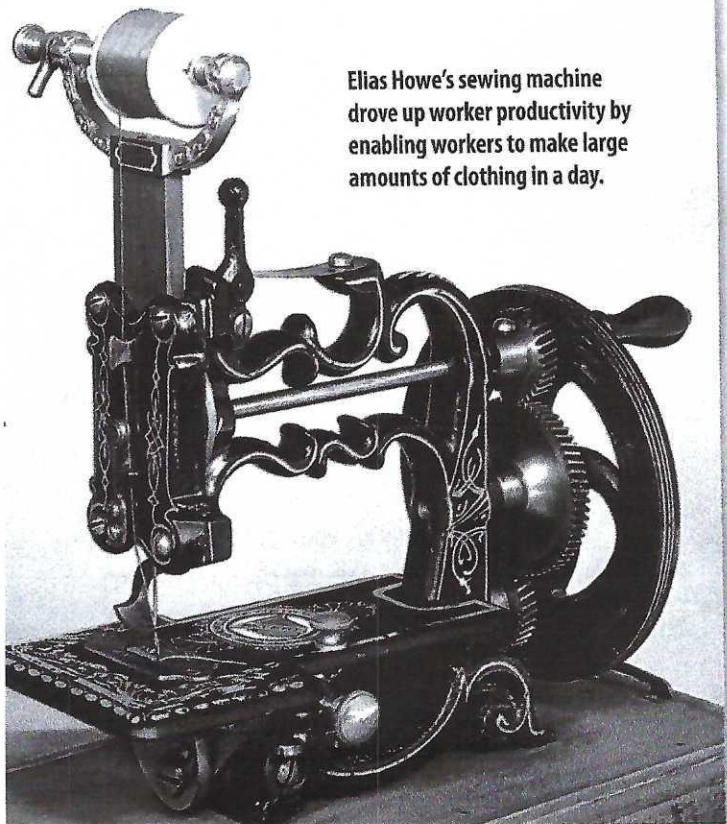
Cotton's role in the economy of the South—and the nation—increased in the 1800s.

**1 CONTRASTING** How did cotton's share of the U.S. export market change between 1800 and 1860?

**2 CRITICAL THINKING**  
**Determining Cause and Effect** How do you think increases in productivity affected the demand for enslaved labor? Explain.

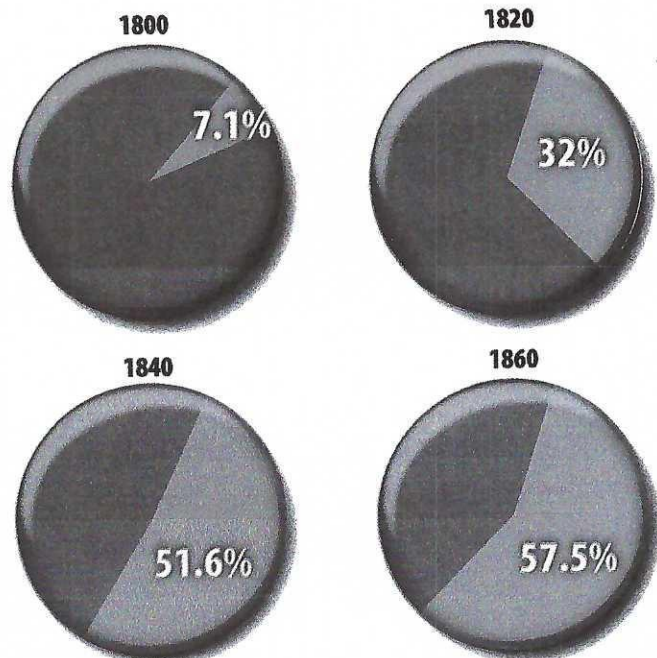
## INCREASES IN PRODUCTIVITY

New inventions helped increase worker productivity in the 1800s. Increased productivity meant farmers could grow more cotton to sell. By the mid-1800s, cotton made up more than one-half of U.S. exports.



Elias Howe's sewing machine drove up worker productivity by enabling workers to make large amounts of clothing in a day.

## COTTON PRODUCTION AS A PERCENTAGE OF U.S. EXPORTS



Source: Historical Statistics of the United States



## Factories in the South

Some Southern leaders wanted to develop industry in the region. They thought that the South depended too much on the North for manufactured goods. These leaders also argued that factories would improve the economy of the Upper South.

William Gregg of South Carolina shared this view. He opened his own textile factory. Georgia's Augustin Clayton also went into textiles, opening a cotton mill. In Virginia, Joseph Reid Anderson made Tredegar Iron Works one of the nation's leading iron producers. The Alabama Iron Works also included a sawmill for producing lumber. These industries, however, were not typical of the South.

## Southern Transportation

In general, farmers and the few manufacturers of the South relied on natural waterways to transport their goods. Most towns were located on coasts or along rivers because canals were scarce and roads were poor.

Southern rail lines were short, local, and not linked together. The South had fewer railroads than the North. This caused Southern cities to grow more slowly than Northern cities, where railways were major routes of commerce and settlement. The rail networks in the North also gave Northern manufacturers an advantage over their Southern competitors. Lower shipping costs allowed Northerners to charge less for their goods. By 1860, only about one-third of the nation's rail lines lay within the South. This rail shortage would hurt the South in the years to come.

### PROGRESS CHECK

**Explaining** How did slavery affect the development of the Southern economy?

## LESSON 3 REVIEW



### Review Vocabulary

1. Use these two words in a sentence in a way that shows their meaning and relationship.
  - a. productivity
  - b. domestic slave trade

### Answer the Guiding Questions

2. **Comparing** Discuss ways the economies of the Upper South and the Deep South became dependent on each other around 1860.
3. **Explaining** How did some Southerners contribute to industrial growth in the region?
4. **Identifying** What were the barriers to Southern transportation?
5. **ARGUMENT** Look again at the words of Texas politician Louis Wigfall, who said, "We want no manufactures." Add a second paragraph to this quotation that explains why, in words you imagine Wigfall might use, he opposes industry for the South.