A New Economic View of AMERICAN HISTORY from Colonial Times to 1940
Second Edition

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Peter Passell
In the Aftermath of the Civil War, the South struggled with reconstruction and economic recovery. The sharecropping system, which had been prevalent in the South, continued to perpetuate poverty and economic dependence. The Southern economy was still reeling from the effects of the war, and there was a need for new approaches to agriculture and economic development.

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Civil War

The South After the Civil War
The Southern Economy in Decline

The Southern economy experienced a significant downturn during this period. The region, which had traditionally been heavily dependent on agriculture, struggled to keep up with the national economic trends. Despite some growth in industries like cotton manufacturing and railroad construction, the overall economic condition of the South worsened. The diagram illustrates the relative share of Southern personal income in the national income, which declined from 1930 to 1940. This was due to a combination of factors, including the Great Depression, which hit the South particularly hard, and the shift towards industrialization in the North. The Southern economy became more dependent on agriculture, which was less resilient to economic fluctuations compared to manufacturing. The diagram also shows the impact of the Depression on personal income, with a sharp decline in the years following 1930.
The economic losses due to the conflict were nominal, and the economic activity continued without interruption. The conflict did not significantly impact the economic stability of the country. However, it did lead to a temporary decrease in certain sectors, such as manufacturing and trade. The losses were predominantly due to the direct impact of the conflict on infrastructure and property damage. The recovery phase was swift due to the resilience of the economy.
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**TABLE 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hour of Work per Year</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIGURE 1.3**

Range of Hours of Work by African-Americans under the Civil War

The South After the Civil War

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THE SOUTH AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

The South was a different place before and after the Civil War. The economic and social structures were significantly altered, affecting the lives of millions of people. The war led to the abolition of slavery, which had a profound impact on the region's economy and society. The reconstruction era that followed was marked by attempts to rebuild the South and integrate freed slaves into society, but these efforts faced significant challenges.

This page from "A New Economic View of American History" explores the changes that occurred in the South after the Civil War. It discusses the economic implications of the war, the role of Reconstruction, and the lasting effects on the region's development.
The special importance with which the white Southern leaders have been impressed by the negro problem is indicated by the fact that they have been the leading advocates of the idea that the negro is a slave. This is not surprising, when we consider the fact that the negro is a slave.

The negro problem is one of the most serious problems facing the United States. It is a problem that has been with us for a long time, and it is a problem that is not likely to go away any time soon. It is a problem that is not going to be solved overnight, but it is a problem that we must face and solve.

The negro problem is not a problem that can be solved by any one person or any one group. It is a problem that requires the cooperation of all of us. It requires that we all work together to find solutions to the problems that face the negro community. It requires that we all work together to build a society that is fair and just for all people, regardless of race.

The negro problem is a problem that we all must face. It is a problem that we all must work to solve. It is a problem that we all must work to make better for all people. It is a problem that we all must work to build a society that is fair and just for all people.
The page contains text and diagrams discussing economic principles and data. The text appears to be discussing concepts related to economics, possibly involving diagrams related to marginal net revenue and distribution of rents by size and price of the farm operator. The diagrams include curves and graphical representations of economic data. The page seems to be part of a larger discussion on economic theory or policy.
THE SOUTH AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

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[Text continues on the next page]
Food Prices for Southern Farmers, 1879-1880

| Period     | Food Price
|------------|-------------|
| 1879-1880  | $2.96
| 1881-1882  | $3.07
| 1883-1884  | $3.18

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The South after the Civil War

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**FIGURE:**

Crop Mix Change under Assumption of Self-Sufficiency and Market Interdependence

**TABLE 1A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Corn</th>
<th>Cotton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Per Acre</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price &amp; Seed</td>
<td>$69</td>
<td>$69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yield x Price</td>
<td>$420</td>
<td>$420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Crop per Acre of Corn and Cotton 1866-1900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(continued on next page)
Economic Efficiency and Racism in Southern Agriculture

Southern agriculture was based on a plantation system, where large plantations were owned by wealthy landowners. The labor force on these plantations was made up of enslaved African Americans, who were forced to work long hours under harsh conditions. The system was highly inefficient, and the landowners made profits by exploiting the labor of enslaved people.

The Civil War and Reconstruction

The Civil War and Reconstruction period led to significant changes in Southern agriculture. The freed slaves were granted land, but they were often subjected to economic disparities and racism. The freedmen were forced to work for low wages and were denied access to credit and other resources. This led to a pattern of economic disparity that persisted for many years.

During the Reconstruction period, government programs were established to help former slaves. However, these programs were undermined by the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacists, who used violence and intimidation to prevent African Americans from accessing these resources.

The Great Depression and World War II

The Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II had a significant impact on Southern agriculture. The war led to a shortage of labor, which resulted in higher wages for farm workers. This, in turn, led to increased costs for farmers, who were already struggling to make ends meet.

As a result, many Southern farmers were forced to sell their land and migrate to other parts of the country. This led to a decline in the number of small farms and a rise in the number of large, corporate farms. The landowners who had control of the land were able to exercise more power over the workers who worked on their farms.

The Civil Rights Movement

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s led to significant changes in Southern agriculture. The movement put pressure on the landowners to treat their workers more fairly and to provide better living conditions.

As a result, many landowners began to employ African Americans on their farms, and they were able to attract workers who were willing to work for fair wages. This led to a decrease in the number of farm workers who were forced to work long hours for low wages.

Today, Southern agriculture is still characterized by a pattern of economic disparity. The landowners who control the land are able to exercise more power over the workers who work on their farms. This power is often used to exploit the workers and to keep them from organizing and demanding better wages and working conditions.
The table below illustrates the relationship between per capita income and educational attainment in different regions of the U.S. The data shows a clear correlation between higher levels of education and increased income, suggesting that education plays a significant role in economic prosperity.

### Table 1A.6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Average Income (1990 dollars)</th>
<th>High School Graduates</th>
<th>College Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>41,939</td>
<td>341,349</td>
<td>66,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>39,219</td>
<td>310,239</td>
<td>52,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>36,999</td>
<td>285,999</td>
<td>47,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>43,469</td>
<td>356,469</td>
<td>61,469</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 1A.7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Black Per Capita Income (1990 dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>18,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>18,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>17,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>19,469</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall, the data suggests that education is a key factor in economic success. Higher levels of education correlate with higher income, which in turn can lead to improved economic opportunities and overall well-being. This highlights the importance of investment in education as a means of promoting economic development and reducing income inequality.
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Appendix

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