



Welcome!

Lecture 8:
The Peculiar Institution

Unit 2: A New Birth of Freedom

Lecture 8: *The Peculiar Institution*



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Slavery on the eve of the Civil War

- slavery had been abolished in northern states by 1804
- slave trade abolished in 1808

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Slavery on the eve of the Civil War (con't)

- slavery in the South was growing
 - ▶ 4 million slaves by 1860
 - ▶ 1/3 to 1/2 of the southern population were slaves
- slavery was profitable
 - ▶ largest financial asset in America
 - ▶ 2/3 of all exports produced by slaves

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Fanny Kemble



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Slave life:

- life expectancy 21 years for slaves; 26 years for whites
- infant mortality rate twice as high for slaves as for whites
- slaves worked 10-18 hours per day
- disease and malnutrition were the norm