

Slavery in the american south by william



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Slavery in the American South By William Rculard Throughout history, individuals have always wanted power, but in order to seize it, they must first know how to. Some obtained it through talking (Martin Luther King Jr.), while others through strength, building huge armies and destroying their enemies. In the American south slavery, things were different, indeed, landowners enslaved other human being, claiming their inferiority based on skin colour and different culture.

To better understand the African American culture, it would be interesting to discuss what the slavery in the south was about, but precisely how it made the African American Culture evolve. Slavery always existed, although it was for different reasons, not based on race or ethnicity, it still consisted of stealing away somebody's freedom. In the American South, it was a racially based slavery. In the mid to late 17th century, a rapid increase in the number of African Slaves, caused a majority of southerners to create a slave system in order to control the slaves. Causing positive results to the southerners, it evolved rapidly. Some of the slaves have been slaves in colonies since 1619, although some had an ambiguous status. By 1660s, southern colonies creating slave and shared codes defined slaves as chattel, or a piece of property.

Slavery was set for life (unless emancipated) and child whose mother was a slave was one as well. Emancipation depended on time periods and colonies since they might not have enough slaves if done too much. To protect themselves, it was made illegal to teach to read and write to a slave, first of all because they were considered inferior intellectually since their country is not civilized, but most of all because if a slave knew how to read, he might be

able to read the declaration of independence, thus getting ideas, power and the act.

Slaves were given no legal rights, although it was illegal to kill a slave.

Consequently, Planter Aristocracy emerged because of the way people lived and considered themselves, some considered themselves superior, specially to colored men. A Southern way of life thus emerged, having as characteristics a minority of large plantation owners (planters elite) who were very powerful and controlled economy and politics. They had an opulent lifestyle (mansion, luxury goods), were educated, had done military training, and enjoyed all sort of leisure. They believed in Southern gentility and their wealth and lifestyle was based on Slave-labor. As for the truth, only a few owned slaves and even less were true planters. The Southern culture was then headed by this planter elite.

In order to understand slavery, it is necessary to first understand the worldview of slave and slave owners. First of all, most southerners viewed slavery as the basis of all great civilizations, such as ancient Greece and Rome, and Africans as racially inferior and suited to labor. They thought of themselves as paternal (my negroes, my people.) The Southern male was a patriarchal figure of whom the child and his mother owed absolute respect. The slave would be living in the same cabin since the slave and his owner worked on the field. Nevertheless, most subscribed to the same cultural values.

According to the slave system, slaves were stupid, childlike (which is silly since it's actually positive), lazy, prone to lying and stealing,

promiscuous/animal like, dependent on whites and capable of violence and wickedness (like every person on earth, although some refuse to do it). At the same time, they believed they had to shape the slave, make him obedient and willing to work, had to break in a new slave, according to them, beating and breaking the slave would make him submissive and dependent. The slaves were taught that they were inferior and dependent on whites, one of the process was infantilization boy, uncle, girl, auntie. This process was to make inferior, skip adulthood since its independence, and create a child to mother/father relationship. This was considered as psychological conflict because the slaves were always told they were bad, childlike..

., and since they had no way of proving the opposite, it destroyed them.

Nevertheless, the slave owners backed up the process of enculturation with rewards and punishments because just beating was not productive,