

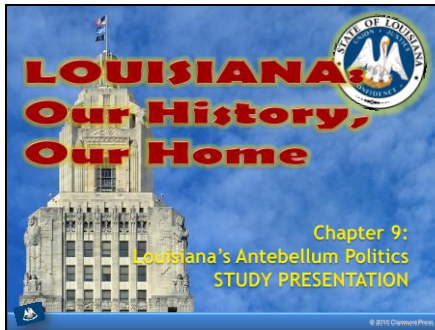


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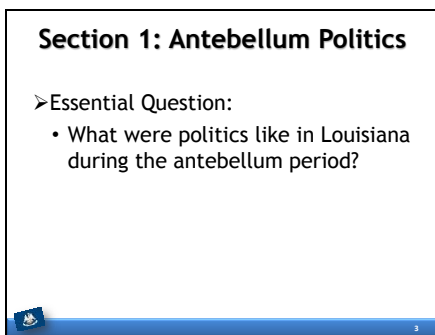
Chapter 9: Louisiana's Antebellum Politics

Quick Notes

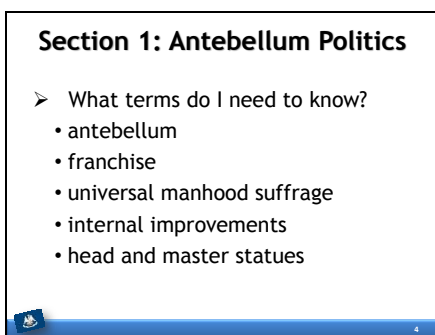
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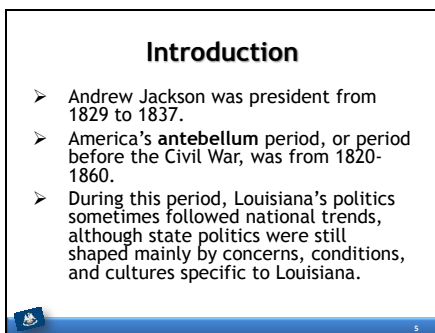
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Politics and Ethnicity

- Before 1820, Americans and Creoles alternated power in the office of governor.
- From 1820 to 1828, Americans held power.
- In 1828, Pierre Derbigny, an immigrant fleeing war in France, became governor.
- In 1831, Andre Bienvenu Roman (Creole) was elected governor. He sought to improve roads, levees, and railroad systems.

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Regional Tensions

- North Louisianans tried to move the capital to Donaldsville because they believed New Orleans was too influential.
- In 1825, they were successful, but they only met there for one year.
- In 1847, they selected Baton Rouge as the new state capital. This was the capital until the Civil War broke out and the capitol building was destroyed.

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Separate Municipalities

- New Orleans was broken into three different factions due to neighborhood and ethnic identities.
- The French Quarter, mostly inhabited by Creoles, became the first district.
- Neighborhoods above Canal Street, inhabited by the American settlers, became the second district.
- Downriver from the French Quarter, inhabited by working-class immigrant groups, became the third district.
- As a result of the 3 districts, the city was run through three different councils between 1836 and 1852.

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Political Parties

- At the beginning of the 1830s, political party alignment made a huge impact on voters.



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Democrats

- People who supported Andrew Jackson and his policies became known as Jacksonian Democrats or Democratic Republicans.
- Eventually shortened to Democrats, party members favored smaller government and backed programs to help the common man rather than businesses and banks.
- Democrats also tended to prefer widespread voting, rather than a small **franchise** (right to vote) comprised of free white men.
- They also favored **universal manhood suffrage** rather than limiting vote to those with wealth or property.




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Whigs

- The Whig Party formed in the mid-1830s to oppose the Democrats.
- They favored the interests of businesses and banks over the rights of men.
- Whigs wanted government support for **internal improvements** (roads, bridges, canals, etc.), which they believed would strengthen the economy.
- The Whig Party supported a sugar tariff, which attracted many Louisiana voters.
- They lost momentum in the mid-1850s when the politics of slavery split the party into northern and southern factions.




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The American Party

- The American Party organized as a party hostile to new immigrants and Catholics.
- They became known as the "Know Nothings" because when asked about the party, members would reply "I know nothing."
- By 1850, German and Irish immigrants made up half the population of New Orleans.
- Although they were not the most popular party, they used force and voter intimidation to control city politics from 1854 to 1861.




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Few Rights for Women

- During the antebellum period, women were believed to be uninterested in politics and incapable of understanding political issues.
- The few women who sought suffrage were limited to the North.
- Most people thought a woman's place was in the home. This belief was spelled out in Louisiana's **head and master statutes**, which stated that once a woman married, her husband became her head and master.
- Women in Louisiana did have the right to a separate property agreement, which meant that they kept all the property they brought to a marriage, but only if they arranged it before they were married.



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Two Constitutions

- Tensions between New Orleans and the rest of the state and between political parties were reflected in the two constitutions adopted during this time.
- The Constitution of 1845 included several Democrat desires, including universal manhood suffrage and limiting state aid to private enterprises. It also used the number of registered voters to allocate seats in the House and used the population count, including slaves, for the Senate.
- The Constitution of 1852 reflected Whig ideals and kept the idea of universal manhood suffrage, but it brought back government support for internal improvements and banking.

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Section 2: The Antebellum Economy

- Essential Question:
 - What factors drove the economic success seen in Louisiana during the antebellum period?

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Section 2: The Antebellum Economy

- What terms do I need to know?
 - factor
 - holding
 - coffee

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Introduction

- Regardless of politics, Louisiana's economy thrived during the antebellum period.
- New Orleans became one of the nation's largest cities and ports.
- Louisianans profited through trade and sugar and cotton production.



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Commerce

- The only port that did more business than New Orleans in the antebellum period was New York City.
- All Louisianans relied on the port in some way or another.
- This success brought about the nickname "Queen City of the South."

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Factors

- Planters were dependent on financial representatives called **factors**.
- Factors oversaw shipments, arranged transportation for, and told planters when to sell their sugar and cotton.
- They often loaned the planters money for supplies.
- If a planter could not pay it back due to a failed crop, the factor would often take the property of the person he once worked for.

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Banks


- Banks during the antebellum period were vital to economic success.
- They gave loans or sold bonds, which made public and private construction possible.
- They also loaned money to planters so that they could buy supplies, land, and equipment.

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Transportation

- Water routes were still the preferred method of transportation from 1820 to 1860, though they were made more helpful due to the invention of the steamboat.



Steamboats on the Mississippi River,
New Orleans, late 1840s

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Steamboats

- Multiple men worked on the development of steamboat technology between 1769 and 1811.
- In 1811, Robert Fulton and Robert Livingston designed and built a steamboat. It arrived in New Orleans in January 1812.
- By 1834, there were 1,200 steamboats in New Orleans, which shows their importance.
- Development of canals allowed steamboats to travel in smaller bodies of water.
- In 1831, investors worked to fund the construction of the New Basin Canal that connected Lake Pontchartrain and the interior of New Orleans.

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Railroads


- The development of railroads began in the antebellum period.
- In 1831, a six mile track was made between New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain, but there were many glitches.
- The state began to assist private businesses in the construction of railroads with the goal of creating more business.
- Most of the progress that was made was destroyed in the Civil War.

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Agriculture

- Cotton and sugar were the main crops that traveled through New Orleans.
- These two crops made Louisiana planters wealthy.




Cotton became an important Louisiana crop by the mid-1800s

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Sugar

- Sugar requires a longer and warmer growing season, so it was not grown any farther north than Alexandria.
- Sugar was only grown profitably in a plantation setting because it required so much labor to produce granulated sugar.



Sugarcane plants

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Cotton


- Cotton was grown throughout Louisiana, but it was most popular north of Pointe Coupee.
- Between 1840 and 1860, production doubled.
- In 1860, Louisiana produced one-sixth of the nation's cotton.
- Unlike sugar, cotton could be grown profitably on smaller farms.
- When the weather was warm-enough, cotton was hand-planted. The fields had to be raked constantly to prevent weeds from growing in the cotton.
- In late summer, the cotton was picked, cleaned, and processed and shipped to New Orleans for sale.

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Plantations and Small Farms

- One-fourth of southern families owned slaves.
- Owning slaves was an economic goal for many, and it was seen as the surest way to wealth.
- 52% of all slaves lived on plantations, but they produced 75% of the exported crops in slave-holding states.



St. John Plantation was a sugar plantation in St. Martin Parish.

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Slavery as a Labor System

- Before 1860, slaves were classified as property.
- Work was at the center of a slave's life, but their specific job depended on several factors.

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Plantation Slavery

- Slave jobs varied depending on the kind of crop they grew and the size of a holding.
- A **holding** is a group of slaves owned by one man.
- If a slave was part of a large holding, their jobs were specialized. If they were part of a small holding, they would be expected to do many jobs.
- If they were part of a very small holding, masters would work alongside them in the fields.
- Most slaves were a part of small holdings.

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Urban Slavery

- In urban areas like New Orleans, slaves had many jobs.
- Some slaves loaded and unloaded boats, while others were rented out for day labor or assigned to run businesses.
- When slaves were rented out, the master usually took the majority of the money. In a few cases, slaves were allowed to keep a small percentage of the money paid by renters.
- The majority of slaves in New Orleans were women, and they cared for a home and family.

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Buying and Selling Slaves

- New Orleans was home to the largest cluster of slave markets in the South.
- As people moved west, slaves were sent to clear land and raise crops.
- External slave trade was made illegal in 1808, so slaves were moved to new areas where they were most needed.
- Sometimes they had to march to New Orleans, in this case they would be in a group called a **coffle**. The men were chained together to prevent them from running away.
- Other slaves were sent by boat to New Orleans to be sold.

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Slave Markets

- New Orleans was the center of slave trade in the South.
- The slaves of a master who died were often sold in groups to pay off his debts.
- Most slave sales took place between a buyer and a broker just above Canal Street in the business district.
- The season for slave markets was from September to April, which avoided the hottest and most disease-prone months.
- When slaves were sold, they usually wore simple suits and calico dresses.

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Slavery as an Economic System

- Slaves were not just used as laborers, but also as financial assets.
- Masters were more willing to sell a slave than land to pay off debts.
- As the antislavery movement increased in the North, slavery grew in the South.
- From 1810 and 1860, the price of slaves tripled.
- Just before the Civil War broke out, the only asset that was worth more money than a slave was land.

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Section 3: People and Culture in Antebellum Louisiana

- Essential Question:
 - What were the people and their cultures like in Louisiana during the antebellum period?

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Section 3: People and Culture in Antebellum Louisiana

- What terms do I need to know?
 - veranda
 - overseer
 - slave quarters

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Introduction

- People on both sides of slavery developed distinctive cultures that grew out of the practice of slavery and the profits it produced.

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Plantation Culture

- Wealth from sugar and cotton allowed many planters to build grand homes.
- Many of these homes had two stories, columns, and a veranda, a long open porch with a roof.
- Planters showed great hospitality to those of their socio-economic class. They would host overnight house parties which included music, food, and dancing.
- Women were expected to run the big house and the service buildings.
- Men were expected to take care of the business aspects of owning a plantation.
- Planters often hired full-time overseers, who were white men that acted as managers of the slaves and farming operations of plantations.



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Slave Culture


- Many slaves lived in small houses close to one another. This arrangement of houses was called the **slave quarters**.
- In the slave quarters, slaves met to cook, talk, sing, dance, and mourn.
- Generations passed their stories down through oral history because it was illegal to teach a slave to read.
- Slave histories came in the form of songs and stories.



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Free People of Color

- In 1840, the population of free people of color had reached their height at 25,000.
- When their numbers began to grow, legislators began limiting their freedom.
- In 1830, the state required those who had come to the state since 1825 to leave or be imprisoned.
- In 1859, they were required to pick a master and become a slave for life.
- Some free people of color were also slave owners.



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Newer Immigrant Groups


- In the antebellum period, large numbers of German and Irish immigrants came to Louisiana.
- The Germans upset the Protestants because they went to beer gardens after church on Sundays.
- The Irish were usually extremely poor and were willing to take the jobs slave owners wouldn't have their slaves do because they were dangerous.
- The Irish were initially criticized for being dirty and hard drinkers, but by the late 1800s, they were fully assimilated.



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Risks

- Immigrants lived in very poor sanitary conditions, and diseases were widespread.
- For most of the nineteenth century, there was a yellow fever outbreak in New Orleans.
- In August of 1853, more than 1,000 people died every week.
- By the time it was over, 12% of the city had died. In that year, 20% of the Irish population died.



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Daily Life


- In rural areas, churches were like community centers. Here, people met, worshipped, married, and created families.
- Gatherings of political parties served as social gatherings.
- Political parties had barbeques and served lemonade; sometimes they had hard liquor for men.

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The City

- The day before the Civil War started, New Orleans was one of the most wealthy cities in the nation.
- People from all backgrounds and occupations mingled in the streets of the city.

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