

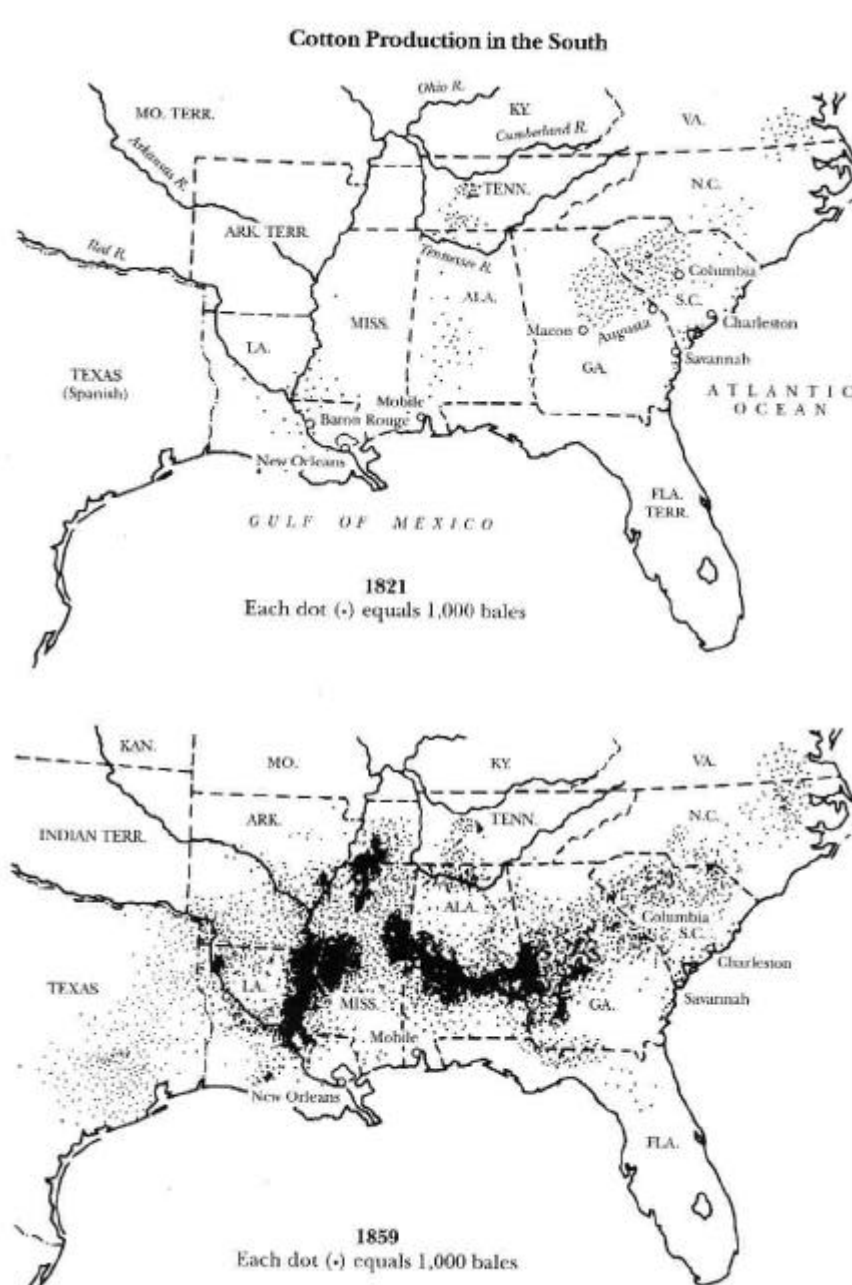
Economics C23-1

Lecture 13

Agriculture in the South:

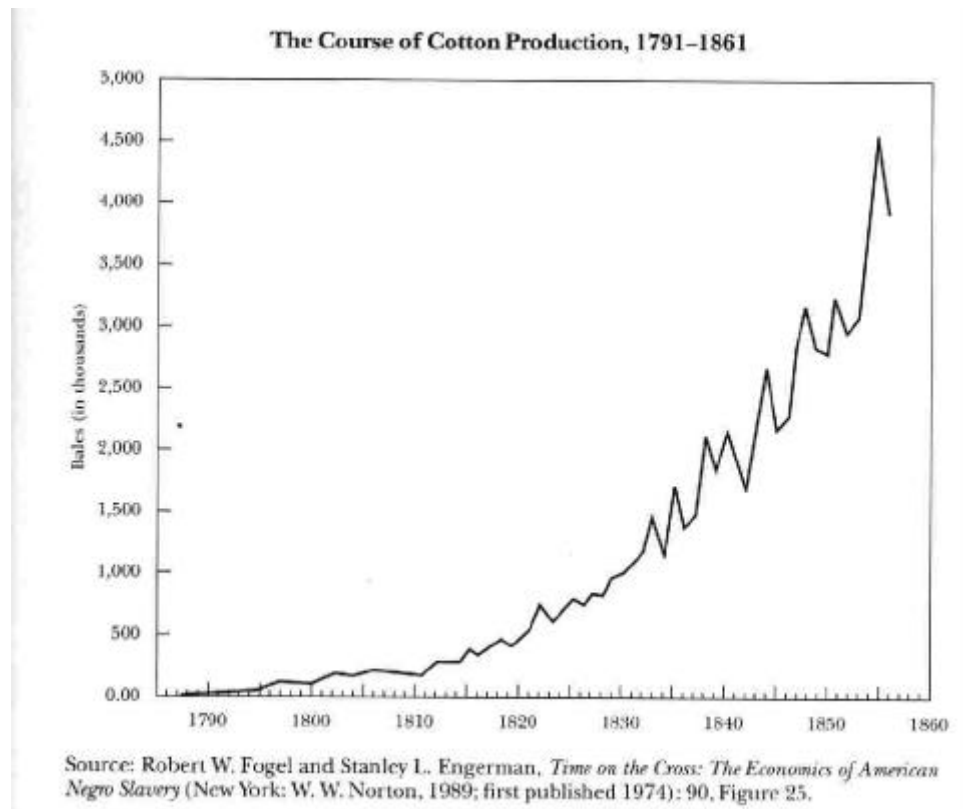
Part I: Slavery as a System

A. Background



Source: Gavin Wright, *The Political Economy of the Cotton South* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1978): 16, adapted from USDA, *Atlas of Agriculture*, Part V, Advance Sheets (December 15, 1915).

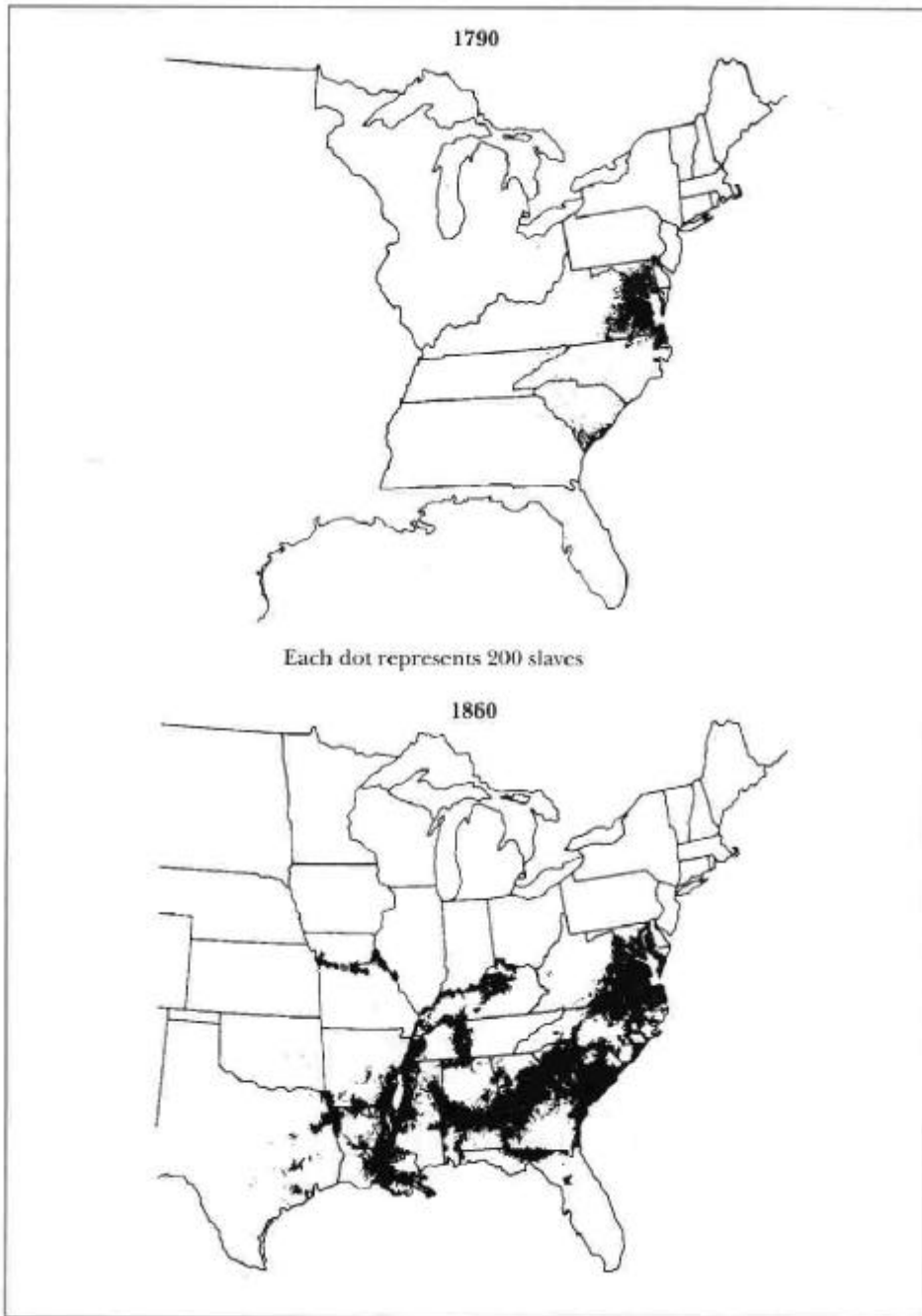
B. The Health of Slave Agriculture



Profitability vs. viability

Efficiency

The Distribution of the Slave Population in 1790 and 1860



Source: Robert W. Fogel and Stanley L. Engerman, *Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Negro Slavery* (New York: W. W. Norton 1989; first published 1974): 45.

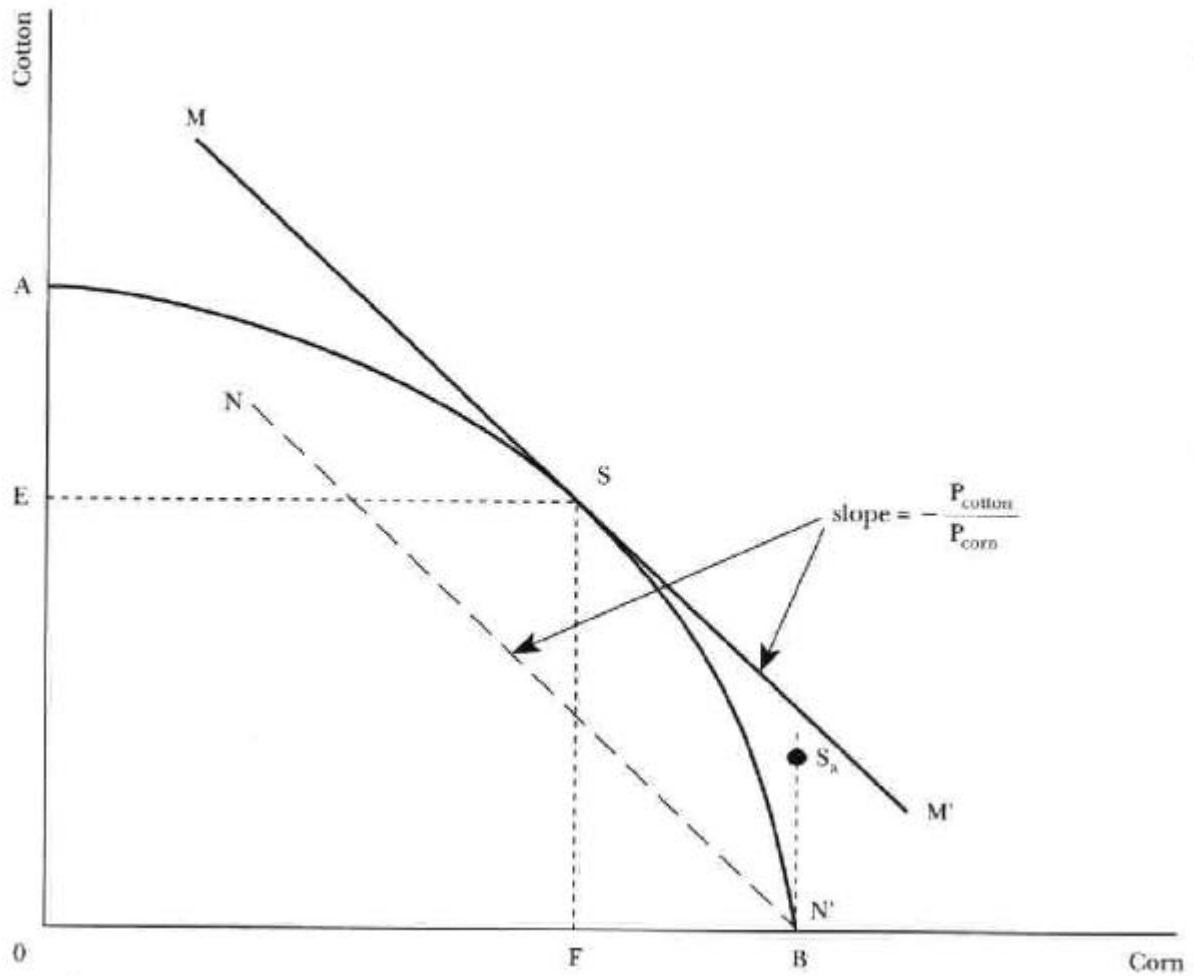
**Indexes of Total Factor Productivity on Southern Farms Relative to Northern Farms by
Subregion and Size of Farm, 1860
(Northern Farms = 100)**

Farm Size (number of slaves per farm)	Old South (slave-exporting states)	New South (slave-importing states)
0	98.4	112.7
1-15	103.3	127.2
16-50	124.9	176.1
51 or more	135.1	154.7
All slave farms	118.9	153.1
All farms (slave and nonslave) in region	116.2	144.7

Source: Robert W. Fogel and Stanley L. Engerman, "Explaining the Relative Efficiency of Slave Agriculture in the Antebellum South," *Without Consent or Contract: Technical Papers Volume I*, ed. Robert Fogel et al. (New York: W. W. Norton, 1992): 245.

Some conceptual problems

Explaining the Relative Efficiency of Southern Agriculture



C. Slavery and Southern Development

Regional per Capita Income, 1840 and 1860

Region	1840	1860	% Average Annual Growth
United States	\$96	128	1.4
North	109	141	1.3
Northeast	129	181	1.7
North Central	65	89	1.6
South	74	103	1.7
South Atlantic	66	84	1.2
East South Central	69	89	1.3
West South Central	151	184	1.0

Interpretation: Southern incomes were, on average, lower than northern incomes before the Civil War. But note that most parts of the South had a higher living standard than the predominantly rural North Central (Midwest) states. And most important, southern income was growing substantially faster than northern during the two decades before the Civil War.

Source: Robert Fogel and Stanley Engerman, *Time on the Cross* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1974): 248.

Wealth
Income
Allocation
 Across locations
 Across crops
 Across uses