

The Second Middle Passage

Ban on Import of Slaves

NINTH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES;

At the Second Session,

Begun and held at the city of Washington, in the territory of Columbia,
on Monday the first of December, one thousand eight
hundred and six.

AN ACT *to prohibit the importation of slaves, into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States, from and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eight.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, *That from and after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eight, it shall not be lawful to import or bring into the United States, or the territories thereof, from any foreign kingdom, place or country, any negro, mulatto, or person of color, with intent to hold, sell, or dispose of such negro, mulatto, or person of color, as a slave, or to be held to service or labor.*

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted; That no citizen or citizens of the United States, or any other person, shall, from and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eight, for himself, or themselves, or any other person whatsoever, either as master, factor, or owner, build, fit, equip, load, or otherwise prepare, any ship or vessel, in any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States, nor shall cause any ship or vessel to sail from any port or place within the same, for the purpose of procuring any negro, mulatto, or person of color, from any foreign kingdom, place or country, to be transported to any port or place whatsoever, within the jurisdiction of the United States, to be held, sold or disposed of as slaves, or to be held to service or labor; and if any ship or vessel shall be so fitted out, for the purpose aforesaid, or shall be caused to sail so as aforesaid, every such ship or vessel, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, shall be forfeited to the United States, and shall be liable to be seized, prosecuted, and condemned, in any of the circuit courts, or district courts, for the district where the said ship or vessel may be found or seized.

*Act to Prohibit the Importation of Slaves Any Place within the United States*²

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- In 1807, Congress passed a law that banned the import of slaves.
 - While illegal imports continued, the ban made imports much less frequent.

Textile-Based Industrialization

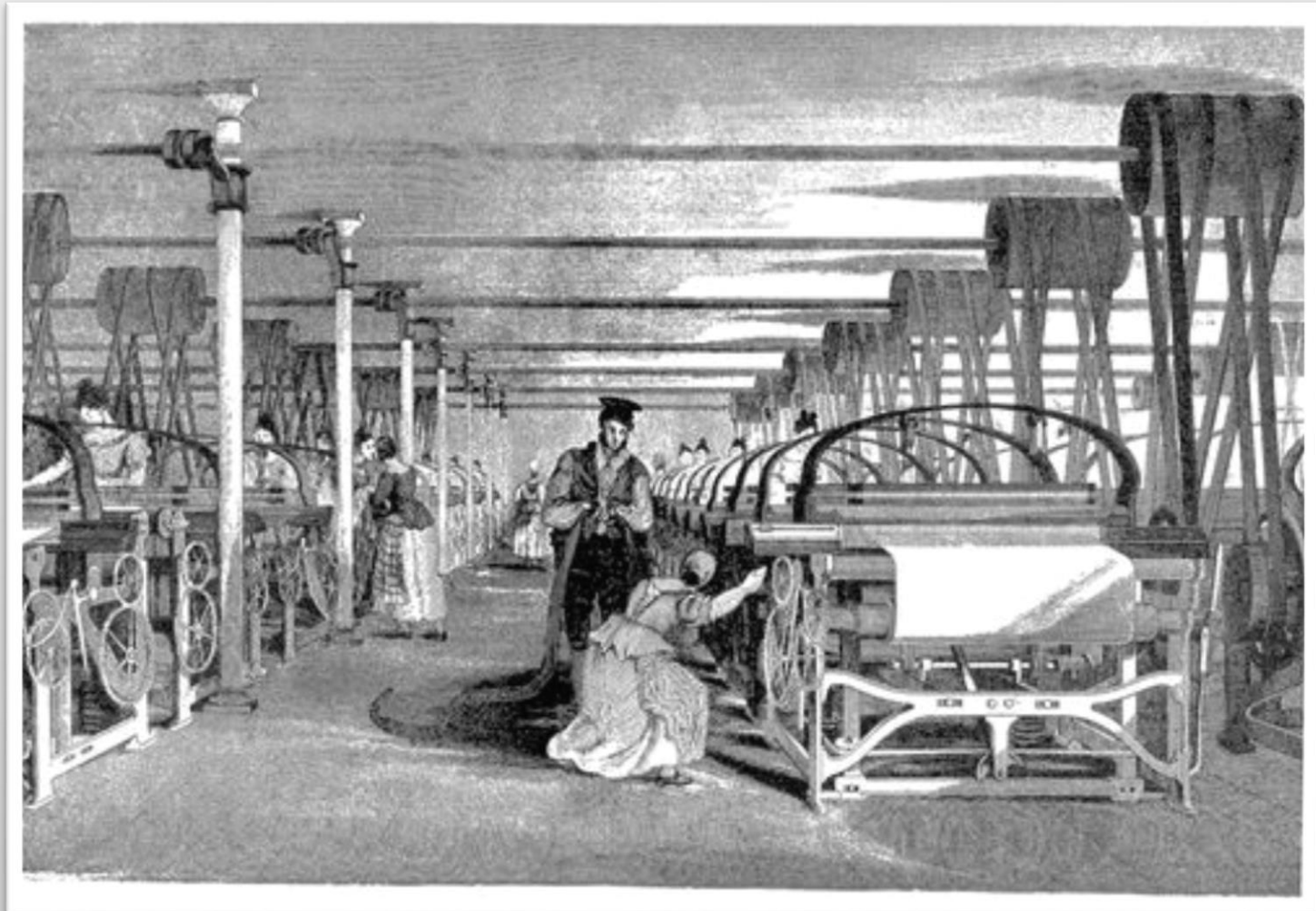
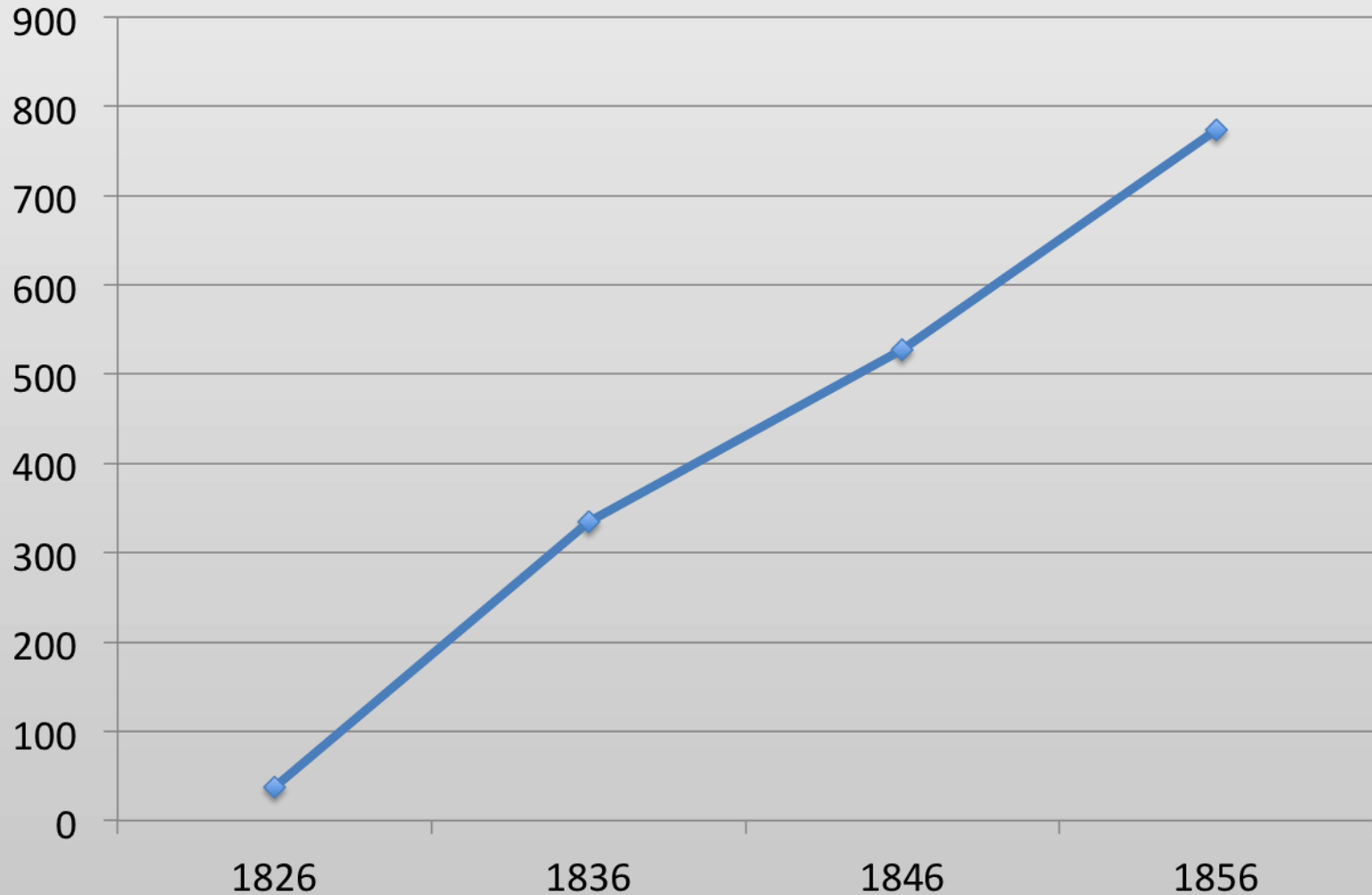


Illustration from 1836 of men and women at work in a textile mill

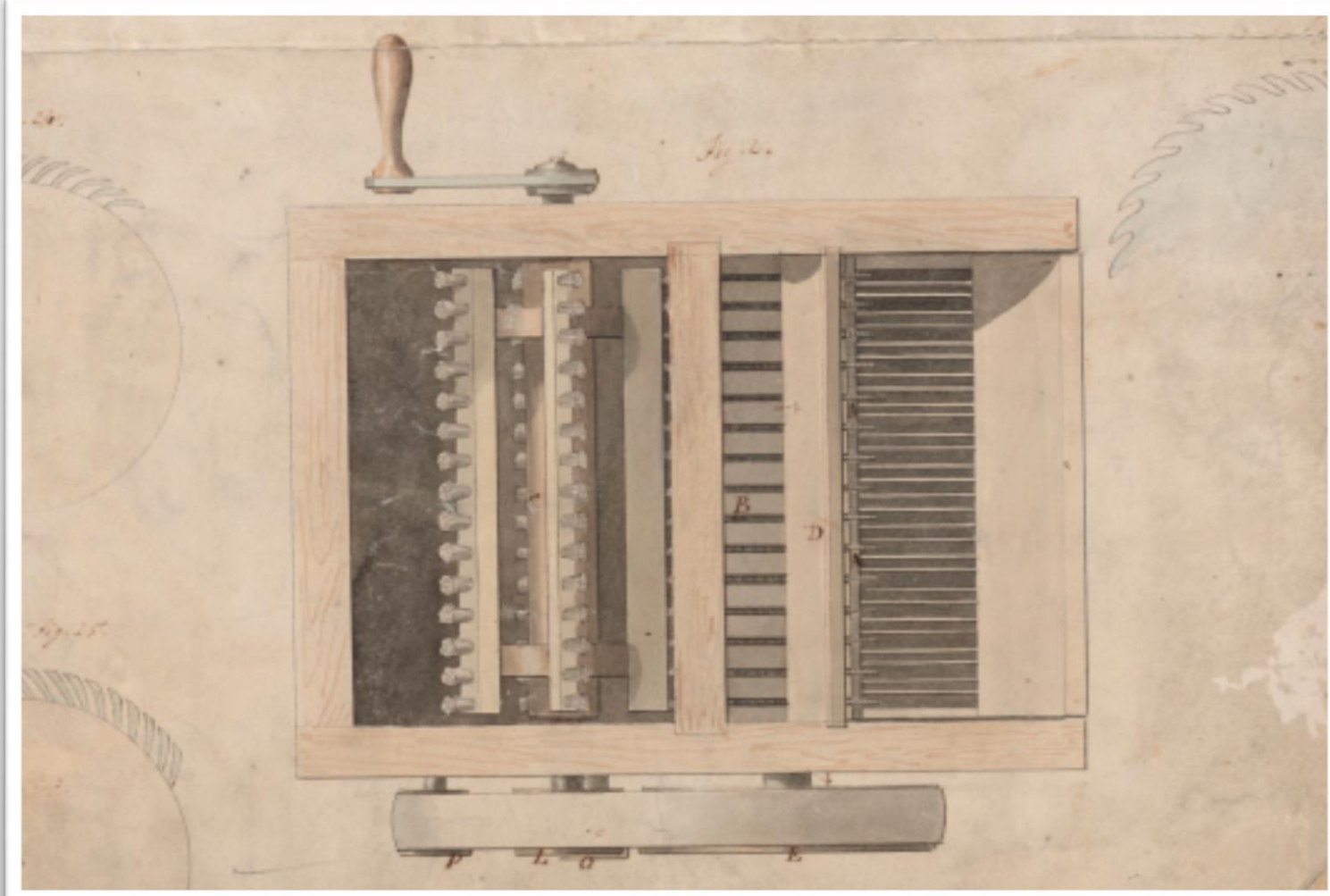
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- The Industrial Revolution began in England in the 1760s and spread to Western Europe and New England in later decades.
 - Textile mills in Europe and New England radically increased the demand for cotton and boosted the production of textiles.

New England Textile Mills

Textile Produced in New England (In Thousands of Yards)



Cotton Gin



Eli Whitney's Cotton Gin Patent Drawing, 1794

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- In 1794 Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin.
 - Without the gin, one person could clean one pound of cotton per day. With the cotton gin, one person could clean **fifty pounds** in a single day

Domestic Slave Trade

CASH!

All persons that have **SLAVES** to dispose of, will do well by giving me a call, as I will give the **HIGHEST PRICE FOR**

Men, Women, & CHILDREN.

Any person that wishes to sell, will call at Hill's tavern, or at Shannon Hill for me, and any information they want will be promptly attended to.

Thomas Griggs.
Charlestown, May 7, 1835.

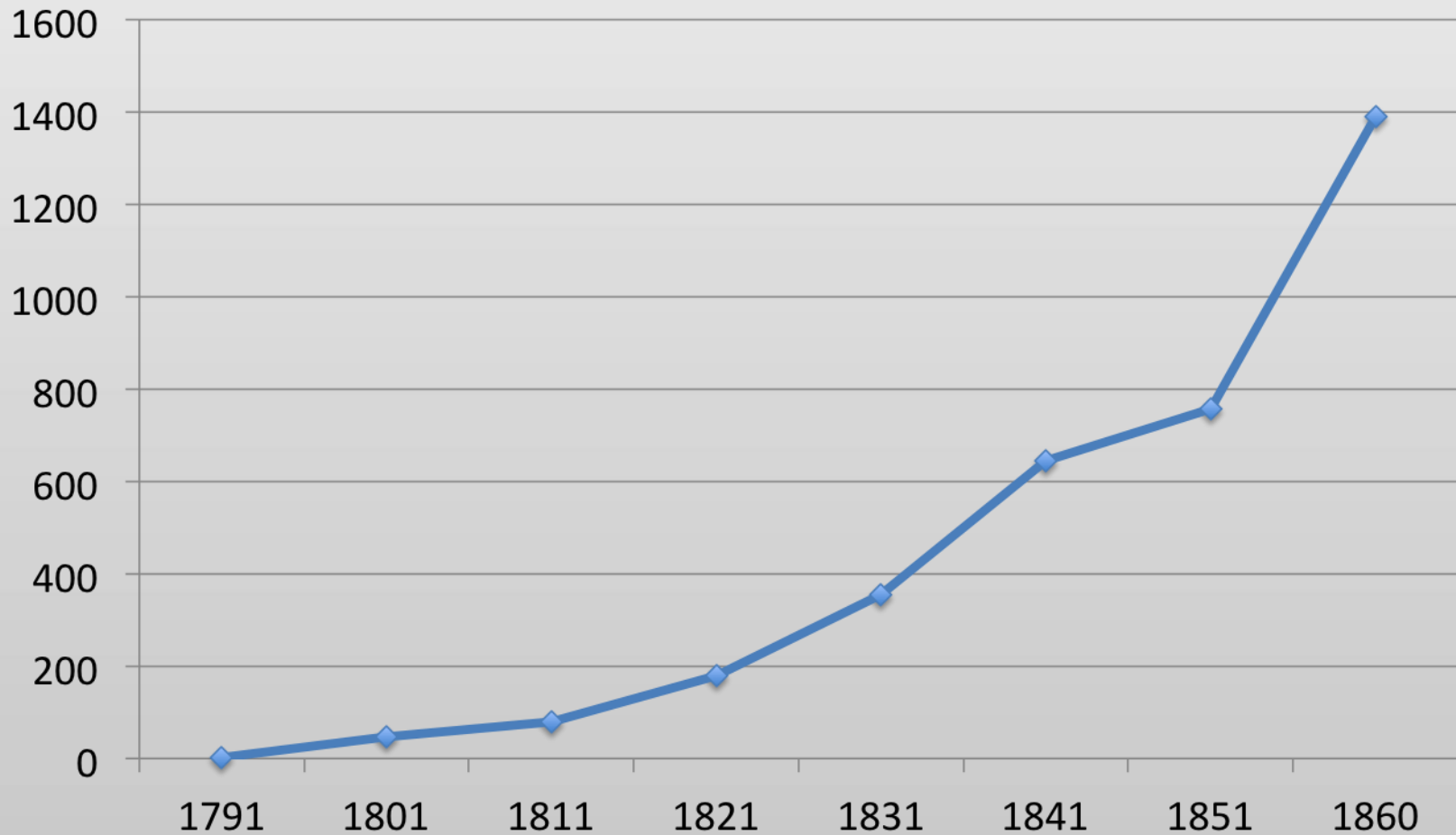
1835 advertising for purchase of slaves in Maryland

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- As the demand for cotton soared, so did the demand for slave labor in the Lower South.
 - At the same time the Upper South experienced an agricultural depression, causing regional demand for slaves to drop.

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- Slaveholders in the Upper South sold their slaves “down river” at huge profits..
 - Cotton surpassed tobacco as the South’s largest cash crop.

King Cotton

Cotton Production in the U.S. (In Millions of Pounds)



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- From 1790 to 1860 cotton production in the U.S. rose by 1,500%.
 - After 1820 cotton represented a majority of U.S. imports.

Cotton Picking

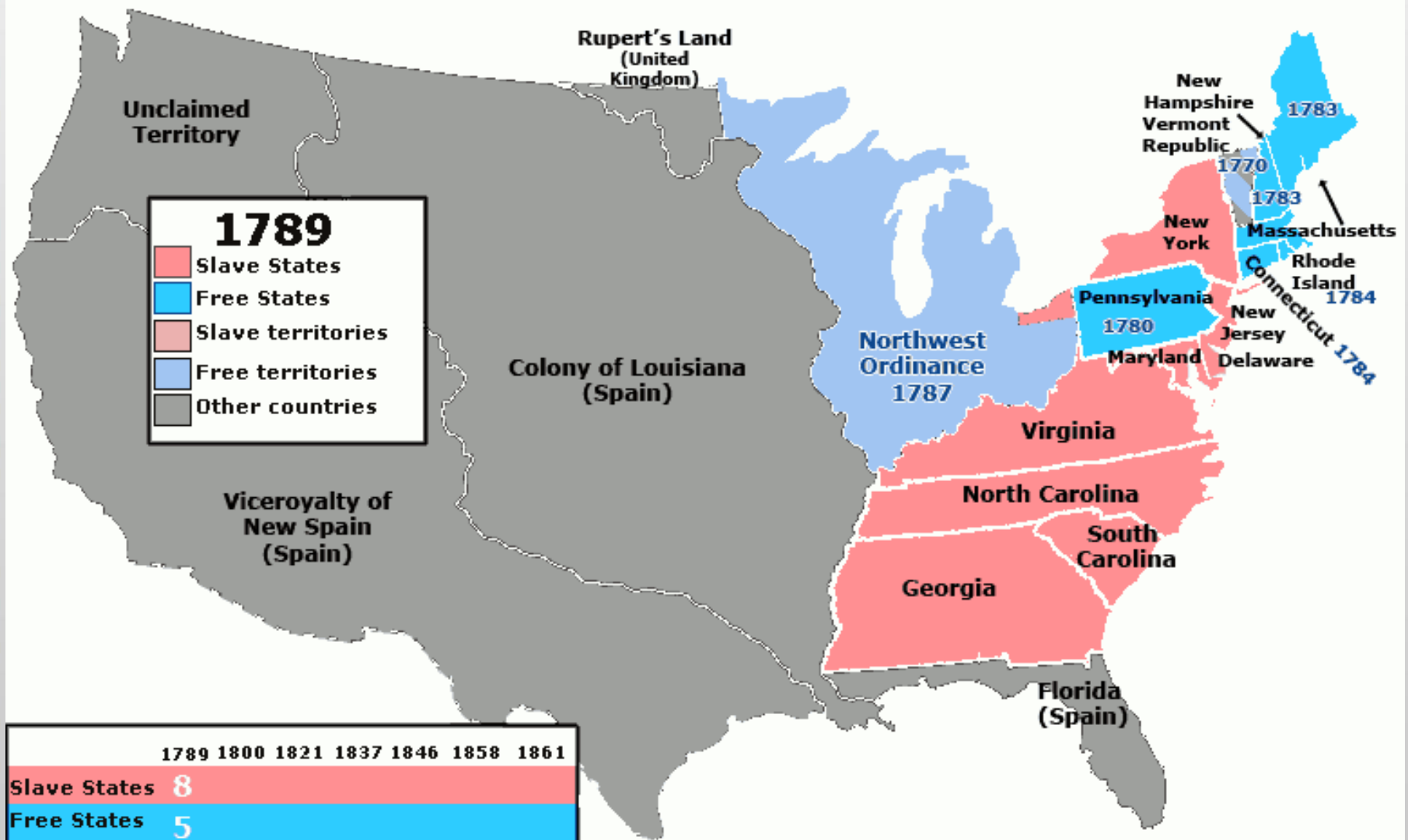


1860 photograph of slaves picking cotton in Alabama

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- Despite a lack of new technology cotton picking per person increased at a rate of 2.1% per year.
 - Due to what planters called the “pushing system”.

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- The use of violence to force slaves to work harder and faster.

New Slave States and Territories



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- As cotton profits grew, planters and others involved in the cotton and slave trades expanded the areas where cotton was grown.
 - Cotton production pushed south and west into new lands seized from Native Americans and annexed from Mexico.

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- Plantation owners in these areas brought tens of thousands of slaves to harvest the new cotton that was being planted.

Central Historical Question

Why is the domestic slave trade referred to as the Second Middle Passage?