

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Cotton

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Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Hurt, R. Douglas	<i>Agriculture and the Confederacy: Policy, Productivity and Power in the Civil War South</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year. “Title,” in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Baker, Bruce E. and Barbara Hahn	<i>The Cotton Kings: Capitalism and Corruption in turn-of-th-Century New York and New Orleans</i> . New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.
Beckert, Sven	“Emancipation and Empire: Reconstructing the Worldwide Web of Cotton Production in the Age of the American Civil War,” <i>American Historical Review</i> 109, no. 5 (December 2004): 1405-38.
_____.	<i>Empire of Cotton: A Global History</i> . New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014.
Dodd, Dorothy	“The Manufacture of Cotton in Florida before and during the Civil War,” <i>Florida Historical Society Quarterly</i> 13, no. 1 (July 1934): 3-15.
Gates, Paul W.	<i>Agriculture and the Civil War</i> . New York: Knopf, 1965.

Johnson, L. H.	"Northern Profit and Profiteers: The Cotton Rings of 1864-1865," <i>Civil War History</i> 12, no. 2 (June 1966): 101-15.
Jones, Howard	<i>Blue and Gray Diplomacy: A History of Union and Confederate Foreign Relations (Littlefield History of the Civil War Era)</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010.
Lebergott, Stanley	"Through the Blockade: The Profitability and Extent of Cotton Smuggling, 1861-1865," <i>Journal of Economic History</i> 41, no.4 (December 1981): 867-88.
Lucas, Marion B.	<i>Sherman and the Burning of Columbia</i> . Columbia: University of South Carolina, 2000.
O'Connor, Thomas H.	<i>Civil War Boston: Home Front and Battlefield</i> . Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1997.
Powell, Lawrence N.	<i>New Masters: Northern Planters during the Civil War and Reconstruction</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press, 1980.
Randall, James G.	"Captured and Abandoned Property During the Civil War," <i>American Historical Review</i> 19, no. 1 (October 1913): 65-79.
Ross, Steven Joseph	"Freed Soil, Freed Labor, Freed Men: John Eaton and the Davis Bend Experiment," <i>Journal of Southern History</i> 44, no. 2 (May 1978): 213-32.
Thomas, David Y.	"The Cotton Tax and Southern Education," <i>North American Review</i> 190, no. 648 (November 1909): 688-92.
Schoonover, Thomas	"Mexican Cotton and the American Civil War," <i>The Americas</i> 30, no. 4 (April 1974): 429-47.
Surdam, David G.	"King Cotton: Monarch or Pretender? The State of the Market for Raw Cotton on the Eve of the American Civil War," <i>Economic History Review</i> , New Series, 51, no. 1 (February 1998): 113-32.
_____.	"Traders or Traitors: Northern Cotton Trading During the Civil War," <i>Business and Economic History</i> 28, no. 2 (Winter 1999): 301-12.

Wilson, Harold S.	<i>Confederate Industry: Manufacturers and Quartermasters in the Civil War</i> . Jackson: University of Mississippi Press, 2002.
Woodman, Harold D.	<i>King Cotton and His Retainers: Financing and Marketing the Cotton Crop of the South, 1800-1925</i> . Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1968.
Yafa, Stephen	<i>Cotton: The Biography of a Revolutionary Fiber</i> . New York: Viking, 2005.

Organizations

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
https://www.cotton.org/pubs/cottoncounts/story/index.cfm	Cotton Counts is a website with publications about cotton and a list of websites dedicated to education about cotton.

Other Sources

Scholars

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Google Keywords

At the time of the Civil War, cotton had become the most valuable crop of the South and comprised 59% of the exports from the United States. As a result, it played a vital role in the conflict. For southern producers, the war disrupted both the producing and the marketing of what they hoped would be the financial basis of their new nation. As Confederate territory shrank under Union attack, invasion, and occupation, the traditional patterns of cotton cultivation and sales likewise came under assault. Blockading southern ports and encroaching into the major cotton-growing areas, the Union stalled not only the cotton economy but also the foreign relations of the Confederacy. As state after state across

the South joined the Confederate States of America, the new nation's foreign relations relied on what came to be known as cotton diplomacy. Planters and the Confederate leaders believed that cotton shortages would secure full diplomatic recognition and possibly aid from European consumers of their produce. Chief among these was Great Britain, which consumed most of the output of the fiber in the textile mills of the Industrial Revolution. In order to starve the world of cotton. Believing in the power of King Cotton, the Confederates placed an embargo on cotton exports in the summer of 1861. By the time Davis lifted the embargo, it was too late; the Union navy had blockaded Confederate ports. The blockade, begun in 1861, was never perfect. It did not entirely prevent cotton from leaving the South but it did hobble export activities and made cotton sales risky and unpredictable. British manufacturers sought other supplies. The shortfall in shipments from America stimulated cotton production in India, Egypt, and Brazil, which all increased their production in order to meet British demands. The Union army's presence in Memphis and New Orleans by 1862 brought the cotton market back to life with cotton being sold across enemy line to factories in the North and in England. This unofficial trade continued throughout the rest of the war. The end of the war brought a long period of time before cotton production in the south recovered from the loss of slaves, the destruction wrought by the war and the new suppliers in India and elsewhere.
