**(6:35) Cotton and Slavery**

**Cotton Production Leads to a Debate over Slavery**

**Questions**

1. What is the main idea presented by each speaker?

2. What are the main points of contention?

3. In your opinion, was compromise possible?

William Harper: “The coercion of slavery alone is adequate to form man to the habits of labor...It is as much in the order of nature, that men should enslave each other, as that animals should prey upon each other.”

Representative Charles Pinckney: “Is there a single line in the Old or New Testament either censuring or forbidding it (slavery)? I answer without hesitation, no . . . The Jews in the time of theocracy, and the Greeks and Romans, had all slaves...This world was formed by a great and omnipotent being . . . nothing is permitted to exist here but by his will.”

John C. Calhoun: “It is a great and dangerous error to suppose that all people are equally entitled to liberty. It is a reward to be earned . . . and not a boon (gift) to be bestowed on (given to) a people too ignorant...of enjoying it . . . Instead of being born free and equal, (men) are born subject . . . to the laws and institutions of the country where they are born . . .

Supreme Court Justice Charles Taney: “Dred Scott was not a citizen of Missouri within the meaning of the Constitution of the United States . . . The right of property in a slave is distinctly and expressly confirmed in the Constitution.”

William Lloyd Garrison: “I am determined at every hazard to lift up the standard of emancipation in the eyes of the nation until every chain be broken and every bondman set free! Let Southern oppressors tremble-- let their secret supporters tremble -- let their Northern defenders tremble -- let all enemies of the persecuted blacks tremble.”

Henry David Thoreau: “I cannot for an instant accept a political organization that is the slave’s government also. If the law is of such a nature that it requires you to be an agent of injustice to another, then, I say, break the law.”

Theodore Weld: “We will prove that the slaves in the United States are treated with barbarous inhumanity: . . . we shall show . . . that these deeds are committed, . . . not in one of the slave states, but in all of them.”

Abraham Lincoln: “A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free.”