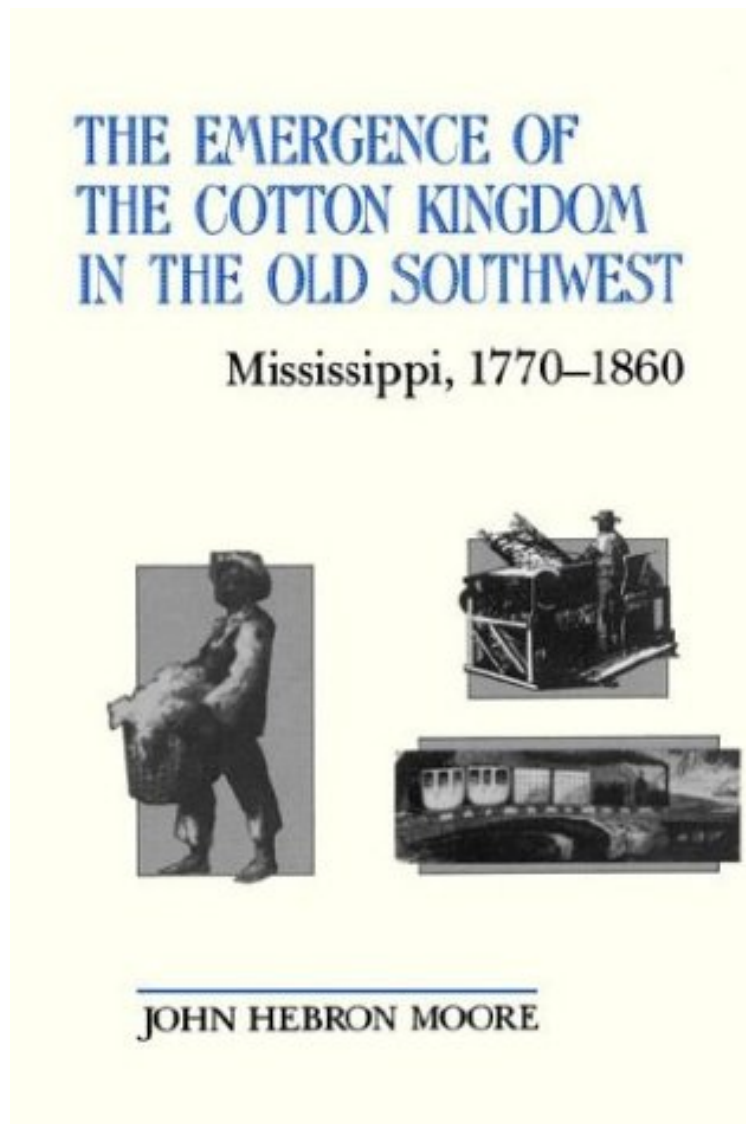


[Library ebook] The Emergence of the Cotton Kingdom in the Old Southwest: Mississippi, 1770--1860
(Horizons in Theory and American Culture)

The Emergence of the Cotton Kingdom in the Old Southwest: Mississippi, 1770--1860 (Horizons in Theory and American Culture)

John Hebron Moore

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John Hebron Moore : The Emergence of the Cotton Kingdom in the Old Southwest: Mississippi, 1770--1860 (Horizons in Theory and American Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Emergence of the Cotton Kingdom in the Old Southwest: Mississippi, 1770--1860 (Horizons in Theory and American Culture):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A colossal myth: Industrial Revolution in the South would have ended slavery. By Kurt Grussendorf This book is now a classic mainstay of Southern history. But I must say I read it with a more critical eye than in the past to discover that the myth that slavery would have died out because of modern technology rather than a civil war is indeed that--a colossal myth. Far from making slavery unprofitable, the introduction of new agricultural methods and machinery in the late antebellum period was reaping great profits for slave owners who could get more productivity out of the slaves with the machines and new styles of labor management. Most informative of all was the fact that slaves were being employed in southern factories--some at highly skilled jobs including steam engine mechanics. These slaves were not always the property of individuals but of corporations and the profits reaped by such enterprises were stupendous. I was not aware of the widespread use of slaves in more mechanized agriculture and factory shops and the high productivity and profitability that resulted. And the fact that they could be owned by corporations rather than individual owners reveals an alarming complicity between capitalism and forced labor. This book is by far the most complete compendium of economic activity in Mississippi in the decades leading to the war. Those who insist that technology and capitalist production are the antithesis of slavery should reassess their view. The more entrepreneurial planters and factory owners were growing ever richer with slave labor. Although it is true that industrialism and modern agricultural might have evolved into a wage system for free blacks, there is certainly no guarantee that it would have happened or if it did not necessarily so soon. Without the civil war I fear slavery would have remained alive and well as the Peculiar Institution it was in a South that was profiting from the new agricultural and production techniques of modern technology and industrialism.

The Old South's Cotton Kingdom arose simultaneously in two widely separated localities, the backcountry of the South Atlantic states and the east bank of the Mississippi River. Spreading from these places of origin and later merging, the east and west branches of the upland short-staple cotton industry developed along similar lines until the Civil War. John Hebron Moore's *The Emergence of the Cotton Kingdom in the Old Southwest: Mississippi, 1770--1860* traces the evolution of cotton culture in the region bordering the Mississippi River. Moore examines the society supported by that industry, emphasizing technological changes that transformed cotton plantations into agricultural equivalents of factories and slaves into Mule-drawn equipment led to the introduction of improved methods of managing plantation slaves, and that in turn altered the nature of plantation slavery significantly. Moore focuses on Mississippi as both the pioneer cotton state of the Old Southwest and the Old South's leading producer of cotton between 1835 and 1860. Progressive planters made major contributions to the success of the antebellum upland cotton industry, including the breeding of superior varieties of cotton, the introduction of improved farm implements and machinery, the development of effective methods of combating soil erosion, and systems for managing slaves based upon incentives rather than coercion. In addition, unlike other studies of antebellum southern agriculture, this book examines the contributions to the success of cotton industry made by steamboats and railroads, manufacturing establishments, and the urban population.

About the Author John Hebron Moore is professor of history at Florida State University. He is the author of *Andrew Brown and Cypress Lumbering in the Old Southwest* and *Agriculture in Antebellum Mississippi* and has contributed essays to a number of other books.