

8.52 Southern Society

Use the link on my website to complete the table. Then use the table to answer the questions that follow.

Group	Size	Notes
Large planters (1000 or more acres)		The wealthiest class in all of America, the large planters exercised social and political power far beyond their percentage of the population. Most owned 50 slaves or more.
Planters (100-1000 acres)	Perhaps 3% of white families	
		Yeoman farmers. They owned their small pieces of land and produced enough food for the family. 20% did not own either slaves or land and squatted on poor lands where they often grazed livestock or raised corn. Some were day laborers in towns.
	3% of all free families	Usually in upper South, such as Virginia, Maryland, and Kentucky. Many were either tenant-farmers or day laborers. Legally and socially restricted in terms of mobility and economic advancement.

1. Which two groups had the most political power?
2. What group did the majority of whites belong to? What was their life like?
3. Why did most free blacks live in the northern Southern states?
4. How many slaves lived in the South in 1860?
5. Explain how the Southern society was different from EITHER the West OR the North.

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