

DID YOU KNOW:

“Three billions of property in slaves was held by perhaps 600,000 slave holders who were denounced as a “slave-o-cracy” but the North has converted these 3 billion of slave property into United States bonds, and by now 100,000 people. Its production gave us more than 2/3 of the revenue of the country. It produced more than 2/3 of the export wealth, employed more than 2/3 of the capital of the North. It employed 3/4 the laborers of the North. It gave higher wages to labor, made living cheap, it poured a tide plenty over the land.”

— The Old Guard, October, 1865,
Pro-Confederate New Yorker

It was a widely held assumption that emancipating America’s enslaved workers would “inflict utter ruin and universal desolation on the further territories of the American South ... [and] also on the merchants of Boston and N.Y. ... Their prosperity has always been derived from slave labor.”

— Economist Journal, 1861

THE PASSAGE

JOSEPH'S JOURNEY AND THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

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“COTTON IS KING”

— Senator James Henry Hammond in a speech to the US Senate, March 4, 1858



“It was on the back of cotton, and thus on the backs of slaves, that the U.S. economy ascended in the world.”

— Beckert, Sven. *Empire of Cotton: A Global History*. New York: Vintage Books, 2014. 119