

Dreams of Industrial Utopias: Leading Manufacturers of the Deep South and their Mill Towns during the Civil War Era

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Dreams of Industrial Utopias: Leading Manufacturers of the Deep South and their Mill Towns during the Civil War Era

[Francis Michael Curran](#), *West Virginia University*

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Committee Chair

Jason Phillips

Committee Member

Brian Luskey

Committee Member

Kenneth Fones-Wolf

Committee Member

Melissa Bingmann

Committee Member

Paula M. Kane

Abstract

Broadly speaking, this dissertation explores the intersection of industrialization and social reform in the nineteenth-century American South. It focuses on leading manufacturers of the Deep South and their mill towns during the Civil War era. More precisely, it investigates the relationship between these industrialists, their mill towns, and social reform efforts of the period. In the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s, William Gregg, Daniel Pratt, and Barrington King created and managed some of the largest and most financially successful manufacturing establishments in the entire South. These men, however, were more than simply industrialists. They were also idealistic and steadfast social reformers who crafted and implemented ambitious programs of social reform in their respective mill towns. Interpreting Gregg, Pratt, and King in this manner adds significantly to our understanding of social reform efforts in the antebellum South. Moreover, so doing allows us to gain a more nuanced understanding of southern society and culture before the Civil War.

In addition to the history of social reform in the antebellum South, this work also contributes to the history of slavery and capitalism in early nineteenth-century America. The story of William Gregg and the Graniteville Manufacturing Company underscores the commercial interconnectedness of the North and the South during the period. Furthermore, by exploring southern textile manufacturing for northern markets, it complements recent work on northern industrial production for southern markets. Finally, the stories of all of the manufacturers under examination and their industrial enterprises reveal that industry in the Deep South and its white wage laborers relied on slavery's capitalism to survive. Free labor supported slavery in the Deep South.

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The South before the Civil War. The South has a warm climate and a long growing season for crops. The costs of the Civil War were enormous. Yet one crucial question remained unanswered: what was the place of black men and women in American life? They awaited an answer which would have to be found during Reconstruction. Two important amendments were passed: the 14th – 1868 and the 15th – 1870 which guaranteed basic rights to freed men. Reconstruction, 1865–1877. Reconstruction of the Union held many promises. Black men and women in the South could move to their new home in Florida. Freedmen were exploited during the Reconstruction as well. Without land of their own, they were dependent on white landowners. Then the retreat from Reconstruction began. The American Civil War was among the earliest industrial wars. Railroads, the telegraph, steamships and iron-clad ships, and mass-produced weapons were employed extensively. Slavery had been a controversial issue during the framing of the Constitution, but the issue was left unsettled.[18]. The flag of the Union. In the decades leading up to the Civil War, the abolitionists, such as Theodore Parker, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and Frederick Douglass, repeatedly used the Puritan heritage of the country to bolster their cause. The most radical anti-slavery newspaper, *The Liberator*, invoked the Puritans and Puritan values over a thousand times. 1. During the 19-th century Britain was transformed from a mainly agricultural society into an industrial one. This change has been called the Industrial Revolution because of the dramatic effect it had on the British way of life. People moved to the rapidly expanding towns and cities, railways were developed to transport goods around the country and by 1900 Britain has become a major world power. 2. The coal and iron found in the North-east, the Midlands, Scotland and South Wales provided the power for factories in those areas. The waterways of Newcastle and Glasgow provided easy access to th... Many light industries are located on the edge of towns or on industrial estates. (1685). But most towns remained far smaller places—in 1500 only about two dozen places in the world contained more than 100,000 inhabitants. As late as 1700 there were fewer than 40, a figure which would rise thereafter to 300 in 1900. During the industrial era, cities grew rapidly and became centers of population and production. The growth of modern industry from the late 18th century onward led to massive urbanization and the rise of new, great cities, first in Europe, and then in other regions, as new opportunities brought huge numbers of migrants from rural communities into urban areas. Living conditions during the Industrial Revolution varied from the splendor of the homes of the wealthy to the squalor of the workers. Poor people lived in very small houses in cramped streets.