THE LAND--

THE RUGGED SURFACE ON WHICH
THE AMERICAN STORY IS WRITTEN.

WHAT HAPPENS OUT THERE
ON THE GROUND

SHAPES THE AMERICAN CHARACTER
IN SOME FUNDAMENTAL WAYS--

IT REFLECTS LARGER
AMERICAN PROCESSES.

THE WHOLE HISTORY
OF THE UNITED STATES

IS THAT CONSTANT MOVEMENT
WESTWARD--

THAT CONSTANT MARCH FROM
THE EUROPEANS TO EITHER PROGRESS
OR TO DECIVILIZING
THE CIVILIZATIONS

THAT WERE ALREADY HERE.

BUT I THINK THE MOVEMENT...

BUT THAT'S THE LAND AGAIN.

I MEAN, SO MANY
PLACES IN THE
UNITED STATES

FOR SO MUCH OF ITS HISTORY
OF RUNNING AWAY
OF LINING UP FOR THE TERRITORY.

IT'S SUCH A BIG COUNTRY...

AMERICANS COULD ONLY TRAVEL
AS FAST AS A RUNNING HORSE
COULD TAKE THEM IN 1800.

BUT AS THE 19th CENTURY BEGINS
AMERICA IS ON THE MOVE.

AND THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH
ARE CHANGING FOREVER.

HISTORIANS PAULINE MAIER...

SO THE CANALS MADE ALL
THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

AND STEPHEN AMBROSE...

YOU CAN'T OWN ANOTHER MAN--
PERIOD.

JOIN US...

AND THEY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT
THE FRONTIER GIVES THEM.

ON "WESTWARD EXPANSION,"

TODAY ON
A BIOGRAPHY OF AMERICA.

[Captioning sponsored
by ANNENBERG/CPB]
IN MARCH OF 1801

America was that rare and wonderful thing--a hopeful democracy that had just seen power peacefully transferred from one ruling party to another. It was a new country, aching to grow, aching to push the limits of the land, aching to push the limits of the land and the talents of its people. Optimistic, restless and invigorated by a vision Jefferson gave a name to--an empire of liberty.

America, however, had to contend with two great rival powers--France and Britain. Britain had lost her 13 colonies and maintained a presence only in what is today Canada. France was a different story. Under its brilliant and aggressive leader Napoleon Bonaparte, France had plans for beating Britain at its imperial game. And those plans involved America, not for the first time.

More than a century before an adventurer, a priest and five voyageurs set out in two lightly outfitted birch bark canoes from a Catholic mission on the Upper Great Lakes. Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette embarked with very different purposes. Father Marquette, a learned, passionate Jesuit believed he was sent by his God of pagan savages and convert them to Christianity. Jolliet, only 27 years old but a crack geographer and mapmaker was sent by the French crown to find and claim the Mississippi.
NO ONE, LEAST OF ALL THE FRENCH
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SPANIARD, DE SOTO
HAD FOUND THAT RIVER
150 YEARS EARLIER.
MARQUETTE AND JOLLIE
MADE THEIR WAY
FROM THE FAR NORTHEASTERN EDGE
OF LAKE MICHIGAN
THROUGH PRESENT-DAY WISCONSIN
AND DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER,
TO TODAY WHAT IS ST. LOUIS.
THEY RECORDED WHAT THEY SAW WITH
GREAT ENTHUSIASM AND INTEREST.
THEY DESCRIBED
MONSTROUS WILDCATS
AND FISH AND WILD CATTLE
HUGE HERDS OF BISON
THAT BLACKENED THE PRAIRIE.
DOWNRIVER, THEY SAW CLIFF
PAINTINGS SO BEAUTIFUL
THAT MARQUETTE SAID,
"THE GOOD PAINTERS IN FRANCE
WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT
TO PAINT SO WELL."
THEY SLEPT IN THE CABIN OF THE
CHIEF OF THE ILLINOIS INDIANS
WHO FEASTED WITH THEM.
THE NEXT DAY, 600 OF HIS PEOPLE
ESCORTED THEM TO THEIR CANOES.
FURTHER DOWNRIVER, THE TORRENTS
OF THE SWOLLEN MISSOURI RIVER
ALMOST OVERTURNED THEIR CANOES
AND ON THEIR
ARDUOUS RETURN NORTH
THEY PADDLED UPIVER
THROUGH AN INLAND SEA OF GRASS--
THE BREATHTAKING
TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
THAT FILLS THE MIDDLE
OF AMERICA.
AMAZINGLY, THEY PADDLED MORE
THAN 2,500 MILES IN FOUR MONTHS.
AND IN DOING SO, THEY ETCHED
WHAT WOULD BECOME
THE NORTHEASTERN BOUNDARY OF
THE LOUISIANA TERRITORY--
A HUGE TRACT OF LAND WHICH
NAPOLEON WOULD SECRETLY BUY
FROM THE SPANIISH IN 1800.
WITH THIS PIECE OF LAND
FRANCE COULD CONTROL
THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
FROM CANADA ALL THE WAY
TO NEW ORLEANS.
IN 1800, THAT LAND
MEANT EVERYTHING

98 01:04:50:03 01:04:51:24 TO PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON
99 01:04:51:26 01:04:54:04 WITH HIS VISION OF
AN EMPIRE OF LIBERTY.
100 01:04:54:06 01:04:56:15 JEFFERSON HAD LONG PLANNED
AN EXPEDITION
101 01:04:56:17 01:04:58:28 SOON TO BE
THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION
102 01:04:59:00 01:05:02:16 TO EXPLORE THE COUNTRY'S VAST
AND WILD NORTHWEST INTERIOR.
103 01:05:02:18 01:05:05:11 SO, IT WAS WITH GENUINE HORROR
 THAT HE RECEIVED
104 01:05:05:13 01:05:08:11 THE NEWS OF NAPOLEON'S
INCREDIBLE REAL ESTATE DEAL.
105 01:05:08:13 01:05:11:02 HE KNEW THAT WHOEVER
CONTROLLED THE MISSISSIPPI
106 01:05:11:04 01:05:13:04 WOULD CONTROL
HIS COUNTRY'S DESTINY.
107 01:05:13:06 01:05:16:08 HOWEVER, IN THREE YEARS,
NAPOLEON'S COLOSSAL AMBITIONS
108 01:05:16:10 01:05:19:09 FOR A PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA
CAME TO AN END.
109 01:05:19:11 01:05:23:17 JEFFERSON WAS ABLE TO BUY WHAT
HE AND OTHER AMERICANS WANTED
110 01:05:23:19 01:05:25:06 FOR A MERE $15 MILLION.
AMERICA OF 1803 DOUBLED IN SIZE.
112 01:05:29:20 01:05:32:17 THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE
OPENED THE GATEWAY WEST.
113 01:05:42:10 01:05:45:03 1800 WAS AN EXCITING YEAR
FOR THE COUNTRY.
114 01:05:45:05 01:05:47:18 WE'VE ESTABLISHED
OUR INDEPENDENCE
115 01:05:47:20 01:05:48:20 WE HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT
116 01:05:48:22 01:05:50:07 THOMAS JEFFERSON.
117 01:05:50:09 01:05:52:00 AND WE HAVE
AN UNEXPLORED--
118 01:05:52:02 01:05:54:27 LARGELY-- AND UNKNOWN FRONTIER
119 01:05:54:29 01:05:56:22 ON THE WEST...
WEST OF THE APPALACHIANS.
120 01:05:56:24 01:05:58:18 AMERICA HAD BEEN
AN EVER-EXPANDING NATION
121 01:05:58:20 01:06:01:05 BUT WE WERE
STILL LARGELY
A SEACOAST NATION
122 01:06:01:07 01:06:02:19 HUGGING THE COAST.
123 01:06:02:21 01:06:05:05 WHAT WAS OUT THERE, STEPHEN,
BEYOND THOSE MOUNTAINS?
124 01:06:05:07 01:06:08:07 Ambrose:
AS YOU SAY, THE ROADS
WERE HUGGING THE COASTLINE
125 01:06:08:09 01:06:10:03 AND THERE WAS ALMOST
NO SETTLEMENT
126 01:06:10:05 01:06:12:13 OUT WEST OF
THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS.
127 01:06:12:15 01:06:17:13 SO IT WAS UNKNOWN TERRITORY,
AND COMPLETELY WIDE OPEN.

I MEAN, WE HAD SIGNED A PEACE TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN THAT MADE IT A PART OF THE UNITED STATES BUT THE BRITS KEPT KEEPING THEIR FORTS DOWN THERE OF THE LAND THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BELONG TO THE UNITED STATES BUT IT WASN'T QUITE CLEAR YET WHOSE IT WAS.

AND THE SPANISH ARE STILL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

AND ELSEWHERE OUT WEST, SURE.

HOW WAS THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE... 1803-- HOW WAS THAT RECEIVED BY THE COUNTRY?

WITH DELIRIUMS OF JOY-- EVERYBODY WAS...

IT WAS SUCH A BARGAIN AND TO GET IT WITHOUT HAVING TO GO TO WAR... AND WHAT PEOPLE WERE AFRAID OF WAS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT NAPOLEON IN ORDER TO GET CONTROL OF NEW ORLEANS AND YOU HAD TO HAVE CONTROL OF NEW ORLEANS IF YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE ANYTHING OUT OF KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE AND ILLINOIS AND ALL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

STEVE, EVERYBODY KNOWS... THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION.

SURE.

WHAT'S THE REAL IMPORTANCE OF
THAT EXPEDITION?

WELL, THOMAS JEFFERSON, WHO PURCHASED LOUISIANA AND SENT LEWIS AND CLARK OUT, HAD AN IDEA THAT HAD NEVER OCCURRED TO ANYONE ELSE BEFORE AND HAD NEVER BEEN DONE ANYWHERE BEFORE.

AND THAT WAS, THAT WE'RE GOING TO ESTABLISH AN EMPIRE OF LIBERTY THAT'S GOING TO STRETCH FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA.

AND WHEN WE START BRINGING IN KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE THEY'RE GOING TO COME IN AS EQUAL STATES.

THEM THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE ALL THE SAME RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AS NEW HAMPSHIRE OR VIRGINIA OR NEW YORK OR THE ORIGINAL 13 COLONIES.

AND WE'RE GOING TO GO ACROSS THE MISSISSIPPI WITH THAT AND WE'RE GOING TO GO ALL THE WAY TO THE WEST COAST WITH IT.

AND THEY Explored up THE MISSOURI RIVER AND BROUGHT BACK THE FIRST DESCRIPTION OF WHAT'S OUT THERE.

IN THAT LOUISIANA PURCHASE.

THEY CROSSED THE MOUNTAINS...

MOUNTAINS, YEAH.

AND THEY WENT INTO THE GREAT NORTHEASTERN EMPIRE OF OREGON AND WASHINGTON AND IDAHO.

AND THEY BROUGHT THAT AREA INTO THE UNITED STATES.

AT A TIME WHEN JEFFERSON HAD THIS IDEA--

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE
THIS EMPIRE OF LIBERTY.

180 01:08:22:11 01:08:23:19 IT'S GOING TO GO
THE WHOLE WAY.

181 01:08:23:21 01:08:26:27 NOW, DID JEFFERSON,
OR LEWIS AND CLARK

182 01:08:26:29 01:08:29:13 OR THE THREE OF THEM TOGETHER

183 01:08:29:15 01:08:33:26 HAVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW
THIS UNTRACKED WILDERNESS

184 01:08:33:28 01:08:35:05 WAS GOING TO BE PEOPLED?

185 01:08:35:07 01:08:36:13 WELL, JEFFERSON THOUGHT...

186 01:08:36:15 01:08:38:11 HERE WE ARE, BEFORE
THE STEAMBOAT...

187 01:08:38:13 01:08:40:19 JEFFERSON THOUGHT
IT WOULD TAKE A
HUNDRED GENERATIONS.

188 01:08:40:21 01:08:42:13 YEAH, EXACTLY--
A HUNDRED GENERATIONS.

189 01:08:42:15 01:08:44:13 IT'S BEFORE STEAMBOATS,
AND THE STEAMBOAT...

190 01:08:44:15 01:08:45:26 WHEN LEWIS AND CLARK
CAME BACK

191 01:08:45:28 01:08:48:04 NOTHING MOVED ANY
FASTER THAN IT HAD
WHEN THEY LEFT.

192 01:08:48:06 01:08:49:19 Miller:
RIGHT.

193 01:08:49:21 01:08:50:25 GEORGE WASHINGTON

194 01:08:50:27 01:08:53:15 OR THOMAS JEFFERSON
OR ANDREW JACKSON

195 01:08:53:17 01:08:55:24 COULDN'T MOVE ANYPLACE
ANY FASTER

196 01:08:55:26 01:08:58:01 THAN NAPOLEON COULD,
OR CAESAR.

197 01:08:58:03 01:08:59:01 NO TELEGRAPH.

198 01:08:59:03 01:09:00:24 THEY COULDN'T...
NOTHING.

199 01:09:00:26 01:09:01:28 YOU COULDN'T MOVE IDEAS

200 01:09:02:00 01:09:04:05 YOU COULDN'T MOVE MAIL,
YOU COULDN'T...

201 01:09:04:07 01:09:05:29 AS FAST AS
A HORSE COULD RUN--

202 01:09:06:01 01:09:07:29 THAT'S THE FASTEST
THAT ANYTHING COULD MOVE.

203 01:09:08:01 01:09:09:19 BUT DID ANYBODY
HAVE ANY IDEA

204 01:09:09:21 01:09:12:04 HOW MUCH THERE WAS
WEST OF THOSE MOUNTAINS?

205 01:09:12:06 01:09:14:29 DID ANYBODY HAVE ANY IDEA
THE SIZE OF THE CONTINENT?

206 01:09:15:01 01:09:16:12 WELL, THEY...
OH, YES, THEY DID

207 01:09:16:14 01:09:18:21 BECAUSE THE MOUTH
OF THE COLUMBIA
HAD BEEN DISCOVERED.

208 01:09:18:23 01:09:20:14 AND SO THEY KNEW
HOW FAR THE COLUMBIA...
EVERYTHING STRETCHED.

THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS THERE--

THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS WERE LIKE.

THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO BE LIKE THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS.

WELL, YOU KNOW, THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS ARE A LITTLE BIT BIGGER THAN THAT.

IT'S LIKE 160 MILES OF ROCKY MOUNTAINS OUT THERE.

AND WAY, WAY BIGGER THAN ANYTHING IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES.

BUT THEY KNEW THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF WEALTH.

OUT THERE IN THAT COLUMBIA RIVER.

THERE WERE A LOT OF INDIANS LIVING OUT THERE.

THERE WAS A LOT OF FURS OUT THERE.

THERE WAS A BIG COUNTRY OUT THERE THAT--

AND THIS GETS US BACK TO THIS EMPIRE OF LIBERTY.

ISN'T IT INTERESTING, THOUGH.

HOW MANY TIMES THE COUNTRY WAS DISCOVERED?

I MEAN, DE SOTO SO-CALLED "DISCOVERS" THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

MARQUETTE AND JOLLIET "DISCOVER" THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

LaSALLE GOES TO THE MOUTH OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

NOW, HERE ARE THE FRENCH, IN THE LATE 17th CENTURY A VISION OF EMPIRE.

ALMOST LIKE THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE--

IT'S GOING TO RUN
NORTH TO SOUTH

236 01:10:14:21 01:10:17:03 FROM QUEBEC AND MONTREAL ALL THE DOWN TO THE GULF.

237 01:10:17:05 01:10:18:16 IT WAS THE ONLY OUTLET...

238 01:10:18:18 01:10:20:17 WHAT WAS THE REAL IMPORTANCE OF NEW ORLEANS?

239 01:10:20:19 01:10:22:16 IT WAS THE ONLY OUTLET TO THE WORLD'S MARKETS.

240 01:10:22:18 01:10:24:06 ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

241 01:10:24:08 01:10:26:26 YOU COULDN'T MOVE THE CORN OR THE WHEAT OR OTHER PRODUCTS...

242 01:10:26:28 01:10:29:02 YOU COULDN'T MOVE THEM OVER THE MOUNTAINS.

243 01:10:29:04 01:10:30:11 YOU COULD PUT THEM ON A BOAT AND BRING THEM DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

244 01:10:30:13 01:10:32:03 AND THEN, THE FRENCH, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SPANISH--

245 01:10:32:05 01:10:35:12 BUT AS LONG AS THE SPANISH CONTROLLED NEW ORLEANS


247 01:10:37:26 01:10:39:28 THEY GOT IT FROM THE SPANISH.

248 01:10:39:28 01:10:41:06 YOU DON'T HAVE AN OUTLET.

249 01:10:41:08 01:10:42:08 MM-HMM.

250 01:10:42:10 01:10:43:28 AND JEFFERSON HAD ORIGINALLY THOUGHT

251 01:10:44:00 01:10:45:26 HE WAS GOING TO JUST BE BUYING NEW ORLEANS

252 01:10:45:28 01:10:47:18 BUT NAPOLEON SAID, THE HELL WITH IT--

253 01:10:47:20 01:10:48:18 THE WHOLE THING.

254 01:10:48:20 01:10:49:27 WE CAN'T HOLD IT ANYWAY.

255 01:10:49:29 01:10:51:16 WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH MISSOURI?

256 01:10:51:18 01:10:53:09 WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THE DAKOTAS?

257 01:10:53:11 01:10:54:26 WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH MONTANA?

258 01:10:54:28 01:10:56:15 WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH ARKANSAS?

259 01:10:56:17 01:10:58:22 THERE WASN'T ANYTHING THE FRENCH COULD DO WITH THEM.

260 01:10:58:24 01:10:59:26 SELL THE WHOLE DAMN THING.

261 01:10:59:28 01:11:00:29 ( laughs )

262 01:11:01:01 01:11:02:07 AND HE DID.

263 01:11:02:09 01:11:04:07 YEAH-- BUT AT THE SAME TIME THERE ARE PEOPLE

264 01:11:04:09 01:11:07:07 BEGINNING TO POUR INTO THE OHIO VALLEY, RIGHT, PAULINE?

265 01:11:07:09 01:11:08:25 RIGHT, AND
THE ONE EXCEPTION

TO THE UNOCCUPIED CHARACTER
OF THE TRANSAPPALACHIAN WEST--

RATHER BIG EXCEPTION,
VERY IMPORTANT TO THE STORY--

KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE.

YEAH.

PEOPLE START POURING IN THERE
IN THE 1780s

AND IT'S AMAZING, ACTUALLY

WHEN YOU THINK OF THE SIZE
OF THE MIGRATION.

THERE MAY BE 10,000 PEOPLE
IN KENTUCKY IN 1780...

NOW, WHERE ARE
THEY COMING FROM,

VIRGINIA, LARGELY?

AND THEY GO UP FOR 110,000,
A DECADE LATER.

I MEAN, IT'S MORE THAN
THE WHOLE MIGRATION

OF THE 17th CENTURY,

IT'S A MASSIVE MOVEMENT
OF POPULATION.

THIS IS LARGELY
A MIGRATION PATTERN
OUT OF PENNSYLVANIA

THROUGH WEST VIRGINIA,

PENNSYLVANIA,

DOWN INTO

ACROSS THE LINE

OF THE MOUNTAINS.

AND, TO SOME EXTENT, FROM...

WELL, THE DAVIS FAMILY
COMES FROM GEORGIA.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

JEFFERSON DAVIS, RIGHT.

AND THE LINCOLN
FAMILY'S A
KENTUCKY FAMILY.

ABSOLUTELY.

YEAH.

AND THERE'S
JEFFERSON DAVIS
AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN

BORN WITHIN A YEAR
OF EACH OTHER

IN THE SAME STATE--
KENTUCKY.

ONE FAMILY--

OPPOSED TO SLAVERY

MIGRATES OUT
TO INDIANA
296 01:12:08:00 01:12:09:13 AND THE
OTHER FAMILY--
297 01:12:09:15 01:12:11:14 A SMALL
SLAVEHOOLDING
FAMILY--
298 01:12:11:16 01:12:14:11 MIGRATES OUT
to MISSISSIPPI,
NEAR VICKSBURG.
299 01:12:14:13 01:12:17:17 AND THEY WERE BORN,
as you say, within
a year of each other
300 01:12:17:19 01:12:20:00 at a time when
there were steamboats--
301 01:12:20:02 01:12:21:15 Fulton had invented
the steamboat--
302 01:12:21:17 01:12:22:22 well, when they were kids
303 01:12:22:24 01:12:24:02 Fulton had invented
the steamboat
304 01:12:24:04 01:12:25:28 and you could go upriver
for the first time
305 01:12:26:00 01:12:27:23 without having to paddle
your way upriver.
308 01:12:30:10 01:12:34:17 without railroads,
how is this... how
is the west settled?
309 01:12:34:19 01:12:36:01 what are the
primary technologies
310 01:12:36:03 01:12:37:22 that allow
this settlement
to take place
311 01:12:37:24 01:12:40:05 given the
absolutely abysmal
road systems?
312 01:12:40:07 01:12:43:06 it's on to
the mississippi
313 01:12:43:08 01:12:49:08 and it's... the world
was made up of water--
314 01:12:49:10 01:12:51:07 bodies of water,
interrupted by land
315 01:12:51:09 01:12:52:18 and that continued
to be true...
316 01:12:52:20 01:12:54:08 that's a
wonderful way
of putting it--
317 01:12:54:10 01:12:55:14 i mean, that whole...
318 01:12:55:16 01:12:57:01 people have this image
of everybody
319 01:12:57:03 01:12:59:13 just pouring out of there
in conestoga wagons or on foot
320 01:12:59:15 01:13:02:20 and don't appreciate, i think,
the magnificent waterway systems
321 01:13:02:22 01:13:04:20 that we had
and how many settlers went west
ON THESE WATERWAYS. WENT WEST ON THE WATERWAYS AND SHIPPED THEIR PRODUCE TO MARKET ON THE WATERWAYS AND THE WATERWAYS WERE THE KEY TO EVERYTHING. THE OHIO COMES DOWN THE MISSOURI COMES DOWN ALL THESE TRADE... RIGHT SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CONTINENT. AND THE TENNESSEE, AND THE ILLINOIS COME TOGETHER IN THE MISSISSIPPI AND FLOW DOWN TO NEW ORLEANS AND FLOW ON OUT.

AND THE WHOLE OF THE CONTINENT IS ONE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. RIGHT, RIGHT. CANALS: ARE WE... I WAS THINKING: HOW IMPORTANT WAS THE SOUTHERN MARKET TO THE WEST WHICH IS, OF COURSE, WHERE, AFTER THE 1780s AND 1790s A GOOD MANY IMMIGRANTS WERE GOING-- FROM NEW ENGLAND, PARTICULARLY. UH, WE KNOW THAT THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD SELL THEIR PRODUCTS WAS DOWN THE RIVER. THEY WERE SHIPPED TO NEW ORLEANS BUT YOU KNOW, IT WASN'T CONSUMED IN THE SOUTH. SOME OF IT WAS BUT THE GREATER PART OF IT WAS RE-EXPORTED OUT OF NEW ORLEANS TO EUROPE AND TO THE NORTHEAST. YOU HAD TO GO ALL THE WAY DOWN. AND THEN ALL THE WAY UP AGAIN. SO, THE CANALS MADE ALL
THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD
351 01:14:11:13 01:14:15:05 AND I THINK, ULTIMATELY, THEY
HAD SOME POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.
352 01:14:15:07 01:14:17:01 YOU, YOU DIDN'T SEE
THE EFFECT RIGHT AWAY.
353 01:14:17:03 01:14:20:16 1825, THE ERIE CANAL IS,
IS COMPLETED.
354 01:14:20:18 01:14:22:12 IT REALLY TOOK
ANOTHER TWO DECADES
355 01:14:22:14 01:14:26:01 UNTIL ALL THESE ANCILLARY CANALS
ARE BUILT IN OHIO
356 01:14:26:03 01:14:29:23 AND THEN YOU SAW A MASSIVE
CHANGE OF THE DIRECTION
357 01:14:29:25 01:14:34:10 OF WESTERN TRADE, NOT SOUTH,
BUT EAST AND NORTH.
358 01:14:34:12 01:14:36:29 AND THE RAILROADS
HAD JUST CONSOLIDATED THAT.
359 01:14:37:01 01:14:40:22 AND IT'S THE NORTHEAST
THAT IS, UH, A REAL CUSTOMER.
360 01:14:40:24 01:14:42:15 BECAUSE THEY'RE MOVING
361 01:14:42:17 01:14:44:16 INCREASINGLY TOWARD
INDUSTRIALIZATION
362 01:14:44:18 01:14:48:09 TO A MORE SPECIALIZED ECONOMY
AND THEY HAVE A FOOD DEFICIT.
THE WEST FEEDS THE NORTHEAST.
364 01:14:50:27 01:14:53:23 IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN
THE THEORY THAT THE,
IT WAS THE RAILROADS
365 01:14:53:25 01:14:55:03 THAT FIRST CONNECTED
THE TWO
DRIVING CANALS
367 01:14:56:20 01:14:57:28 ACTUALLY TURNED
THE OTHER WAY
368 01:14:58:00 01:14:59:15 AND WENT OUT
THERE LIKE THAT.
369 01:14:59:17 01:15:02:29 BUT IT'S A RELATIVELY SHORT
PERIOD, REALLY, THE CANAL ERA.
370 01:15:03:01 01:15:04:16 IT MIGHT HAVE
DONE THE TRICK BUT--
371 01:15:04:18 01:15:06:05 PERFECTLY
IN KEEPING WITH THIS IDEA
372 01:15:06:07 01:15:07:18 THAT WATER IS HOW YOU TRAVEL.
373 01:15:07:20 01:15:09:03 WATER IS THE KEY,
LOOK AT FULTON.
374 01:15:09:05 01:15:11:11 THE STEAMBOAT
OBVIOUSLY HAD AN
ENORMOUS IMPACT
375 01:15:11:13 01:15:13:07 ON SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT,
RIGHT, DIDN'T IT?
376 01:15:13:09 01:15:15:00 Ambrose:
377 01:15:15:02 01:15:17:02 THE ABILITY TO BE ABLE
TO GO UPSTREAM...
378 01:15:17:04 01:15:20:27 BEFORE THE STEAMBOAT, IF YOU MADE TEN MILES A DAY
379 01:15:20:29 01:15:22:26 GOING UPSTREAM, THAT WAS A HELL OF A GOOD DAY.
380 01:15:22:28 01:15:24:17 IT WAS WITH WHAT, POLES?
381 01:15:24:19 01:15:25:18 A SIX MILE CURRENT--
382 01:15:25:20 01:15:27:01 A SIX MILE PER HOUR CURRENT
383 01:15:27:03 01:15:28:08 THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.
384 01:15:28:10 01:15:30:11 RIGHT, GO OUT AND TRY IT TODAY IN A CANOE
385 01:15:30:13 01:15:33:19 AND YOU'LL FIND OUT IN A HURRY WHAT IT MEANT TO GO UPSTREAM.
386 01:15:33:21 01:15:37:06 AND ONLY MUSCLE-POWER TO DO IT WITH OR YOU COULD GET HORSES
387 01:15:37:08 01:15:40:26 ON LAND TO DRAW THE THINGS ALONG BUT THE TURNS IN THE RIVER
388 01:15:40:28 01:15:43:05 AND OTHER THINGS MADE THAT VERY, VERY DIFFICULT.
389 01:15:43:07 01:15:45:19 IT WAS A LOT EASIER ON THE CANAL, TO USE HORSES
390 01:15:45:21 01:15:47:04 YEAH, YEAH, ON THE SIDE.
391 01:15:47:06 01:15:49:14 TO PULL BARGES ALONG THE CANAL, THEY WERE STRAIGHT.
392 01:15:49:16 01:15:50:28 THE RIVERS--
393 01:15:51:00 01:15:53:06 THEY SENT SAILBOATS AHEAD OF SOME OF THESE KEELBOATS.
394 01:15:53:08 01:15:54:14 THE SAILBOAT WOULD...
395 01:15:54:16 01:15:56:02 WRAP A ROPE AROUND A TREE
396 01:15:56:04 01:15:58:10 AND THEN THEY'D PULL THEMSELVES UP THE RIVER LIKE THIS.
397 01:15:58:12 01:15:59:25 (laughing)
398 01:15:59:27 01:16:01:25 YEAH, NO, THIS WAS NOT A Viable SYSTEM.
399 01:16:01:27 01:16:04:07 TO SEE A BOAT GOING UPRIVER...
400 01:16:04:09 01:16:06:23 Ambrose: OH, BOY, A WHOLE NEW WORLD.
401 01:16:06:25 01:16:08:07 YEAH, AND IT WAS.
402 01:16:08:09 01:16:10:07 HOW AMAZING IT IS, THAT THAT SOUTHERN FRONTIER
403 01:16:10:09 01:16:13:15 DEVELOPED IN SUCH A DIFFERENT WAY THAN THE NORTHERN FRONTIER.
404 01:16:13:17 01:16:15:02 THEY'RE BOTH AGRICULTURAL...
THAT'S ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT THE COUNTRY:
SIMILAR PIONEERS, GOING AT THE SAME TIME GOING INTO TWO REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY...
BUT CREATING VERY DIFFERENT ECONOMIES AND VERY DIFFERENT SOCIETIES.
I MEAN, YOU DIDN'T GET ANY CITIES EXCEPT NEW ORLEANS DEVELOPING LIKE CINCINNATI OR PITTSBURGH OR, UH, ST. LOUIS LOUISVILLE.
THESE WERE MANUFACTURING CENTERS, THEY WERE RETAIL CENTERS;
YOU JUST DIDN'T GET THAT IN THE COTTON SOUTH.
WHAT EXPLAINS THAT?
WELL, THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU HAD THE GROWTH OF COTTON INTO THAT AREA, BUT...
AND THE ABILITY TO GROW COTTON AND THE FERTILITY OF THE SOIL, AND THE HEAT IN THE SOUTH
AND ALL OF THESE COMBINED.
I MEAN, YOU COULD GROW THE HELL OUT OF COTTON THERE AND BECAUSE OF ELI WHITNEY
YOU COULD MAKE THAT COTTON AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET
AND THEN YOU COULD SHIP IT OFF.
THEY COULD ALWAYS GROW COTTON-- THEY COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT IN ENGLAND.
THE PROBLEM WAS, OF COURSE...
GETTING THE
SEED OUT.

434 01:17:09:08 01:17:10:12 GETTING THE
SEED OUT.

435 01:17:10:14 01:17:12:03 WHEN WHITNEY
INVENTS HIS GIN

436 01:17:12:05 01:17:14:03 A SLAVE COULD DO
THAT WORK IN
A HALF A DAY

437 01:17:14:05 01:17:17:22 WHEREAS BEFORE, IT
TOOK 33 DAYS TO DO.

438 01:17:17:24 01:17:20:11 AND THAT INVENTION,
OF COURSE, IS WHAT, 1783?

439 01:17:20:13 01:17:22:20 1793, YEAH.

DOES IT ON HIS
SAVANNAH PLANTATION

441 01:17:25:27 01:17:28:02 AND EVERYBODY
STEALS IT (laughs).

442 01:17:28:04 01:17:29:22 IT HAD, IT HAD AN EFFECT

443 01:17:29:24 01:17:31:22 THAT CANNOT BE
FULLY MEASURED.

444 01:17:31:24 01:17:34:05 IT MADE THAT LAND
MORE VALUABLE

445 01:17:34:07 01:17:36:29 IT MADE THE SLAVE SYSTEM
MUCH MORE VALUABLE.

446 01:17:37:01 01:17:40:11 IT MEANT THAT SOMEONE
LIKE THOMAS JEFFERSON,
FOR EXAMPLE, COULD

447 01:17:40:13 01:17:42:16 MAKE HIS LIVING,
NOT BY--

448 01:17:42:18 01:17:44:19 YOU KNOW, VIRGINIA'S
SOIL WAS

449 01:17:44:21 01:17:47:08 PRETTY WELL WORN OUT
BY THIS TIME--

450 01:17:47:10 01:17:50:22 BUT YOU COULD,
YOU COULD SELL
THOSE EXCESS SLAVES

451 01:17:50:24 01:17:53:08 BECAUSE THEY HAD
TO HAVE THOSE SLAVES
IN ALABAMA

452 01:17:53:10 01:17:54:29 THEY HAD TO HAVE THEM
IN MISSISSIPPI

453 01:17:55:01 01:17:57:10 THEY HAD TO HAVE THEM
IN LOUISIANA

454 01:17:57:12 01:17:59:17 AND THE VALUE OF SLAVES
WENT LIKE THIS

455 01:17:59:19 01:18:02:18 AND YOU HAD EXCESS SLAVES
ALL THE TIME

456 01:18:02:20 01:18:04:04 ON THESE VIRGINIA
PLANTATIONS.

457 01:18:04:06 01:18:07:08 AND SO SLAVERY BECAME THE KEY
TO VIRGINIA'S ECONOMY

458 01:18:07:10 01:18:10:05 NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT
THE SLAVES COULD
GROW, SO MUCH

459 01:18:10:07 01:18:12:21 AS WHAT YOU COULD
SELL THE SLAVES FOR.

SELL 'EM DOWN THE RIVER.

NEW ORLEANS AND NATCHEZ WERE THE TWO BIG SLAVE MARKETS DOWN THERE.

SO YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BRING YOUR SLAVES WITH YOU WHEN YOU SETTLED OUT THERE.

THE SLAVE TRADERS WERE THERE. AND AS SOON AS YOU HAD ANY CAPITAL-- THAT WAS THE KEY, THE LAND WAS SO CHEAP.

THERE WERE LAND GRANTS IN BOTH AREAS: IN THE NORTHWEST AS WELL AS IN THE SOUTHEAST... AND SOUTHWEST.

AND, UM... BUT THINK-- JOHN, THINK OF THE DIFFERENCE-- IF YOUR "FAMILY," TO USE JEFFERSON'S TERM INCLUDED A LARGE CONTINGENT OF SLAVES, UH, THOSE SLAVES EVEN AS ADULTS, AREN'T GOING TO BE PART OF A MARKET ECONOMY.

THEM'RE NOT, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO THE LOCAL STORE TO BUY SOMETHING.

UH, SO YOU DON'T NEED RETAILING CENTERS IN THE SAME WAY.

YOU DID NEED THEM IN THE OHIO TERRITORY WHERE THE INCOME WENT TO FAMILIES IN A MORE NUCLEAR SENSE.

YOU HAD RETAILING CENTERS.

YOU HAD PROCESSING CENTERS.

YOU CLEARLY NEED A DIFFERENT KIND OF A POPULATION THAN THE MASS OF THOSE THAT WHO ARE IN THE COTTON SOUTH.

YOU NEED PEOPLE WHO ARE EDUCATED AND PEOPLE IN THE WEST ARE INVESTING MUCH MORE HEAVILY IN SCHOOLS, IN LIBRARIES.

YOU HAVE VERY DIFFERENT CULTURES.

VERY DIFFERENT ECONOMIES.

IS ALL TIED UP IN LAND
AND SLAVES IN THE SOUTH.

IT'S NOT A BAD INVESTMENT, AS WE KNOW--

THE RETURN ON IT WASN'T BAD--

BUT THE LONG-TERM PROGNOSIS WASN'T VERY PROMISING.

YOU'RE SAYING THAT IN THE NORTH IT'S A MORE MIXED SYSTEM.

YOU GET A MUCH MORE MIXED ECONOMY THAN IN THE SOUTH.

BUT HERE'S A QUESTION:

THERE'S KIND OF A...

A TRANSITION, FROM ABOUT 1800 TO ABOUT 1820

SLAVERY'S JUST GETTING ESTABLISHED IN THE SOUTH,

MOST OF THE SOUTHERNERS ARE YEOMEN FARMERS.

BUT BY THE 1830s YOU START TO GET A SO-CALLED "SOLID SOUTH."

I THINK THAT'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

THE ORIGINAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST SLAVERY COME FROM THOMAS JEFFERSON AND OTHER SOUTHERNERS

WHO LOOKED AROUND THEM AND SAW THAT THIS IS AN EVIL SYSTEM

AND THERE IS LAND-HUNGER HUNGER FOR MORE SLAVES, PRESSURE TO REOPEN THE SLAVE TRADE

ALL OF A SUDDEN, IT'S A VERY PROFITABLE SYSTEM

OR SO IT APPEARS TO THEM

AND THE JEFFERSON ARGUMENTS loose their way.

AND THERE IS LAND-HUNGER

HUNGER FOR MORE SLAVES, PRESSURE TO REOPEN THE SLAVE TRADE

AND ALL OF A SUDDEN--

AT THE SAME TIME, THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT ARISES

YOU'VE GOT TWO SEPARATE SECTIONS.

THE SOUTH REALLY IS SO MUCH PART OF AMERICA IN 1800
AND THEN JUST KIND OF PULLS AWAY.

IT JUST PULLS AWAY.

Maier: BUT IT ALSO BECOMES MORE ECONOMICALLY ISOLATED.

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT THAT THE WEST IS TRADING PRIMARILY WITH THE NORTHEAST.

THE SOUTH IS SELLING ABROAD. IT IS IN SOME WAYS, THE MOST INDEPENDENT ECONOMY.

WITHIN THE REGIONAL ECONOMIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE ONLY PLACE THEY REALLY HAD TIES TO, IRONICALLY, WERE IN NEW YORK.

AND THEY THOUGHT THOSE WERE EXPLOITATIVE TIES BECAUSE THOSE NEW YORK TRACKERS AND MERCHANTS CAME IN AND TOOK OVER COTTON WENT THROUGH NEW YORK.

THERE WAS A KIND OF TRIANGULAR TRADE: NEW YORK TO LIVERPOOL, BACK TO NEW YORK.

BACK TO CHARLESTON, PLACES LIKE THAT.

AND THERE'S TALK OF SECESSION ALREADY IN THE '30s.

HEY, AND YOU'VE GOT A LITTLE BIT OF IT IN THOMAS JEFFERSON.

AT THE TIME OF THE ALIEN AND SEDITION ACTS, HIS NULLIFICATION--

AND IN, OF COURSE, AT THE TIME, THE MISSOURI CRISIS...

OH, OKAY.

HE REALLY THINKS THE CRISIS OVER SLAVERY.

WILL LEAD TO A DISMEMBERMENT OF THE UNION.

BUT THE ANTICIPATION OF SECESSION, THAT THE UNION WOULD FALL APART.

THOSE WEREN'T THE KINDS OF THINGS YOU MEMORIALIZE.
The idea that resistance and revolution was a continuing resort for people who were disaffected within the Union or for states. But here's a question I've never been able to answer for myself satisfactorily. A lot of Northerners were in the South. Stephen Duncan is a planter in Mississippi who is probably the largest plantation owner the richest man in Mississippi—he's from Pennsylvania. Um, he supports slavery, but he also supports the Union and he leaves the South at the outbreak of the Civil War. Was there any difference... moral difference between the people who settled in the Ohio Valley and out toward Illinois and people who settled in Mississippi and Alabama? Hmm— that's an interesting question. See what I mean? I mean, is it slavery that turns them in this way? We often present the Civil War as this Manichaean struggle between good and evil, obviously those who held slaves and those opposed to owning slaves we'd like to think there's a moral difference. But racism was a national institution. These guys were all frontier—and they take advantage of what the frontier gives them. Now, I would say there is a fundamental difference. And that is, in Illinois, even in Southern Illinois, in Wisconsin, in Iowa, going out further west or in... you can't own another man.
PERIOD.
YOU CANNOT OWN ANOTHER MAN.
NOW, YOU CAN DISCRIMINATE AGAINST HIM, YOU COULD USE HIM
YOU CAN BE RACIST IN MANY OTHER WAYS-- YOU CAN'T OWN HIM.
YOU CAN'T SELL HIM.
AND THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH
NOW, YOU CAN DISCRIMINATE AGAINST HIM, YOU COULD USE HIM
A LOT OF SMALL FARMERS IN THE SOUTH
WHO DIDN'T OWN THEIR OWN SLAVES AND WHO THOUGHT
"WE'RE ON THE WRONG TRACK HERE"
OR WHO COULD NOT MAKE IT WORK ECONOMICALLY FOR THEM.
BUT THE PEOPLE THAT CONTROLLED THE SOCIETY IN THE SOUTH
CAME UP WITH THE JUSTIFICATION FOR SLAVERY
AND IT'S THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE SYSTEMS
AND THE BLACKS ARE WAY BETTER OFF UNDER SLAVERY
THAN THEY WOULD BE IF THEY WERE UNDER WAGE-SLAVERY UP NORTH
AND SO ON, WE ALL KNOW THE ARGUMENTS
OF THE PRO-SLAVERY PEOPLE AND IT WAS ACCEPTED.
AND IT BECAME A PART OF THE FIBER OF THE BEING
OF A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF WHITE SOUTHERNERS.
AND THAT WAS NOT THE CASE UP NORTH, AND THAT IS A DIFFERENCE.
BUT WHAT CAUSES THE DIFFERENCE?
WE KNOW THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.
THE ECONOMIC BASIS OF SOCIETY.
Yeah.
AND, AND, AND THE WAY...
THE WAY YOU MAKE MONEY.
THAT'S RIGHT, THE WAY YOU MAKE MONEY
AND THAT YOU CAN...
BE A WHITE MAN IN THE SOUTH
IT'S NOT THE CASE ANYMORE--
WHEN I FIRST STARTED GOING SOUTH
AND SEGREGATION WAS STILL IN PLACE.

IT WAS WONDERFUL TO BE A WHITE MAN IN THE SOUTH.

IN THOSE DAYS.

YOU NEVER HAD TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE DOING.

WONDERFUL TO BE A WHITE MAN IN THE SOUTH.

IN THOSE DAYS.

YOU NEVER HAD TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE DOING.

AND YOU BENEFITED FROM IT.

AND IT... GNAWED ITS WAY INTO YOUR SOUL.

THERE ISN'T ANY WAY AROUND IT.

YOU, YOU CAN'T DENY IT.

THAT'S WHAT I'M FINDING WITH THESE HISTORICAL CHARACTERS IN MY OWN RESEARCH.

HOW QUICKLY NORTHERNERS BECOME SOUTHERNERS.

ADOPTING THE WAYS OF THE SOUTH, ACCEPTING SLAVERY, DEFENDING...

YOU READ CIVIL WAR LETTERS...

THE METAMORPHOSIS IS QUICK.

AN AWFUL LOT OF THE UNION TROOPS

AND VICKSBURG CAMPAIGNS...

OH, YEAH.

AND THEY GET TO BE THE MOST VIOLENT ANTI-NEGRO PEOPLE.

AND... AND CURSING THEM AND BRINGING THEM INTO CAMP

AND USING THEM AS THEIR OWN SLAVES, THEIR OWN PERSONAL SLAVES.

LISTEN: IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE ON TOP--

IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE THE MASTER.

(laughing)

OR SO IT SEEMS, YOU KNOW, IN THE END.

PEOPLE UP NORTH AND EVENTUALLY

IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY
REALIZE, NO, NO, IT'S
NOT WONDERFUL.

634  01:25:18:15  01:25:22:19  IT, IT REALLY IS TERRIBLE
AND IT RUINS NOT ONLY THE PEOPLE
635  01:25:22:21  01:25:26:02  YOU'RE SUBJECTING TO
YOUR WHIMS AND YOUR WISHES;
636  01:25:26:04  01:25:28:09  IT RUINS YOU.
637  01:25:28:11  01:25:33:02  IT HAS ITS EFFECT THAT IN
THE END IS GOING TO DESTROY YOU.
638  01:25:33:04  01:25:35:29  BUT BOY, IT TAKES A LONG TIME
TO COME TO THAT VIEW.
639  01:25:43:05  01:25:46:20  [Captioned by
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