

ULRICH BONNELL PHILLIPS "THE CENTRAL THEME OF SOUTHERN HISTORY"

How do you define the South?

SOUTHERNISM is not defined by the people who immigrated to Va in 1607

They were no different than those who went to VA or MASS.

1. Southerners are not different in religion; or economics.

a. Dakota is as agricultural as Alabama.

b. When NC became industrial in 1930, it did not become Northern.

2. The distinctive South arose when the Negro became numerous enough to create a problem of race control in the interest of orderly government and the maintenance of Caucasian civilization.

3. Maintaining white supremacy is the central theme of Southern History.

a. When slavery was attacked S defended with vigor as a guarantee of white supremacy.

b. Otherwise how do you explain why non-slaveholders defending sectionalism.

All whites were and are united people on the race issue.

- a. Planters had a friendly relationship with their “happy” slaves**
- b. But poor whites were the most ferocious about defending slavery.**

The South is not states rights

- a. For Southerners, States rights meant racial security.**
- b. Not a surprise the deep South seceded first—they had most Negroes.**

Slavery was a “positive good.”

- a. Slaves learned civilization from their masters.**
- b. They liked their plantation masters.**
- c. Slaves were happy, singing at night and in the fields.**
- d. Therefore, slave rebellions in America were few.**

From 1776 great men of America saved the union with compromises,

- a. But Southerners worried about abolitionist shrill rhetoric.
Abolitionists threatened these compromises
But more importantly they threatened race control.**
- b. So, the election in 1860 meant separate or Africanize**
- c. Cause of the War?**



After the Civil War, Edward Pollard wrote The Lost Cause Regained, 1866

a. Pollard said it was folly for the South to defend slavery

1. The North was too powerful

2. By 1860 the North was moving in the direction of abolition

b. The South can, however, win what it lost in the war, and it will have the support of the rest of the nation because the entire nation recognizes the need to have race control.

c. The North freed the slave, but allowed the South to establish rules for race control.

Where is that argument today?

The positive good theory.

“Many learned a lot”

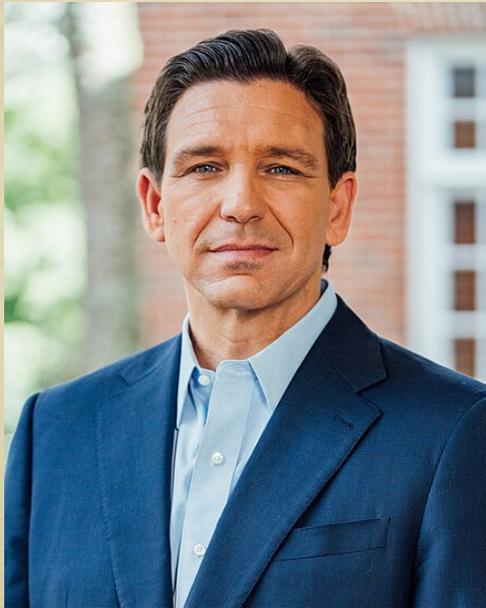
“Many stayed with their masters after the war. Race is not key”

Heather Cox Richardson—Critical revisit of Pollard

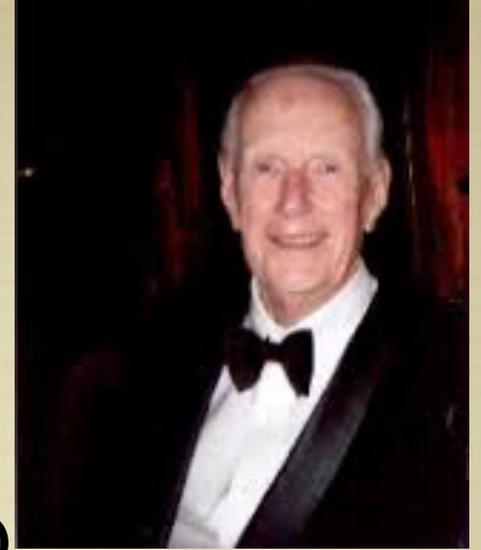
How the South Won the Civil War

Race was the critical factor in the North and South.

After the war, N. allowed the S. to re-enslave its black population.



**KENNETH STAMPP,
"A Troublesome Property."**



Slaves saw slavery as a system of labor extortion.
Most whites thought blacks liked slavery (Phillips-GW)

Slaves naturally focused on Freedom

- 1. They saw their masters enjoy freedom**
- 2. They knew it was possible for them**

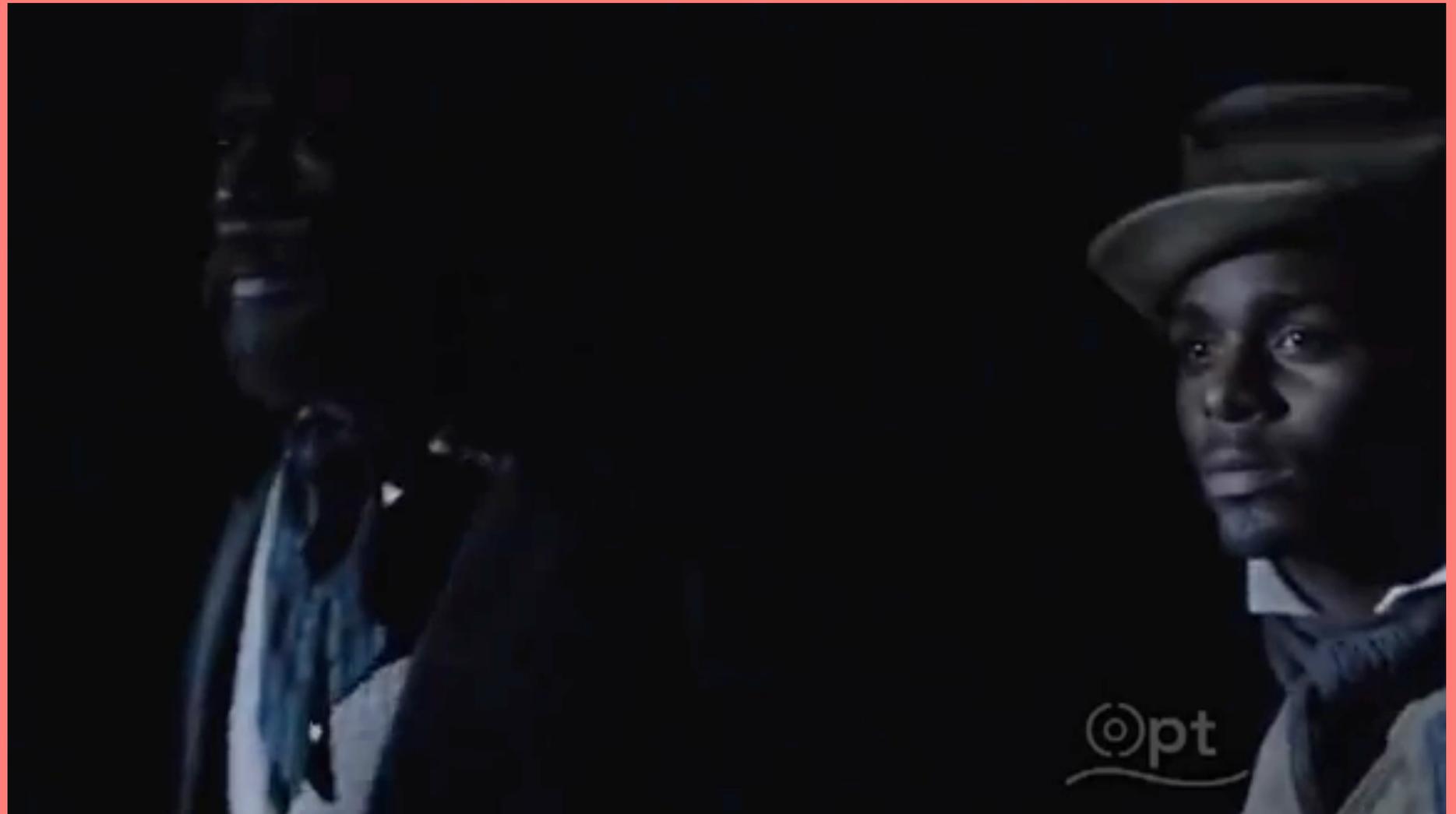
Blacks fought slavery like anyone would (Sartre)
To make the system work, whites treated slaves harshly.

Slave Rebellions—and rumors were common

Nat Turner-Gabriel Prosser-Denmark Vesey

a. But slaves knew they could not fight and win

b. Slaves were not foolish and refused to join unless plots



- c. Having to use force meant that slaves were not content**
 - 1. S whites freaked out about potential rebellions**
 - 2. Slaves helped create the Civil War by forcing the South to see them as a threat and thus worried about abolition.**

**So, slaves acquiesced only because whites had all the power
And yet, they found ways to protest.**

This resistance took many forms

1. Insolent

2. Runaways—the evidence is that there were lots of runaways.

a. Adds in newspapers

b. Thousands each year

3. Self sabotage--hurting self -even suicide; Sullen, murder

4. As a result, slave owners had to use force to stop this resistance.

5. Movie Amistad used Stampp's work



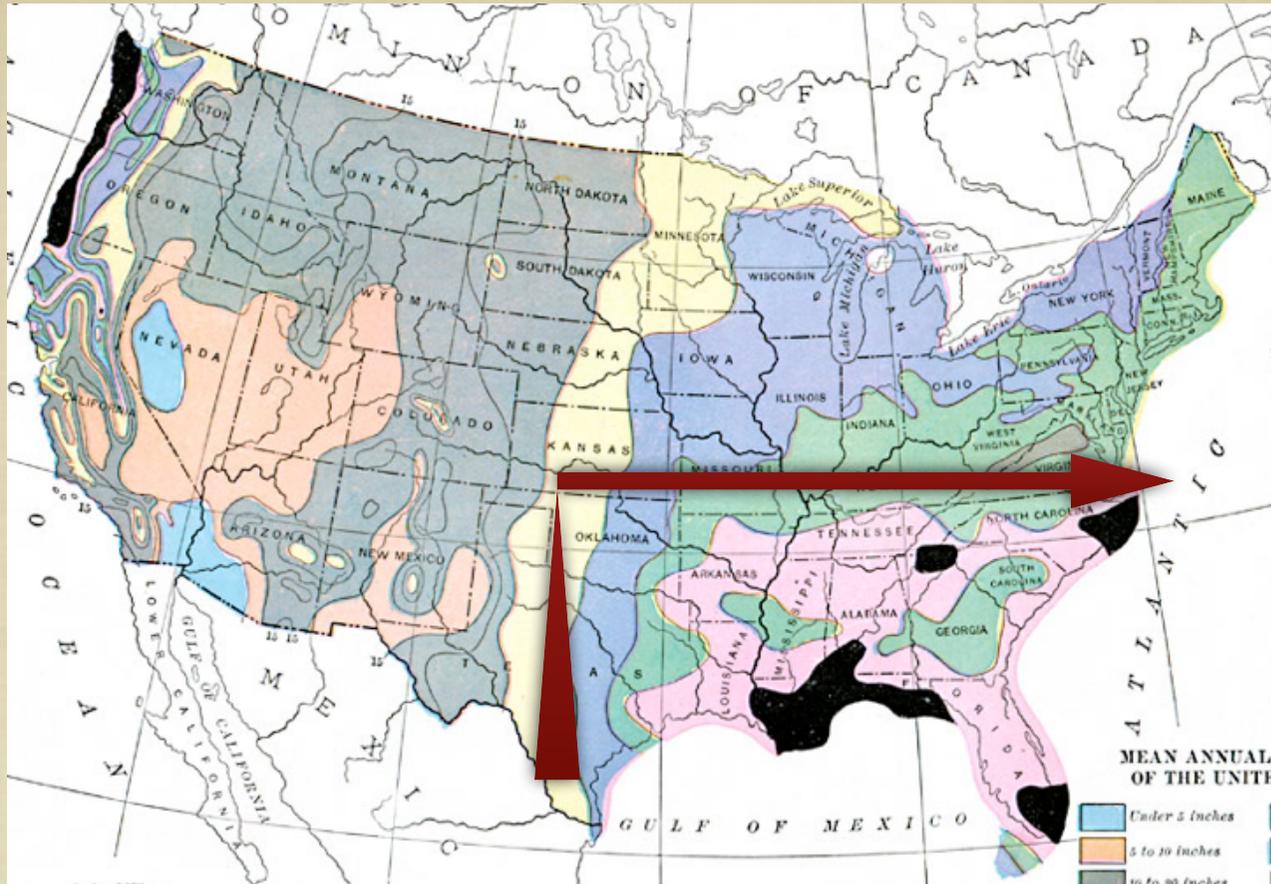
Clearly, “Phillips is wrong:” Slaves were not happy- race was not the key

- a. The problem is really slavery not race. Thus the perfect Rose.**
- b. Stampp is saying slavery did not affect a person’s personality.**
- c. Stampp seems to say and everything will be ok.**

If Stampp interpretation is right: What caused the Civil War?

“The immorality of slavery in a republic of free men.”

Quick Review: Ramsdell-Jaffa



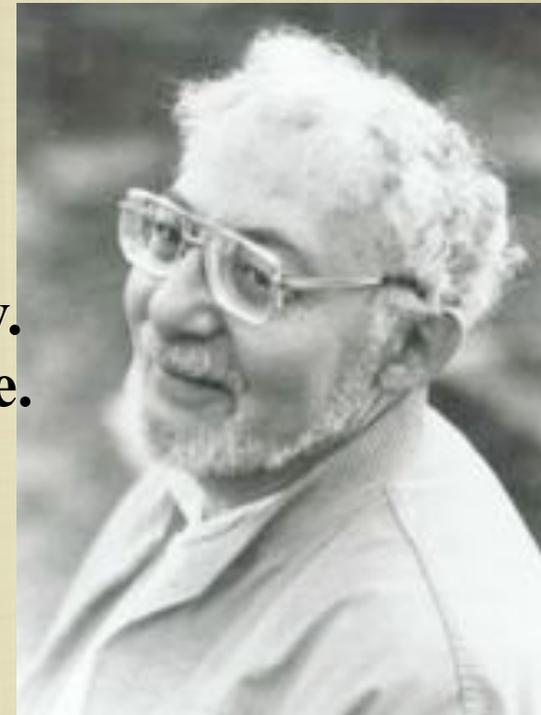
Slave Historians

Phillips “Central Theme”

Stamp. “Troublesome Property”

Stanley Elkins “Slavery”

1. Institutions have an impact on the person’s personality.
2. Thus, slavery produced a recognizable personality type.
3. Elkins used psychological data from German concentration camps to discuss SAMBO personality.
 - a. Evidence showed that infantile personality can be induced in a very short period of time.
 - b. Entire experience was a “shock” to the personality.



4. Psychology of concentration camps

- a. They mentally acquired new values in a concentration camp.**
- b. Old values silenced by shocks which produced depersonalization**
- c. Old values thus replaced by new ones.**
- d. This happened with the SS guard—Jewish inmates “identified with the aggressor”**
 - 1. The mind was violently emptied and was given a new content**
 - 2. A significant other took its place.**
 - 3. Few rebellions**

5. Slavery was similar.

Millions removed from cultural background in Africa.

a. It produced shock experience in trip to New World

b. Adjustment to absolute power in a closed system,

1. It produced infantilization

2. Left little trace of prior cultural sanctions

**6. Like children they internalize attitudes and standards and were
CHANGED**

**Role psychology was important in the concentration camp and the
slave system.**

a. roles in camps had to be played exactly.

b. It meant life and death.

- 7. Both slavery and concentration camps were closed systems**
 - a. To survive required a childlike conformity.**
 - b. Cruelty was not as important as the fact that it was a closed system.**
 - c. All lines of authority descended from the master and alternative social bases were suppressed.**
 - d. The plantation master was the father image.**
 - e. The real father was virtually without authority over his child**

- 8. Masters laid down certain standards that directed their behavior:**
- a. Obedience, fidelity, humility, docility, cheerfulness.**
 - b. The slave was to be a child forever.**
 - c. Southern whites then looked at their slaves as happy.**

**9. The process could not be reversed overnight
Daniel Patrick Moynihan—Affirmative Action.**

10. Why were there no Sambos in Latin America?

What would Elkins see as the cause of the war?

ENGINE GENOVESE
Roll Jordan Roll



After Elkins, slave historians have to show that slavery was a system where the culture of the slave was not affected.

The South and slavery created a paternalist society.

Close living relationship between master and slave allowed paternalism to exist.

Paternalism was a justification for slavery by owners.

**They argued, it was humane and beneficial compared to N. capitalism
It was moral language to defend their domination.**

Paternalism insisted upon mutual obligations, duties, and responsibilities. In effect, it recognized the slaves' humanity and protected them against psychological abuse.

Masters claimed duties of care and protection.

Slaves gave loyalty, obedience and in so doing appealed to those promises for institutional fairness.

**Thus, institutions existed to protect the personality of the slave
Family, religion, language.**

**Religion served as a form of resistance & statement of humanity
Music in “spirituals” was a statement for freedom.**

In addition, Family served to protect the personality

These created a moral resistance rather than open rebellion.

Both master & slave accepted paternalism

**Slaves used paternalism as a weapon to resistance, especially
“Putt’n on ‘ol’ Massa”—roll playing was a key
As a result, there were hundreds of “slave rebellions”.**



Clear rejection of Phillips “Central Theme” and Elkins’s Slavery.

Whose in charge here?

Do African Americans need Affirmative Action?

After the Civil War. . . white allies?

Genovese and The Partisan Review. . . I never heard of a planter. . .

What would Genovese see as cause of war?

Adam Goodheart

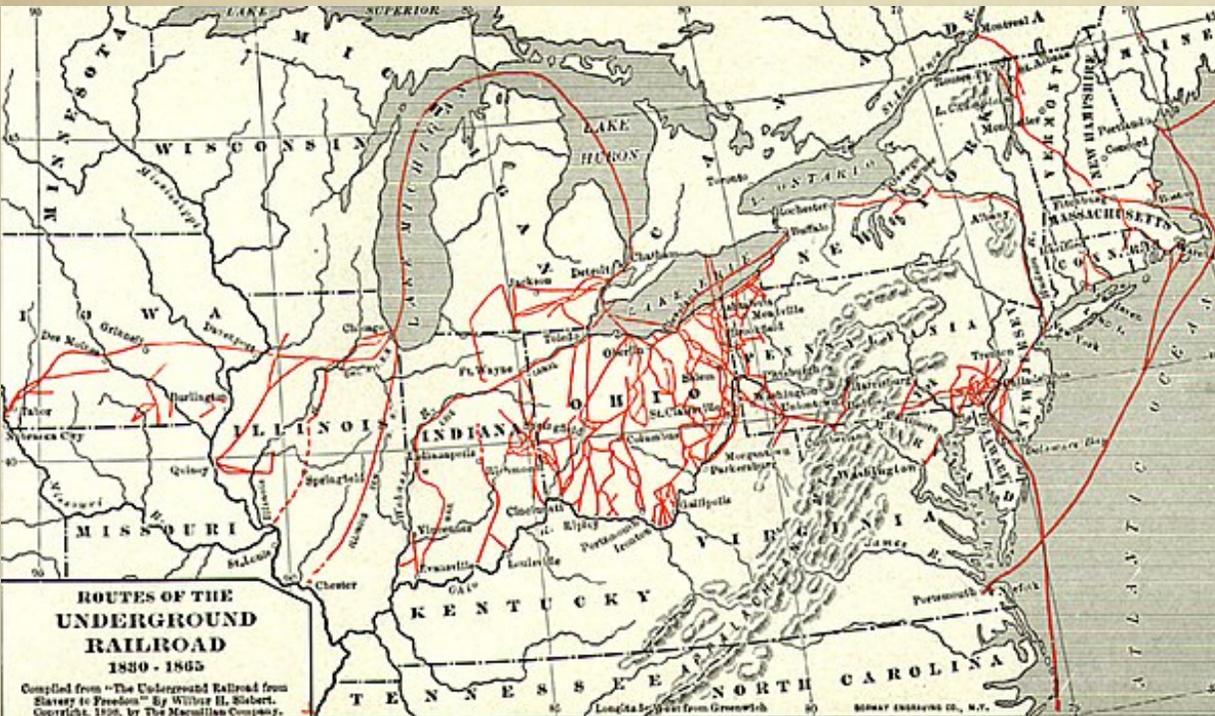


Secret History of the Underground Railroad

**Where it went and total number is obscure
Vastly exaggerated but key to Southern paranoia**



**What about the Under Ground RR—Who ran it?
Number freed 300, 3,000, 100,000?
White help or Individual effort?**

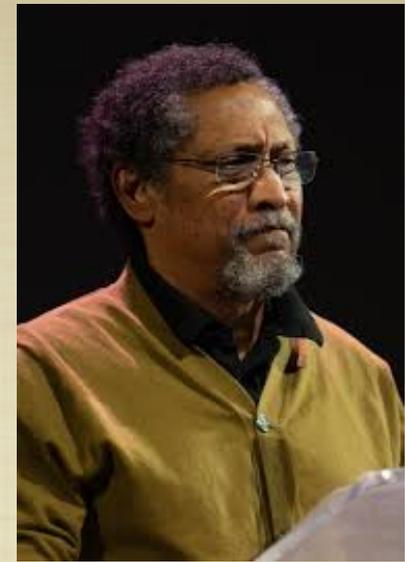


Rachel Swarns
The 272

Mahoney family and the Catholic Church
Constant desire for freedom and
Efforts to keep family together
War of 1812
Harry Mahoney's Loyalty to church



**Percival Everett
James
2024**



Modern revision of Huck Finn

**James is equivalent and often superior to white counterparts.
Both violence and ‘Putten on ‘Ol Massa’ are common themes**

Speeches with John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Soren Kierkegaard

In many respects a combination of Stamp and Genovese.

**Racism exists, but not bad enough to effect personality.
Modern critics seized on “its not that bad” part.**

Historical response.