

The INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND SLAVERY



The Industrial Revolution was closely linked to slavery. The millions of bales of cotton sent to Northern factories were almost without exception picked by slave laborers. Slaves in cotton fields worked in very difficult conditions under demanding overseers.

Southerners defended slavery in part by claiming that Northern factory workers toiled under worse conditions and were not cared for by their employers. Defenders of slavery referred to factory workers as the “white slaves of the North.”

Meanwhile, Northern industrialists and workers benefited from the slave system, even as Northern politicians and religious leaders

denounced it.



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