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0521522366 - Demographic Dimensions of the New Republic: American Interregional Migration, Vital Statistics, and Manumissions, 1800-1860

Peter D. McClelland and Richard J. Zeckhauser

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Demographic Dimensions of the  
New Republic

*American Interregional Migration,  
Vital Statistics, and Manumissions, 1800-1860*

This book provides the first comprehensive and consistent analysis of vital statistics and migration patterns for the United States between the Revolution and the Civil War. It is anchored in the one available source for nationwide estimates, the decennial censuses. It attempts to provide, for black and white populations, a consistent set of estimates of birth and death rates, rates of natural increase, and net international and interregional flows. For the black population, it also estimates the changing pace of manumissions in the ante-bellum decades. The census estimates are also conditioned by a wide range of historical evidence, both quantitative and non-quantitative, ranging from evidence on slave smuggling to ship traffic during the War of 1812.

The book therefore provides the demographic components too long absent from the historical and demographic analysis of the period. The results are two-fold: a set of data and a set of questions suggested by the data that promise novel challenges for historians of the ante-bellum era.

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1800 – 1860*

PETER D. MCCLELLAND

and

RICHARD J. ZECKHAUSER

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## Preface

This project originated when the authors decided to undertake a joint exploration of the growth experience of America in the ante-bellum period. Initially we had planned to borrow whatever demographic insights were needed from available literature. The unsatisfactory state of that literature is what prompted this study.

Many have helped us along the way. Much of the computer work was undertaken by Pamela Memishian. Her patience and innovative suggestions proved to be invaluable. For helpful comments, we are indebted to Nancy Jackson and Robert Klitgaard. We are most especially grateful to Michael Brown-Beasley. For culling sources and tracking down obscure and often incomplete citations few could rival Michael in skill and determination. Michael Haines was kind enough to read the entire manuscript with exceptional care, and offered a wide range of helpful comments and criticisms.

Although the typing of various sections was done by a number of secretaries, the assembling of the final version was ably accomplished by Patricia Paucke.

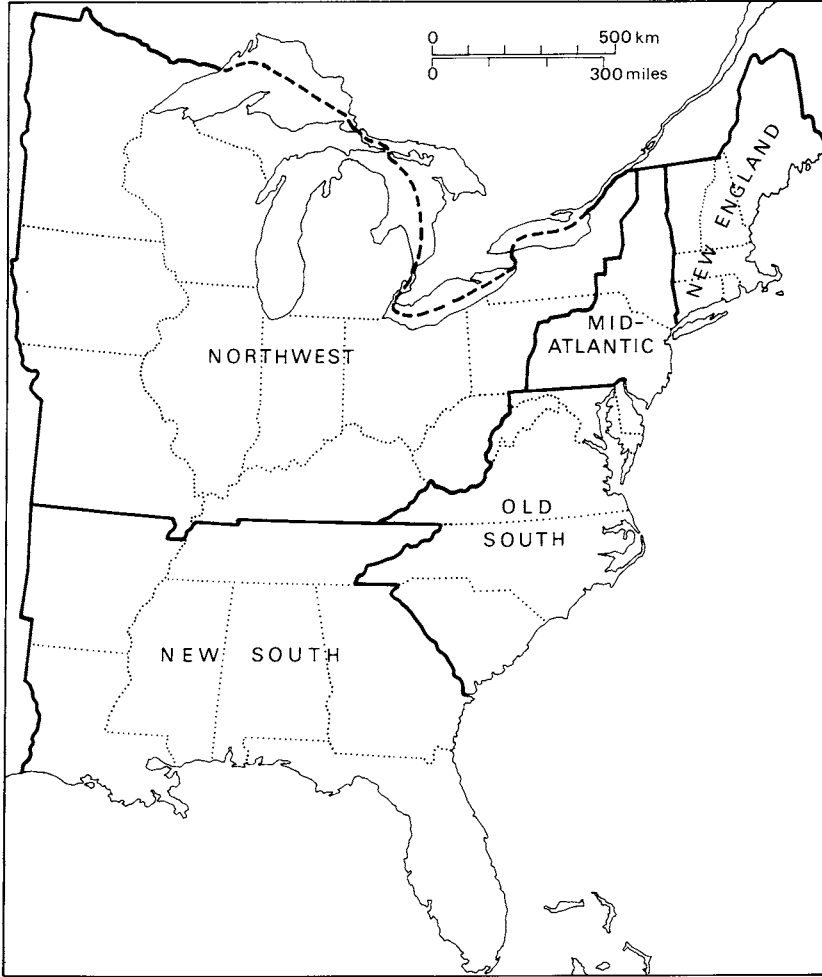
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Map 1: Regions of the United States