

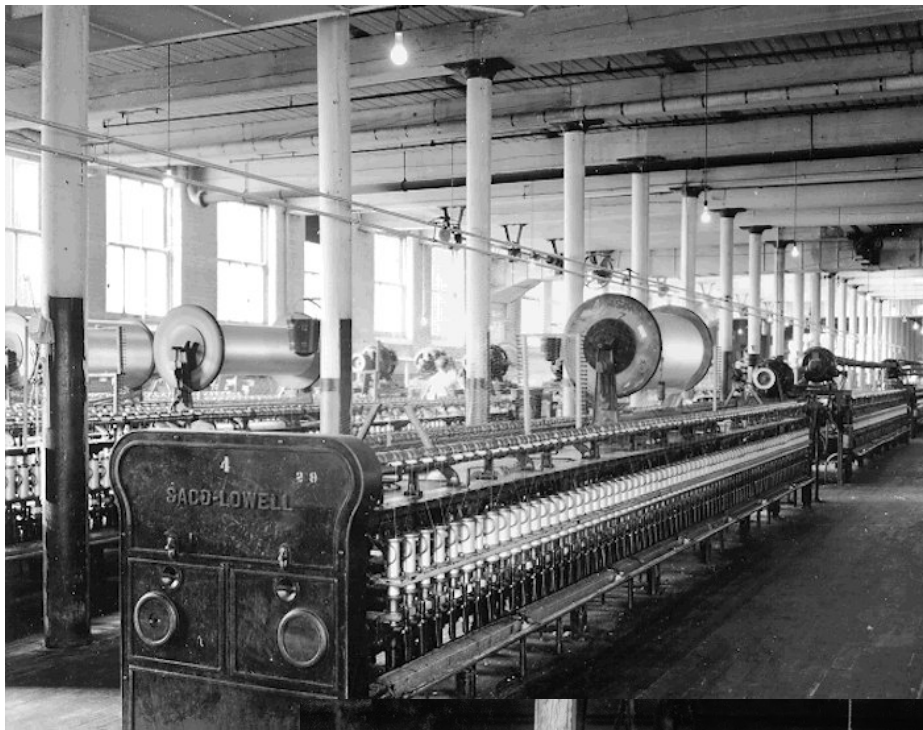
Other Paths: Labor Relations in the South since the Civil War

Wyatt Wels
Professor of History
Auburn University Montgomery

The South in 1865

- 1) massive physical
destruction
- 2) huge loss of life
- 3) complete loss of capital





The Low-Wage Strategy

Textile Mills

By the 1920s, the South was home to one of the World's largest textile industries

Workforce almost entirely White



Low-Wage Strategy precludes unions



The Extreme Case: Convict Lease.

Begins as Cost-Cutting Policy, Becomes Device of Labor Control

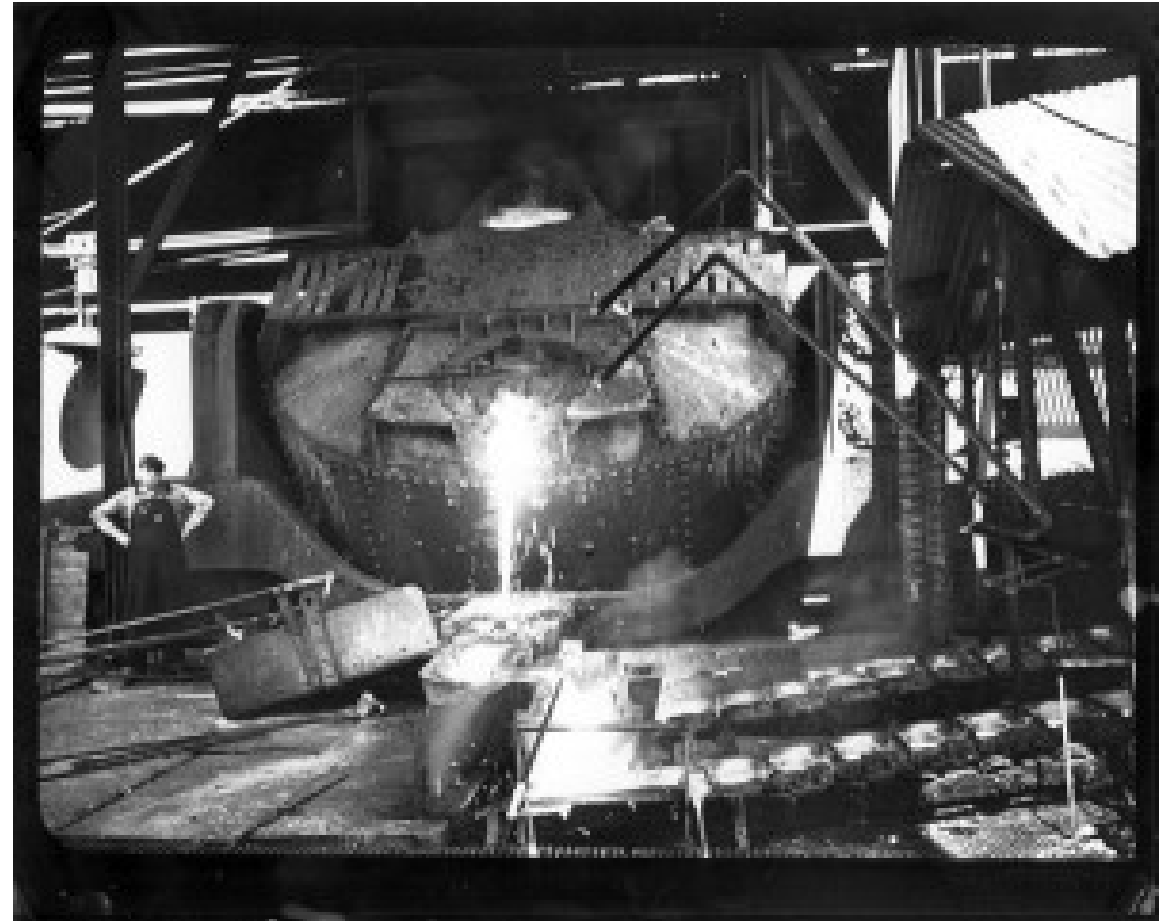
Convicts Overwhelmingly Black.





Low Wage Strategy—the Case of Birmingham Iron

Role or Raw Materials—Coal and Iron Ore in Close
Proximity
Choice of Labor-Intensive Technology



The Crisis of the Mid-Twentieth Century

Mechanical Cotton Picker, Federal Farm Programs, & Fair Labor Standards Act (minimum wage) upend southern labor markets and the low-wage strategy



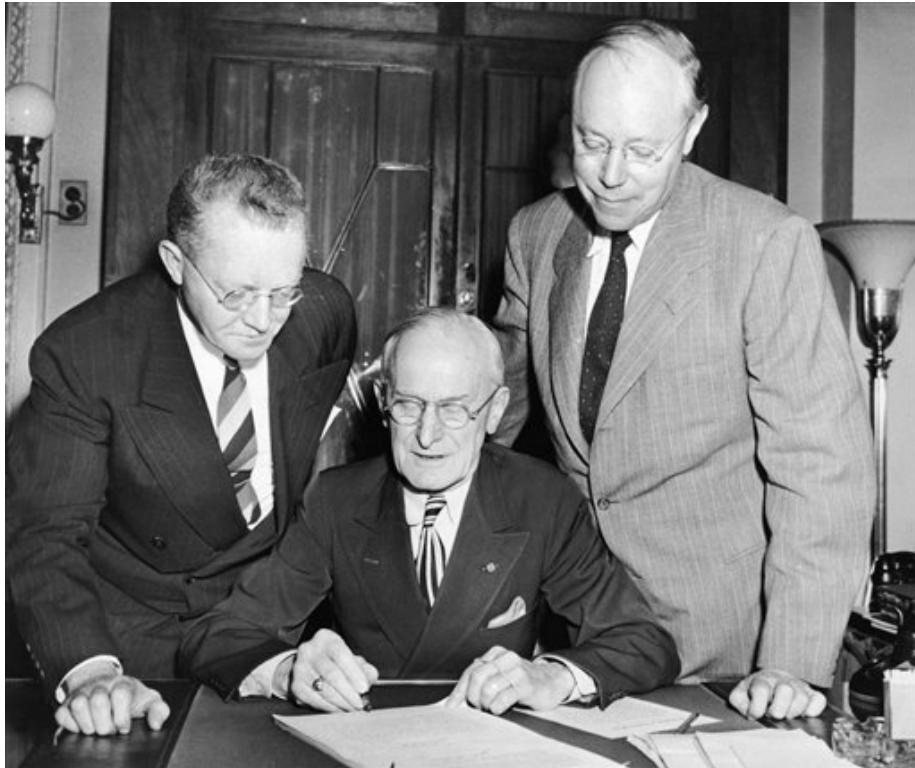
Attracting Outside Investment

Tax Incentives; Large, Cheap Parcels of Land (Industrial Park); Training for Workers, & “Friendly Business Climate”



The Promise of Non-Union Labor

“Freedom of Choice” Laws
Reluctance of Workers (VW Case)





A High-Wage Strategy:

Leverage Educated Workers:
 Research Triangle Park (NC)
 Cummins Research Park (AL)