Long-run Effects of the Trans-Atlantic Cotton Trade on Poverty in the American Deep South

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Introduction

• Global trade of southern US cotton required massive slave labor to produce, which likely affected the future institutional quality and human development of the region.

• Today, former cotton regions have much higher poverty rates

Methods

• Analyze historic price and demand for cotton in the United States and Europe

• Analyze census data on U.S. slave population and crop production in the 19th century

• Assess socioeconomic data on former cotton-producing regions in the US