

The following excerpt describes the weak economy of North Carolina during the early 1800s:

"Cotton is now almost the only article which bears transportation. But . . . even cotton will not long remain a source of profit in our present manner of [transportation]. The states of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana, together with the Arkansas . . . are yearly filling up more and more with an enterprising population, who are pressing their production of cotton to a [large] extent. They possess navigable rivers, and they are acting upon the same policy of internal improvement as has been prosecuted by other states."

James Mebane and Dennis Heartt, August 1, 1828
Courtesy of Documenting the American South, UNC Library

Which obstacle did many North Carolinians believe prevented economic growth in North Carolina during these years?

- A. The cotton of North Carolina was of lower quality than the cotton of other southern states.
- B. The North Carolina government imported cotton and other goods from neighboring states.
- C. The soil in North Carolina was inadequate for the farming of high-profit crops like cotton.
- D. Government leaders failed to support investment in infrastructure like roads and railroads.