The colony of South Carolina was one of the first colonies founded with the intention of basing an economy on slave labor. Many of the early planters in South Carolina were wealthy immigrants from Barbados, who brought their African slaves. The principle crop of South Carolinian plantations was rice, which was introduced to South Carolina in 1694 and brought unprecedented prosperity to the region. Slavery was integral to rice cultivation because of its labor intensiveness and because slaves from the rice-producing regions of Africa provided colonial plantation owners with crucial technical knowledge. South Carolina was a staggering weak polity from its founding in 1670 until the 1730s. Nevertheless, in that time, and while facing significant opposition from powerful indigenous neighbors, the colony constructed a robust plantation system that boasted the highest slave-to-freeman ratio in mainland North America.  

South Carolina Laws on Slavery from the Colonial Era to the Civil War. TYPE. YEAR.  