

## Stereotypes of Southern Americans

### General Stereotypes:

- leisureliness of the people
- relaxed and unhurried way of life
- “more different” dialect > very bad accent
- country music and line dance
- hostile and oppressive race relations
- segregation
- very poor, uneducated people
- high homicide rate
- majority: black population (-> but actually white people are in majority )
- swamps
- old people in rocking chairs on the porch
- huge manor houses and plantations

### Redneck:

- Working hard in free nature, people (especially farmers) get a red neck.
- The word is used to describe the association of appearance, accent, and behaviour of a person of a low social status being low educated who consumes too much of stimulants like beer.
- a member of the lower class
- is typically white
- lives in rural regions
- sometimes a racist

### “Bubba”: (*“Bubba J” – Jeff Dunham*)

- formed from the word “brother”
- given to boys to indicate their role in the family
- especially used for the eldest male siblings (Geschwister)
- because of its association with the South it is often used outside the south as a pejorative for people of a low economic and low education status living in a trailer park



### **“White Trash”:**

- poor white southerners, not well educated
- used to differentiate between poor farmers and other poor,
- mostly used by blacks as a slur (Beleidigung) for white people in the South
- the term suggests outcasts from respectable society living
- seen as dangerous because they may be criminal, unpredictable, and without respect for authority whether it be political, legal, or moral

### **“Good ol’ boy”**

- (can have positive and negative meanings > depending on context)
- slang term which describes a white man living in a rural area, being well socialized
- nickname for a male friend or chum (Kumpel)
- having a family of generational wealth or prestige, or extreme moral behaviour
- can be used for a person who engages in cronyism (Vetternwirtschaft) among friends

### **Southern Gentleman: (Red Butler - “Gone with the Wind”)**

- well-groomed, well-dressed
- enjoys hunting and fishing
- likes fresh meat and country music
- good manners: open doors for a lady, pulls out her /her mother’s chair
- known for their respect of women, hate men abusing girls
- never cusses (fluchen), is always polite

### **Southern Lady:**

- She has to carry her misfortune with grace and style.
- has good manners, is well-dressed
- She is not allowed to show weakness or strong emotions.
- has to know when to laugh to jokes - and when to ignore them
- doesn’t reveal her age or weight
- never asks gentlemen how much money they make
- a caring society lady
- organizes the household
- remains steadfastly by her man’s side



**Southern Belle:** (*Scarlett O'Hara- "Gone with the Wind"*)

- a beautiful, young, upper class woman from the south
- social grace, good-mannered
- well-educated
- have a winning smile, should be always kind and polite
- proud and self-confident
- flirtatious but chaste
- often arrogant with an affected behaviour

**"Mammy":** (Mammy – "Gone with the Wind")

- a black woman, often enslaved, who worked for a white family
- nursing the family's children in the house
- overweight and large-breasted
- maternal (mütterlich)
- often illiterate, but with social intelligence
- strong and strict
- was not up for sale

