

APUSH 1863-1877 RECONSTRUCTION REVIEWED!

American Pageant (Kennedy) Chapter 22
American History (Brinkley) Chapter 15
America's History (Henretta) Chapter 15

RECONSTRUCTION

Key Challenges:

1. How do we bring the South back into the Union?
Reunification and reconciliation!
2. How do we rebuild the South after its destruction during the war?
3. How do we integrate and protect newly-emancipated black freedmen?
4. What branch of government should control the process of Reconstruction?

ISSUES

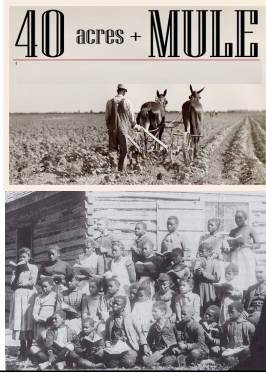
Problem:



The freedmen were largely unskilled, illiterate, and without property or money.

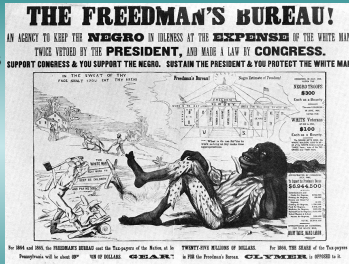
Freedmen's Bureau: March 1865

- Purpose: **Help former slaves** and **poor southern whites**
- Greatest success was in **education**
 - Freedmen's Bureau taught an estimated **200,000 African Americans how to read**
- "Forty acres and a mule"
 - **Confiscated land** to be given to former slaves
 - **Almost never happened**
 - Problem: Economically vulnerable



SOUTHERN REACTION

- The white south **resented** the Freedmen's Bureau as a **meddlesome federal agency**
- Many former northern abolitionist risked their lives to help southern freedmen

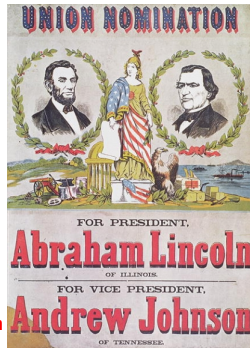


DIFFERENT RECONSTRUCTION PLANS

- **Wartime Reconstruction** by President Lincoln in **1863: Proclamation of Amnesty & Reconstruction**
 - Southern states may rejoin the Union once **10%** of state voters (those who voted in **election of 1860**) pledge loyalty to Union
 - They must **accept emancipation**
 - **Lenient policy:** easy on south
- **Wade-Davis Plan**
 - Required **50% of the voters** from 1860 to take an "iron clad" oath of allegiance
 - **Tougher plan:** excluded those who aided the Confederacy
- **Wade-Davis plan "pocket-vetoed"** by Lincoln

PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON

- ✓ Lincoln is **assassinated**
- ✓ Southern Senator from Tennessee, Democrat **Andrew Johnson** becomes president
- ✓ Recognizes the **10% Lincoln governments**
 - ✓ **Disfranchisement** (loss of vote)
- ✓ All states must **ratify the 13th Amendment** (ratified Dec. 1865): abolished slavery
- ✓ Johnson ends up **pardoning** most of the former Confederate leaders
 - ✓ Southern planters **reestablish political control** of southern politics



KEY IDEA:

The **13th Amendment** abolished slavery, bringing about the war's most **dramatic social and economic change**, but the **exploitative and soil-intensive sharecropping system** endured for several generations.

SOUTHERN DEFIANCE: BLACK CODES

- **Black Codes:** Purpose was to guarantee a **stable labor supply** now that blacks were emancipated
- Southerners hope to **restore pre-emancipation system of race relations**
- **Examples:**
 - Prohibited African Americans from renting land or borrowing money to buy land
 - African Americans forced to sign labor contracts
 - Penalty for leaving before contract expired
 - African Americans cant serve on a jury or vote
- Many African Americans were forced to become **sharecroppers**
 - Allowed to use land in exchange for giving a percent of crop to the owner of the land



President Johnson vs. Congress

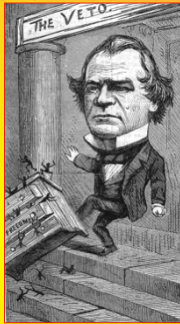
- By 1866 Northern Republicans in Congress are angry when former Southern Confederate officials are returned to office.
 - Calls for a **stricter version of Reconstruction (Congressional Reconstruction)**
- Important to know **transition of Reconstruction policy** between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

We got this!



Congress Breaks with the President

- Congress prevents Southern Congressional delegates from coming back.
- Feb 1866: President Johnson **vetoed the Freedmen's Bureau extension** – Congress passes!
- Republican controlled Congress passes **Civil Rights Bill 1866**:
 - Gave citizenship to African Americans and sought to get rid of the **Black Codes**
 - Johnson vetoes



❖ Congress passed both bills over Johnson's vetoes → **1st in U. S. history!**

Congress: How to prevent southern states from overturning laws passed during Reconstruction?

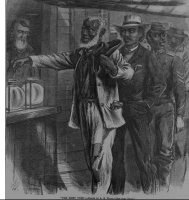
Civil Rights Bill 1866

14th AMENDMENT

- Declared **all persons born in the U.S. are citizens of the US** (including African Americans— big F-U to **Dred Scott**)
- States must protect rights and provide **“equal protection of the law” & “due process”**
- **Prevented former Confederates** political officials from holding political office
- **Southern states would be punished** for denying the **right to vote** to black citizens!

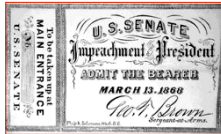
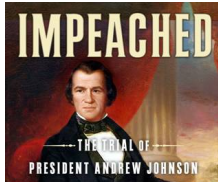
CONGRESSIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

- Republican controlled Congress now controls Reconstruction policy. **Radicals vs. Moderates**
- Reconstruction Act of 1867 divided the south into **5 military districts** controlled by Union generals
- **Disenfranchisement** of former Confederates & **invalidate state govts** of Lincoln & Johnson (10%)
- To be readmitted: Required **new state constitutions**, including **black suffrage** and ratification of the **13th and 14th Amendments**.



President Johnson Impeached

- 1867 Congress passed **Tenure of Office Act** in order to **reduce Presidential power** & protect Republican Reconstruction cabinet members
- **The Senate must approve** any presidential dismissal of a cabinet official or general.
- President Johnson **removed Sec of War Stanton** in 1868
- The House immediately votes to **impeach President Johnson**
- One vote short of 2/3's required



RECONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS

- **13th = freedom. Abolished slavery**
- **14th = citizenship granted. Protection of rights of citizens with "equal protection of the laws" and "due process."**
- **15th = universal male suffrage. Right to vote could not be denied "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."**



The south temporarily experienced a social and political revolution.

RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNMENTS

- **New electorate** in the South as a result of the **15th Amendment** and **Congressional Reconstruction**
- **Republican coalition**
 - African American male voters
 - **Scalawags**: cooperating southern whites
 - **Carpetbaggers**: northerners who went south
 - Some looking to profit and others wanted to help out



RECONSTRUCTION FALLS APART

- **Ku Klux Klan** established to **secure white supremacy** and resist Reconstruction govt.
- **Force Acts** of 1870 & 1871 intended to **stop resistance** to Reconstruction
 - Federal troops sent in to stop the KKK
- **Civil Rights Act of 1875**: guaranteed **equal access** to **public places**. Protect right to serve on **juries**.
- **Rarely enforced** and eventually overturned by the **Supreme Court** in 1883
- By 1870s Congress & President Grant would be **unwilling to use federal government** to monitor Southern society



- **Federal intervention in Southern society under Congressional Reconstruction yielded some short term success**
 - Reunited the Union
 - Opened up political opportunities to former slaves
 - Temporary rearranged the relationships between white and black people in the South
- **Civil War ended slavery and the idea of a divisible union: BUT left largely unchanged social and economic patterns**
- **Although citizenship, equal protection of the laws, and voting rights were granted to African Americans in the 14th and 15th Amendments, these rights were progressively stripped away through segregation, violence, Supreme Court decision, and local political tactics.**
- **The Reconstruction Amendments established judicial principles that were staled for many decades, but eventually became the basis for court decisions upholding rights**