

SSUSH10: IDENTIFY LEGAL, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF RECONSTRUCTION.



ELEMENT A: Compare and contrast Presidential Reconstruction, including the significance of Lincoln's assassination and Johnson's impeachment.



Overview

- ❑ The end of the Civil War brought with it the monumental task of physically, politically, economically, and socially repairing the United States.
 - Questions existed over how to most efficiently and effectively make this happen.
 - There were two different approaches to Reconstruction.
- ❑ Presidential Reconstruction was the approach that promoted more leniency towards the South regarding plans for readmission to the Union.
- ❑ Congressional Reconstruction blamed the South and wanted retribution for causing the Civil War.
 - Their approach required much more submission from the South as a condition for readmission to the Union.
- ❑ Both Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction plans recognized the importance of rebuilding all aspects of the nation.
 - Where they differed was in the details for implementation.



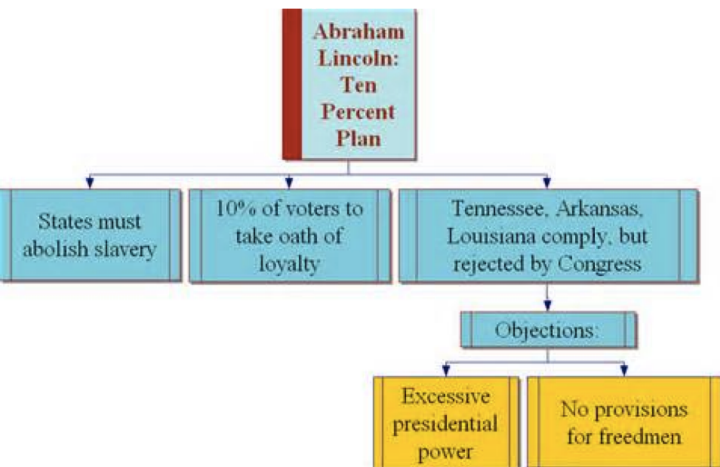
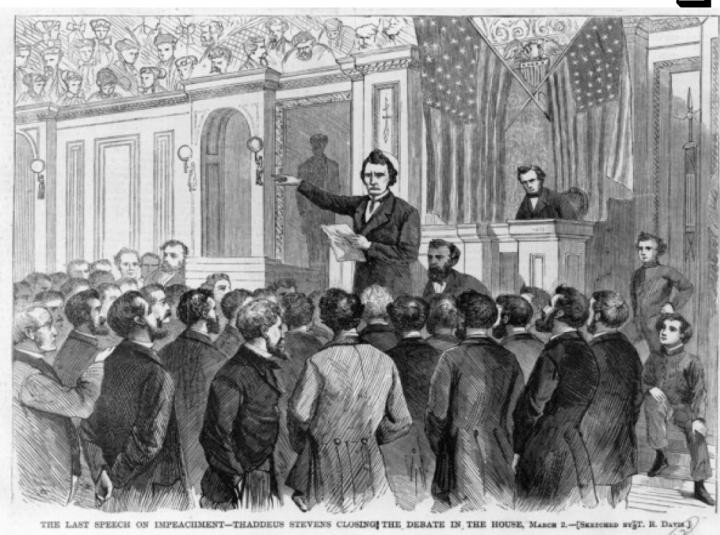
Lincoln's Presidential Reconstruction

❑ Reconstruction became a conflict between the Radical Republicans and Presidents Lincoln and Johnson, who proposed more moderate requirements for the former Confederate states.

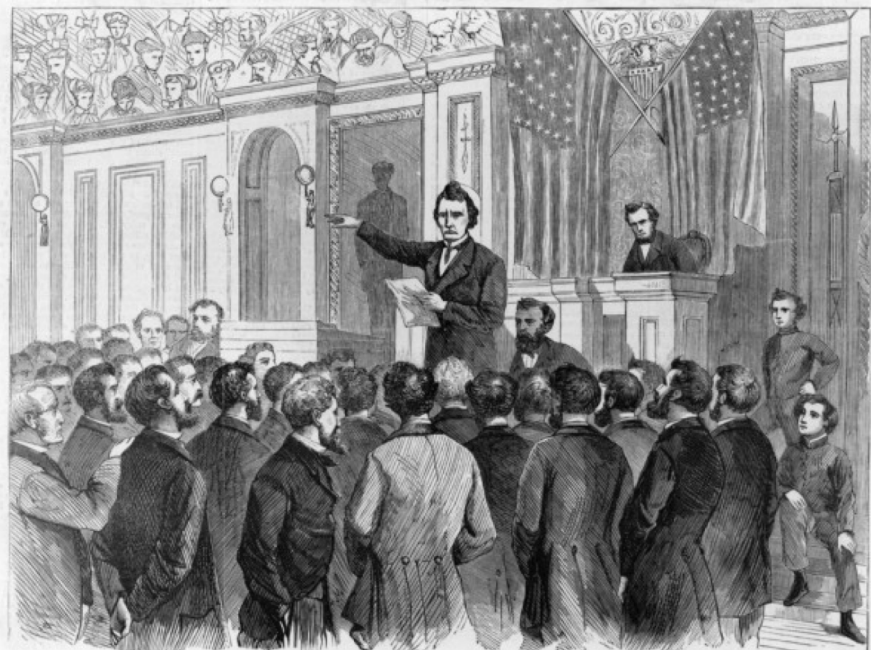
- The Radical Republicans wanted to severely punish the South for the Civil War.
- Lincoln and the moderates wanted to bring the South into the Union quickly.
- The process of rebuilding the South began before the war ended.

❑ Presidential Reconstruction refers to when Lincoln proposed the Ten Percent Plan in 1863.

- This plan called on Southern states to complete three tasks in order to restore their status in the United States.
 1. First, they had to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery.
 2. Second, states had to repudiate secession.
 3. Third, when ten percent of the voters from 1860 had taken an oath of allegiance to the United States, that southern state would be restored to the Union



Congressional Reconstruction

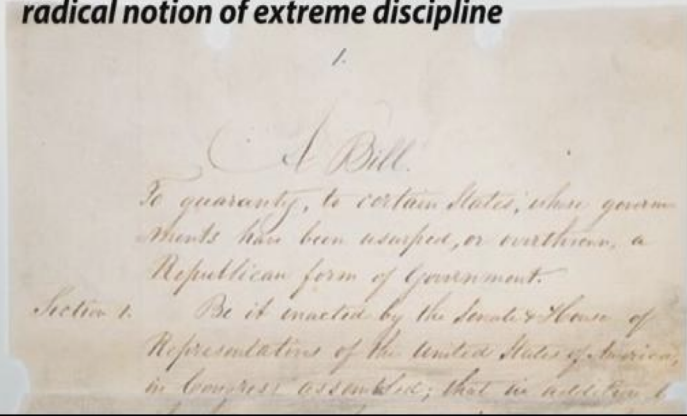


THE LAST SPEECH ON IMPEACHMENT—THADDEUS STEVENS CLOSING THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE, MARCH 2.—(SKETCHED BY T. R. DAVIS.)

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR

Wade-Davis Bill of 1864

the legislative manifesto that represented the radical notion of extreme discipline

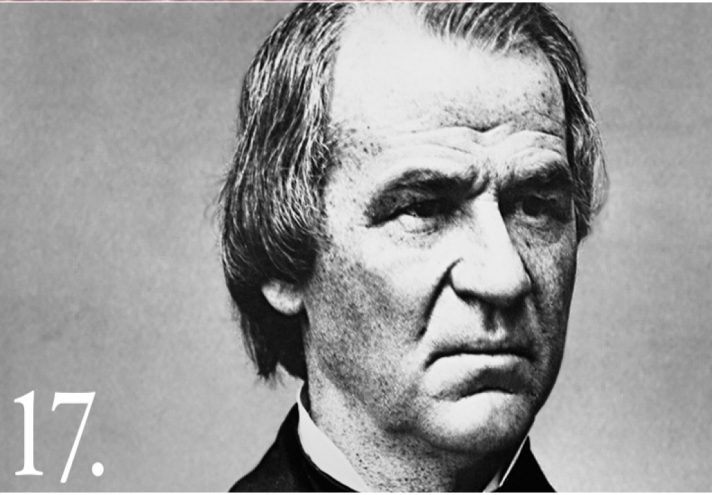
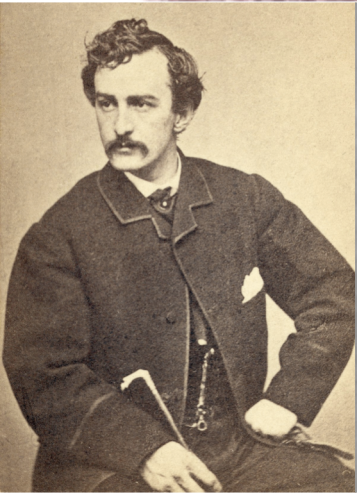


- ❑ Radical Republicans objected to Lincoln's plan saying the plan was too lenient and did not go far enough to protect the rights of the newly freed slaves.
 - In response, they proposed the Wade-Davis Bill.
 - In addition to ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment, the proposed law would have required 50% of the voters of a southern state to swear their loyalty to the United States.
 - Southern supporters believed that this was an impossible task designed to keep the South dominated by Northern political interests.
 - Lincoln vetoed the Wade Davis Bill. Before Lincoln could reintroduce his plan he was assassinated.

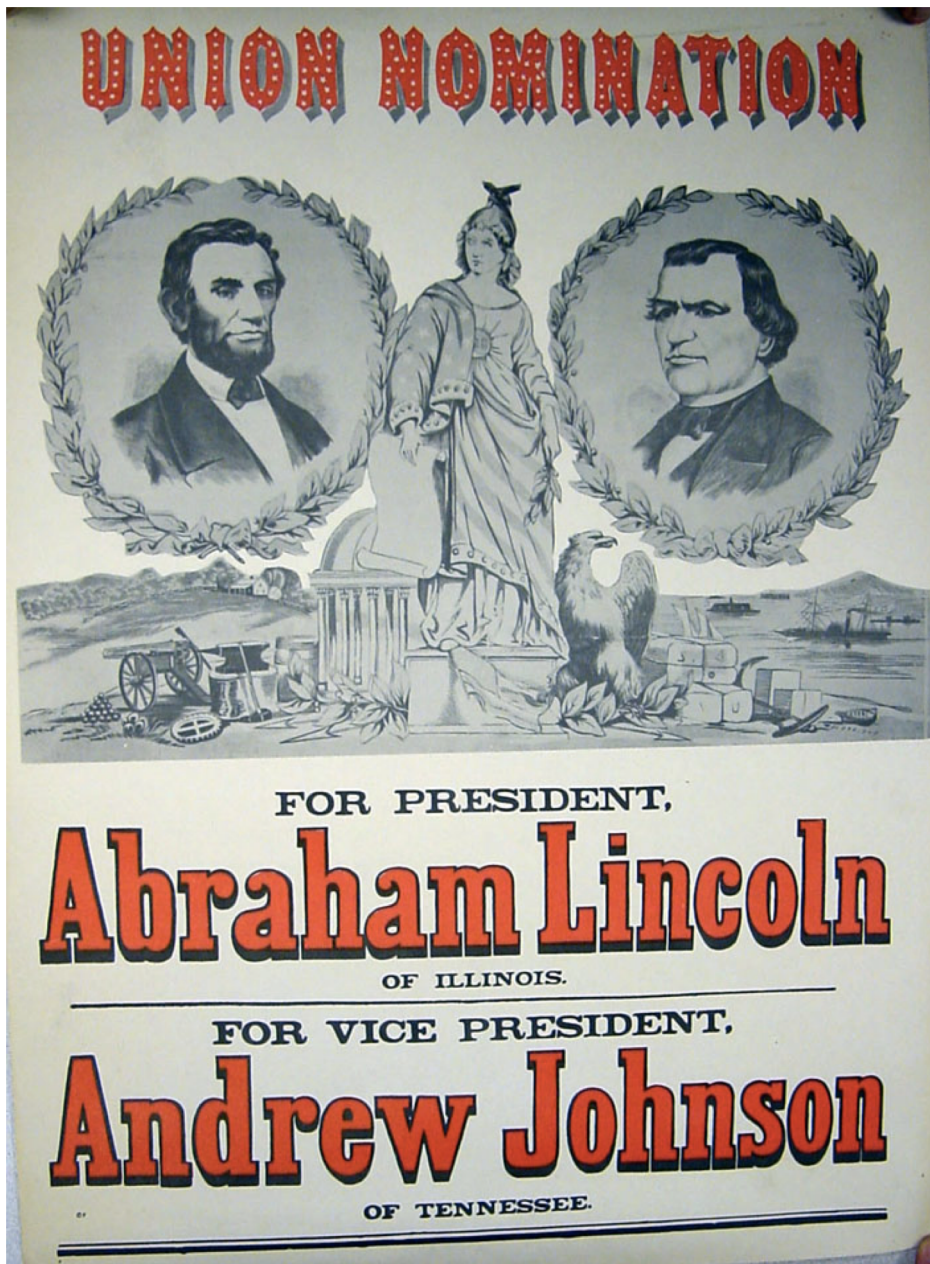
Abraham Lincoln's Assassination



- ❑ Lincoln was shot and killed on April 14, 1865, just a few days after Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox.
 - The assassination took place at Ford's Theater in Washington, where Lincoln and his wife were attending a play.
 - John Wilkes Booth was an actor who supported the Confederacy and shot the President in anger over the Southern loss in the Civil War.
 - Lincoln was a skilled politician who was poised to negotiate a flexible solution to the Reconstruction issue.
 - His assassination resulted in more turmoil and political wrangling.
 - The chaos was in part due to the new President set to fill Lincoln's untimely loss – Andrew Johnson.



President Andrew Johnson

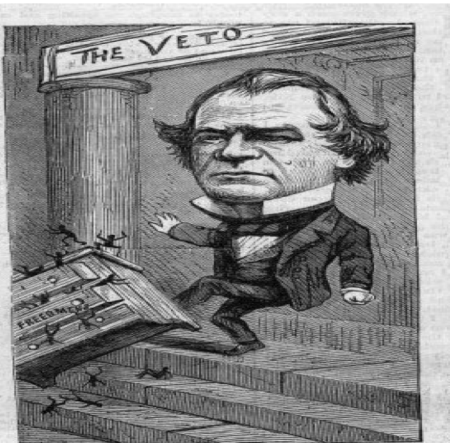


- ❑ Andrew Johnson had been chosen by Abraham Lincoln to be Vice President for his second term in office.
 - Johnson was a Democrat from Tennessee, who remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War even though he was a supporter of slavery.
 - His loyalty to the Union was about bringing down the wealthy plantation owners.
 - Johnson believed these aristocrats restricted the small farmers' ability to make money.
 - Johnson was added to Lincoln's 1864 Presidential ticket because he was a Democrat from the South and would be a symbol of goodwill as the Civil War was coming to a close.
- ❑ Lincoln wanted to send a message of reconciliation.

Johnson's Presidential Reconstruction

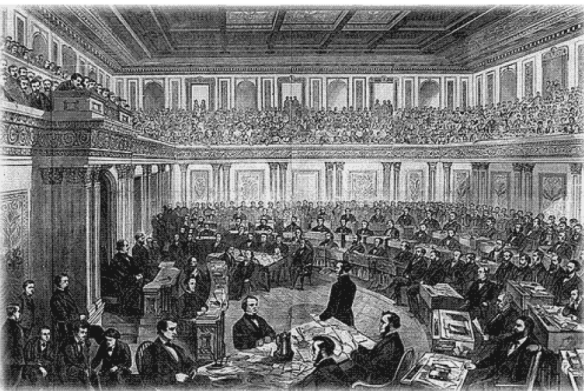
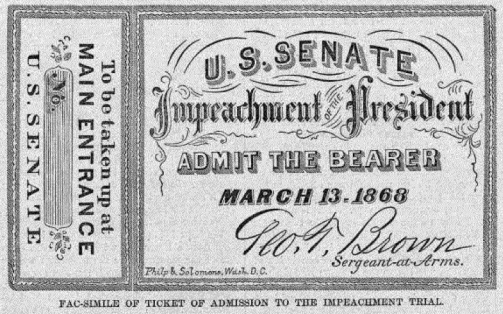


- ❑ After the assassination of Lincoln, the Reconstruction task fell to the new President.
- ❑ Andrew Johnson's plan for Reconstruction was actually similar to Lincoln's.
 - The new President sought to rapidly integrate Southern states back into the Union by appointing governors who would make the required political changes.
- ❑ There was significant opposition to this approach by Radical Republican members of Congress who wanted the South to be dealt with more harshly.
 - The Congressional election of 1866 returned a Radical Republican majority to Congress.
 - The group began pushing forward bills that favored their position and Johnson vetoed each one.
 - Congress and Johnson were at odds with one another. The political struggle quickly escalated to a level not previously tested.



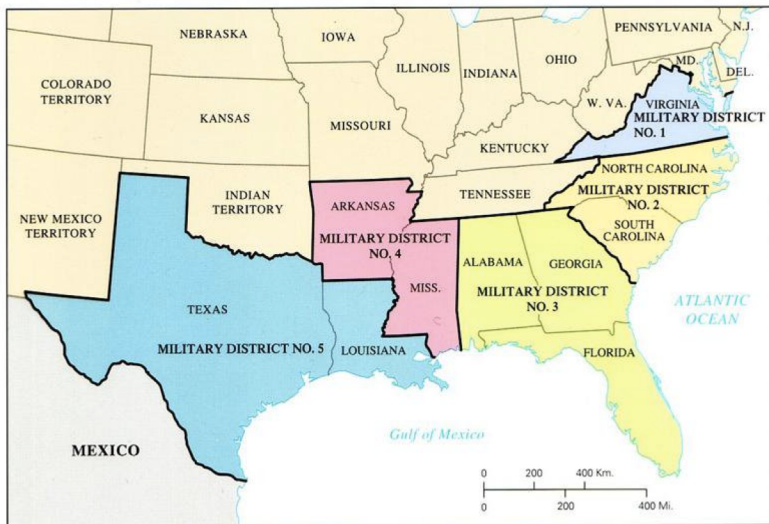
President Johnson's Impeachment

- ❑ In addition to vetoing Republican legislation that came to the White House for Johnson's signature, the President was also firing many Republicans from the executive offices they had held under Lincoln's administration.
- ❑ To preserve the Republican influence in the executive branch, Congress passed the Tenure of Office Act over Johnson's veto in 1867.
 - This law required Senate approval before the President could remove a federal official or military commander from a position in the government.
- ❑ Johnson ignored the law and fired Republican Secretary of War Edwin Stanton from his post.
- ❑ Congress responded by impeaching Johnson for breaking a federal law, but ultimately failed to remove him from office by one vote.
 - The impeachment hearings lasted months and sidetracked the more important Reconstruction efforts of the government.
 - Because the Congress had a Radical Republican majority, they were able to overturn any veto Johnson issued on proposed legislation.
 - Rather than remove the President, the Radical Republicans simply waited out his term in office. This arrangement ushered in what is known as Congressional Reconstruction.



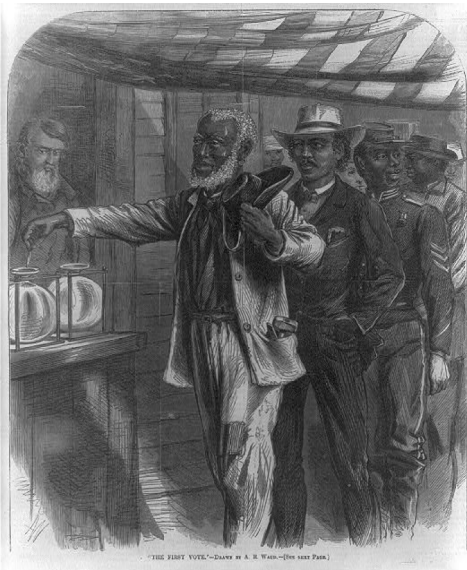
"The Senate as a Court of Impeachment for the Trial of Andrew Johnson." Harper's Weekly, April 11, 1868

Congressional Reconstruction



□ The First Reconstruction Act, which was passed over Johnson's veto in 1867, divided the South into five military districts that were administered by military governors.

- The law turned the clock back on any Reconstruction measures passed by Southern states.
- To be readmitted to the Union, the Southern states were required to guarantee former male slaves and free Blacks suffrage.
- The states were also required to hold open elections for both White and Black representatives to the state constitutional convention.



- The purpose of the state constitutional conventions was to create new state constitutions that recognized the three Reconstruction amendments to the United States Constitution - the 13th, 14th, & 15th amendments.

End of Reconstruction

- ❑ By 1870, all the former Confederate states had been re-admitted to the Union.
 - Federal troops remained in the South to enforce the provisions of Reconstruction and to protect former slaves from mob violence.
- ❑ The Reconstruction process was contentious.
 - Both Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction plans were intended to repair the badly fractured nation - politically, physically, and socially.
 - However, the plans differed on how harshly the South should be treated.
 - Presidents Lincoln and Johnson favored a more lenient approach.
 - The Radical Republicans of the Congress wanted harsh punishment against the South for causing the war.

