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





Convicts who had violated the Black Codes

ELEMENT D: Explain the Black Codes, the Ku Klux Klan, and other forms of resistance to racial equality during Reconstruction.

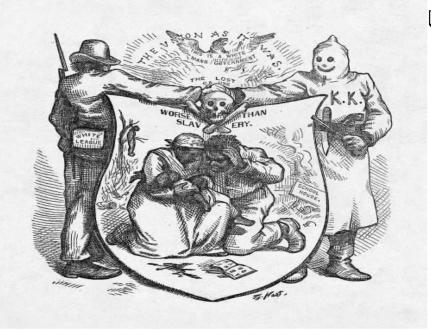
Overview



In the South, resistance to Reconstruction took several forms.

- Many White southern citizens refused to participate politically in opposition to the outcome of the Civil War.
- Southern states passed harsh laws that restricted the economic and political rights of freedmen.
- Racial equality was not fully achieved during Reconstruction.

Black Codes





Convicts who had violated the Black Codes

- ☐ Black Codes were enacted by many Southern states immediately after the Civil War.
 - These state level laws were designed to regulate relations between White Southerners and newly freed slaves.
 - While recognizing some rights, such as legalized marriage, ownership of property, and limited access to the courts, Black Codes denied Blacks the rights to testify against Whites, to serve on juries or in state militias, to vote, and to express legal concern publicly.
 - Also the Codes were an attempt by plantation owners to secure the labor supply lost as a result of the Thirteenth Amendment by requiring all Blacks to provide proof of employment or be forced to work for White land owners.
 - Black Codes enraged Northern
 Congressmen and the public who saw the laws as a re-introduction of slavery.

Ku Klux Klan, "KKKK"



- ☐ The Ku Klux Klan was founded in 1866.
 - It was originally a Confederate veterans' club but quickly became an organization closely associated with the worst forms of violence and intimidation.
 - Initially, the Klan tried to scare Blacks into compliance and keep them from voting.
 - When this method did not work Klan members attacked Northern Whites who came South.
 - The racist organization also targeted Southern Whites who tried to support Reconstruction, and Blacks who were educated and participated in community affairs.
 - Eventually, anyone who Klan members disliked could be attacked, beaten, or brutally murdered, often in front of family members.
 - Resistance to the Klan was difficult due to a lack of weapons among Blacks and control of the court system by the KKK sympathizers.
 - Some states, notably Arkansas, Tennessee, and Texas successfully broke up the Klan with special police forces.
 - Eventually, the Federal government used the Enforcement Acts to break up Klan activities.
 - By 1872, Klan violence had greatly lessened as some Southern leaders urged the Klan to step down because federal troops would stay in the South as long as Blacks needed protection from society.
 - The Ku Klux Klan re-emerged in earnest after Reconstruction ended and the federal soldiers were no longer in the South to provide protection.

