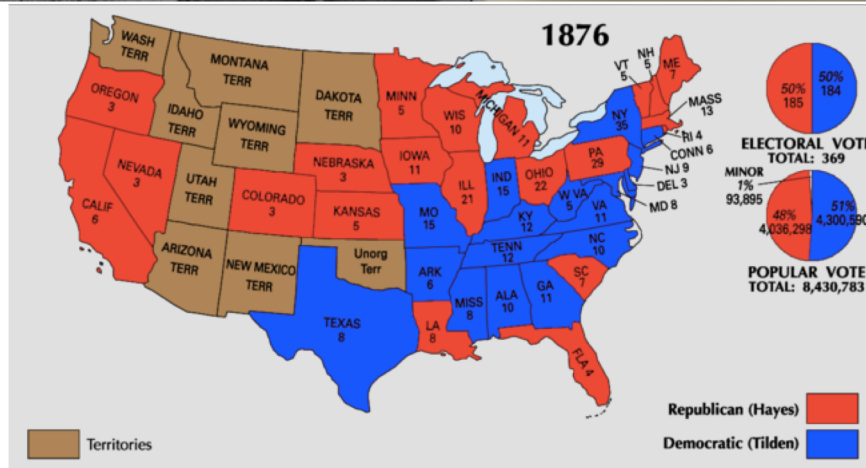
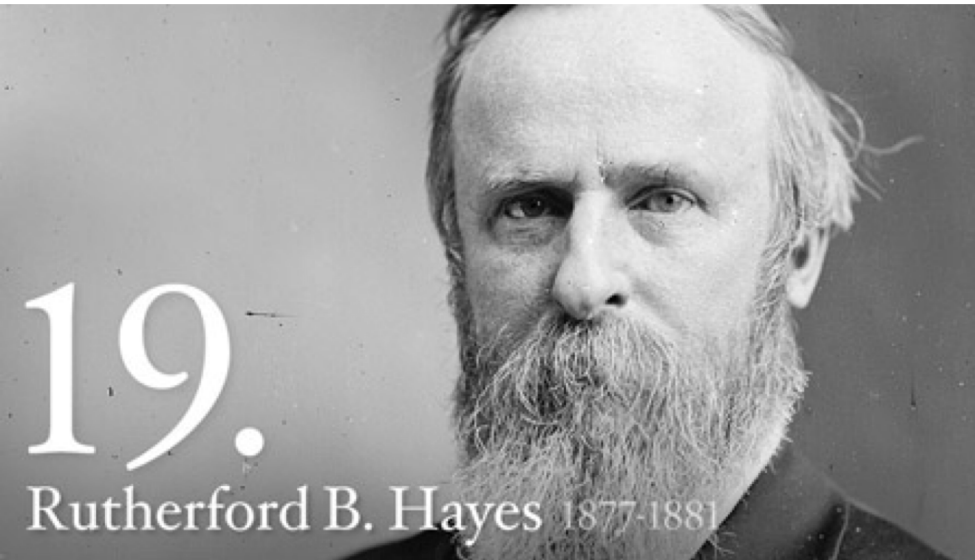


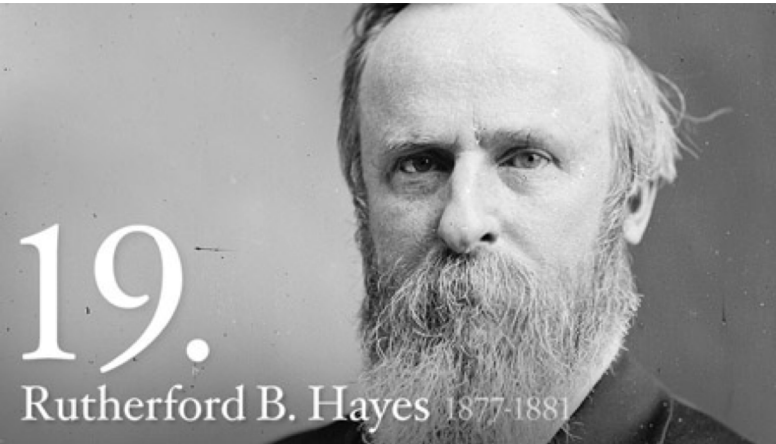
SSUSH10: IDENTIFY LEGAL, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF RECONSTRUCTION.



ELEMENT E: Analyze how the Presidential Election of 1876 marked the end of Reconstruction .

Overview

- ❑ The period of Reconstruction has a definite beginning and a definite end.
 - The efforts of the Federal government to direct the rebuilding of the physical, social, and economic features of the United States began at the conclusion of the Civil War and ended with Rutherford B. Hayes' election to the Presidency in 1876.
 - Without federal government oversight, racial equality was not protected in the South.
 - Political and economic factors contributed to the federal government's abandonment of Reconstruction.



Southern States' Political Changes

- ❑ By the mid-1870s, there had been a change in state level politics in the South.
 - The White Southerners who had refrained from voting and participating in government began to reclaim their position of dominance in state level politics.
 - Until this point, Black Republicans had held many elected positions in Southern state legislatures following the Civil War.
 - The Reconstruction amendments had guaranteed citizenship and voting rights for former slaves.
 - The federal government's military occupation of the South during the period of Reconstruction between 1865 and 1877 had helped to guarantee the safety of Blacks and allowed them to safely vote in many states.
 - The result was the election of approximately 2,000 Black candidates to state, local, and even United State Senate positions.
 - In fact, South Carolina's majority slave population before the Civil War meant that the former slaves who exercised the right to vote in the state after the war held tremendous power.
 - This was especially true since White voters across the South were refusing to participate in elections as a form of protest over their loss in the Civil War.

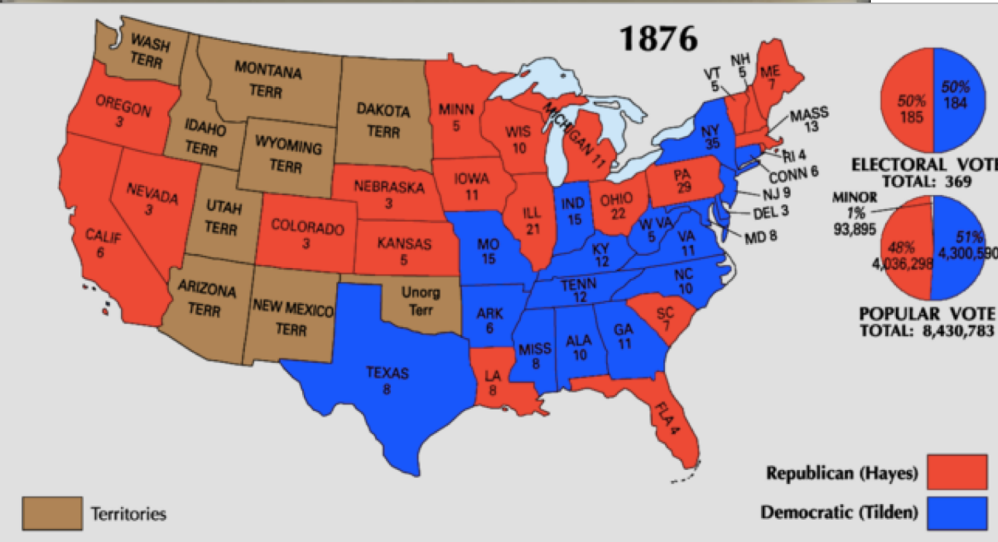


- ❑ The political power of Black Republicans in the South was brief and came to an end with the 1877 end of Reconstruction.

Presidential Election of 1876

□ In the Presidential election of 1876, the Democrats nominated Samuel J. Tilden and the Republicans nominated Rutherford B. Hayes to be their candidates.

- The campaign was a bitter one.
- Tilden won the popular vote by 260,000 votes, but failed to carry a majority of the Electoral College votes.
 - The Electoral votes in four states (Florida, Louisiana, Oregon, and South Carolina) were disputed.
 - A special federal commission was appointed to sort out the Electoral College dispute.
 - The commission awarded the Republican, Hayes, the election along straight party lines and as a result Democrats in Congress threatened to filibuster the vote count.



Compromise of 1877

- ❑ To stem the crisis, Hayes met with Democratic members of the House of Representatives and worked out the Compromise of 1877.
- ❑ In exchange for Democrats' support, Hayes agreed to support internal improvements for the South, appoint a Southerner to the Cabinet, and withdraw federal troops from the South.



- A key factor in the North's willingness to abandon Reconstruction efforts was the economy.
 - The nation was faced with an economic downturn in the 1870s and the Reconstruction expenses put a significant strain on the federal government.
 - The North viewed themselves as solely financing the military occupation and relief programs such as the Freedmen's Bureau.
 - Ending Reconstruction was a way to cut expenses.
- ❑ Shortly after his inauguration in March of 1877, President Hayes ordered the removal of federal troops from the South.
 - Republican dominated state governments collapsed across the South and Blacks were slowly disenfranchised by state laws.
 - Reconstruction had ended.