

## Lesson #47 U.S. History

### Reconstruction

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The Civil War had pushed the class conflict to the surface in the South. Support of 3/4 of planter class was for war. While 2/3 of individuals in the mountains and outside the plantation belt opposed to war. Most of these were poor white farmers from outside the “Black Belt”

Victory came a Lincoln had bands play songs from both sides to try to heal the wounds of the war. Parade down Pennsylvania avenue May 23-24, 1865 a banner read “The Only National Debt We Never Can Pay, Is The Debt We Owe To The Victorious Soldiers”

The American Civil War did not end in a blood bath as other revolutions – the president of the rebellion states only went to prison for 2 years- and all (except 500) confederates were pardon in 1872 – only one individual was executed a Major Henry Wirtz the commander of Anderson Prison.

**Lincoln's Plan** was a lenient 10% plan

Loyal government appeared in Tennessee, Arkansas, & Louisiana

Arguments by Lincoln and Congress for authority over Reconstruction

Lincoln's philosophy of reconstruction

Apprenticeship for Freedmen

There was a plan for the Dominican Republic to place the Freedmen

Lincoln's assassination ended possible reconciliation.

**President Johnson** – Tennessee Democrat – history of drinking

Follow Lincoln's plan plus:

1. States must adopt 13<sup>th</sup> amendment
2. Nullify ordinances of secession and abolish slavery
3. Cancel state debts - repudiate Confederate debt
4. Pardon Southerners except a few – need to ask him personally for pardon
5. Exclusion from pardon of those owing property worth over \$20,000.
6. Recognized 4 states already recognized by Lincoln
7. Appoint temporary governors before elections
8. Restore the Union - All before Congress returned to session

**Radical's Plan** – (Wade-Davis Bill) – Lincoln pocket veto it

50% needed to re-enter Union

Give an Iron Clad Oath

States to call convention first

Safeguard liberties

#### The South

Southerners after 1865 - 70% could not read in the South

“Scalawags” were Southern White Republicans.

The fear of the southern whites of slaves before war did not stop after war. That fear became that the South would become another Haiti and there would be a mass bloodletting by freed slaves against owners. The Union League (Black) held meetings frequently in secrecy and gave alarm to whites.

**Southern Actions:** between 1865-1866

Mississippi within 4 months of the end of the war was organizing state militia – military commander order a stop to this and was countermanded by the President.

The Southern state governments still were in control of the states and had the ratified the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment the old South must likely stayed in control – only Tennessee did.

In April 1866 a white mob in Memphis attacked a black neighborhood killing 47 people and burning 4 churches and 12 schools.

In July 1866 the police in New Orleans fired into a convention of Black suffrage advocates killing 48 and wounding 200.

Southern states had passed repressive Black Codes. The Freedmen and women back on the plantation and to work. Replaced the Slave Codes to the North.

Southern states had elected to Congress many ex-confederate leaders.

Elected back to United States Congress

- 4 Confederate Generals
  - 5 Confederate Colonels
  - 6 Confederate Cabinet Members
  - 58 Members of Confederate Congress
- Plus - the Vice President of the Confederate Government  
Some Southern States refused the fly the “Stars and Strips”

These events gave the Radicals victory in the congressional elections of 1866 – republicans had 42 of 53 seats in the senate and 143 seats to 49 in the house. Congress refused to seat senators and congressmen from the southern states

Charles Sumner - “State Suicide” / Thaddeus Stevens “Conquered Provinces”

1. Freedmen’s Bureau passed over Johnson’s veto
2. Civil Rights Act 1866 – passed over Johnson veto

The Critical Year of 1866: Radical Republicans gain power.

1. Moderates drifted to radicals
2. The Radicals advocated:
  - a. Conquered provinces
  - b. State suicide theory
  - c. Forfeited rights
3. Johnson's began to lose battle with Congress
  - a. Johnson's veto of Freedmen's Bureau
  - b. Johnson's veto of Civil Rights Acts

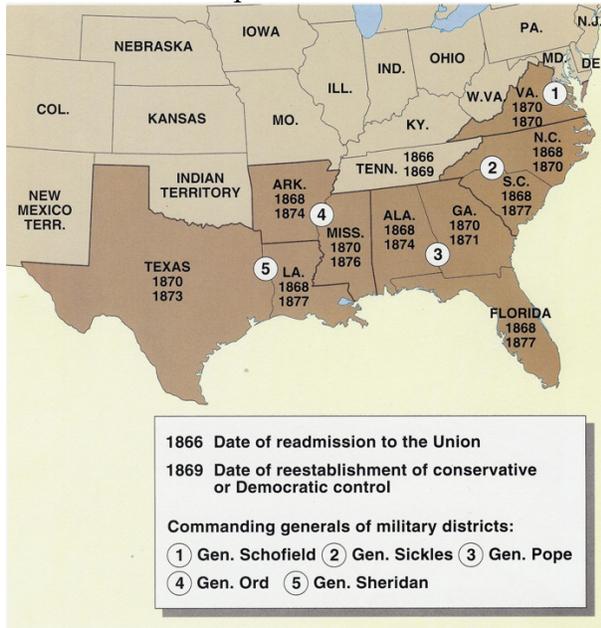
Reconstruction Act of 1867 ended the old state governments and set up military control in 5 districts. Johnson saw this as military “tyranny” and as commander-in-chief blocked congressional moves.

Reconstruction Acts

- a. South divided into five military districts
- b. Readmission after state convention and guaranteeing black suffrage and barring individuals from voting
- c. Ratified the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Force Acts

### Federal supervision of elections and Marshal Law in five districts



## Fourteenth Amendment

1. Defined citizen
2. No state can abridge the privileges and immunities
3. Cannot deprive a person of life, liberty, and property without “Due Process”
4. Cannot deprive a person equal protection of the law
5. Disqualified Confederates from holding office

Tenure of Office Act – 1868 – Sec. War Edwin Stanton (radical)

Impeachment – 6-week trial for high crimes and misdemeanors President meet with moderate Republicans and agree to refrain in from further interference with congress and to act properly under the Reconstruction Ac. He was acquitted may 1868. The constitutional question of punishing a president? “Smoking gun”? the case showed that congress could punish a president who failed to faithfully execute laws passed by congress

1868 congressional election radical held in both houses U.S. Grant elected President

Myth used by southerners after the Rebellion

“Carpetbaggers” in 1850 there were 85,000 Northerners in the south and in 1870 there were 50,000 – they did hold 60% of political power in state congresses

## United States Government Actions:

Thaddeus Stevens wanted to treat the South as conquered territory. He was seen by some as Robespierre, Danton and Marat all in one)

Charles Sumner to treat South as if it was a territory that committed suicide

## **Congressional Reconstruction:**

Congress moved to protect its program from President Johnson.

1. Command of the Army Act
2. Tenure of Office Act

Military Reconstruction Act

Second & Third Reconstruction Acts

Congress protected its program from the Supreme Court

1. Ex Parte Milligan
2. Ex Parte McCordle
3. Ex Parte Merryman

Congress passed law removing Reconstruction cases from the Court's jurisdiction.

Bureau of Refugees, Freeman and Abandoned Lands Freeman's Bureau to provide support for the poor whites' and Freedmen.

Economic and Social freedom – confiscate 400 million acres of land from 70,000 planters with more than 200 acres and redistribute it. The basic right of property? Northern and European investors in plantation? 40 acres and a mule – complaints that land should not be given to Black when Whites needed land also – Senator Sumner responded with Whites were not in slavery.

Congress passed the Freedman's Bill in March 1865 – assistance to poor in South – in 5 years gave 20 million meals (1/4 to impoverished whites) – Gen. Oliver O. Howard ran the bureau and had a paternalistic view towards Blacks

South Carolina:

- 1868 12% of Whites in school  
8% of Blacks in school
- 1875 50% of Whites in school  
41% of Blacks in school
- 1879 \$1.60 on Whites schools and \$.52 on Blacks

Civil rights Act 1866 – answer to Dred Scott and Black Codes which replaced old slave codes – Mississippi denied right to own or rent land – South Carolina require a special license to hold any job besides that of field hand President veto both bills – Congress overruled without the new Southern members – Congress and President at odds – the courts could side with President – Congress turned to the Constitution to safeguard rights –

### **Civil Rights Amendments:**

- 13<sup>th</sup> freed the Slave in the United States
- 14<sup>th</sup> citizenship and barred 25,000 southern whites from political office and all participants in rebellion from political process (150,000 voters until pardon by Congress in 1872) (except 500) also, ended 3/5 count which gave the south 24 more representatives in congress and electoral votes
- 15<sup>th</sup> Gave vote to Freedmen and did not provide national control of elections and state used a variety of techniques to get around poll tax (\$1-2) and literacy test that kept 700,000 voters from voting. Only Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island allow Blacks to vote when 15<sup>th</sup> was introduced and New York allow to only those to vote with property qualifications – Iowa did allow in 1868

## **Republican Rule in the South:**

New government established in southern states.

The work of the Union League

Blacks enter politics

White Republicans in the South

1. Carpetbaggers – northerners
2. Scalawags – Southerners that supported the Union

Republican record

1

Southern Acts:

Formation of terror groups like the Ku Klux Klan led by Nathan Bedford Forest

The “copperhead” Vallandigham went back to lawyer practice and in 1871 at a trial where he was defending a man of murder. He started to prove a point of shooting by accident when he reached into his belt and pulled a gun and inadvertently shot himself in the stomach and died

Tenure of Office Act – Impeachment - failed to convict by one vote

Johnson removed Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in violation of Tenure Office Act.

House of Representatives passed 11 articles of impeachment

In the Senate, vote to convict fell one short.

Grant's Administration:

Grant, an inept political leader, made many unwise appointments

The problem of government debt:

1. Support for monetary expansion
2. Support for monetary restriction
3. Republican reformers: Mugwumps

Scandals of Grant's Administration

1. Credit-Mobilier Scandal
2. Treasury scandal
3. Gould and Fiske corner the gold market

Election of 1876: Tilden (Democrat) and Hayes (Republican)

Campaign marked by few real issues

Disputed vote count in three southern states.

Congress forms the Electoral Commission.

Dispute in Electoral College

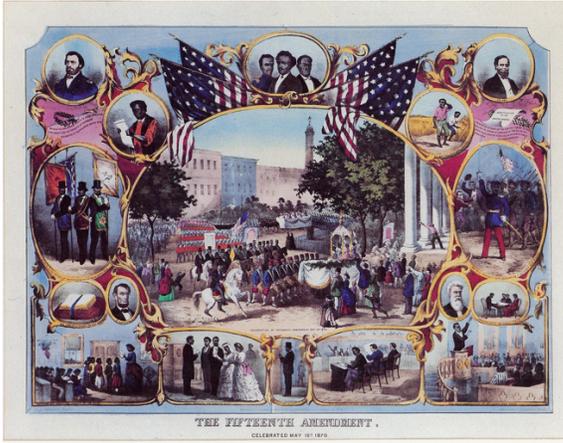
Compromise of 1877 (Great Betrayal)

1. Withdraw troops from South
2. Provide funds for development in the South
3. Home Rule for the South – patronage positions
4. Democrats appointed to president's cabinet

All Reconstruction governments ended within a decade – by 1876 only 3 of the Southern states held by Republican

## Results of Reconstruction

1. 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> amendments



2. schools 1860 1 in 20 blacks could read and write  
1890 9 in 20  
1910 14 in 20  
Morrill Act 1862 – education and military  
Homestead Act 1862 – public land – 160 acres – 5 years build house
3. Stronger central government – control Southern society
4. Racial legacy – containment policy of North
5. Left South backwards 1880 per capita \$376 in South  
Black income \$55.66  
Income in north \$1086.00

Mississippi Plan – by vote – force if necessary!

Civil War Monuments

Until the Civil War monuments were associated were monarchies

A German immigrant who served in Union Army started individual graves for common soldiers starting a movement for National Cemeteries – which are socialist ideas