

# RECONSTRUCTION

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1865-1877

# Learning Targets

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- Why was it seen as necessary to “reconstruct” the South following the Civil War?
- In general terms, what did President Lincoln want to do with the Southern states?
- Compare the differing plans of President Lincoln, President Johnson, and the US Congress. Which plan seemed to make the most sense to you? Why?

# Reconstruction

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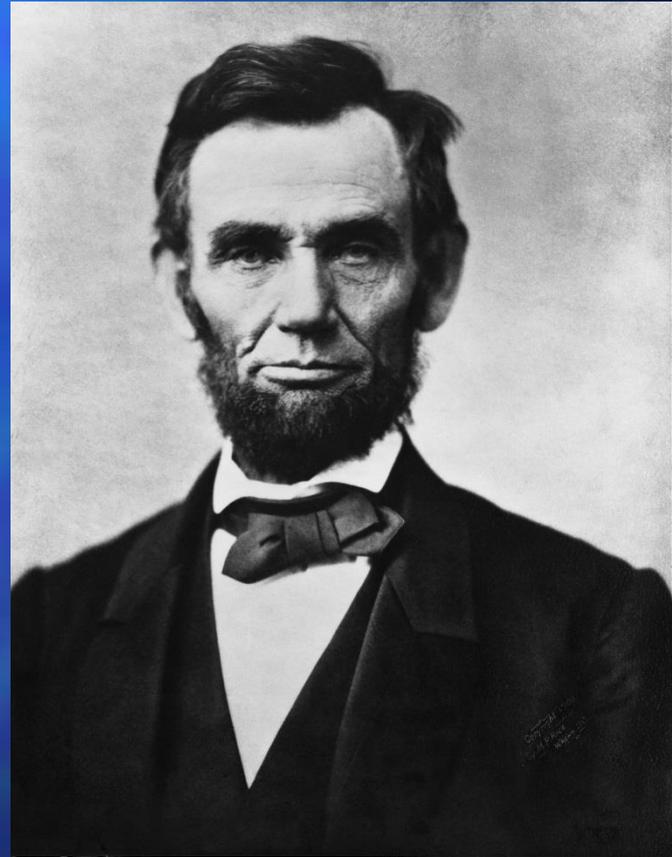
- What is it?
  - The Federal Government's controversial plan to rebuild the war-torn South and restore Southern states to the Union
- Why?
  - The Civil war had destroyed 2/3 of southern shipping and knocked the value of farmland down 70%. 1 of every 3 southern men was killed or crippled, and countless orphans and widows were created.

# Presidential Reconstruction

## ■ Lincoln's Plan

- pardon all confederates take an oath of allegiance to the Union.
- denies pardons to Confederate officials and anyone who murdered prisoners of war.
- if 10% of a states members swear allegiance to the union, the state could hold elections and resume full participation.

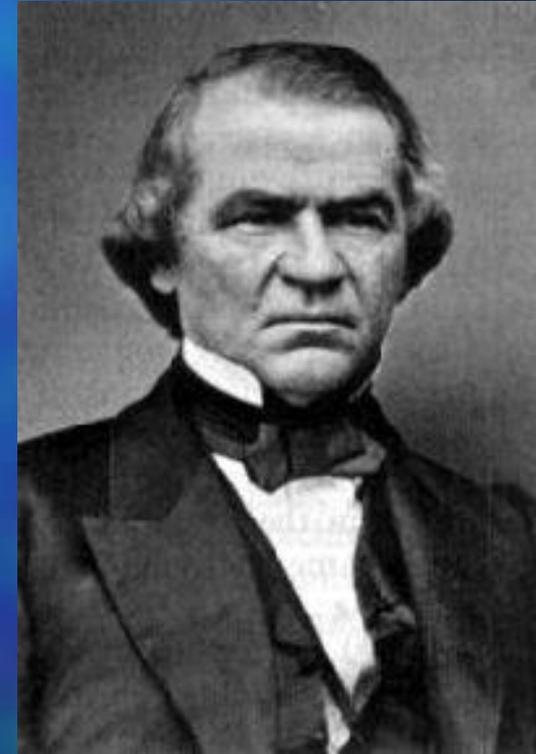
■ Lincoln wanted to forgive and forget, and didn't believe the southern states had ever really left the country.



# Presidential Reconstruction

## ■ Johnson's Plan

- similar to Lincoln's, except that states were required to ratify the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, but didn't need 10% of the voters to swear allegiance.
- Since Johnson would basically pardon anyone, many felt that his plan was too generous to the South.



# The 13th Amendment

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**Section 1.** Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

**Section 2.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

# So...Black People are Free Now, Right?

- Most people blamed freed slaves for the war, and carried a bit of a grudge.
  - After being taken back in by Johnson's plan, Southern states tried to ensure that freed blacks remained as near to slavery as possible.
    - Black Codes. ( laws that restrict the rights of freedmen)
      - established curfews, vagrancy laws, labor contracts, land restrictions, limits on women's rights, etc.
      - This causes conflict between Congress and the President.

# Congressional Reconstruction

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- Congress passes a law that outlaws Black Codes, which Johnson vetoes. Congress overrides the veto, and adds the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment.
- Having taken over, Republicans begin Radical Reconstruction in 1867.

# The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (summarized)

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- State and federal citizenship for all persons regardless of race both born or naturalized in the United States was reaffirmed.
- No state would be allowed to abridge the "privileges and immunities" of citizens.
- No person was allowed to be deprived of life, liberty, or property without "due process of law."
- No person could be denied "equal protection of the laws."

# Radical Reconstruction

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- The South is placed under military rule.
- Southern States required to draft new state constitutions.
- All male voters (black or white) must be allowed to vote.
- If you supported the confederacy, you can't vote.
- states must guarantee equal rights to all citizens.
- states must ratify the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment.

# The Power Struggle

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- Since Congress wanted to deal with the South more harshly, a great power struggle emerges.
  - Congress votes to impeach Johnson in 1868. He stays in office by one vote, but gets waxed in the next election.
  - Former General Ulysses S. Grant wins, ensuring a friendship between the White House and the radicals in Congress.
  - Since Congress wins the power struggle, there really isn't a president worth remembering for another 33 years.

# The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment

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- Congress builds on its success by adding the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment, stating that no US citizen can be denied the right to vote.

**Section 1.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

**Section 2.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

# Learning Targets

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- What was the Hayes compromise, and why did it matter?
- In your opinion, why did reconstruction end?
- Identify the successes and failures of reconstruction.

# So, what does reconstruction do?

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- Political Changes
- Economic Changes
- Social Changes

# Political Changes

- Domination by Northern Republicans
  - Freedmen
  - Carpetbaggers
  - Scalawags



# Political Changes

- Corruption
  - Many corrupt politicians seized the opportunity for personal gain.
  - No more corrupt than the north, and whites were worse than blacks, but the Freedmen get the reputation.

**THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU!**

AN AGENCY TO KEEP THE **NEGRO** IN IDLENESS AT THE **EXPENSE** OF THE WHITE MAN.  
TWICE VETOED BY THE **PRESIDENT**, AND MADE A LAW BY **CONGRESS**.  
SUPPORT CONGRESS & YOU SUPPORT THE NEGRO. SUSTAIN THE PRESIDENT & YOU PROTECT THE WHITE MAN

IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE SHALT THOU EAT THY BREAD

Freedman's Bureau! Negro Estimate of Freedom!

CONGRESS, IN JULY, 1865, VETOED THE

**NEGRO TROOPS \$300**  
Each as a Bounty

CONGRESS, IN JUNE, 1865, VETOED THE

**WHITE Veterans of WAR & NAVAL \$100**  
Each as a Bounty

THE NEGRO GETS MORE OF THE WHITE SOLDIER, LOSE IN ALL - ALL OF THE WHITE SOLDIER'S EARNED THREE TIMES; NONE OF THE NEGRO GETS ONE THIRD PART.

APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS, JULY 1, 1865.

To Support the Freedman's Bureau  
**\$6,944,500**

at various

Contingents and	\$200,000
Claims for Negroes,	\$200,000
Printing for Negroes,	\$5,000
Provisions and Wood for	
Negroes,	\$5,000
Costing for Negroes,	\$1,700,000
Fuel for Negroes,	\$1,000,000
Medicine for Negroes,	\$500,000
Subsidy for Negroes,	\$2,000,000
Public Works & School	\$300,000
House for Negroes,	\$200,000
TOTAL,	\$6,944,500

APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS, FOR THE WHITE MAN,  
HEAVY TAXES, HARD LABOR.

For 1864 and 1865, the FREEDMAN'S BUREAU cost the Tax-payers of the Nation, at least TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. For 1866, THE SHARE of the Tax-payers of Pennsylvania will be about ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. GEAR is FOR the Freedman's Bureau. CLYMER is OPPOSED to it.

# Economic Changes

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- New types of farming
  - Sharecropping
  - Tenant farming
- Landowners emphasized cash crops.
- Cycle of debt (and poverty)

# Funding Reconstruction

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- Need to rebuild infrastructure.
  - Causes southern states to raise taxes.
  - \$130 million in new debt.
- Corrupt politicians steal a huge chunk of this.
  - Roads unbuilt, schools unfounded etc.

# The Successes of Reconstruction

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- It rebuilt the Union and repaired the war-torn South.
- Stimulated economic growth in the North and the South
- The 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments.
- The **Freedman's Bureau** helped former slaves
- **Public education in the South**

# The Failures of Reconstruction

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- Black Americans remained in a cycle of poverty
- The **KKK** and other groups successfully denied people the right to vote.
- racism continued
- Southerners are left very bitter toward the federal gov't and the republican party.
- **industry** in the south lagged far behind the north.
- didn't address farmer's problems, working conditions, and many other social problems.

# How did it end?

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- Southern resistance.
  - KKK
  - Democrats re-take many local governments
  - State governments don't enforce federal laws
    - "Jim Crow" Laws
- Northern disinterest.
  - Higher taxes and perceived corruption
  - Economic problems of 1873.
  - North is just as racist

# The Hayes Compromise

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- Very close election between Hayes and Tilden.
- When electoral college seems to tie, Hayes offers a deal.
  - He promises to remove federal troops from the south.
  - Southern delegates switch their votes.
    - No Federal troops to enforce it? Then reconstruction is over.

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# Terms

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- Freedman's Bureau
- Radical Republicans
- Reconstruction
- 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments
- Sharecropping
- Ku Klux Klan
- Hayes Compromise