

1 | Reading Notes

1.1 | **claim: current issues that plague American society is already present in Reconstruction**

Issues that agitate American politics today all of these are Reconstruction questions.

- access to citizenship and voting rights
- the relative powers of the national and state governments
- the relationship between political and economic democracy
- the proper response to terrorism

1.2 | **Original story w.r.t. reconstruction was that people unfit to govern was put in place to South as punishment, and white supremacists acted to vindicate**

The heroes of the story were the self-styled Redeemers, who restored white supremacy to the South.

1.3 | **Lincoln's proposal of amnesty was more of a war-ending measure**

Lincoln granted amnesty to most Confederates so long as they accepted the abolition of slavery, but said nothing about rights for freed blacks.

1.4 | **Andrew Johnson worked to "defend" against radical republicanism but really to encourage racist ideals**

He was incorrigibly racist, unwilling to listen to criticism and unable to work with Congress. ... They quickly enacted the Black Codes, laws that severely limited the freed people's rights and sought

1.5 | **Reconstructionist ideals still executed over Johnson**

Over Johnson's veto, Congress enacted one of the most important laws in American history, the Civil Rights Act of 1866, still on the books today. It affirmed the citizenship of everyone born in the United States, regardless of race (except Indians, still considered members of tribal sovereignties)

1.6 | **Andrew Johnson brought the idea of "reverse discrimination" into public purview**

"The distinction of race and color is by the bill made to operate in favor of the colored and against the white race."

1.7 | **14th amendment expanded the protection of the scope of constitution to all people**

In recent decades, the courts have used this amendment to expand the legal rights of numerous groups — most recently, gay men and women. As the Republican editor George William Curtis wrote, the 14th Amendment changed a Constitution "for white men" to one "for mankind."

1.8 | **Reconstruction is a radical period of rebuilding**

Radical Reconstruction, when a politically mobilized black community, with its white allies, brought the Republican Party to power throughout the South

1.9 | **African Americans holding political office made reconstruction opposers angry**

But the advent of African-Americans in positions of political power aroused bitter hostility from Reconstruction's opponents.

1.10 | **Reconstruction reestablished the black church as a core AA institution**

the establishment of the independent black church as the core institution of the emerging black community.

1.11 | **:claim: that racist violence and not economics brought the reconstruction to its doom**

It was not economic dependency, however, but widespread violence, coupled with a Northern retreat from the ideal of equality, that doomed Reconstruction. The Ku Klux Klan and kindred groups began a campaign of murder

1.12 | **Northern Republicans became more conservative**

Meanwhile, as the Northern Republican Party became more conservative, Reconstruction came to be seen as a misguided attempt to uplift the lower classes of society.

1.13 | **Reconstruction plans failed as violence fell into status quo**

Hayes assumed the Oval Office and disavowed further national efforts to enforce the rights of black citizens, while white Democrats controlled the South.

1.14 | **:claim: reconstruction ultimately propegated Jim Crow**

By the turn of the century, with the acquiescence of the Supreme Court, a comprehensive system of racial, political and economic inequality, summarized in the phrase Jim Crow, come had into being across the South

1.15 | **Therefore, the end of reconstruction was a global democratic tragedy.**

saw the end of Reconstruction as a tragedy for democracy, not just in the United States but around the globe