**MODULE 1 Slide Set 1: Reconstruction**

**US Party System**

* Started early 1970s in formation of Alex Hamilton’s Federalists and Thomas Jeffersons Democratic Republicans. Hamilton favored of large government while Jefferson favored smaller.
* During Andrew Jackson, Republican Democratic became democrats. Focus on small government till 1913. Shifted to big government during Woodrow Wilson.
* Before then several parties appeared to have big government slot. Federalists fell in 1810. Whigs occupied the slot in 1830s but fell in the mid 1850s over slavery.
* The fall of the Whigs caused for the rise of the Republicans. Began in 1854 in the upper Midwest with the first candidate being John C Fremont in 1856. Favored in the North but no votes in the south which allowed Buchanan to win. Republicans opposed the spread of slavery and favored high tariffs to encourage industrialization opposed by the south.
* Election of Lincoln in 1860 w/o southern states led to south succeeding from the union creating the confederate states of America. Lincoln suppressed them which led to the civil war.
* Post ware republicans support big business and currency on the gold standard.

**Effects of the Civil war**

* War claimed 620k to 750k lives. Southern cities laid in ashes. Reconstructing the south was a huge challenge.
* Abolition of slavery ended a lifestyle that had been around for 250 years. 4 million people now free.
* The war increased the size of the fed govt. 1860 budget was 78 mil, 5 years went to 1.3 bil. In 1867 with war expenditures diminished, budget was still at 377 mil.
* Industrialization cont till 20th century 1900, US was world leader.
* 1860 to 1900 output went from 2 bil to 13 bil

**Debates of Reconstruction**

* Union believed it was best to reinstate south quickly. Offsetting them were the moderated were radical republicans such as Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Summer. Believed reconstruction should progress slowly. Argued former slaves should be granted citizenship and fed govt obligated rights of former slaves.
* 3rd group of conservatives, like the moderates, agreed emancipated slaves should be granted “nothing but freedom” but they should not be full citizens.
* 4th group was former slaves led by Fredrick Douglas. Couldn’t wait for the politicians to decide. After the war they immediately claimed their liberty by claiming land and education.

**Presidential vs Congressional Reconstruction**

* Lincon 10 percent plan in Dec 1863 which incl a lenient offer to confederates who would be allegiant and accept slavery abolition which set a low bar for establishing state government if 10 percent of the population pledged its loyalty, a new government could be made.
* Congress wanted harsher peace with Wade Davis bill in 1864 50% vs 10% loyalty for a new government.
* Lincoln killed the bill with a pocket veto called Wade Davis Manifesto.

**Presidential Reconstruction under Johnson**

* Johnson continued after Lincoln by initially speaking harshly about how he would treat the southern traitors causing radials to believe they were on their side.
* Johnson offered a plan on May 29 1865 to southern citizens promising political immunity and return confiscated property.
* He completed this without congress in session that summer but in Dec he declared reconstruction over. Republicans were angry he did this without Congress or republican leaders.
* In order for Confederate states to reinstate they needed to rebuke succession, including debts, and ratify 13th amendment.
* He envisioned setting up new govts in the south without black men. He pardoned ex confederates from his amnesty offer which created planters to gravel for pardons as well. Johnson despised black equality and wanted to keep white supremacy in the south was to reestablish former leaders.
* Conservatives liked this plan but Republicans and moderates we angry as this idea grew in the south.

**Southern States Respond Defiantly**

* Ex Confederates won state elections and segregation spread throughout the south causing Riots and deaths of hundreds of African Americans.
* States hesitated to ratify the 13th amendment but others found ways to twist it to their advantage.
* As the amendment stated that labor was permitted as a form of punishment, the southern states created laws after emancipation known as the Black Codes.
* These codes restricted rights to own property, conduct business, deal with land and move freely in public spaces. Codes still used pre-slave terminology.
* Central element was vagrancy laws which was classifies as not working as criminal behavior. Failure to pay a tax could be construed as vagrancy. 9 states updated their laws in 1865-1866. 8 of which allowed convict leasing which hired out convicts for labor and 5 others used for public projects.

**Congress and Johnson Square Off**

* Northerners worries the Civil war was fought in vain. They refused to admit the new representatives of the ex confederate states. They gathered evidence about the violence in the south. They created the Joint Committee on Reconstruction that was majority moderates. They Passed the Civil Rights Bill and extended the Freedmen’s Bureau.
* 14th Amendment:
  + Section 1. All persons born or  
    naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are  
    citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall  
    make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of  
    citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life,  
    liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within  
    its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”
* Johnson fought back and vetoes the bills but was overridden. Republicans swept the 1866 elections and assumed greater power after. Johnson was stubborn and urges southern states not to ratify the amendment.
* Congress passed 1st and 2nd Reconstruction Acts which divided the Confederacy into 5 miliary districts. They mandates new constitutions in those states and could not be readmitted without Ratification of the 14th amendment.

**Andrew Johnson Impeachment**

* Confrontation with Congress called for radical republican to call for impeachment in 1868 when Johnson removed Secretary of War Edwin M Staton under the Tenure of Office Act without approval. 126 – 47 vote in the house.
* Johnson lawyers fought the impeachment and senate failed to convict by a single vote. Supreme court later ruled the Tenure of Office Act unconstitutional.
* Reconstruction continued in the south leading to 735k black voters and 635k white were enrolled. Black majority in 5/10 states. New state constitutions written, seven states ratified the 14th amendment in 1868. By 1870 all former confederate states were readmitted.

**Election of 1868 and Southern Redemption**

* Election and ratification of 15th amendment seemed to by the end of reconstruction. Election was violent and caused creation of Ku Klux Klan to intimate voters. Grant won and republics controlled congress.
* In 1870 the final 3 states reconstructed and 15th amendment became law. In 1872, reconstruction was dismantled by Reconstruction Counterrevolution. Federal government commitment to uphold democracy in the south waivered. Southerners of white supremacy regained power by violent means.
* Historians state this was due to Grants admin became embroiled in a series of scandals of civil rights in the south, causing grant to focus on damage control. Second reason was due to Reconstructions crash of the economy in the Panic of 1873. Last for 5 years causing 25% unemployment and collapse of many businesses. Northern legislators found it hard to justify spending money and help the south. Third, commitment to reconstruction was weakened by critics who said federal govt had done enough it was time for the freeman to take advantage of it. Lastly was the propaganda spread by the south.
* Authors and politicians began to speak on horrors to the southern white people by African Americans that led to the idea that giving the right to vote to former slaves would be a failure and would lead to corruption.
* Portrays carpetbaggers, white northerners that moved to the south and scalawags, white southerners that turned against neighbors. Applauded efforts of the KKK and groups to liberate south from republic rule.

**Reality of Reconstruction**

* Black politicians never dominated southern politics, although black voters had majority of republican votes, white politicians dominated the party. Only South Carolina, black politicians held a high number of govt positions.
* Two factors hindered Republican efforts in the south, party had no roots in white voters and party attempted to unite groups with no common ground. Democrats used this to redeem southern govts.
* Continued to face terrorist opposition from KKK which convictions of them were rare.

**Election of 1872**

* Realignment of the parties and republican party split. Republican regulars renominated Grant. Grant won.
* Republicans lost ground after election primarily due to the Panic of 1873.
* Democrats won majority in House of Rep. in 1875, Republicans only had 4 southern states

**Mississippi Plan**

* The Mississippi Plan of 1875 was by the Demo party to overthrow the Republican party by threats or purchase of the Black vote to regain control in legislature and govt office.
* Was successful and later adopted by South Carolina.
* Vicksburg in 1874 White patrols stopped blacks from voting and succeeding in defeating Republican city officials in August. By Dec the party forced black sheriff Peter Crosby to flee to the state capital. Black rallied to save the sheriff but fled due to white forces.
* Grant sent troops in Jan for the sheriff however he was still shot by J.P Gilmer on June 7. He survived but never made a full recovery.
* Red shirts rose as military of Demo party instead of KKK and operated openly with political agenda.
* Mississippi plan was 2 part formula:
  + Step 1: persuade 10-15 percent of scalawags to vote demo. Attacks cause fear which convinced Carpetbaggers to switch parties or flee.
  + Step 2: intimidation of black population. Used economic coercion against black sharecroppers with little success. Redshirts used violence and intimidation at the polls. White paramilitary groups called rifle clubs, provoked riots at republican rallies to ensue conflicts.
  + Grant hesitated to act bc if he did he would be accused of bayonet rule.
  + Violence was unchecked and plan worked. Republican victory by 30000votes in 1874 was reversed to demo majority in 1875.

**Election of 1876: Hayes vs Tilden**

* 1876, Tilden won proving Demo was competitive once again following the civil war but electoral college was in question because 3 states sent 3 sets of electoral votes to congress. Tilden was short 1 electoral vote from the presidency.

**Compromise of 1877**

* Dispute did not end because some demo tried to filibuster in the senate. Result was the compromise of 1877 where demo agreed to Hayes election and he would withdraw all fed troops in the south bringing and end to republican reconstruction. Hayes said in a letter accepting the republican nomination, that he guarantees the states would guard civil rights and freedom in the south. G
* Guarantees went out the window. Compromise undid most achievements of reconstruction.

**End of Reconstruction**

* End of Reconstruction was followed by several decades of the south putting in policies of segregation known as Jim Crow. By 1900, most African Americans lived as poor sharecroppers and more than 60% lost the right to vote through the poll tax.
* African Americans still continued to struggle for civil rights knowing they had the constitution on their side. South lost the war but won the peace which lasted until the 1960s.