



RECONSTRUCTION

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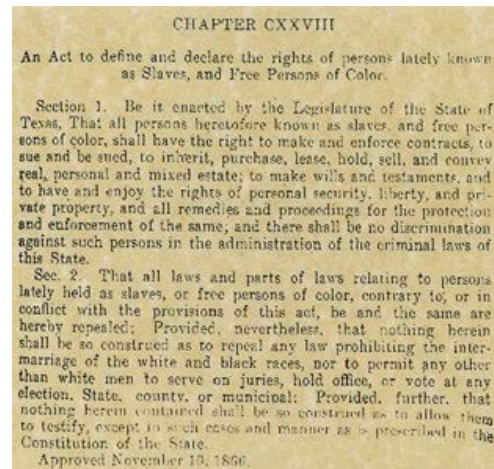
## Freedmen's Bureau

An agency established by congress in 1865 to help poor people in the south



## Black Codes

Laws passed in the southern states following the civil war that limited the freedom of newly freed slaves



## Impeachment

The process used by a legislative body to bring charges of wrongdoing against a public official



## Civil Rights

Basic rights every citizen has under the laws of government



# VOCABULARY

## **segregation**

The forced separation of people of different races in public



## **vigilante**

A member of a group of volunteers who are not police but decide on their own to stop crime and punish criminals



## **Carpetbagger**

A northerner who moved to the south after the civil war often for economic opportunities



## **Scalawag**

A white southerner who supported the federal plan of reconstruction



# THE EPIC FAILURE OF RECONSTRUCTION - CRASH COURSE #22

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## Key/Main Ideas:

- Lincoln wanted a reunion and reconciliation
- He was assassinated before this
- Johnson was appointed
- He was racist
- Wanted to form all white governments
- Fisk and Howard University were created to educate african americans
- Gave land back to original owners and then there was the sharecropping
- Republicans were not happy with the result of johnson's construction
- They passed the civil rights act
- Passed the 14th amendment
- 1876 reconstruction acts broke the south into 5 military districts
- Forced 10 southern states to reform
- Ulysses s grant was elected
- Guaranteed voting rights by passing the 15th amendment
- Over 2000 african americans served in the governments
- South was still passing laws to stop them
- KKK was formed
- In 1873 a depression hurt america
- Hayes wins close presidential election

## The Epic Failure of Reconstruction

After the end of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln wanted reunion and reconciliation but John Wilkes Booth assassinated Lincoln before he could implement this plan. His successor, Andrew Johnson, had different thoughts on putting the country back together. Johnson, a southerner who did not believe that African-Americans should be treated equally, also did not believe that the South had a right to secede in the first place and wanted to punish the South and the elite who caused the war.

## Johnson's Presidency

Johnson appointed provisional governors and called for state constitutions to form all white governments. The result looked a lot like the recently defeated Confederate governments.

Fisk and Howard Universities, as well as many secondary schools, were created to educate the newly freed men thanks to the work of the Freedmen's Bureau. The same group was to redistribute former Confederate land to recently freed slaves so they could support themselves but the new all white governments prevented this and gave the land right back to the former slave owners, setting the stage for **sharecropping** system. This was when landowners would give a house and farming supplies to a tenant farmer who, in return for all their work on the land, were given a share of their crops (usually 1/3-1/2 of it) creating a class of people (made of both poor blacks and whites) who were like the serfs of medieval Europe- tied to the land but unable to own it.

## Radical Republicans

Many Republicans were not happy with the result of Johnson's reconstruction measures and they worked together to improve conditions in the South. In 1867, they passed the Civil Rights Act that made equality for all the law. Johnson vetoed it but they overrode his veto with a vote of 2/3 of Congress. They then passed the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, defining citizenship and extending equal protection under the law. This passed because none of the Southern Democrats sent by the new all-white governments of the South could join Congress.

## Radical Reconstruction

1876 - Reconstruction Acts broke the South into 5 military districts that forced 10 of the southern states to reform their governments to include blacks and to ratify the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment. In 1867, Ulysses S Grant became president. The Republicans go further guaranteeing voting rights by passing the 15<sup>th</sup> amendment, which prevented denying the right to vote based on race. Over 2000 African Americans served in governments but when possible Southern states still passed laws making it difficult for blacks to vote. At the same time the Ku Klux Klan was formed. The Klan was a terrorist group who used violence to keep blacks from voting if they were able to meet the other strict voting requirements.

## Reconstruction Ends

In 1873, a depression hurt America's economy and this made northerners less interested in finishing Reconstruction since they are all struggling themselves. Republican Rutherford B. Hayes wins an insanely close presidential election and has to make "The Bargain of 1877" with southern Democrats to keep power. The "Bargain" gave the South back to Southern Dems and ends Reconstruction. Afterward the South created "Jim Crow" laws that legally segregate the races away from each other and prevents blacks from keeping any of the power they gained under the Reconstruction Acts.

## Summary:

Lincoln wanted a reunion but was killed. Johnson's presidency was bad. He was racist and it ended up leading into the KKK. After other things.



# 13TH, 14TH AND 15TH AMENDMENTS

## AMENDMENT XIII

### 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.

Basically, the 13th Amendment says...

Slavery will not be allowed or involuntary servitude except as a punishment. Congress will have power to enforce it

Basically, the 14th Amendment says...

Everyone born in the US are citizens of the US. no state can enforce any laws taking away privileges from any citizens.

## AMENDMENT XIV

### 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.

## AMENDMENT XV

### 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 the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Basically, the 15th Amendment says...

Everyone can vote no matter what the race.

# RECONSTRUCTION PLANS AND CONFLICT

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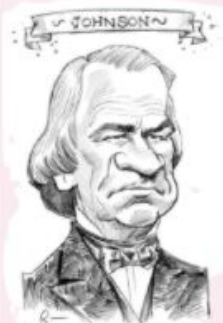
## Lincoln's 10% Plan

### Why?

Wanted a quick reunion

### What's the plan say?

- Offered a pardon to those who supported the rebellion
- To get back in they had to swear an oath
- And agree slavery was illegal
- Opposition came from wade davis bill
- 



## Johnson's Plan

### Why?

Because he was tennessean

### What's the plan say?

- State leaders had to revise their constitution
- The people elected the new state governments
- They had to agree secession was illegal
- Had to ratify the 13th amendment



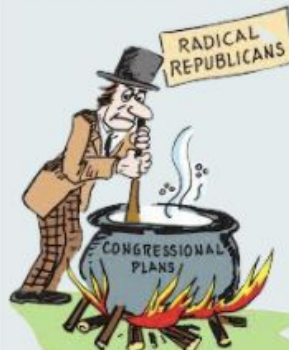
## Wade-Davis Bill

### Why?

Wanted the congress to let them back in

### What's the plan say?

- Congress felt they should readmit them
- states had to agree and even people had to swear oaths



## Radical Republican Plan

### Why?

They were at odds with the president

### What's the plan say?

- Outlined radical reconstruction
- Wanted harsher terms to the states coming back



# ANDREW JOHNSON'S IMPEACHMENT

As already stated, President Johnson and the Republican controlled Congress were often at odds. Johnson had vetoed what they considered to be important legislation, including the Freedmen's Bureau and the Civil Rights Act of 1866 (this one they overrode). Once the Congress passed the Reconstruction Act of 1867, the problem was its implementation. That was left up to Johnson's Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton. Stanton was a holdover Lincoln Cabinet member and Johnson wanted to replace him with someone more in his own "camp." Congress passed the Tenure of Office Act that basically said the President couldn't remove a member of the Cabinet since they had been approved by Congress (think that would fly today?!?!). Johnson, of course, ignored the law and fired Stanton thus violating the law. Articles of Impeachment were brought up in the House of Representatives and Johnson was put on trial in the Senate, where he escaped removal from office (conviction) by just ONE VOTE. The whole thing was purely a political move, and even Republicans understood that, but it was the first time an impeachment proceeding had ever taken place for the President. In the end, Johnson retained his office, but he had lost some power through it all. He did not run again in 1868.

**One Thing Leads to Another...** on the Post-It Notes below, trace the steps from the paragraph that led to Johnson's impeachment.

Johnson vetoed what they thought was important

Johnson replaced one of Lincoln's cabinet members

Johnson ignored the newly passed law and fired him

**Make Your Case...** the vote to not to convict was very close and while it may have been political in nature, there could be merits to both sides. Argue either for Johnson or for Congress below.

**In my opinion...**

I think that Johnson should have been impeached because if you just break a law like that you shouldn't be able to be in office. Also if he was impeached I think he should've just left office.

Went to congress and one the votes by one single vote

Johnson was impeached, but not removed from office.





# OPPORTUNITIES DURING RECONSTRUCTION (1865-1877)

## Key/Main Ideas:

- Republicans gained control of the process
- Offered more opportunities to african americans
- They were mainly elected because of the 15th amendment
- State governments became dominated by african americans because confederates couldn't vote
- They made laws that prohibited things like slavery
- Freedmen's bureau was created to protect african americans and give them supplies to live
- Carpetbaggers were northerners who went down to the south
- Scalawags were white southerners who opposed the revolt
- Scalawags were usually farmers
- Congress and state governments gave money to help rebuild
- Overtime discrimination will come back in the south

As Reconstruction moved from President Johnson to the Ulysses S. Grant years, Republicans gained control of the process. As a result, life offered more opportunities for African Americans than ever existed – past or present. Examples include people like **Hiram Revels** and **Blanche Bruce**, who together became Mississippi's representation in the Senate. They were elected to office mostly from support from the voting block created by the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Because many ex-Confederates could not vote in the Reconstruction South, state governments became dominated by the African American community. These governments passed laws prohibiting discrimination of the former slaves as well as approved programs to improve life for the newly freed community. In addition, Congress had set up the **Freedmen's Bureau** in 1865. The agency was set up before the Civil War had ended with a mission to help provide aid to African Americans in the form of food, housing and schooling. In addition, it offered legal assistance to former slaves who were trying to set up businesses or settle land disputes. The program was successful in the beginning years, but unfortunately was limited due to a shortage of funds and a lack of white support in the late years of Reconstruction.

White Americans also saw opportunities during Reconstruction. **Carpetbaggers** were northerners who came down South realizing that the white ruling class prior to the Civil War had lost a lot of its power. These people came for economic opportunities mostly. Another group, **Scalawags**, were white Southerners who had opposed the South during the Civil War and essentially became Southern Republicans (most of the South was Democratic). Scalawags had generally been from the farming class and voted against the planter class that had ruled the South. Both of these groups were hated by White Democrats - carpetbaggers because they were outsiders and scalawags who were considered traitors (to the South).

Congress and state governments also pumped in money to help build industry and infrastructures like roads and railroad lines to help rebuild a war-torn landscape and boost its trade.

In time, resentment and discrimination would overtake gains in the South, but at least for a while during Reconstruction, black Americans saw its greatest representation in government and economic opportunities.

## Summary:

Republicans and the government helped rebuild. People like carpetbaggers and scalawags came around. The freedmen's bureau was passed and it gave many african americans more rights and some even got government jobs.

# WILLIAM BROWNLOW AND THE TENNESSEE CONSTITUTION



**William G. Brownlow**

TN Governor (1865-1869)

TN Senator (1869-1875)

Find out more from TN  
History for Kids ([CLICK HERE](#))

Of the items listed, what sticks out as the most odd characteristic of William Brownlow?

Started as a preacher

What are three reasons Brownlow was so disliked as governor?

he was once a slaveholder. But when Civil War broke out, he became one of Tennessee's most vocal unionists.

Brownlow was sent to prison by the Confederate government. an election in which all men who had fought for the Confederacy were not allowed to vote. Largely because of this, Brownlow was hated

If he was so disliked, how was Brownlow re-elected as governor?

He was re-elected to that position in 1867 — an election in which all men who had fought for the Confederacy were not allowed to vote.

Which part of the 1870 TN Constitution was aimed at William Brownlow's unpopularity?

Him being a part of the confederacy And people being ministers couldn't

Which parts of the Constitution were taken out in the amended version in 1953 and 1977?

That ministers were not allowed to be part of the legislative

What were the five requirements to be able to vote in the 1870 Constitution?

Had to be over 21

No infamous crimes

As long as they payed their poll tax

Banned interracial marriage

And people being ministers couldn't

Which parts of the 1870 Constitution most likely gave rise to vigilante groups like the Ku Klux Klan? Why?

They can carry firearms if they are stopping crime

To see what the Constitution for TN says today ([CLICK HERE](#))



# RECONSTRUCTION'S END AND SUPPRESSION IN THE SOUTH

What are three reasons Reconstruction was going to end? These would be BEFORE the election of 1876?

Issues shifted over time.

An increasingly violent south.

National economic hardships

## Three Takeaways from the election of 1876

1. Rutherford B Hayes (rep) and Samuel Tilden (dem) ran for president
2. Samuel Tilden appeared to have one but it changed
3. Results in a number of states were challenged

Explain what the Compromise of 1877 was and what it meant for newly freed slaves in the South.

Hayes won the election and ended military occupation of the south. This got rid of most of African Americans' rights.

Explain the goals and practices of the KKK in the post-Civil War years.

They wanted to get all of the power back to the whites.

They lynched

They destroyed properties

Murder in the black community

The Klan started in Tennessee

The topic is "Suppression"

Dear diary,

The KKK was formed and they wanted to shift all of the power back to the whites. By doing so they killed many African Americans. They lynched many of them and intimidated whites too. The nation ended up going into the Jim Crow era and remained for a long time.

Christian Thompson