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APUSH

Period 4

11/06/2020

CH 15 Qs # 1, 2, 3, and DtP #1

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1. The Republicans were in control of both the Presidency and Congress, but the branches differed on how to proceed with the reconstruction of the South. Lincoln began drafting plans with his forgiving 10% Plan, giving statehood after 10% pledged allegiance to government. Lincoln hoped to entice Southerners with his lax policies to his own party, and to decrease animosity between the regions. However, Radicals advocated for punishment of the traitors. They wanted to take away their land and political rights. The Wade-Davis Bill, by radicals in Congress was much stricter, with forcing most voters to swear loyalty. Lincoln vetoed this plan initially but began to agree with some points. However, as President Johnson came into the picture, the radical plan passed, with Johnson requesting that CSU leaders personally request him for forgiveness. The Fourteenth was passed, but was heavily disliked by Andrew Johnson, who’s interference provoked Congress to impeach him1. The difference between ideologies didn’t hamper plans but signaled differences.

2. Reconstruction brought many economic and political changes. Directly after the war, the state of the south was pitiful, with violence rampant, and a controlling military presence, hated by white in the area2. Leaders like Henry Grady advocated for increased industry,

which, due to cheap labor and regulations, thrived. This class was unafraid to exploit the lower classes, with their “Convince-Lease” System creating modern slavery for prisoners. Despite these challenges, the Black Middle class grew, creating communities with teachers, lawyers, and doctors. The income of blacks grew immensely during this period but didn’t reach the rates of whites. Booker Washington was a strong advocate of letting African-Americans develop their societies and lives on their own, and gaining respect of whites. However, racism only manifested itself in a different form. Despite the government’s efforts at providing rights, courts stripped them away to allow Jim Crow laws, which disenfranchised and oppressed Blacks. The system resulting from Reconstruction was a marvel for the time and society, but the battle for equality didn’t end.

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3. After the abolition of slavery in the south, southerners still couldn’t see blacks as equals. The system of oppression began with sharecropping, which forced blacks and poor whites became tied to landlords, and after acquiring debt, were almost never able to leave the cycle of repayment, despite black soldiers fighting the war for their freedom3. The Freedman’s Bureau attempted to support the black community with education and supplies, but the wealth of black remained far below white. The Southern whites were united against Blacks, and with Plessy V Ferguson legalizing segregation, African Americans were set up to be second-class citizens for decades, setting up disenfranchisement. The political power of blacks decreased to almost none as their voting rights were stripped away. The Ku Klutz Klan grew in power as reconstruction ended, terrorizing Blacks and killing many. The segregation in the South reached was born anew after reconstruction, oppressing blacks politically, with segregation, and with violence.

1. Different interpretations of Reconstruction and its effect on Southern Society were almost immediately available. The first were from white historian William Dunning in 1907, who believed that the South was victim to Northern attacks and unwarranted brutality. He, along with other historians, argued that reconstruction was a Republican power plot, which was true, based on Lincolns original goals with the 10% Plan. This view might have roots in the “Lost Cause” movement popularized in the South at that time, which also demonized the North and its actions in destroying the South. Another idea also developed around the same time; the African-American Scholar Du Bois took almost a polar opposite view to Dunning. He believed that the northern brutality was greatly exaggerated, and that it was to create a more democratic society. However, from Bourbon Rule, who united whites against blacks, there was no visible goal to create a more democratic society, especially with mass disenfranchisement. As the civil rights movement in the 1960s progressed, historians began to see that Republicans had done their best to provide Blacks with Freedom and Rights, despite republicans backing out of reconstruction with the Compromise of 1877 as soon as their power in government was threatened. However, they did pass landmark reform for African Americans, such as the 13-15 Amendments and Civil Rights legislation. The most recent views claim that African Americans did the most to change society during Reconstruction, claiming wealth and political power as soon as they could to make a more equal society. However, as terrorist groups such as the Knights of the Golden Circle popularized hate against blacks and alienated them4, the power of African Americans began to stagnate and decline. Over the course of the last 150 years, the views on the effects and results of Reconstruction have changed dramatically, based on the views of race at the time.

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Sources:

#1, George William Curtis, [Should Andrew Johnson Be Impeached?](https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=1143), 1

#2, John H. Reagan, [Reconstruction in Texas](https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=3680), 1

#3, A black soldier, A Black Union Soldier Comments on Treatment by Southerners, 2

#4, Initiation Ceremony Knights of the Golden Circle , Intimidating Former Slaves, 3