Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

11/16/2020

CH 15 Test

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Reconstruction after the Civil War was one of the most important periods in American History. The north’s early plans for Reconstruction began before the end of war. The Radicals were in power and wanted to punish the South with their Wade-Davis Bill, setting up a long redemption of the South. These Radicals were insistent on their way, and were powerful enough to override presidential vetoes, showing they were going to shape the country for the next years. The first major actions after the end of was the passage of a similar plan, and the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. Congress solidified their positions on race and attempted to create a better world for the freedman, with these amendments guaranteeing citizenship, voting rights, and equality for all of them. They countered the actions of racist states in the South by passing Civil Rights’ legislation and continued to fight the racism. Despite their best effort, however, their opposition, was sided by the Supreme Court, which stripped down the amendments, ushering a new era of segregation. African Americans, despite still being considered second class citizens, used their voting rights to bring more representation in government. Their economic situation stayed dire, with a new system of sharecropping replacing slavery, and once again tying African Americans to their land. The overall conditions of African Americans did get better, with their income and share of wealth greatly increasing, especially as the south began to industrialize and slowly become more and more similar to the North. However, after the end of Reconstruction with the Compromise of 1877, laws restricting the franchise and violence against them grew, with Plessy V. Ferguson solidifying segregation and the idea that blacks would be forever second-class citizens. The Ku Klutz Klan and other white supremacists grew rampant at this time, leading to many lynchings and new levels of voter suppression. Reconstruction led to much change in the Union, especially in the lives of African Americans.

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