

Essay Questions for Essay #3

1. 'Johnson's real offence was his constant determination to thwart the will of Congress as expressed in the Reconstruction Acts.' How far does this explain his opponents' efforts to remove him from office?
2. Why were the gains made by the Freedmen during Reconstruction both superficial and shortlived?
3. How was it that the original high ideals of post-war Reconstruction ended with the 1877 Compromise?
4. Why did the South lose the Civil War?
5. How close did the Confederacy come to 'winning' the Civil War?
6. Examine the view that Lincoln's contribution to the Union victory in the Civil War has been greatly exaggerated.
7. 'From the outset it was quite clear that the Union would ultimately be victorious in the Civil War.' To what extent do you agree with this assessment?
8. 'Divided by Civil War, but united by the experience of Reconstruction.' Consider this verdict on white Southerners.
9. How far did Reconstruction advance the position of ex-slaves?
10. How far was the outcome of the Civil War determined by the policies of the European great powers?
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