



5.1.3 Journal: Reconciliation or Punishment?

Journal

U.S. History Sem 1 (S2792674)

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Points possible: 20

Date: _____

Pre-Writing

1. Complete the chart to compare the different Reconstruction plans. (6 points)

President Lincoln's Plan	President Johnson's Plan	Radical Plan
Lincoln wanted reconstruction to be fast and easy, and he did not seek to punish the south. He wanted to give general amnesty to everyone who would swear loyalty to the United States. He also wanted the states to form new governments which did not allow slavery.	Johnson wanted pardons to be granted to people who swore loyalty to the United States, unless their property was of too high of value. He also wanted the states to immediately end slavery and make slavery illegal before they could be readmitted, as well as repeal their secession ordinances before readmission.	The radical plan was more focused on punishing the south. Also, it wanted to give previous slaves much more rights. It wanted previous slaves to be able to vote. On top of this, this plan wanted to keep republicans in power in both the North and the South. Thus, this plan had more political concerns.

Writing Activity

2. Suggest your own ideas for Reconstruction, and explain why they are good ideas.

Make sure your paragraph has a thesis, supporting sentences, and a conclusion. Then, check to make sure that your subjects and verb tenses agree.

This assignment is worth 14 points.

Reconstruction is quite clearly a difficult issue, and one that could not be taken lightly. The fact is there wasn't a perfect way to do it. However, I have some ideas as to how I would have done it had the choice been mine. I probably would have done it in a similar way to how Lincoln and Johnson wanted to do it. I would most likely have done it by pardoning people from the South who swore loyalty to the United States, given reasonable restrictions on money. I would also have wanted the Southern states to end slavery and repeal their secession ordinances. However, on top of this, I would have wanted to give slaves more rights, such as the right to vote. However, this would have been difficult because it would have caused more conflict. Because reconstruction has the danger of causing more conflict, it is not an easy issue or one that can be taken lightly. As is seen here, reconstruction was a difficult issue.

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