



FCMUN VIII

At Mount Holyoke College

March 27th - March 29th

Welcome Letter:

Dear Delegates,

I am very excited to welcome you to the eighth year of FCMUN and to the Reconstruction Era United States committee! My name is Elisabeth Lee and I will be your Crisis Director for this committee. I am a freshman at Mount Holyoke College and from Edina, Minnesota. Though my major is undeclared I will likely be pursuing History and possibly either Geology or French.

I was involved in Model UN all through high school, and immediately joined Mount Holyoke's team this past fall and joined the Executive Board as Webmanager this semester. I have enjoyed being a part of this outstanding team immensely and I can't wait for my first FCMUN as well as the opportunity to run my first committee. Other than Model UN I am in a Bollywood dance group at MHC and I love reading, being outdoors and eating all types of food with friends and traveling.

I have always been interested in the fascinating time after the American Civil War. There was great promise for progressive change but due to a combination of Lincoln's assassination and differing political motives it ended quickly with few longstanding accomplishments. This paved the way for both the wealth inequality and corruption of the Gilded Age and the in-equal racial relations which would plague the United States for the next 80 years and continue to have effects today. I am very excited to see what you and your fellow delegates will try to accomplish and what direction you will steer the United States in.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and for this exciting committee! Don't hesitate to email me at lee35e@mtholyoke.edu if you have any questions.

Best,
Elisabeth Lee

Your wonderful chair for this committee is Ava Gurekian. Here's a short bio of her:

Ava is a senior at Mount Holyoke College double majoring in International Relations and French and minoring in Economics. She currently serves as President of Mount Holyoke College Model UN and before her reign as President, she served as Crisis Trainer and Webmanager for the organization. She has participated in more than a dozen conferences including PICSIM 2015 where she won Best Delegate and NYUMUNC 2014 where she won Outstanding Delegate. In her free time, she enjoys jazz music, long hikes, bike rides to nowhere, and IPAs.



History of the committee

This committee is primarily made up of Lincoln's cabinet, with additional members of Congress and leaders from the North and South. This is done in the hopes of allowing every perspective to be shown. The Democrats, Moderate Republicans and Radical Republicans had very different goals for Reconstruction, but for anything to be achieved you must work together and decide your course of action. The president will not be present for debate, but he may stop by to voice his concerns or try to steer the committee to his liking. Over the course of the weekend we will follow the events of reconstruction from April 14, 1865 until about 1870.

Background Information

The date is April 14, 1865. Less than a week ago the Confederate Army under General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House. This evening President Lincoln is attending the play *Our American Cousin* with his wife to distract himself from all of the work at hand to re-unify the nation. There are many questions which need to be answered with the readmission and reintegration of the southern United States and the status of freed blacks.

The causes of the Civil War began decades before and stem mostly from the vast differences between the North and South. During the growth of the United States in the early to mid 19th century the North and South developed differently. The South relied almost solely on large scale farming, which required the use of black slaves, whereas the North had a more diversified system with manufacturing, industry and small scale farms. The North also had an extensive transportation system of canals and railroads, while the South had less infrastructure.

During the constitutional convention in 1787 there was also great debate between states in the North and South about whether or not slavery should be allowed and also if slaves should be counted in the state population. The 3/5ths compromise settled this by counting each slave as 3/5ths of a "full" person as well as setting a 20 year deadline for the outlawing of the import of slaves.

The abolitionist movement began to take hold in the northern United States during the 1830s. Although the growth of the North was in part due to slavery they no longer relied upon it as the South did. Additionally during this time there was a religious revival with the Second Great Awakening which made some abolitionists use religious ideology to argue against slavery. Abolitionist newspapers such as the *Liberator* and writings and speeches by former slaves such as Frederick Douglass and Solomon Northrup also helped to sway public opinion.

Meanwhile in the South many people shifted from believing that slavery was a necessary evil to slavery being good and the will of God. They saw slavery as a way to Christianize slaves and keep them in control while also lifting them out of "barbarism".

During the 1800s as people began to settle the land gained from the Louisiana Purchase a debate began about whether or not slavery would be allowed in new territories and states. Abolitionists did not want to allow slavery in the new territories and wanted to abolish slavery in the United States altogether. Naturally the Southern states protested, and this became a cause of great debate. There were steps to come to agreements about this. The Missouri Compromise, also known as the Compromise of 1820, regulated slavery in the western territories, prohibiting slavery in any new states north of the Arkansas territory border, with the exception of Missouri. After Missouri was admitted as a slave state (with Maine as a free state) few states sought admittance and so there was no controversy. In 1836 Arkansas joined the Union as a slave state, but a year later Michigan joined as a free state, which kept it balanced.

After the Mexican-American War ended in 1848 the new territory once again led to tension over whether slavery would be allowed. Texas claimed territory all the way to the Rio Grande, while New Mexico resisted wanting to be its own state. Shortly after this the Gold Rush gave California a large enough population to become a state, and it wanted to be a free one. The Compromise of 1850 was the solution to it. California became a free state, while Texas gave up some land to New Mexico (a territory) in return for debt relief. It also banned slave trading, though not slavery, in Washington D.C. The Wilmot Proviso at this time would have outlawed slavery in the territories. The South prevented this from happening and instead the territories would have to use popular sovereignty to decide if slavery would be allowed. The one concession the North made to the South was the Fugitive Slave Law. This required officials in all states and territories (including those where slavery was illegal) to arrest anyone they suspected of being a freed slave. It included disallowing the accused slave from asking for a jury trial or testifying on their own behalf. More clauses were blatantly pro-slavery including citizens in a free state being required to assist in capturing or transporting an allegedly escaped slave. This caused much resentment among ordinary people in the North who were opposed to slavery and added to the tension between the North and South. Around the same time Harriet Beecher Stowe's book *Uncle Tom's Cabin* told of the horrors of slave life, shocking Northerners and outraging Southerners.

The next rise in tensions was due to the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. This created the territories of Nebraska and Kansas as well as allowing states to decide the fate of slavery through popular sovereignty. Northerners were also upset because the Missouri Compromise had closed Kansas to slavery and if it became a slave state it was a violation of this long held standard. Though this was an attempt to quell debate over the slave issue and put it in the people's hands it actually led to more problems. Supporters of both sides entered Kansas to try and influence the decision. Supporters of slavery from Missouri crossed the border just to vote in favor of it, while Abolitionists settled there to try to make it a slave state. The territorial governors were unable to maintain peace between these two groups and this conflict became known as "Bleeding Kansas". This marked the downfall of the Whig Party as those in the North and South fractured over the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The tensions over slavery had been causing a split for some time and the deaths of Henry Clay and Daniel Webster had weakened them. The Southern Whigs mostly vanished, but those in the North created the Republican Party. This party was strongly against the expansion of slavery.

Before the election of 1860 two events would add to the growing tension. The first was the Dredd Scott case in which a slave who had traveled to free territory with his master sued for his freedom. The Supreme Court ruled against him, declaring that blacks could not be American citizens whether or not they were free and that the federal government could not regulate slavery in territories. The second was John Brown who organized a raid against an armory in Harper's Ferry in Virginia with a group of slaves and abolitionist whites. He was executed and became a martyr and a symbol to the North but a despicable murderer to the South.

In November of 1860 Abraham Lincoln, a Republican, won the presidency. He ran on the platform of not allowing slavery in the territories and new states. Because of his position he did not win any state in the south and before his inauguration, in March of 1861, seven states in the South seceded to form the Confederate States of America. President Lincoln was firm that he would not allow the secession of any state from the Union, declaring it illegal. Though a conference to find a compromise was attempted, it failed and so both the North and South prepared for the inevitable war. In April of 1861 the Confederate army attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina and war began. After this 4 more states joined the Confederacy, for a total of eleven.

In the beginning Lincoln was very adamant that the sole purpose of the war was to preserve the union but in 1863 he freed the slaves in the South with the Emancipation Proclamation, seeing it as a political and military necessity. This changed the goal of the war from one to keep the Union together into one to abolish slavery and also allowed African Americans to enlist in the Union army. An important effect of it was stopping any European powers from aiding the South.

Over the course of the war Congress created the Homestead Act, offering free land to western settlers, as well as land grants which supported the construction of a transcontinental railroad. They also created a system of federally chartered banks and enacted the first income tax. The North also was very successful in blockading all ports in the South which stopped all imports and exports.

The war lasted for 4 years and was the costliest war fought on American soil. 620,000 of 2.4 million soldiers were killed and millions more injured and. The North has remained mostly untouched, while the South has been burned and devastated by battles. In Sherman's March to the Sea he burned everything in his path from Atlanta to the coast. The North had an advantage with a far greater population and more resources before the war and now after it the difference has become even more pronounced. The freeing of the slaves has also dismantled the main economic system and disrupted the politics of the Southern states. Now it is time to reunite the nation, rebuild the South, and forge a new future for the United States of America.



Characters

William Seward – Secretary of State

William Seward is the Secretary of State under President Lincoln. He has been involved in politics for many years as both a Senator from and Governor of New York. Seward is a strong supporter of abolition and prison and education reform. He ran for the presidency in 1860 as a Republican, but lost the nomination to Lincoln. Lincoln appointed him as Secretary State and they are close friends with great mutual respect. He strongly believes in preserving the Union and was successful during the war in preventing the Confederacy from gaining any foreign allies. Despite making strong remarks against slavery at times he is a moderate republican and is not allied with the radicals.

Edwin M. Stanton – Secretary of War

Edwin M. Stanton has served as secretary of war under Lincoln since 1862. He began his career as an attorney in Washington DC. President Buchanan appointed him as Attorney General in 1857. He became the legal advisor to Simon Cameron, Lincoln's secretary of war and when Cameron resigned a year later Stanton took over his position. Stanton is a Democrat and although he opposes slavery he has strongly defended the rights of slaveholders. He has been critical of Lincoln and is known for being outspoken and often disagreeing with the military commanders below him.

James Speed – Attorney General

James Speed became attorney general in December of 1864 when Edward Bates resigned. Previously he was a lawyer and antislavery politician in Louisville, Kentucky. He and Lincoln were both Whig party members which is how they became acquainted. When the Whigs dissolved they both joined the Republican Party, Speed favoring the Radical Republicans. He and his brother tried to keep Kentucky in the Union and he supported the majority of Lincoln's policies. In 1863 he came to Washington DC to be an advisor to the President and a year later he took over as Attorney General. Speed is a strong advocate for civil rights for blacks and a Radical Republican.

Montgomery Blair – Postmaster General

Montgomery Blair has been postmaster general under Lincoln since the beginning of his term. Before this he was an attorney in Missouri, and also served as mayor of St. Louis. During the 1840's he was a delegate to the Democratic national conventions but switched to the Free Soil Party and then, because of his anti-slavery views, to the Republican Party. In 1857 he represented Dred Scott, a slave who sued for his freedom. He wanted to be secretary of war in Lincoln's cabinet but he still worked hard as postmaster general, introducing money orders, creating standard postal rates for the South and trying to keep open the routes of Southern post offices that belonged in the Union. Blair is outspoken, conservative on the issue of slavery and has voiced his opposition to the Radical Republicans.



John P Usher – Secretary of the Interior

John P Usher succeeded Caleb Smith as Lincoln's Secretary of the Interior. He was a lawyer in Indiana before becoming Smith's assistant. He was primarily a Whig, but became a Republican and supported Lincoln. However he was also a supporter of racial segregation and indifferent to civil rights for blacks. When Smith resigned Lincoln was hesitant to replace him with Usher, as he was not impressed with his abilities, but he did follow through with it to maintain the support of the Indiana Republican Party. Usher was an opponent of the Radical Republicans but generally an unobtrusive secretary of the cabinet.

Gideon Welles – Secretary of the Navy

Gideon Welles is the Secretary of the Navy. He studied law but became an editor and partial owner of the newspaper The Hartford Times. This newspaper supported Andrew Jackson and Welles became an advisor for him. Early in his political care Welles belonged to the Democrat Party. Later he joined the Republican Party because of his opposition to slavery. He founded The Hartford Evening News in support of the Republican views and also held various small government positions in Connecticut. During the Mexican War he was chief of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing for the Navy. He and Lincoln met at the Republican National Convention in 1860 where Welles was head of the Connecticut delegation. Lincoln was impressed with him and their views were the same so he appointed him as Secretary of the Navy. Welles played an important role in the Civil War. His increase in the naval strength of the Union allowed for successful blockades of Southern ports. He was extremely effective and unwavering in his support for President Lincoln.

William P Fessenden – Secretary of the Treasury

William Fessenden is the previous Secretary of the Treasury under Lincoln, as he has returned to chairing of the Senate Finance Committee. Fessenden was a lawyer in Maine and an antislavery Whig. He served in Congress and was an important Radical Republican, strongly opposing the expansion of slavery. During the Civil War Fessenden served as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee where he oversaw many successful revenue policies. In this position he backed away from his earlier radicalism and his support of Lincoln against the Radical Republicans led to him becoming his Secretary of the Treasury. He is currently a leader of the moderate Republicans in the Senate.

Thaddeus Stevens – Representative of Pennsylvania

Thaddeus Stevens is a representative of Pennsylvania in the House and one of the leaders of the Radical Republicans. He began practicing law in Pennsylvania and in 1833 served one term in the state legislature. Stephens was in favor of public schools, internal improvements and outspoken against slavery. In 1849 he was elected to the House of Representatives as a Whig where he quickly became a leader. When the Republican Party was created Stephens became a member and abolition became his focus. He is a strong leader of the Radical Republicans and ardently opposes the Confederate states.



Charles Sumner – Senator of Massachusetts

Charles Sumner is another leader of the Radical Republicans and a senator from Massachusetts. He became a leader against anti-slavery and is committed to civil rights causes and school and prison reforms. He was a member of the Free-Soil party and outspoken against southern aggression. He joined the newly formed Republican Party when it was created to oppose slavery. In May 1856 he gave a speech against Southern attempts to extend slavery in Kansas, specifically attacking Andrew Butler, a Senator from South Carolina. After this speech Congressman Preston Brooks, Butler's cousin beat Sumner with a cane on the floor of the Senate. This took him 3 years to recover from and when he came back the war was close. He put pressure on Lincoln to free slaves and enlist them in the army. He is a determined senator and strongly believes in civil liberties for blacks.

Benjamin Wade – Senator of Ohio

Benjamin Wade is a leader of the Radical Republicans and a Senator from Ohio. He worked as a lawyer in Ohio before serving in the Ohio Senate, as a Whig, and as a judge. In 1851 he was elected to the US Senate where as a Republican he worked with Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner. With Henry Davis he sponsored the Wade-Davis Bill which put provisional governors in place in Southern states until the end of the war and required half of white male citizens to take a loyalty oath in order for civil government to be re-established. This bill passed, but Lincoln vetoed it on the grounds of wishing to not be forced to follow one system for reconstruction. Wade is extremely radical, supporting women's suffrage, equal civil rights for blacks and trade unions. He wants plantations to be seized and divided among former slaves and is a strong member of the Radical Republicans.

Horace Greeley – Editor of New York Tribune

Horace Greeley is the Editor of The New York Tribune, a Radical Republican newspaper. As a young man he became involved in multiple publications in New York City. With Thurlow Weed and William Seward he championed political reforms. The New York Tribune, established in 1841, was an early "penny daily" which was popular at the time. He also published a weekly national edition which avoided sensationalism and had features like book reviews, placing it above its competitors. The Tribune had primarily Whig opinions and opposed wealth inequality and monopolies while supporting the Bank of the US and federally funded internal improvements. Greeley was also a supporter of women's rights and temperance and was interested in utopianism. While he supported abolition he was against the tactics used by abolitionists. While Greeley was interested in radical ideologies, he also supported Lincoln and the war, though he was disappointed by Lincoln's slow emancipation of slavery. Greeley is more of a moderate Republican than a Radical politically and he has the power of his well reputed newspaper with which he can sway popular opinion.



Henry Jarvis Raymond – Editor of New York Times

Henry Jarvis Raymond is the editor of the New York Times, and a politician and founder of the Republican Party. Raymond began his work in newspapers under Horace Greeley at the New Yorker and later at the New York Tribune. With George Jones he founded the New York Daily Times (which was renamed The New York Times 6 years later) in 1851. This paper differentiated from its peers as it had little overly emotional writing or extreme personalities which were common at this time. Although Raymond and Greeley worked together they were incompatible politically and became enemies when Raymond was chosen for the Whig ticket for governor of New York instead of Greeley. When the Republican Party was forming Raymond wrote a statement of their principles and prepared much of President Lincoln's platform while chairing the Republican National Committee. Raymond was also elected to the House of Representatives in 1865. He is a strong supporter of Lincoln and like Greeley has his newspaper as a voice to the people.

Thomas E. Bramlette – Governor of Kentucky

Thomas Bramlette is the district attorney and governor of Kentucky during the Civil War. He was a lawyer in Kentucky for many years, serving in various different positions. He became a colonel in the Union Army and raised and commanded the 3rd Kentucky Infantry in 1861, a violation of Kentucky's neutrality. He resigned a year later to become District Attorney for Kentucky. In this position he strongly enforced laws against Confederate sympathizers and Confederates. In 1863 he became governor of Kentucky. Although Bramlette was previously a strong supporter of the Union he was against Lincoln's suspension of the writ of habeas corpus and General Burbridge's decision to enlist blacks from Kentucky in military service. Bramlette is a Democrat and although he has disagreed with many of Lincoln's administrations decisions he still respects him.

Challenges and Topics

Readmission of Southern States

The criteria of readmitting the seceded states needs to be determined. People are divided over whether the Southern states should be readmitted automatically or if there should be criteria and requirements. And in the case of the latter these requirements also must be decided. Additionally, when admitted will the states have all the same rights as they did previously and as those in the North? Will they achieve them immediately? There are many who, while in favor of readmitting the states would like the South to face consequences for its actions. Others however would rather move on and work on rebuilding the South and the Union. It is up to the committee to find a way to re-unify our nation after this period of bloody conflict and division.



Southern Leaders

In tandem with the topic of readmitting the Southern states the Confederate leaders also need to be dealt with. Many would like them to be tried for treason while others would like to pardon them and move on. There also need to be elections to elect southern representatives to Congress and new state governments. It is possible that should the same leaders be allowed back into power they could once again incite rebellion or inspire uprisings. This committee shall need to decide how to prevent this from happening and what to do should any such uprisings occur.

Rebellion

The possibility of further rebellion and uprisings is very real. The Union has won the war but with great cost on both sides and many in the South still believe that slavery is the true way of life. The reforms which will be put in place should be long lasting and for that to be possible there must be strict adherence and therefore some level of support in the South. In order for this to be achieved this committee must be mindful of both the views of many Southerners and also what the South has gone through during the war. If the reforms may be achieved peacefully that would be the best option, but it is likely that the South will not take these changes easily.

Rebuilding the South

Nearly all the battles of the Civil War took place in the South and this has devastated both their land and population. Now it must be decided how the South will be rebuilt, who will lead it and at what expense. While some argue that the Southern governments should be in charge of it themselves, until the South is more stable the national government will likely lead it; though whether that will be Congress, the president or even this committee is up for debate.

The southern economy is mostly based on agriculture, but with the freeing of slaves the plantation system will have to change. Currently eighty percent of the Southern population work on farms and only ten percent live in urban areas. Even before the war the South was much less developed than the North, with only 35% of railways existing there and a general lack of transportation ability. This could be an opportunity to modernize and industrialize as the South is re-built.

With re-building the South the distribution of land also needs to be considered. Whether or not land should be restored to the former owners, especially in the case of the leaders of the Confederacy, has not been determined. Setting aside land specifically for former slaves may also be a necessity. General Sherman issued Field Order 15 earlier this year which set aside confiscated plantation land along the coast of Georgia and South Carolina to be given to black families in 40 acre portions for farming. This land is being settled now and this could be a model for possible further legislation regarding this topic.

The reconstruction of the South is one of the most important as well as most varied topic which this committee with consider. The stability of this large and essential region is at stake as well as a strong future for the country as a whole.

Freed Slaves

With the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln changed the future of the Southern states in the case of a Union victory. By further dismantling slavery with the 13th amendment he plunged the future of the South into disorder. In order to prosper, the Southern states must accept the illegality of slavery and adapt their agricultural system and society thusly. The fate of 4 million blacks in the South is uncertain, but with the correct legislation and implementation their future may be secured. Without firm action by the government however the South could easily fall back into a system similar to before the war.

The rights to be gained by blacks must also be determined. President Lincoln has not firmly expressed his views, though he has hinted that some blacks, such as those who served in the military could earn the right to vote. There are only 1.5 million more whites than blacks in the south and if black males earn the vote this will have a huge impact on Southern governments. There are also many in the south who would oppose blacks voting because it might not be to their party's advantage or because of their opinions of blacks as subordinate.

Parliamentary Procedures

This committee will run on regular parliamentary procedure but likely will be almost exclusively moderated caucuses with a default speaking time of one minute.

Directives:

The committee will pass directives by simple majority throughout the entirety of the conference. They can be a variety of actions including diplomatic missions, military movements, laws and economic policies. These directives will confront the basic issues which we are working to solve as well as responding to crises.

Notes:

Notes may be sent within the committee to any of the members as well as to the Crisis Room and chair. Other than during an unmoderated caucus notes are how delegates will communicate and work with one another. Notes to the chair can be for asking clarifying questions or commentary on how the committee could possibly be improved. Notes to Crisis can be used for personal action and use of portfolio powers as well as communicating with anyone outside of the committee.

RESOURCES

<http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/reconstruction>

<http://www.ushistory.org/us/35.asp>

<http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/civil-war-overview/northandsouth.html>

