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### Who Killed Reconstruction?

For twelve years following the Civil War, Northerners and Southerners alike endeavored to reconstruct the South. This Reconstruction was supported by groups such as the Radical Republicans, who passed bills that would increase the rights of those who were formerly enslaved. Some Northerners, who became known as carpetbaggers, went south to help Reconstruction, occupying important roles in the Southern government and judiciary system. A series of amendments were passed that gave African-Americans citizenship, civil rights, and opportunities for education. Although Reconstruction seemed to have the potential to succeed, it came to an end. Who killed Reconstruction? The North was primarily responsible for contributing to the end of Reconstruction. The North contributed to the end of the effort with its general apathy and lack of persistent support for Southern issues, and with its support of the commonly held belief that former slaves were not fit to be politicians.

Reconstruction was greatly hindered by the North's lack of focus on Reconstruction and its unwillingness to take action against the Ku Klux Klan's attacks on legislatures. Many Northern carpetbaggers, fearful for their lives, were unwilling to continue helping Reconstruction. This lack of support slowed Reconstruction and caused the public to become apathetic to Southern issues. In addition, Northerners were preoccupied with the numerous scandals and frauds that plagued Grant's administration. These scandals led many Northerners to become less concerned with Reconstruction efforts, and to focus their attention on the problems in their own government. When President Hayes withdrew all Federal soldiers from the South in

1877, he ensured the end of Reconstruction in the South and a return to slavery. Ultimately, the responsibility for the end of Reconstruction lies on the Northerners' apathy and inability to effectively enforce their laws in the South.