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Civil War and Reconstruction

The Civil War was an internal conflict brothers versus brothers the bloodshed that was caused was unspeakable. After the war it left people to rebuild and start over starting the Reconstruction era. The Civil war ended on April 9, 1865 with a lot of heavy damage needed to be rebuilt. The aftermath was land that was ruined and is destroyed that needs to be rebuilt. The reconstruction starts with Lincoln wanting to bring the nation back together into one whole. Lincoln made the south take a pledge to be loyal and remitted to the union. Part of the reconstruction plan was having the South accept the ban on slavery. With slavery being banned all slaves were now free with the 13th Amendment making slavery illegal forever in the U.S. Towns were still needed to be rebuilt with the Freedmen’s Bureau coming in to place building schools in the South to help the blacks and whites. A change was made with the addition of slavery being gone that ex slaves could go to school, but most of them didn’t know how to read or write. The ex slaves could not be educated during the Civil War because laws were enforced against educating slaves. The reconstruction was coming along just well until President Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth making Andrew Johnson a vice president now the president. Things started to take a turn for the worse when The Black Codes were initiated. The Black Codes were laws passed by Southern states limiting African Americans freedom. African Americans in the Black Codes were forced to work on farms or as servants. They were prevented from owning guns along with not being able to hold public meetings and renting property in the cities. In addition to the Black Codes along with various other horrible acts the war still continued internally. Other acts and laws were passed like laws to prevent blacks from voting with the government also creating the “Grandfather Clause.” Now the Grandfather Clause stated that a person could only vote if their grandfather had voted if not you could not vote. There was an upside to this with a group calling themselves the “Radical Republicans” hating on the Black Codes feeling if the South is trying to return to their old ways and wanted the South to change more than before. The 14th Amendment was created along with Impeachment. Impeachment was the process of charging a public official with a crime. Now there were many problems already, but to add to another one there was the Ku Klux Klan. The Ku Klux Klan was a group of white southerners that were a secret society opposed to African Americans, the right to vote and obtaining civil rights. The KKK killed thousands of people and had fun while doing it. Overall other than slaves being freed the reconstruction was a failure and left a bad impact of our land.