

Chapter 15 Notes

Matthew Stringer
60766177

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1 Presidential Leadership and Reconstruction

1.1 Lincoln's Policies (1863-1865)

1.1.1 Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction

1. Lincoln set up a process for political reconstruction
2. Lincoln gave presidential pardons to Confederates that:
 - (a) took an oath of allegiance to the Union
 - (b) accepted the emancipation of slaves.
3. A state could be considered legitimate if at least 10% of the voters took the loyalty oath.
4. This required states to rewrite their constitution in order to eliminate slavery.

1.1.2 Wade-Davis Bill

1. Many Republicans objected to Lincoln's 10% plan
2. The Wade-Davis Bill required 50% of voters to take a loyalty oath and only non-Confederates to vote for a new constitution.
3. Lincoln pocket-vetoed the bill.

1.1.3 Freedmen's Bureau

1. Congress created a new agency, the Freedmen's Bureau
2. Acted as an early welfare agency, providing food, shelter, and medical aid for those made destitute by the Civil War.
3. Created 3,000 schools for freed blacks including colleges.
4. Taught 200,000 African Americans how to read.

1.1.4 Lincoln's Last Speech

1. Lincoln encouraged Northerners to accept Louisiana as a state.
2. Lincoln's suggested that he had become more progressive
3. Hope for lasting reform was devastated after Lincoln's Assassination.

1.2 Andrew Johnson and Reconstruction (1865-1868)

1. Johnson was the only Confederate from Tennessee that was loyal to the Union
2. Republicans picked him to Lincoln's running mate in 1864 in order to encourage pro-Union to vote for the Republican Party.

3. Johnson became the wrong person for the job due to his white supremacy and was bound to clash with Republicans in Congress.

1.2.1 Johnson's Reconstruction Policy

1. Johnson issued his own Reconstruction proclamation that was similar to Lincoln's 10% plan.
2. It provided for the disfranchisement (loss of the right to vote and hold office) of
 - (a) All former leaders and officeholders of the Confederacy
 - (b) Confederates with more than \$20,000 in taxable property.
3. Johnson still retained the power to pardon to "disloyal" Southerners.
4. This was an escape clause for wealthy planters which was used frequently.

1.2.2 Southern Governments of 1865

1. After 8 months, 11 of ex-Confederate states qualified under the Reconstruction plan to become parts of the Union.
2. None of the new constitutions extended voting rights to blacks.
3. Former leaders of the Confederacy won seats in Congress.

1.2.3 Black Codes

1. Southern state legislatures adopted Black Codes that restricted the rights and movements of the former slaves.
2. Codes
 - (a) prohibited blacks from either renting land or borrowing money to buy land
 - (b) placed freedmen into a form of semibondage by forcing, as "vagrants" and "apprentices" to sign work contracts
 - (c) prohibited blacks from testify against whites in court.
3. The contract-labor system seemed little different from slavery.
4. Northern Republicans in Congress refused to seat duly elected representatives and senators from ex-Confederate states.

1.2.4 Johnson's Vetoes

1. Johnson vetoed a bill increasing the services and protection offered by Freedmen's Bureau
2. He also vetoed a bill that nullified the Black Codes and guaranteed full citizenship to African Americans
3. This alienated even moderate Republicans

2 Congressional Reconstruction

1. Angry response by members of Congress led to the second round of Reconstruction.
2. Featured policies that were
 - (a) harsh on Southern whites
 - (b) more protective of freed African Americans

2.1 Radical Republicans

1. Republicans were divided between
 - (a) moderates (were chiefly concerned with economic gains for white middle class)
 - (b) radicals (championed civil rights for blacks)
2. More Republicans became radical in fear that the Democratic party might become dominant again
3. Since the federal census counted all people equally, the South would have more representatives in Congress
4. Charles Sumner of Massachusetts was the leading Radical Republican (who got cane by Brooks)
5. Radical Republicans endorsed several liberal causes including
 - (a) women's suffrage
 - (b) rights for labor unions
 - (c) civil rights for Northern African Americans