

# Chapter 15 Notes

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September 17, 2018

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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) harsher 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

#### 2.1.1 Civil Rights Act of 1866

1. First, congressional Reconstruction worked to override Johnson's vetoes of the Freedmen's Bureau Act and the first Civil Rights Act.
2. This Civil Rights Act stated that all African Americans are U.S. citizens
3. It also attempted to provide a legal shield against Black Codes
4. Republicans looked for a permanent solution by adding the Fourteenth Amendment.
5. The Fourteenth Amendment
  - (a) declared that all persons born or naturalized in the U.S. were citizens
  - (b) obligated the states to respect the rights of U.S. citizens and provide them with "equal protection of the laws" and "due process of law" (clauses full of meaning for future generations)
  - (c) disqualified former Confederate political leaders from holding either state or federal offices
  - (d) repudiated the debts of the defeated governments of the Confederacy
  - (e) penalized a state if it kept any eligible(*what counts as eligible?*) person from voting by reducing that state's proportional representation in Congress and the electoral college

### **2.1.2 The Election of 1866**

1. Johnson took to the road in order to attack his opponents
2. Johnson said that equal rights for blacks would result in "Africanized" society
3. Republicans called Johnson a drunkard and a traitor
4. They also campaigned using the "waving the bloody shirt" where they inflamed the anger of Northerners by reminding them of the war
5. Republicans said that Southerners were Democrats and branded them as a party of rebellion and treason.
6. Republicans won the election and had a majority in the House and Senate.

### **2.1.3 Reconstruction Acts of 1867**

1. Congress passed 3 Reconstruction acts in 1867
2. These put the South under military occupation
3. They divided the states into 5 military districts, each under control by the Union
4. These acts also required that a state must ratify the 14th Amendment and place guarantees in its constitution for granting the right to vote to all adult males

## **2.2 Impeachment of Andrew Johnson**

1. Congress passed the Tenure of Office Act which may have been unconstitutional
2. It prohibited the president from removing a federal official or military commander without approval of the Senate
3. This was meant to protect Radical Republicans in the cabinet, like Secretary of War Edwin Stanton
4. Johnson challenged the new law by dismissing Stanton on his own authority
5. The House charged him with impeachment, making Johnson the first president to be impeached
6. After a 3 month trial, Johnson was not removed from office

## **2.3 Reforms After Grant's Election**

### **2.3.1 The Election of 1868**

1. Republicans turned to a war hero General Ulysses S. Grant
2. Grant had no political experience
3. He only won 300,000 more popular votes than his opponent
4. He was only able to win because 500,000 blacks voted for him

### 2.3.2 Fifteenth Amendment

1. Republican majorities in Congress in 1869 created an amendment to protect African Americans
2. The 15th Amendment prohibited any state from denying or abridging a citizen's right to vote "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude"
3. The amendment was ratified in 1870

### 2.3.3 Civil Rights Act of 1875

1. This was the final civil rights reform
2. It guaranteed equal accommodations in public places (hotels, railroads, and theaters) and prohibited courts from excluding African Americans from juries
3. These were poorly enforced because Republicans were frustrated trying to reform an unwilling South
4. They also feared losing white votes in the North

## 3 Reconstruction in the South

1. Republican party in the South dominated governments in ex-Confederate states
2. Once Republicans felt that they were satisfied, troops were withdrawn
3. In Tennessee troops stayed for less than a year
4. In Florida troops stayed for nine years

### 3.1 Composition of the Reconstruction Governments

1. In every Republican state government in the South except one, whites were the majority in both houses of legislature
2. In South Carolina, freedmen controlled the lower house in 1873

#### 3.1.1 "Scalawags" and "Carpetbaggers"

1. Southern Republicans were called "Scalawags"
2. Northern newcomers were "Carpetbaggers"
3. Northerners migrated South after the war because they
  - (a) were interested investors
  - (b) were ministers and teachers with humanitarian goals
  - (c) wanted to plunder

### 3.1.2 African American Legislators

1. African Americans who held elective office were educated property holders who were predominantly moderate
2. Republicans in the South sent two African Americans to the Senate
3. They also sent a dozen African Americans to the House of Representatives
4. This caused a bitter resentment among ex-Confederates

## 3.2 Evaluating the Republican Record

### 3.2.1 Accomplishments

1. Liberalized state constitutions in the South
  - (a) Universal male suffrage
  - (b) Property rights for women
  - (c) Debt relief
  - (d) Modern penal codes
2. Promoted building of
  - (a) roads
  - (b) railroads
  - (c) other internal improvements
3. Established state institutions such as
  - (a) hospitals
  - (b) asylums
  - (c) homes for the disabled
  - (d) public school systems in the South

### 3.2.2 Failures

1. Depicted as wasteful and corrupt
2. Republican politicians took advantage of their power to take kickbacks
3. Corruption occurred throughout the country
4. No party was immune



### 3.3 African Americans Adjusting to Freedom

#### 3.3.1 Building Black Communities

1. Ex-slaves viewed emancipation as an opportunity for achieving independence from white control
2. African Americans founded hundreds of churches after the war
3. Ministers emerged as leaders in African American communities
4. African Americans use scarce resources to establish independent schools for their children
5. They paid educated African Americans to become their teachers
6. Black Colleges were established to prepare African American ministers and teachers

#### 3.3.2 Sharecropping

1. Landowners tried to convince African Americans to sign a document that forced unrestricted labor
2. This was slavery except by a different name
3. When African Americans insisted on autonomy, white landowners began sharecropping
4. With sharecropping, the landlord provided the tools and land in return for usually half of the crops
5. By 1880, no more than 5% of Southern African

## 4 The North During Reconstruction

### 4.1 Greed and Corruption

#### 4.1.1 Rise of Spoilsmen

1. In the 1870's, leadership of the Republican party passed from reformers to political manipulators
2. These gave jobs and government favors (spoils) to their supporters

#### 4.1.2 The Compromise of 1877

1. Leaders of the 2 parties agreed that
  - (a) Democrats would allow Hayes to become president
  - (b) He would end federal support for the Republicans in the South
  - (c) Support the building of a Southern transcontinental railroad
2. Hayes promptly withdrew the last of the federal troops protecting African Americans

3. The Supreme Court struck down many Reconstruction laws that protected blacks from discrimination
4. Most Southern African Americans and whites in the decades after the Civil War remained poor farmers