Presidential Reconstruction

* Johnson, in an attempt to unify the country, would pardon all southerners who would take an oath of allegiance
* Gave Southern governments more control on conducting state affairs
* Appeared to many that Johnson favored the south; Some Republicans in Congress turn against him.

Black Codes

* Laws that were passed in the south to restrict the lives of freedmen and women. Codes varies by state.
* These laws further enraged Congress against Johnson
* Examples
  + Could not testify against whites in court
  + Could not serve on juries or in state militias
  + Could not vote
  + Forced into signing sharecropping agreements
  + Banned ownership of land

Radical Reconstruction

* Johnson’s reconstruction plan radicalized Republicans in Congress led by Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner
* These legislators viewed reconstruction as an opportunity to institutionalize the idea of equal rights
* Powers of federal government were expanded to protect rights of all citizens.

New Legislation Passed

* Thirteenth Amendment (Ratified December 1865): ended slavery
* Civil Rights act of 1877, Johnson Vetoed law but Congress overrides the veto by a 2/3 majority vote
* Fourteenth amendment (Ratified July 1868): Provided equal citizenship rights for people born in the US and naturalized immigrants.

Struggle between President and Congress

* March 1867: Congress passed Reconstruction Act which divided south into military districts, called for new state governments and black suffrage
* Johnson opposed act and fourteenth amendment
* Congress restricted Johnson powers through Tenure of Office Act. Johnson was ultimately impeached by the House but not convicted by the Senate,