

Reconstruction

Assassination to The Compromise of 1877

Lincoln's Reconstruction Plan

- December 1863
- Also called the Ten-Percent Plan
- As soon as 10-percent of those who had voted in 1860 took this oath of allegiance, a Confederate state could form a new state government AND
- Send representatives and senators to Congress.

Four states quickly moved towards readmission under Lincoln's Plan:

- Arkansas
- Louisiana
- Tennessee
- Virginia

Lincoln's Freedman's Bureau

The Freedmen's Bureau was created in 1865 during the Lincoln administration

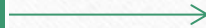
Act of Congress called the Freedman's Bureau Bill.

It was passed on March 3, 1865, in order to

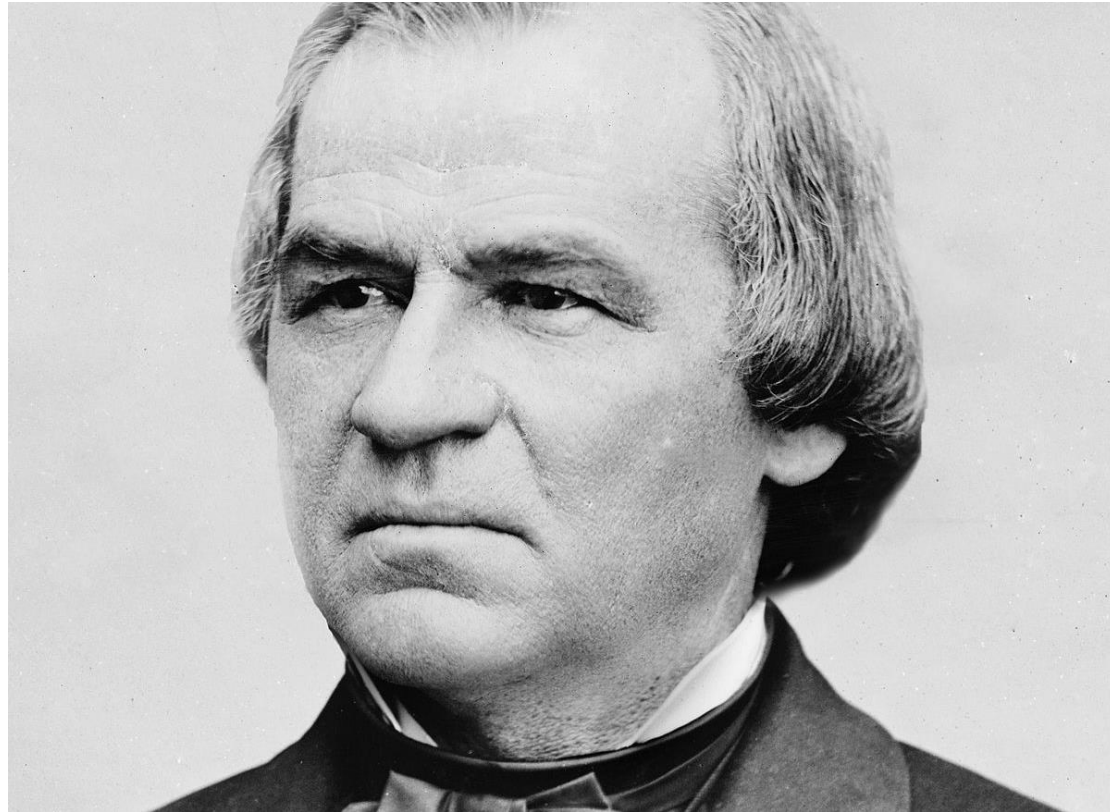
Aid former slaves through food and housing, oversight, education, health care, and employment contracts with private landowners.

Radical Reconstruction

Led by Sen. Charles Sumner and Rep. Thaddeus Stevens.



Wants to destroy the power of former slaveholders and Confederate officials.

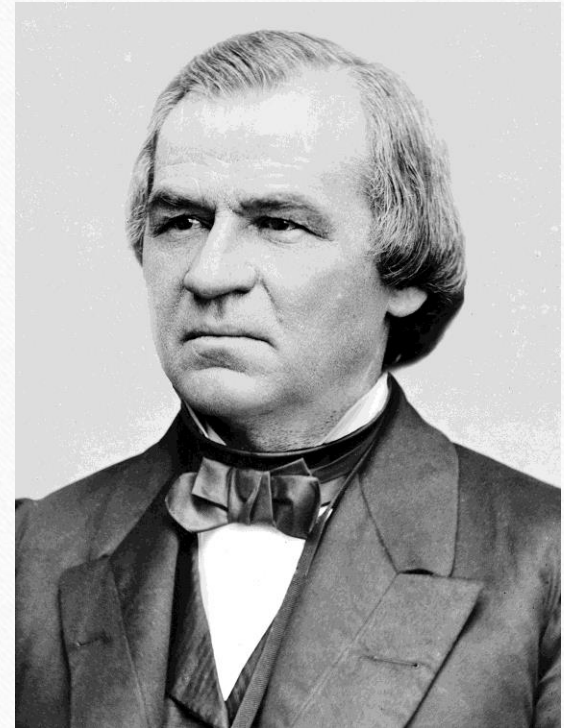


Assassination

- President Lincoln is assassinated on April 14, 1865.
- Vice-President Andrew Johnson (D-Tennessee) is sworn in as President.
- His initial plan for Reconstruction closely resembled Lincoln's.

Johnson's Plan

- Amnesty to all former citizens of the Confederacy EXCEPT
- Former Confederate officials and wealthy planters.
- Congress was on vacation until December 1865.
- By the time they return....



Lincoln's Plan v. Johnson's Plan

Lincoln's Plan

- All Southerners pardoned after taking oath of allegiance to the United States.
- States permitted back into Union when 10% of voters took the oath.

Johnson's Plan

- Added to Lincoln's:
- Southern states had to approve the 13th Amendment.
- States had to nullify ordinances of secession.
- States had to cancel war debt.

Johnson's Plan



Johnson pardons 13,000 former Confederates because



Johnson believes that “white men alone must manage the South.”



Seven remaining Confederate states quickly agree to Johnson's terms **EXCEPT** for Texas

Presidential Reconstruction Problems

- Southerners have elected Confederate Generals, Congressmen, and veterans to serve in the US Congress.
- Enacted Black Codes that limited a freed person's rights – essentially returning them to a form of slavery.

Vagrancy Laws

1. Had to have an employment contract with a white employer.
2. Not having you - you could be arrested for vagrancy and fined.
3. If unable to pay fine, you could be leased to someone who would pay the fine, working until you repaid them.

December 1865: Congress Meets

When Southern congressmen come to DC to join session, they are not “recognized” by the clerk so not seated.

Northern congressmen are angry at Johnson’s Reconstruction and the South’s response.

In response to black codes, Congress takes action.

Congress Remedies Johnson's Plan



Enlarges Freedman's Bureau



**Passes the Civil Rights Act of
1866.**

Forbade states from passing black codes.

Johnson Retaliates

Johnson VETOed both the Freedman's Bureau Bill AND The Civil Rights Act.

- Johnson believes that Congress has gone too far beyond what the authors of the Constitution ever thought government should do.

Elections of 1866

Moderate and Radical Republican
seize control of Congress.

- They join together to pass the
Military Reconstruction Act of
1867.

Military Reconstruction Act (March 1867)



- Divides the former Confederacy, except for Tennessee, into five (5) military districts.
- They were occupied territories.

Military Reconstruction Act (March 1867)

To regain state control and elect members of Congress, the states had to:

1. Give the right to vote to all male citizens, regardless of race, AND
2. Ratify the Fourteenth Amendment

Radical (Congressional) Reconstruction

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 1. Give the right to vote to all male citizens, regardless of race, AND
 2. Ratify the Fourteenth Amendment
- To regain state control and elect members of Congress, they had to:

Fourteenth Amendment (June 1866)



This amendment granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States
AND



Declared that no state could deprive any person of life, liberty, or property “without due process of law” AND



No state could deny any person “equal protection of the laws.”

Johnson Impeached

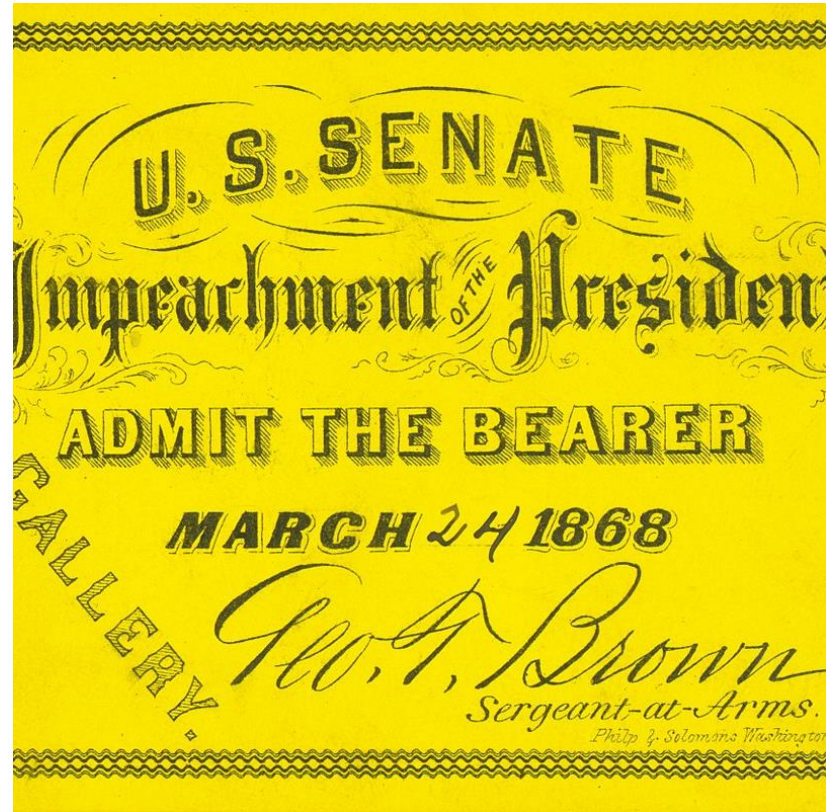
"High Crimes
and
Misdemeanors"

- Congress thought Johnson was blocking Reconstruction.
- Wanted to impeach and needed a reason.
- Johnson fired Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in 1868.
 - This violates the Tenure of Office Act (Congress 1867)
 - Can't remove a cabinet member without Senate's approval.

Johnson Impeached

- First president to face impeachment.
- House of Representatives votes to impeach, forwards to Senate.
 - Requires a 2/3 vote in the Senate.
- Johnson survives, one vote short of being removed from office.
 - 35 – 19
- Begins a long discussion about the balance of powers.
 - Grounds versus we don't like you

Johnson After Impeachment



- Johnson seeks reelection but it not chosen as the Democrat's candidate for President.
- Pardons:
 - 12/25/1868, Johnson issued a final amnesty, this one covering everyone, including Jefferson Davis.
 - Pardons Dr. Samuel Mudd, c) releases him from Fort Jefferson on Florida's Dry Tortugas.

Grant Elected in 1868



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- Ulysses S. Grant is the Republican nominee.
- Grant wins by only 306,000 votes out of 6 million.
- More than 500,000 Southern African Americans voted in the election, 9 out of 10 of their votes were for Grant.
- The importance of the African American vote to the Republican party was obvious.

Fifteenth Amendment

This amendment states that the right to vote shall not be denied on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

- Ratified by the states in 1870.
- Important victory for the Radical Republicans.

Reconstructing Society

They ended a war but didn't change the mindset behind it.

- By Fall 1870, all former Confederate states had rejoined the Union.
- Freedmen's Bureau tries to feed and clothe war refugees and formerly enslaved people.
- The unintended consequences of Radical Reconstruction led to anger and violence in the South.



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Reconstructing
Society:
Opportunists

Carpetbaggers
and
Scalawags!

Reconstructing Society in the South

Northerners traveled southward seeing opportunity in the poor conditions in the South.

- Called Carpetbaggers (negative term)
- Some appointed or elected to positions in new state governments.
- Sided with Republicans
- Took advantage of lands lost to unpaid taxes, poverty and the devastation of war.

Reconstructing Society in the South

Scalawags!

- White southerners who joined the Republican party were called Scalawags.
 - Comes from Scots-Irish term for weak, underfed, worthless animals.
- Benefitted from Republican control.

Reconstructing Society in the South

African Americans

- After gaining the right to vote, African Americans entered Southern politics.
- Winning positions in government.
 - Legislators
 - Administrators
- *Why would this be a problem for white Southern Democrats?*

Improving the Lives of Former Slaves

Churches played a key role in assisting Freedmen and women.

- Started their own churches because they'd been denied membership in traditional religious branches.
- Churches became the center of the African American community.
- Many ministers emerged as political leaders.

Improving Life: Education

- 95% of former slaves were illiterate (unable to read and write).
- Education was necessary for these people to become economically self-sufficient.
- Often, first public schools were established by Reconstruction governments.
- Churches and \$ from the Freedmen's Bureau helped create and run these schools.
- Colleges like Atlanta, Fisk, and Howard Universities were all founded by religious groups such as the American Missionary Association.

Improving Life: Migration

- Thousands of African Americans also took advantage of their new freedom to migrate:
 - Reunite with family members.
 - Find jobs in other cities and town in the South.
 - Some migrated North.

Sharecropping and Tenant Farming

Sharecropping is a system where large farms are divided and small farmers are allowed to farm it for the owner and keep a portion of what they grow for themselves – for both food and income.

- Land
- Seed
- Tools

Tenant Farmers lease the land and keep what they grow.

Sharecropping and Tenant Farming

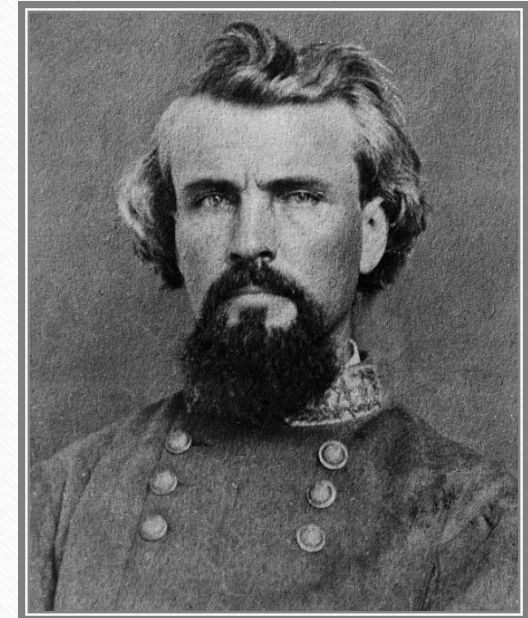
These systems were rarely money-making for the sharecroppers or tenant farmers.

- Contracts were never written to favor the farmer.

Because of the poverty and devastation after the war, both Freedmen and poor whites could be hired on as tenants or sharecroppers.

Collapse of Reconstruction

- Some Southern whites did not respond well to the changes in their society after the war and during Reconstruction.
- Some people took to violence to harm and intimidate Freedmen and their families.
- Most notorious of these groups was the Ku Klux Klan.
 - Nathan Bedford Forrest, first Grand Wizard
 - Massacre at the Battle of Fort Pillow



Opposition to Reconstruction: Violence

Ku Klux Klan wanted to restore the White Planter Class by:

- Destroying the Republican Party in the South.
- End Republican rule in state and local government.
- Prevent African Americans from voting, exercising their rights.
- In the time period, and estimates 20,000 men, women, and children were killed.

Opposition to Reconstruction: Congress Responds

- Congress passes several Enforcement Acts to curtail violence against African Americans.
 - Enforcement Act of 1870
 - Enforcement Act of 1871
- However, in May 1872 it passes the Amnesty Act which returns voting privileges and the ability to hold public office to 150,000 former Confederates.
 - This weakens the Republican Party in the South.
- Freedmen's Bureau expires in 1882.

Southern Democrats regain political power in the South.

Grant's Presidency and the end of Reconstruction

- Grant's presidency is filled with scandal and economic problems.
- In 1870s, Democrats begin to take back power in the South.
- Problems with electoral votes in the 1876 election.
- Compromise of 1877: gives the election to the Republican candidate in exchange for pulling Union troops out of the South.
 - Rutherford B. Hayes named President
 - Federal Reconstruction ends