

Reconstruction

Aftermath of the Civil War



Key Questions

1. How do we bring the South back into the Union?

4. What branch of government should control the process of Reconstruction?

2. How do we rebuild the South after its destruction during the war?

3. How do we integrate and protect newly-emancipated black freedmen?



President Lincoln's Plan



The 10% Plan

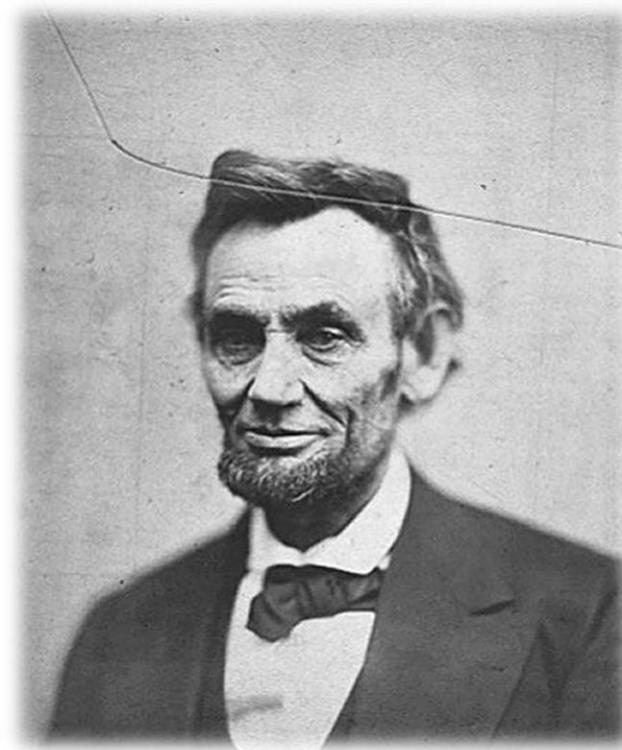
- * Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction (December 8, 1863)
- * Congress not consulted regarding Reconstruction.
- * Pardon to all but the highest ranking military and civilian Confederate officers.
- * When 10% of the voting population in the 1860 election had taken an oath of loyalty and established a government, it would be recognized.
- * Must abolish slavery.

Radical Plan for Readmission

- Required new state constitutions, including black suffrage and ratification of the 13th and 14th Amendments.
- In March, 1867, Congress passed an act that authorized the military to enroll eligible black voters and begin the process of constitution making.

President Lincoln's Plan

- In 1864 “**Lincoln Governments**” formed in Louisiana, Tennessee and Arizona.
- They were considered “**loyal assemblies**”.
- They were weak and dependent on the Northern army for their survival.



Wade-Davis Bill (1864)



Senator
Benjamin
Wade
(R-OH)

- Required 50% of the number of 1860 voters to take an “iron clad” oath of allegiance swearing they had never voluntarily aided the rebellion.
- Required a state constitutional convention before the election of state officials.
- Enacted specific safeguards of freedmen’s liberties.



Congressman
Henry
W. Davis
(R-MD)

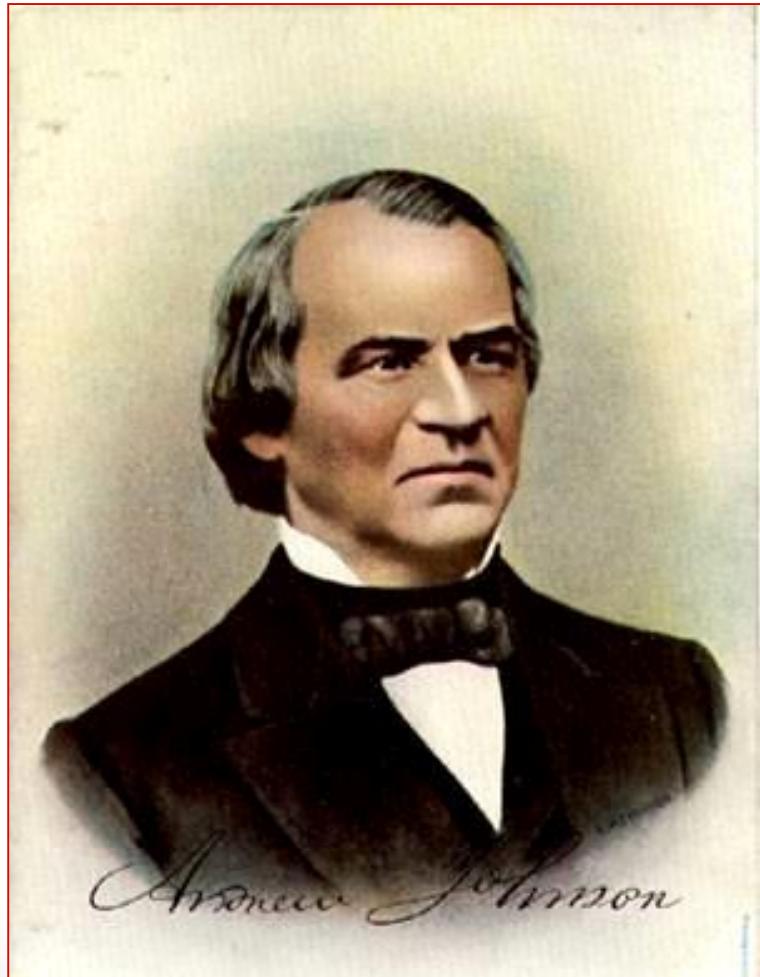
Wade-Davis Bill (1864)

- The question of political rights for freedmen were left to the states.
- Passed before they adjourned in 1864.
- Under this bill it would be impossible for any state to reenter the Union without a large number of black voters.



- President Lincoln killed this bill by a **pocket veto**.

Vice President Andrew Johnson



- Was a Jacksonian Democrat.
- Came from rags to riches and was Anti-Aristocrat.
- Was a white Supremacist.
- Agreed with Lincoln that states had never legally left the Union.
- Became president after Lincolns' death.

President Reconstruction 1865-67

President Johnson's Plan

- Write a new state constitution.
- Elect a new state government.
- Repeal its acts of secession.
- Cancel its war debts.
- Ratify the 13th amendment.
- Former Confederate officials may vote and hold office only if pardoned by President.

Pardoned planter aristocrats brought them back to political power to control state organizations.

Republicans were outraged that planter elite were back in power in the South.

Plans for Reconstruction

Lincoln Plan

- 10% of voters swear loyalty oath
- must abolish slavery

Wade- Davis

- 50% must swear loyalty oath
- former Confederate volunteers cannot vote or hold public office
- must abolish slavery

Johnson's Plan

- 50% must swear loyalty oath
- Must ratify 13th amendment
- Former Confederate officials may vote and hold office (if pardoned by President)

Rounds of Reconstruction

1865-1866 - directed by Lincoln and Johnson, through executive powers, restored the 11 ex Confederate states back to the Union

Reconstruction Act of 1867 - Over Johnson's vetoes, Congress passed 3 Reconstruction acts, took steps in placing the South under military rule and ratified the 14th Amendment.

1867-1870 - in which Congress imposed upon the South its own version of Reconstruction—harsher on Southern whites and more protective of freed blacks

Freedmen's Bureau (1865)



- ★ Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.
- ★ Many former northern abolitionists risked their lives to help southern freedmen.
- ★ Called "**“Carpetbaggers”**" by white southern Democrats.
- ★ The term used in the South for white southern Republicans was "**“Scalawags”**".

Freedmen's Bureau School



Freedmen's Bureau Seen Through Southern Eyes



"THE POPULAR IDEA OF THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU—PLENTY TO EAT AND NOTHING TO DO."

*Plenty to eat and
nothing to do.*

13th Amendment

- Ratified in December, 1865.

“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction”.

- **Congress** shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Growing Northern Alarm

- Many Southern state constitutions fell short of minimum requirements.
- Johnson granted 13,500 special pardons.
- Southern defiance revived with the **BLACK CODES**
- Recently freed blacks found the postwar South very similar to the prewar South.

Black Codes

- * Helped planters find workers to replace their slaves.
- * Keep freedmen at the bottom of the social order in the south.
- * Had been passed by all Southern state legislatures by 1866.
- * These regulations limited movement by blacks, prohibited interracial marriage, and insisted that blacks obtain special certificates to hold certain jobs.
- *



The 1866 Civil Rights Act

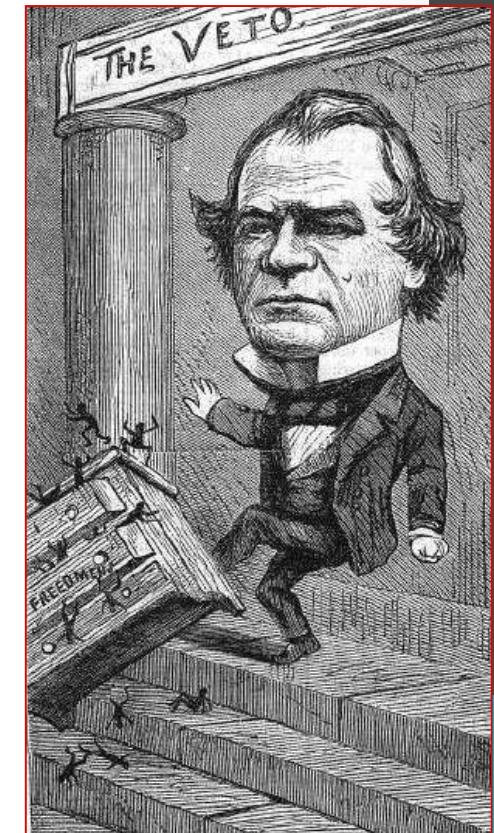
- **The Civil Rights Act of 1866** granted citizenship and the same rights enjoyed by white citizens to all male persons in the United States "*without distinction of race or color, or previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude.*"
- President Andrew Johnson's veto of the bill was overturned by a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress, and the bill became law.
- Johnson's attitude contributed to the growth of the Radical Republican movement, which favored increased intervention in the South and more aid to former slaves, and ultimately led to Johnson's impeachment.

*...all persons born in the United States and not subject to any foreign power, **excluding Indians not taxed**, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States; and such citizens, of every race and color, without regard to any previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall have the same right, in every State and Territory in the United States, to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, and give evidence, to inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property, and to full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and property, as is enjoyed by white citizens...*

Civil Rights Act, 1866

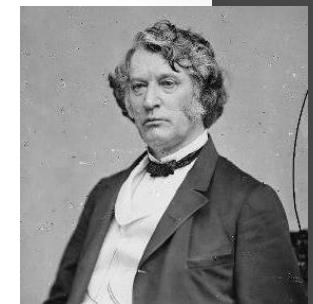
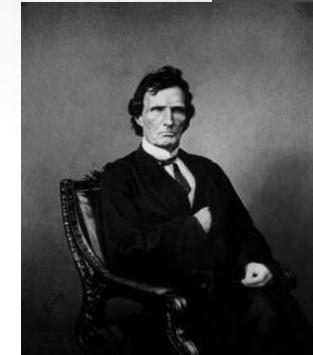
Congress vs. President Johnson

- Congress bars Southern Congressional Delegates.
- Joint Committee on Reconstruction created.
- On February 1866 Johnson vetoed the Freedmen's Bureau bill.
- On March 1866 Johnson vetoed the 1866 Civil Rights Act.
- Congress passed both bills over Johnson's vetoes. **It was the first time in US History that a Presidential Veto was overridden.**

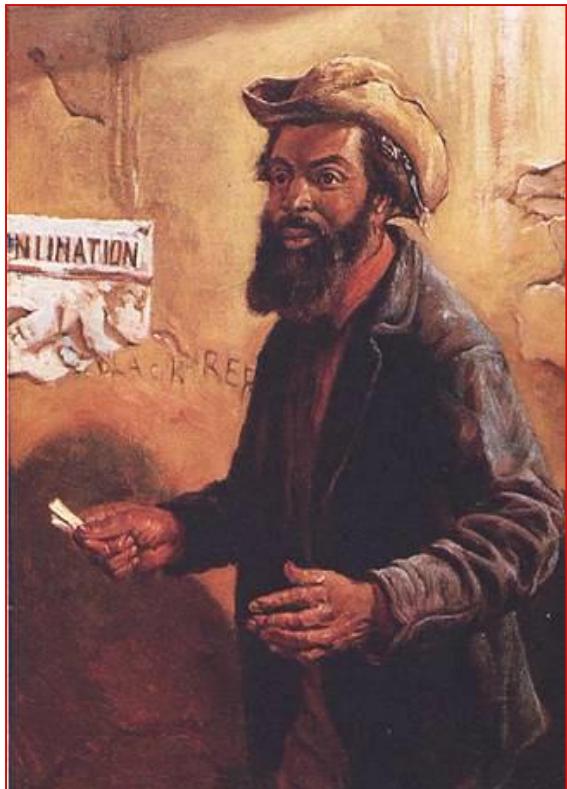


Radical Republicans

- Led by **Thaddeus Stevens** in the House and by **Charles Sumner** in the Senate.
- The goals of Radical Republicans were to break the power of wealthy planters, to ensure that freedmen received the right to vote (suffrage) and to stay in power.
- Congress proposes **14th amendment** to make sure the court does not find the **Civil Rights Act** unconstitutional.
- This amendment would secure basic political rights for the African Americans in the South.



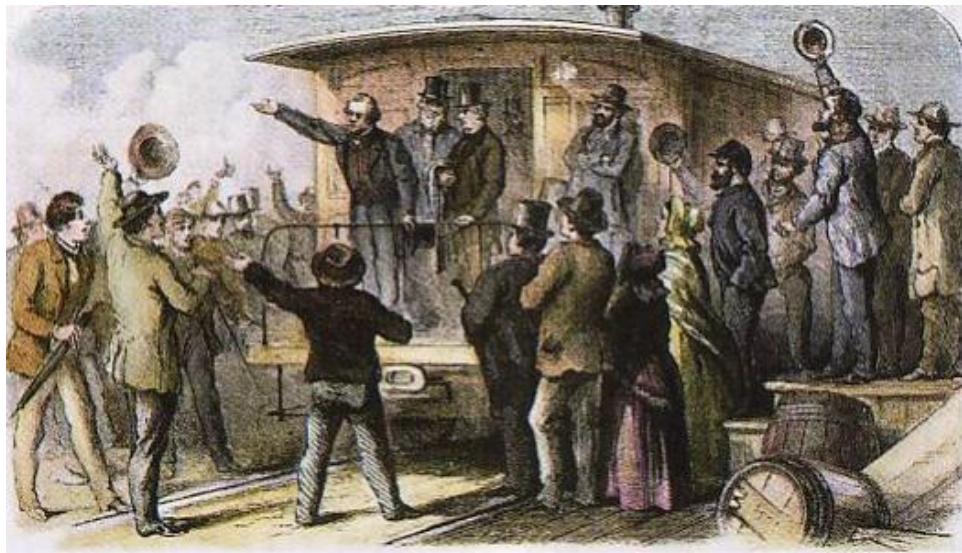
The Balance of Power in Congress



State	White Citizens	Freedmen
SC	291,000	411,000
MS	353,000	436,000
LA	357,000	350,000
GA	591,000	465,000
AL	596,000	437,000
VA	719,000	533,000
NC	631,000	331,000

The 1866 Congressional Election

- A referendum on **Radical Reconstruction**.
- Johnson made an ill-conceived propaganda tour around the country to push his plan.
- Republicans won a 3-1 majority in both houses and gained control of every northern state.
- It was a disaster for Johnson.
- Congress will control the process of reconstruction.



Johnson's "Swing around the Circle"

14th Amendment

Ratified in July, 1868.

- * Provide a constitutional guarantee of the rights and security of freed people.
- * Insure against neo-Confederate political power.
- * Enshrine the national debt while repudiating that of the Confederacy.

Southern states would be punished for denying the right to vote to black citizens.

15th Amendment

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

Reconstruction Acts of 1868

Military Reconstruction Act

Was the First Reconstruction Act, passed into law on March 2, 1867 over the veto of President Andrew Johnson.

- * Restart Reconstruction in the 10 Southern states that refused to ratify the 14th Amendment.
- * Divide the 10 “unreconstructed states” into 5 military districts.
- * It took land away from the whites and gave it to the blacks

Johnsons' Impeachment Trial

★ Johnson removed **Secretary of War Stanton** from his cabinet on February, 1868 and substituted most generals during reconstruction, both things unconstitutional at this time.

★ The House accused the President of inappropriate conduct and impeached him on a 126 to 47 vote, sending the case to the Senate.

★ The trial lasted 11 weeks.

★ By that time elections were closing in and Johnson was acquitted in the Senate 35 to 19, one short of required 2/3's vote.



The Election of 1868

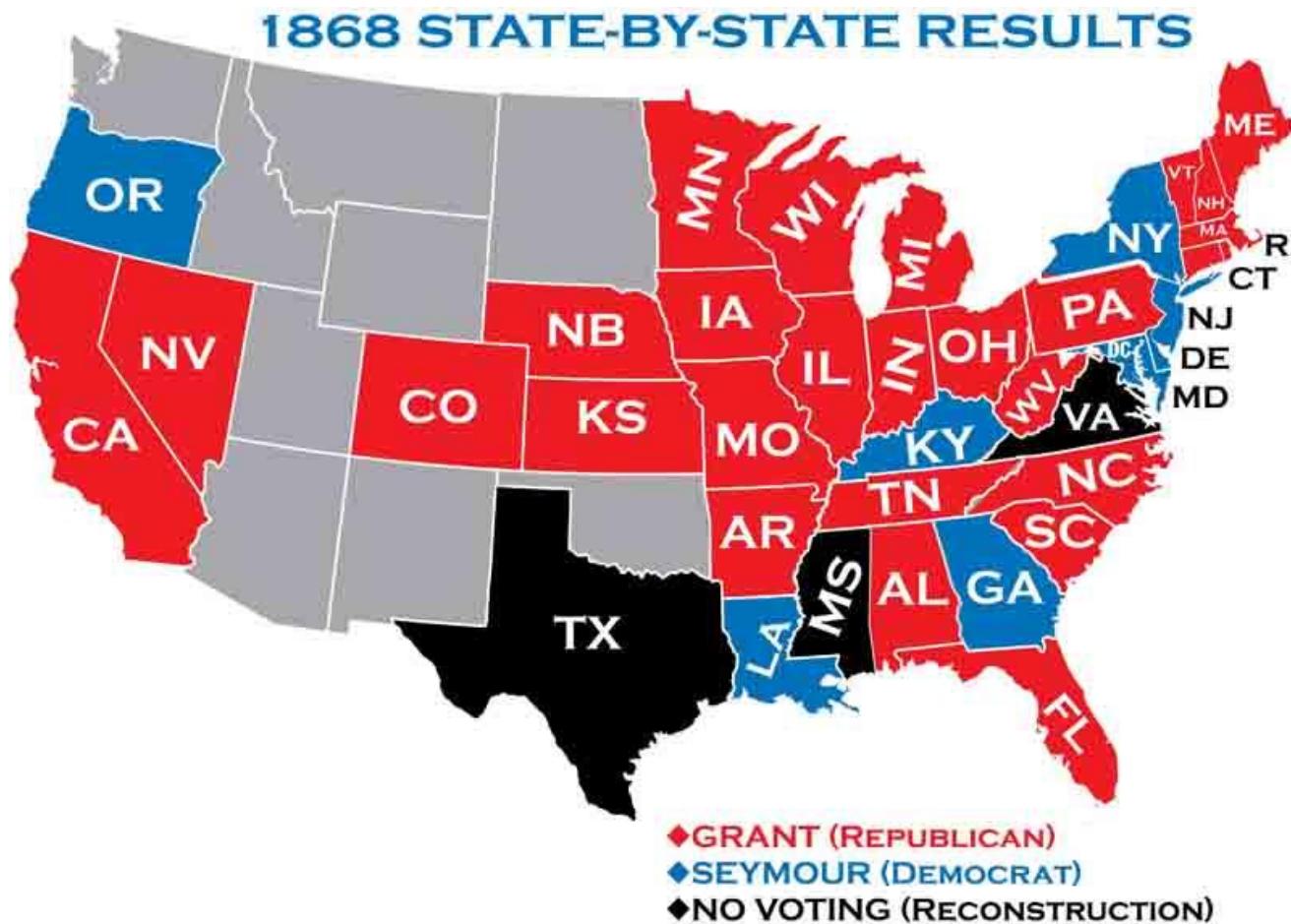
Candidate	Party	Popular Vote	Electoral Vote*
Grant	Republican	3,013,421	214
Seymour	Democratic	2,706,829	80
Not voted*			23



President Grant tried to keep Reconstruction efforts alive but personal scandals in his administration impeded his government and caused the division in the Republican Party.

Grant Becomes President

“Let Us Have Peace”



The Ku Klux Klan

Led by ex-confederate **Nathan Bedford Forrest**, 1867.

White supremacists reign of terror against racial equality, local Republican leaders and African American's new political rights.

Beatings, lynching, and massacres, were all a night's work for the clandestine Klan.

Unable to protect themselves, Southern blacks and Republicans looked to Washington for protection.

After ten years, Congress and the radicals grew weary of federal involvement in the South.



Composition of the Reconstruction Governments



Republican legislators included native born white southerners, freeman, and recently arrived northerners.

The Election of 1872

- Grant runs again “waving the bloody shirt” tactics and is reelected. Many scandals start to surface; Credit Mobilier, Whiskey Ring, Indian Ring.
- During Grant’s second term, Reconstruction entered its third and final round.
- Southern conservatives known as redeemers, took control of state governments one after another and agreed on states’ rights, reduced taxes, reduced spending on social programs and white supremacy.
- Ku Klux Klan worked to keep Blacks and white Republicans out of office.
- Grant crushes the Klan with a series of laws during his first term, but then did nothing.

End of Reconstruction

- The financial **panic of 1873** made the expenses of military occupation of the South harder to argue for politically.
- By 1875, most African Americans had been reduced to agricultural laborers or **sharecroppers**.
- The withdrawal of Union troops in 1877 brought renewed attempts to strip African-Americans of their newly acquired rights.
- By 1890, African American voting had almost entirely ceased. Lacking an economic base in property, African Americans found their voting rights removed.
- After ten years, Congress and the radicals grew weary of federal involvement in the South.

- Americans were getting tired of Reconstruction. Radical Republicans were losing power.
- Corruption in Grant's administration hurt Republicans. Some Republican politicians took advantage of their power to take kickbacks and bribes
- Instances of Graft and wasteful spending did occur.
- Violence continued. The South's agricultural economy was in turmoil. Sharecropping evolved into a new form of servitude
- One by one, Republican governments in the South fell.

Military Reconstruction Act Map

