

Reconstruction And Its Effects

Unification Of The Nation

The Politics Of Reconstruction

- “*Reconstruction*” The process used by the federal government to readmit the former Confederate States back into the Union.
 - Reconstruction Era (1865-1877)
- *The process of Reconstruction was hampered by conflicting goals and approaches by Presidents Lincoln and Johnson and Congress

Presidential Reconstruction

- President Lincoln wanted a swift reunification of the Union.
 - Proclamation of Amnesty & Reconstruction (10% Plan)
 - Pardon all but high ranking Confederate leaders
- Radical Republicans opposed Lincoln's plan wanted to punish Southern elite and grant full citizenship and voting rights to Blacks
- President Johnson implements plan similar to Lincoln but did exclude some wealthy Southerners from becoming involved in state politics

Congressional Reconstruction

- Radical and Moderate Republicans join to move control of Reconstruction Policy from Executive Branch to Congress
 - (1866) Overrode Presidential Veto of Civil Rights Act and Freedmen's Bureau Act and draft 14th Amendment
 - (1867) Pass Military Reconstruction Act and overrode Presidential Veto

Congressional Reconstruction (Cont)

- President Johnson Impeached (1868)
- 15th Amendment Passed (1870)
- Reconstruction Enforcement Act (1871)

Reconstructing Southern Society

- The Republican controlled Congress oversaw the process of the former Confederate states create new State Constitutions and elect Republican dominated new governments
- Conditions In The Post-War South
 - The war devastated the South's economy and population as well as created a large number of homeless and destitute

Reconstructing Southern Society (Cont)

- Politics In The Post-War South
 - Southern Politics dominated by (3) competing groups...
 - Carpet Baggers
 - Scalawags
 - Freedmen
- The New Southern Economy
 - As a result of wide spread destruction and government loans, the opportunity existed for the start of new industry in the South
 - Non-distribution of plantation system resulted in the emergence of Share Cropping and Tenant Farming

Southern Reaction To Reconstruction

- Many Southerners opposed the intervention of the federal government in Southern society and politics
- Opposition took the form of boycotts of elections, intimidation and violence against Blacks and Whites who voted or cooperated with Reconstruction officials

The End Of Reconstruction

- Congress passes Amnesty Act of 1872 which allows many former Confederates to vote and hold political office
- Republican party splits over Reconstruction policies and focuses on economic issues (Panic of 1873)
- Supreme Court overturns many Reconstruction policies
- Democrats slowly begin to regain power in South and pass laws limiting rights of African-Americans (“Redemption”)
- Election of 1876 and Compromise of 1877

The “New South”

- Democratic Controlled Governments
- Legal Segregation
- Sharecropping
- Limited Industry

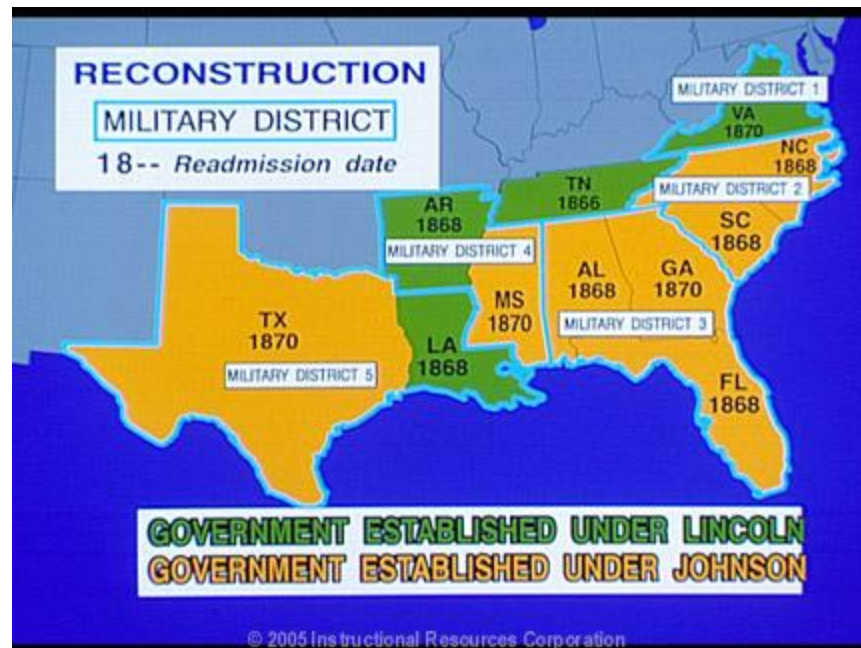
"Reconstruction of the South." In this idealized portrait of the free soil and free labor America of the north, Federal generals lead the way toward peace. George Thomas beats swords into plows while Philip Sheridan holds a scythe ready for the harvest. Other generals work a bellows, turn a cannon into water piping to run a mill, and offer jobs to skilled laborers. The freedmen run to educator George Peabody and the white children at his feet who proclaim "Come here and learn to be a citizen." The South would be reconstructed in the mold of this modern America; the patriarchal, agricultural South was to be no more. 1867 lithograph by John Smith of Philadelphia.



A Thomas Nast cartoon regarding Reconstruction. Here, Columbia is replacing the seceded states in the Union. She has laid down her sword and shield and now proclaims "Let us have peace." She advances under the banner "Equal Rights, With Malice Towards None And Charity To All." This was the symbolic picture of the U.S. now that the war was over and Reconstruction begun.



A map of the South under Military Reconstruction. Two years after the end of the war, in large part because Andrew Johnson had been discredited by actions by states formed under his reconstruction plan, Reconstruction began again, this time under the control of Congress. The Military Reconstruction Act of 1867 divided the former Confederate states into five military districts. The occupation forces were to guarantee that Federal Reconstruction policies were followed. This legislation also turned out the sitting state governments which had very closely resembled the southern state governments of 1861. New elections were scheduled and new state constitutions were to be drawn up, incorporating the 13th and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution and giving freedmen the vote, before the states could be readmitted to the Union.



Compromise of 1877

A painting of the Electoral Commission of 1877 (Florida Case). To win the support they needed, the Republicans met with several key southern congressmen and drew up the Compromise of 1877, promising to remove the remaining federal troops from the South if Hayes were elected. The southern Democrats promised in turn to support Hayes' election and not to infringe upon the rights of African Americans in the South. The deal was struck, Hayes was elected and Reconstruction came to an end. As president, he accomplished little other than some needed civil service reform, and he retired after one term. 1879 painting by Cornelia A. Fassett.



Reconstruction Quiz

- 1. Lincoln wanted to punish the South for seceding from the Union so pushed for a very strict and harsh Reconstruction Plan...*

A) True B)
- 2. Lincoln (and later Johnson) were opposed in their reconstruction efforts by the Radical Republicans...*

A) True B) False

Reconstruction Quiz (cont)

3. *The following are all examples of Reconstruction legislation except...*

- A) Civil Rights Act
- B) Freedman's Bureau
- C) Sharecroppers Bill
- D) Reconstruction Act
- E) 15th Amendment

Reconstruction Quiz (cont)

4. *Andrew Johnson became the first US President impeached when...*

- A) The Senate did not approve his dismissal of Sec of War Stanton
- B) His reconstruction policies were found to be in violation of the 14th Amendment
- C) Congress charged him with a violation of the constitution
- D) He vetoed the Reconstruction Act of 1867
- E) He created Military Districts in the Southern states

Reconstruction Quiz (cont)

5. *The 14th Amendment...*

- A) Required former Confederate leaders to swear an oath of allegiance to the U.S.
- B) Provided food, clothing, and education to blacks and poor whites in the South
- C) Granted citizenship to blacks
- D) Created Military districts in the South
- E) Prohibited voting discrimination based on race, color, or previous condition