RECONSTRUCTION & THE NEW SOUTH

1865-1900
Guiding Questions

• How did the Civil War & Reconstruction change the United States politically, socially and economically?

► Some historians have called Reconstruction a “Glorious Failure”? How accurate is this description?
Key Questions

1. How to bring the South back into the Union?

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

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

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

1. Presidential Reconstruction (1863-1866)

2. Congressional (or Radical) Reconstruction (1867-1877)

3. Redemption (1877-1900)  
   (creation of the “New South”)
PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION

- Lincoln’s 10% Plan: TN, LA, AR
- Radical Republicans
  - Thaddeus Stevens (Rep.- PA)
  - Charles Sumner (Sen.- Mass)
- Wade-Davis Bill (1864)
- 13th Amendment (1865)
- Freedmen’s Bureau
- 14th Amendment (1868)
- Lincoln’s Assassination
Thirteenth Amendment (Ratified Dec. 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.”
PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION

• **Lincoln’s Assassination** (April 14, 1865)
• John Wilkes Booth
• Andrew Johnson

• Johnson’s Reconstruction Plan:
  1) Amnesty upon simple oath
     • Exceptions: Confederate government officials, military officers & those with property over $20,000.
     • Pardons
  2) New state constitutions - repudiate Slavery, Secession, and Confederate debts.

Process: Provisional governors, elections for constitutional conventions.
PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION

• Issues:
  • Pardons (over 13,500).
  • Former Confederates elected to state positions and Congress (Stephens)
  • Black Codes
  • Race riots – Memphis (May 1866), New Orleans (August 1866)
    – 14th Amendment

• Public Reaction in North?
• Election of 1866: Republicans 3-1 majorities in both houses and control of every northern state.
• Backlash against Johnson & new southern state gov’ts
Congress Ends Presidential Reconstruction

Why do the Radicals in Congress take control? How?

- Dec. 1865 - Congress bars Southern Senators and Congressmen elected under Johnson’s plan.
- Joint Committee on Reconstruction created.
- March 1866 – Congress passes the Freedmen’s Bureau renewal bill and the 1866 Civil Rights Act over Johnson’s vetoes (1st veto overrides in U. S. history).
- Nov. 1866 – After Johnson made a disastrous tour around the north pushing his plan, voters give Republicans 3-1 majorities in both houses and control of every northern state.
- Backlash against Johnson & new southern state governments.
CONGRESSIONAL RECONSTRUCTION
1867-1877
Radical Plan for Readmission

What is the Radical Plan?

Reconstruction Acts of 1867:

• Constitutions and governments set up under Johnson thrown out
• “Ironclad oath”
• New state constitutions - with black suffrage
• Ratification of Thirteenth & Fourteenth Amendments
• Military supervision: voter registration, constitution making, governments
Reconstruction Acts of 1867
Fourteenth Amendment

- Ratified in July, 1868
- Defines **U.S. citizenship** for the first time
- Guarantees “equal protection under the laws” and the right to “due process”
- First amendment to explicitly apply to **state governments**

- Purposes?
  - guarantee rights and security of freedpeople.
  - prevent return of Confederate power.
  - Enshrined the national debt while repudiating that of the Confederacy.
Impeachment

- Tenure of Office Act
- Edwin Stanton
- Impeachment of President Johnson
- Trial in Senate
CONGRESSIONAL RECONSTRUCTION in the South

- “40 acres and a mule”
- tenants
- Sharecroppers
- crop lien system

Sharecropper’s cabin, North Carolina, 1914

Freedmen in Richmond, Virginia, 1865
# Tenancy & the Crop Lien System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FURNISHING MERCHANT</th>
<th>TENANT FARMER</th>
<th>LANDOWNER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Loans tools &amp; seed @ up to 60% interest to farmer to plant spring crop</td>
<td>▪ Plants crop, harvests in fall.</td>
<td>▪ Rents land to tenant in exchange for ¼ to ½ of tenant farmer’s future crop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Also provides food, clothing, etc. on credit until the harvest.</td>
<td>▪ Turns over up to ½ of crop to owner as rent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Holds “lien” on part of future crops</td>
<td>▪ Gives remainder of crop to merchant to pay debt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Loans tools & seed @ up to 60% interest to farmer to plant spring crop.
- Also provides food, clothing, etc. on credit until the harvest.
- Holds “lien” on part of future crops.
- Plants crop, harvests in fall.
- Turns over up to ½ of crop to owner as rent.
- Gives remainder of crop to merchant to pay debt.
- Rents land to tenant in exchange for ¼ to ½ of tenant farmer’s future crop.
Sharecropping and the Cycle of Debt

Poor whites & freedmen have no jobs, homes, or $ to buy land.

Sharecropper cannot leave farm as long as he is in debt to landlord.

At harvest, sharecropper owes more to landlord than his share of the crop is worth.

Landlord keeps track of the $$ that sharecroppers owe for housing and food.

Poor whites & freedmen sign contracts to work landlord’s acreage for part of the crop.
Congressional Reconstruction

Reconstruction Governments

- “carpetbaggers”
- “scalawags”
- freedmen

- myth of “black rule”
- Accomplishments?
First Black U.S. Senators & Congressmen, 1872
15th Amendment

• Ratified in 1870

“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.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

• Women’s rights groups furious - they were not granted the vote!
Racial Violence & Intimidation

How does the South regain control?

- Knights of the White Camellia
- White Leagues
- Ku Klux Klan

Mississippi Klansman, 1871
(Courtesy of Mr. Herbert Peck, Jr.)
The Failure of Federal Enforcement

- Enforcement Acts of 1870 & 1871 [KKK Acts]
- Civil Rights Act of 1875
- Rise of the “Bourbons”
- Redeemers
END OF RECONSTRUCTION

1877
Northern Support Wanes: Grant Administration

Why?

- President U.S. Grant (1869-1877)
- "Grantism" & corruption
- Credit Mobilier
- Panic of 1873 (6 yr. depression)
- Concern over westward expansion and Indian wars
- Why else?
Why?

• Election of 1876
• Rutherford B. Hayes
• Compromise of 1877
REDEMPTION
AND THE
“NEW SOUTH”
1877-1900
Redemption & the “New South”

- “Redeemers”
- “New South”
- Agriculture
- Industry
- “Lost Cause”

Pig iron, Birmingham, 1877 (Harper's Weekly, March 26, 1877)
# Jim Crow and Segregation

- Jim Crow – **When?**
  - Poll Tax
  - “literacy” test
  - grandfather laws
- **Plessy v. Ferguson** (1896)
  - effects
  - lynchings
  - Ida B. Wells

## Voting Restrictions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voting Restrictions</th>
<th>AL</th>
<th>AR</th>
<th>FL</th>
<th>GA</th>
<th>LA</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>TN</th>
<th>TX</th>
<th>VA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grandfather Clause</td>
<td>🚶️</td>
<td>🚶️</td>
<td>🚶️</td>
<td>🚶️</td>
<td>🚶️</td>
<td>🚶️</td>
<td>🚶️</td>
<td>🚶️</td>
<td>🚶️</td>
<td>🚶️</td>
<td>🚶️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Test</td>
<td>🔍</td>
<td>🔍</td>
<td>🔍</td>
<td>🔍</td>
<td>🔍</td>
<td>🔍</td>
<td>🔍</td>
<td>🔍</td>
<td>🔍</td>
<td>🔍</td>
<td>🔍</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Test</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>📚</td>
<td>📚</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poll Tax</td>
<td>💰</td>
<td>💰</td>
<td>💰</td>
<td>💰</td>
<td>💰</td>
<td>💰</td>
<td>💰</td>
<td>💰</td>
<td>💰</td>
<td>💰</td>
<td>💰</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*SOURCE: The American Record: Images of the Nation’s Past*
Jim Crow and Segregation

1860s - Reconstruction begins.

1870s - Reconstruction ends.

1900s-1940s - Jim Crow laws prevent African Americans from voting.

1950s-1960s - Civil Rights movement begins.

African Americans Elected to the U.S. Congress

Number elected

Decade

1860s 1870s 1880s 1890s 1900s 1910s 1920s 1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s

SOURCE: Congressional Black Caucus
African-American Response

- Booker T. Washington
- Tuskegee Institute
- Atlanta Compromise
Results?

How did the Civil War & Reconstruction change the United States politically, socially & economically?
Results CW and Reconstruction

- Slavery ended – 13th Amendment
- Northern industrial economy triumphed
- South economically depressed
- 14th and 15th Amendments
- Free public schools in South
- Some African Americans served in state and federal govt
- Ultimately unsuccessful in South