

## Post Civil War America: Reconstruction

- I. The Civil War is Over, Now What?
  - A. How would Southern states be readmitted?
  - B. What is the status of freedmen?
- II. Reconstruction Plans
  - A. Johnson's Plan
    1. based on Lincoln's Plan
    2. create provisional military governments
    3. called for State Constitutional Conventions
      - a. run by provisional gov'ts
      - b. states write new Constitutions
      - c. must eliminate slavery
      - d. must renounce secession
      - e. no requirement for enfranchisement of blacks
    4. loyalty oaths must be taken before amnesty
    5. barred Southern elites from taking loyalty oaths
      - a. plantation owners
      - b. Confederate officers
      - c. Confederate Gov't officials
  - B. Evaluating Johnson's Plan
    1. Did not work for the following reasons
    2. Pardons
      - a. Major cause of plan's failure
      - b. Most Southern elite pardoned
      - c. Elite rose to power in new Gov'ts
    3. Faulty New State Constitutions
      - a. Most merely revisions of old Constitutions
      - b. Lacked protection for former slaves
    4. Black Codes
      - a. Series of laws defining status of freedmen
      - b. Limited rights to assemble & travel
      - c. Restricted access to public institutions
      - d. Initiated curfew laws
      - e. Created laws requiring freedmen to carry special passes
      - f. took old slave codes & replaced "slaves" with "freedmen"
  - C. Congressional Plan
    1. Wade-Davis Bill (1864)
      - a. Senator Benjamin F. Wade (OH)
      - b. Representative Henry Winter Davis (MD)
      - c. Created:
      - d. framework for Reconstruction
      - e. policy for re-admittance of the Confederate states
      - f. President Lincoln proposed a reconstruction program after:
        - i. 10 % of their male population took loyalty oaths
        - ii. states recognized permanent freedom of slaves

- g. congressional Republicans thought 10 % Plan was too mild.
  - h. The Wade-Davis Bill required:
    - i. that 50 % of a states white males take a loyalty oath to be readmitted to the Union
    - ii. In addition, states were required to give blacks the right to vote
  - i. Congress passed the Wade-Davis Bill
  - j. President Lincoln chose not to sign it, killing it with a pocket veto
  - k. Following Lincoln's assassination Congress had the upper hand in shaping Federal policy toward the defeated South
  - l. imposed the harsher reconstruction requirements first advocated in the Wade-Davis Bill
2. Radical Republicans
- a. Wanted to punish South for secession
  - b. Wanted to confiscate land from the rich & redistribute it to poor
  - c. Extend democratic rights to all including freedmen
  - d. President Johnson
    - i. refused to compromise
    - ii. Vetoed package that would have:
      - Extended life of Freedman's Bureau
      - Enforced uniform Civil Rights Code
3. Congressional Reconstruction - 1866
- a. Reaction to Southern behavior post Civil War
  - b. 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment - extended 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment Rights to states
  - c. Military Reconstruction Act of 1867
    - i. Imposed Martial Law on the South
    - ii. Called for new Constitutional Conventions
    - iii. Allowed Blacks to vote for convention delegates
    - iv. Each state had to:
      - ratify 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment
      - send Constitutions to Congress for approval
4. Impeachment
- a. Climax of Reconstruction struggle
  - b. Charges brought against President Johnson
    - i. By House Judiciary Committee
    - ii. For violating Tenure of Office Act
      - Senate had to consent to removal of Presidential appointments
      - Johnson fired Sec. Of War Stanton
    - iii. Really because of fight over Reconstruction
  - c. Fails by one vote in the Senate
  - d. Johnson left in office but powerless for remainder of term

5. President U.S. Grant (R – 1869 – 1877)
    - a. 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment
      - i. enfranchisement for black men
      - ii. passed only because South had to for re-admittance to the Union
      - iii. many Northern states opposed it
    - b. Amnesty Act of 1872
      - i. Pardoned many rebels
      - ii. Allowed them to reenter public life
- III. Successes & Failures of Reconstruction
- A. Successes
    1. New Southern Gov'ts
      - a. created Public schools
      - b. created Social institutions, i.e. orphanages
      - c. stimulated industrial & railroad growth
      - d. Freedmen represented in state & nat'l gov'ts
  - B. Failures
    1. Economic Cost was astronomical
    2. high tax rates turned public opinion hostile toward Reconstruction
    3. propaganda war begins against Reconstruction
      - a. Scalawags – Southerners who cooperated with programs
      - b. Carpetbaggers – Northerners who ran programs
    4. Ku Klux Klan
      - a. Terrorized Southern Reconstruction supporters
      - b. Attacked & murdered:
        - i. Scalawags
        - ii. Black & white Republican leaders
        - iii. Community activists
        - iv. teachers
      - c. Prevented complete implementation of plan
    5. Did not redistribute Southern wealth or land - sharecropping
    6. Did little to alter power structure of South
    7. Supreme Court Decisions
      - a. *Slaughter-House Case* – 14<sup>th</sup> Amend applies only to Fed. Gov't not State Gov'ts
      - b. *US v. Cruikshank* – strengthened previous decision
      - c. *US v. Reese* – paved way for “Grandfather Clauses,” poll taxes, property requirements & other voting restrictions
    8. Corruption of Grant Administration tainted Reconstruction
    9. Economics
      - a. Panic & Depression of 1873
      - b. North could no longer afford Reconstruction
      - c. Drew national attention away from Reconstruction
- IV. The End of Reconstruction
- A. Election of 1876 – The Corrupt Bargain II?
    1. Rutherford B. Hayes (R) v. Samuel Tilden (D)

2. Outcome
    - a. Tilden wins popular vote by 250,000
    - b. Tilden led Electoral vote 184 to 165
    - c. needed 185 to win
    - d. 20 votes were in dispute
    - e. Tilden only needed one of the twenty votes to win
    - f. If Hayes received all twenty he would win
  3. Committee Created to determine Outcome of 20 Electoral Votes
    - a. 8 Republicans and 7 Democrats
    - b. ended up cutting a deal
    - c. Hayes gets the votes and the Presidency
    - d. Had the election been honest Tilden would have won
  4. The Deal
    - a. Military forces had to leave South - **ending reconstruction**
    - b. Federal Gov't had to build a railroad from Texas to California
    - c. Give South building money
    - d. waterway improvements
    - e. conservative in the Cabinet
  5. The South Shall Rise Again
    - a. Conservative Democrats regain control of the South
    - b. Pass Restrictive Laws on Freedmen
    - c. *Literacy Tests* - The democrats passed voter qualification laws that mandated that a person had to read in order to vote. Most Blacks were asked to read the constitution. Considering that most had been slaves, and were uneducated, they could not pass the test. This took away the rights of blacks to vote.
    - d. *Poll Taxes* - The democrats passed voter qualification laws that mandated that a person had to pay a two dollar tax in order to vote. This was a lot of money for a newly freed slave and most could not afford it.
    - e. *Grandfather clause* - The democrats passed voter qualification laws that mandated that a person could only vote if their grandfather had been eligible to vote and had been a citizen. Since most slaves' grandfathers had also been slaves they did not qualify to vote under these laws.
    - f. Jim Crow Laws - These were laws passed to separate Blacks from Whites
  6. Exodusters - Blacks leaving the South for West & Midwest
- B. Policies & Laws lay foundation for nearly a century of segregation and inequality sanctioned by the US Gov't until 1954 – *Brown v. Board of Ed.*