

## Reconstruction

### Chapter 4



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## Results of Civil War (1865)

- The Union would be preserved (in doubt since 1850)
- Slavery would be abolished by the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment
- Over 600,000 lost their lives
- South is in economic ruin
- Republicans in control of an industrial power
- Lincoln would not be able to implement his plan for rebuilding the South. He would be assassinated a week after Lee surrendered

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## Questions still unanswered (Left up to victorious North)

- Should the Confederate leaders be tried for treason?
- How should new governments be formed?
- How and at whose expense was the South's economy to be rebuilt?
- What was to be done with freed slaves? Were they to be given land? social equality? education? voting rights?

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### North (Economic Development)

- P **Reduced power of the planter elite / elevated the northern “captains of industry”**
  - Government became more friendly to businessmen and unfriendly to those who would probe into their activities
- P **Cemented the allegiance of northeastern businessmen and western farmers to the Republican party.**
- P **Without southern members, Congress centralized national power.**

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### Wartime Republican Congress

- P **Morrill Tariff**
  - Doubled the average level of import duties
- P **National Banking Act**
  - Created a uniform system of banking and bank-note currency
- P **Financed the first transcontinental railroad**
  - North-central route from Omaha to Sacramento
- P **Homestead Act of 1862**
  - Offered homesteads of 160 acres to settlers
- P **Morrill Land Grant Act**
  - Gave states public land to sell and create agricultural and mechanical colleges

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### South (Economic Devastation)

- P **Property values had collapsed.**
- P **Confederate bonds and money were worthless.**
- P **Railroads were damaged or destroyed.**
- P **Cotton that had not been destroyed in the war was seized as Confederate property or in forfeit of federal taxes.**
- P **Emancipation of the slaves meant the loss of about \$4 billion invested in human flesh—left the labor system in disarray.**
- P **What did this mean? Farm industry in**

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## The Mood of the South (Socially in Disarray)

- Southern society was transformed by the defeat of the Confederacy.
  - Many of the former planter elite were destitute and homeless.
  - Many former Confederates fled the South rather than face Yankee rule.
  - Those who remained in the South saw their lives transformed. Evident in the South was a growing bitterness and resentment, a hatred of Yankees, and a defiance of northern rule.
- Unreconstructed Confederates

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## Former Slaves



- The newly freed slaves suffered as well.
  - Nothing but freedom.
- They remained dependent—without money and property, blacks could not support themselves or gain true independence. So, how could blacks obtain the land they needed without money?
- Abolitionists had argued for citizenship and legal rights for slaves; however, even most abolitionists were not ready to advocate the wholesale confiscation of

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## Land Distribution



- Congress did pass the Confiscation Act of 1862 that would rent former slaves land held by Confederates.
  - Some of these lands were sold to freed slaves, but also to Yankee speculators, or kept by the government.
  - This created false rumors that freed slaves would get “forty acres and a mule.”
  - For the most part, instead of land or material help, freed slaves received advice.

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## Freedmen's Bureau



- Established by Congress in 1865.
- The Freedmen's Bureau was designed to negotiate labor contracts (something new for both blacks and planters), provide medical care, and set up schools. It also had its own courts to deal with labor disputes and land titles.
- The Freedmen's Bureau, however, had very little power and never was able to offer much more than temporary relief.

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## Reconstruction: Two Camps

### Presidential Reconstruction: Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction (1863)

- Lincoln's 10 Percent Plan – Oath of allegiance and presidential pardon.
- End slavery, provide education for blacks but no political or social equality, no confederate leadership.
- Argued the states had never left the Union.
- Immediate restoration: Get them "into proper practical relation" as quickly as possible
- Supported by Conservative and Moderate Republicans



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## Reconstruction: Two Camps

### Congressional Reconstruction

- Transformation of southern society.
- Mirror the North's emphasis on small-scale capitalism.
- Wanted free slaves to be full-fledged citizens.
- Supported by Radical Republicans.
- Wade-Davis Bill (1864) vetoed by Lincoln.

Lincoln assassinated on April 14, 1865

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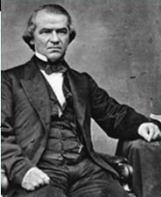
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## Presidential Reconstruction

**Andrew Johnson's Program of Reconstruction**

- Resembled Lincoln's plan.
- Planters had to apply for a special pardon.
- Omitted 10% requirement.
- A native Unionist provisional governor to call a convention to invalidate secession, repudiate Confederate debts, and ratify 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment (ended slavery)




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## Presidential Reconstruction

**The new governments in the South resembled the old.**

- Confederates in power.

**The Failure of Johnson's Program**

- Southern defiance.
- Black Codes to restrict the freedoms of blacks.
  - "Ex-slave was not a free man; he was a free Negro."
- Elections in the South.

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## Radical Reconstruction

**All of these events forced moderate Republicans to move to the Radical camp.**

**Radical Republicans wanted to see the South reconstructed rather than simply restored---**

- They had left the Union and forfeited all civil and political rights under the Constitution and should be treated as conquered provinces, subject to the absolute will of the victors.
- Reverted to the status of unorganized

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## Radical Reconstruction

- Johnson tried to veto Radical Republican legislation but they eventually were able to override his veto.
- Civil Rights Act (1866) and the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1866—ratified in 1868) combined to grant state and federal citizenship for all persons and forbade any state from infringing on their rights without due process of law (Equal Protection Amendment). Bill of Rights applied to state as well as federal power.

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## Radical Reconstruction

- In 1867, Congress passed
  - Tenure of Office Act—President needed consent of Senate to remove cabinet members (Secretary of War Stanton).
  - Command of the Army Act—presidential military orders must go through the general of the Army (Grant).
- The Military Reconstruction Act (1867)
  - Listed conditions under which new southern state governments should be formed.
  - Divided South (except Tenn.) into 5 military districts.

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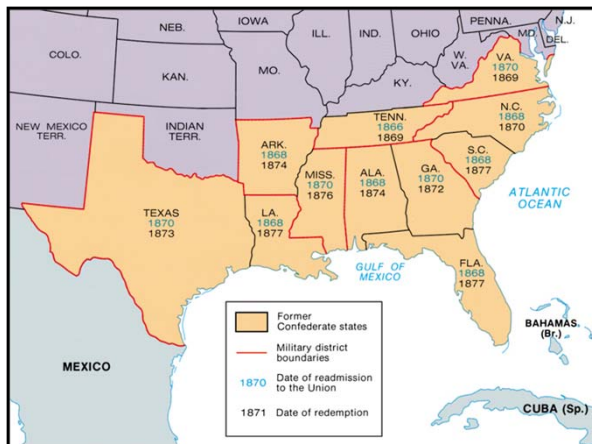
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## Johnson's Impeachment

Removed Stanton and appointed Grant as Secretary of War to test constitutionality of Tenure of Office Act.

- Impeached in 1868 - Vote fell one short of the two-thirds needed for removal of office.
- The impeachment trial crippled Johnson's already weak presidency.
- Radical Reconstruction began in earnest.

Republican Ulysses S. Grant easily won the Election of 1868.

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## Reconstruction in the South



The textbook gives a good description of the successes and failures of Radical Reconstruction. Read about:

- Carpetbaggers and Scalawags.
- The New State Governments / New state constitutions / Race & social equality

15<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1870)

- States could not deny any citizen the right to vote on grounds of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

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## The Triumph of White Supremacy

Most white southerners objected to the Republican governments because of their inclusion of blacks.

Ku Klux Klan (1866 in Tenn.) – began to intimidate blacks and white Republicans

- Lynching and whippings
- Congress passed three Enforcement Acts (1870-71) to stop the Klan. The laws broke the back of the Klan, whose activities declined steadily
- Klan did weaken the morale of blacks and Republicans in the South and strengthened in the North a growing weariness with the whole "southern question." Radical control of the South gradually eroded until 1876.

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## The Abandonment of Reconstruction

- ▶ **Growing Northern Disillusionment**
- ▶ **The Grant Administration**
  - Corruption under Grant
- ▶ **Panic of 1873**
  - Sparked a depression that lasted for six years—the longest and most severe up to that point
  - Widespread bankruptcies, chronic unemployment, and drastic slowdown in railroad building

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## The Abandonment of Reconstruction

- ▶ **The Disputed Election of 1876**
  - Republican Rutherford B. Hayes vs. Democrat Samuel Tilden
  - Compromise of 1877: End of Reconstruction (“home rule”)

Candidate (Party)	Electoral Vote	Popular Vote
Hayes (Republican)	185 (52.1%)	4,028,998 (51%)
Tilden (Democrat)	184 (49.9%)	4,500,990 (57%)
Minor parties	-	93,895 (1%)

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## Outcome of Reconstruction

- ▶ **Politically**
  - Temporary shift in power to Federal government.
  - South has less influence in Washington.
- ▶ **Economically**
  - Sharecropping replaces slavery; South more dependent on cotton.
  - North becomes an industrial power.
- ▶ **Race—white prejudice against black does not change; in fact, in many ways it intensifies.**

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**Significant Events**

- 1863 Lincoln outlines Reconstruction program
- 1865 Freedman's Bureau established
- Presidential Reconstruction completed
- Thirteenth Amendment ratified
- 1865-1866 Black Codes enacted
- 1866 Ku Klux Klan organized
- Republicans win victories in Congress
- 1867 Congressional Reconstruction enacted
- 1868 Johnson impeached but acquitted
- 1870 Last southern states readmitted to Congress
- 1874 Democrats win control of the House
- 1877 Compromise of 1877

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