

Reconstruction

How can Northern resources help the South?

In what ways can the South rebuild its economy?

What can the government do to assist African Americans?

Reconstruction

Reconstruction:

- The period during which the United States began to rebuild after the Civil War (1865 -1877)
- The process used by the federal government to readmit the Confederate states to the Union

Presidential Reconstruction

How does President Johnson
implement his vision for American
Reconstruction?

Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan

Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction:

- Government pardon to all Confederates—except high-ranking Confederate officials and those accused of crimes against prisoners of war
- Confederates swear allegiance to the Union
- 10% take this oath the state could form a new state government and gain representation in Congress

Lincoln's Successor



“The time has arrived when the American people should understand what crime is, and that it should be punished, and its penalties enforced and inflicted. . . . Treason must be made odious . . . traitors must be punished and impoverished . . . their social power must be destroyed. I say, as to the leaders, punishment. I say leniency, conciliation, and amnesty to the thousands whom they have misled and deceived.”

Andrew Johnson
17th President

Presidential Reconstruction

Johnson's Plan:

- Each Confederate state could be readmitted to the Union if:
 - It withdrew its secession
 - Swears allegiance to the Union
 - Annul Confederate war debts
 - Ratify the Thirteenth Amendment

Sumner and Stevens

Radical Republicans

(Charles Sumner and Thaddeus Stevens)

- Destroy the political power of former slaveholders
- Blacks given full citizenship and granted suffrage (the right to vote)

Wade-Davis Bill

Wade-Davis Bill (1864) – response to 10% Plan; Proposed:

- Congress be responsible for Reconstruction
- To form a state government, a majority of those eligible to vote in 1860 would have to take a solemn oath to support the Constitution
- Lincoln pocket-vetoed the Bill (it died in his pocket) and creates a showdown with Congress

Reconstruction

Compare the two Reconstruction policies of President Johnson and the Congress.

Presidential Reconstruction

Congressional Reconstruction

- Southerners who were loyal to the Union were pardoned (or forgiven)
 - Confederate states could hold constitutional conventions to set up new governments
 - The 13th Amendment had to be ratified & secession had to be repealed
 - Elections could be held after the 13th Amendment was ratified
- Southern states were placed on military rule & some people were not allowed to vote
 - New state constitutions must be written
 - African Americans must be allowed to vote & have equal rights
 - The 14th Amendment must be ratified

States Re-enter the Union

December 1865

- Southern states agree with the Johnson Plan and rejoin Congress
- Despite non-compliance (failure to ratify 13th Amendment, generals in Congress, etc.), Johnson welcomes the representatives to Congress

States Re-enter the Union



Freedman's Bureau (1866)

Freedmen's Bureau -

created in last months of war to assist former slaves and poor whites in the South by distributing clothing and food; Congress extended this agency of the government

- Set up hospitals, schools, industrial institutes, and teacher-training centers



"THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU:"

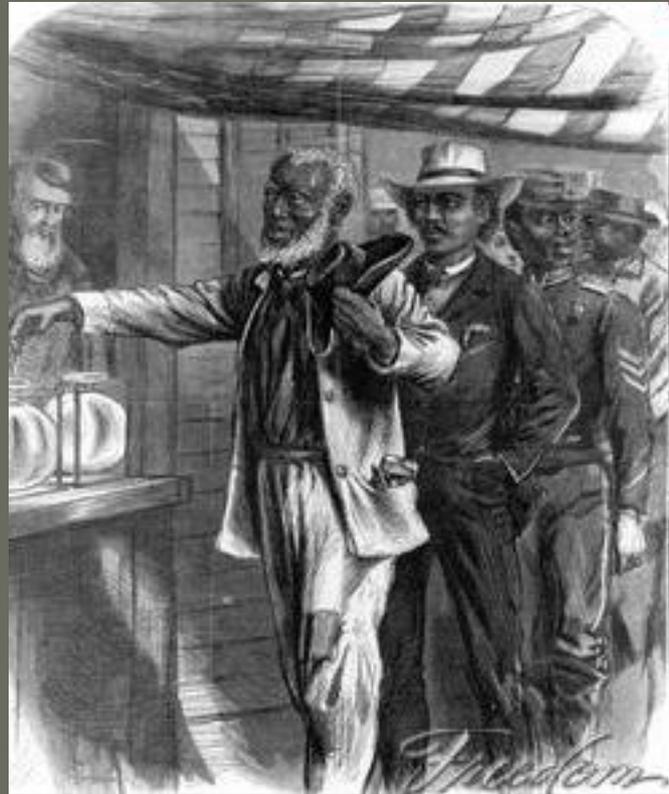
ILLUSTRATED BY HENRY & CO. NEW YORK BY JOHN W. WALKER

Freedmen's School



Civil Rights Act 1866

Civil Rights Act (1866) - gave African Americans citizenship and forbade states from passing discriminatory laws



Black Codes

Black Codes - laws passed to restrict the lives of Blacks following the Civil War and restored many of the restrictions of slavery and preserved white way of life:

- Prohibited blacks from carrying weapons, serving on juries, testifying against whites, marrying whites, and traveling without permits, ownership of land

“All of slavery but its name”

- Black codes:

Plantation owners wanted their former slaves to return to work on the plantations. Under the black codes, freed African-Americans were not free agents but were required to sign yearly labor contracts. In Florida, blacks who broke a labor contract could be whipped and even sold for up to one year's labor.

Johnson's Vetoes

Andrew Johnson shocks Congress and vetoes both the Freedman's Bureau Bill and the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and sparks a battle between the president and the Congress



Congressional Reconstruction

How does the Congress take over
Reconstruction from the President?

Congressional Reconstruction

1866

- Congress overrides the Presidential vetoes
- Congress drafts the 14th Amendment, giving constitutional basis for the Civil Rights Act
- Johnson recommends Southern states to NOT ratify this amendment

Fourteenth Amendment

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws...”

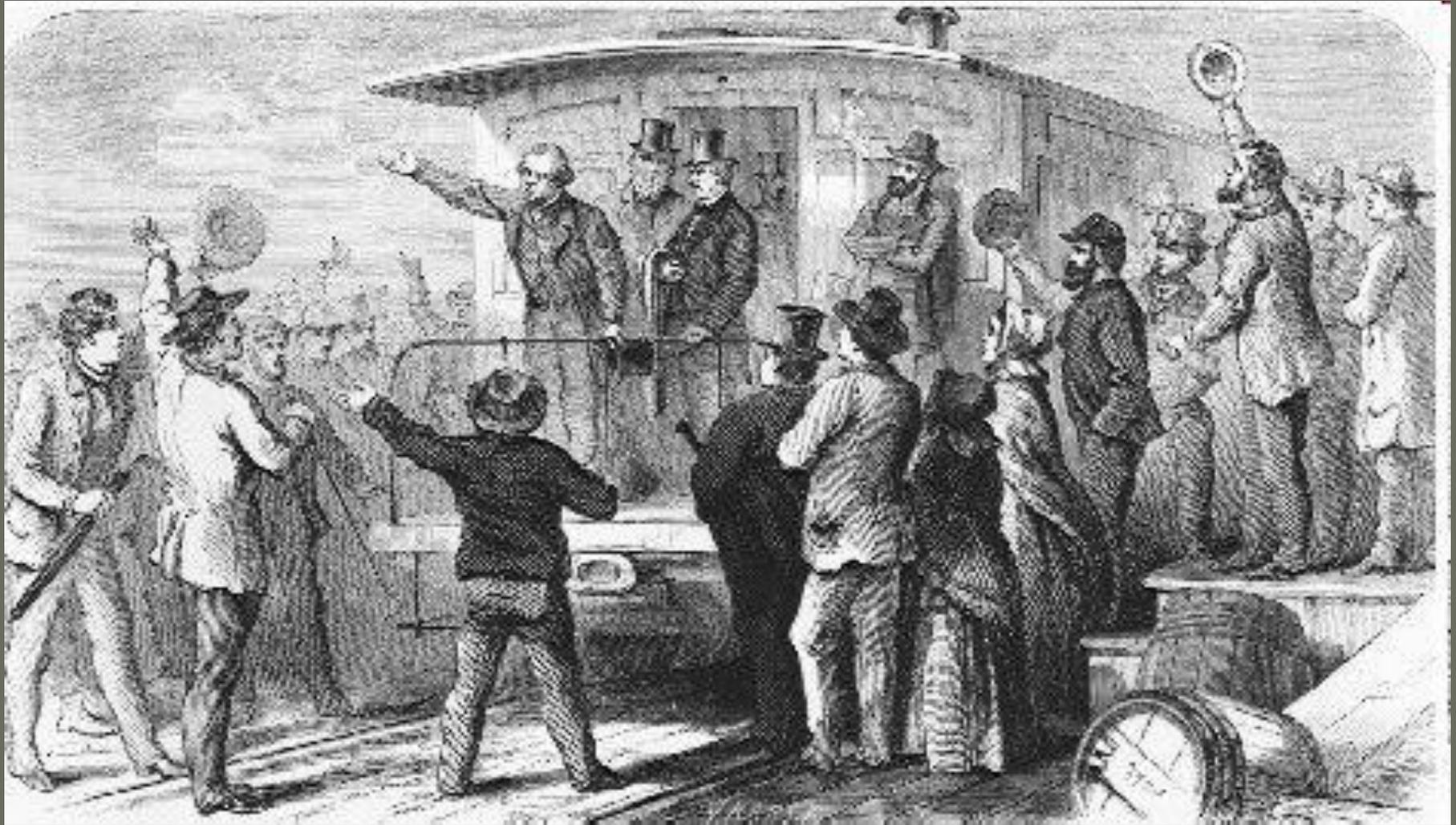
14th Amendment

“all persons born or naturalized in the United States” citizens of the country

- Entitled to equal protection of the law
- No deprivation by states to any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law
- Preventing the right to vote of any male citizen, state faces penalties

1866 Congressional Elections

Johnson attempts to sway voters



40th Congress of the United States

Reconstruction Act 1867

- Abolished governments formed in the former Confederate states
- Divided those states into five military districts
- Set up requirements for readmission to the Union
 - The state's constitution had to ensure African-American men the vote and
 - Had to ratify the 14th Amendment

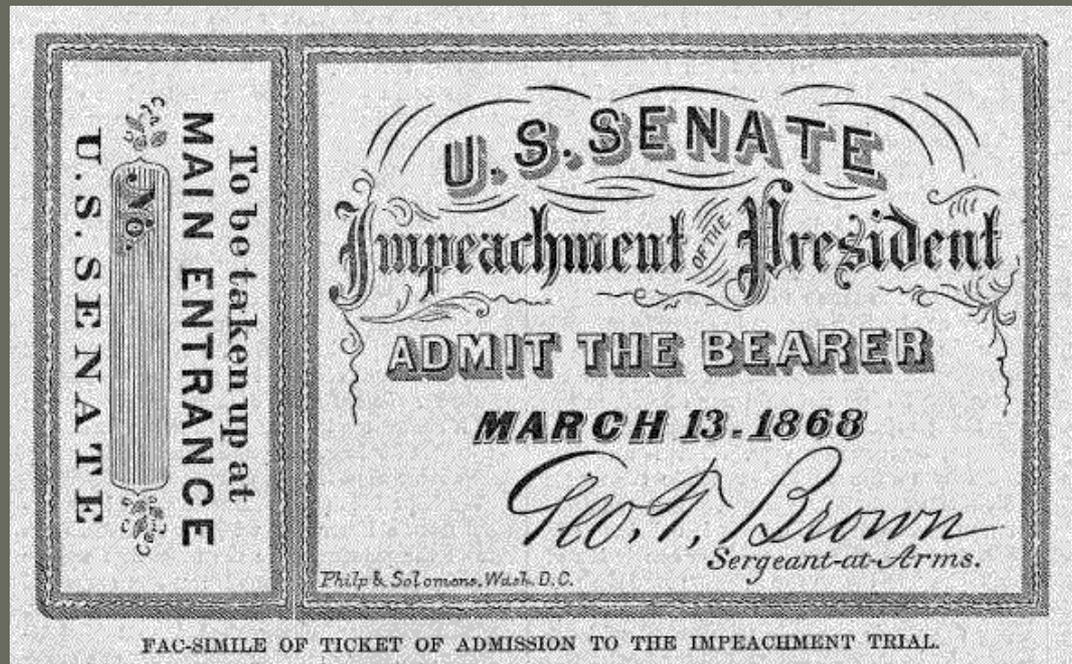
Reconstruction Act 1867



Impeachment

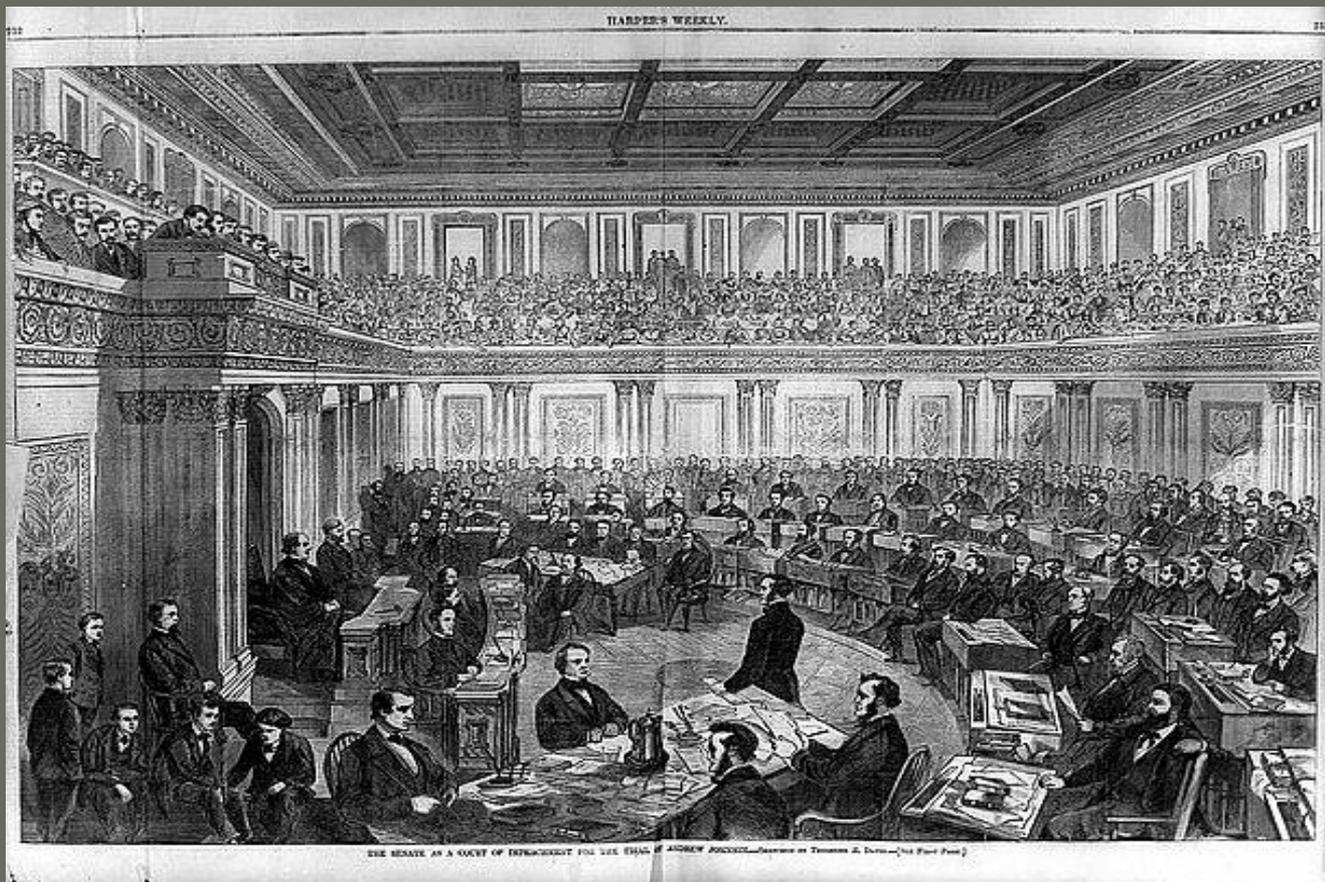
Impeach - to formally charge the president with misconduct in office

- House of Representatives has the sole power to impeach federal officials, who are then tried in the Senate



Johnson's Impeachment Fails

- Johnson challenges the Tenure of Office Act and is impeached by House
- Impeachment trial fails by one vote!

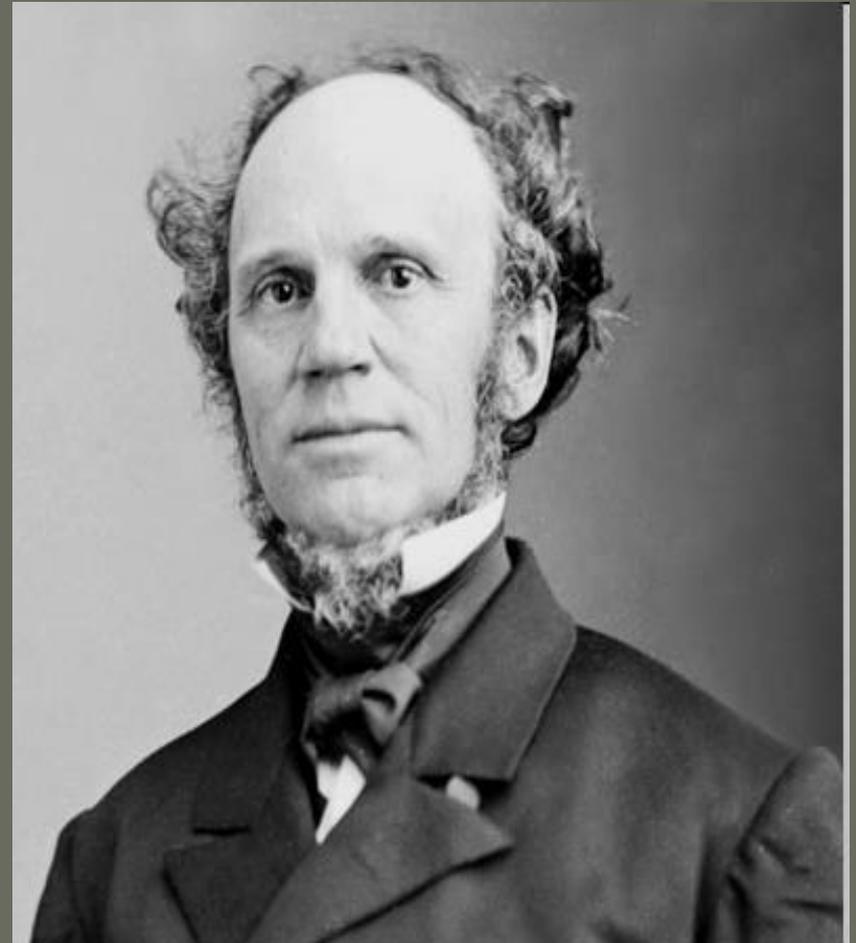


Election 1868



Ulysses S. Grant

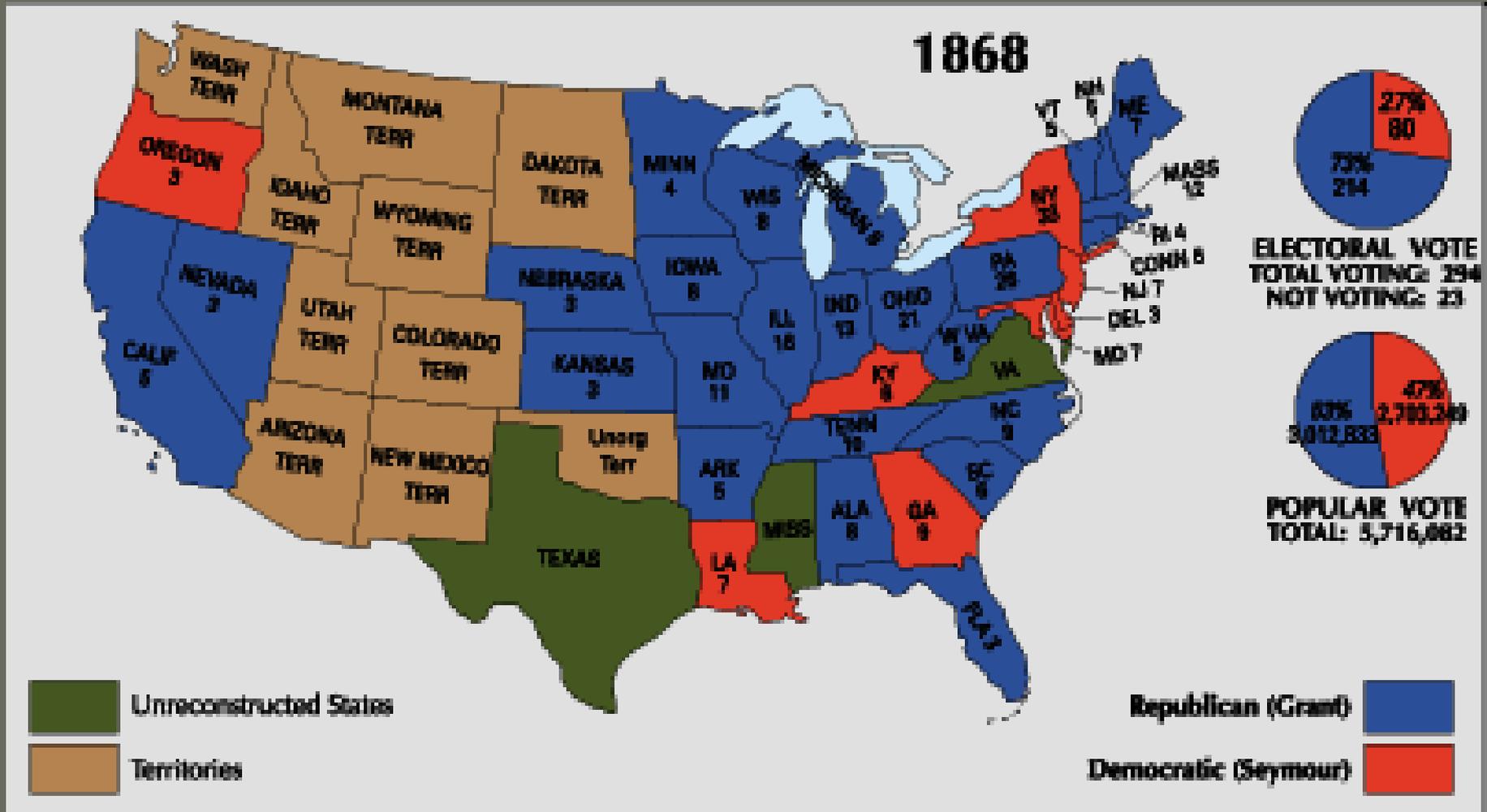
Republican Candidate
1868



Horatio Seymour

Democratic Candidate
1868

Election 1868



Fifteenth 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.”

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

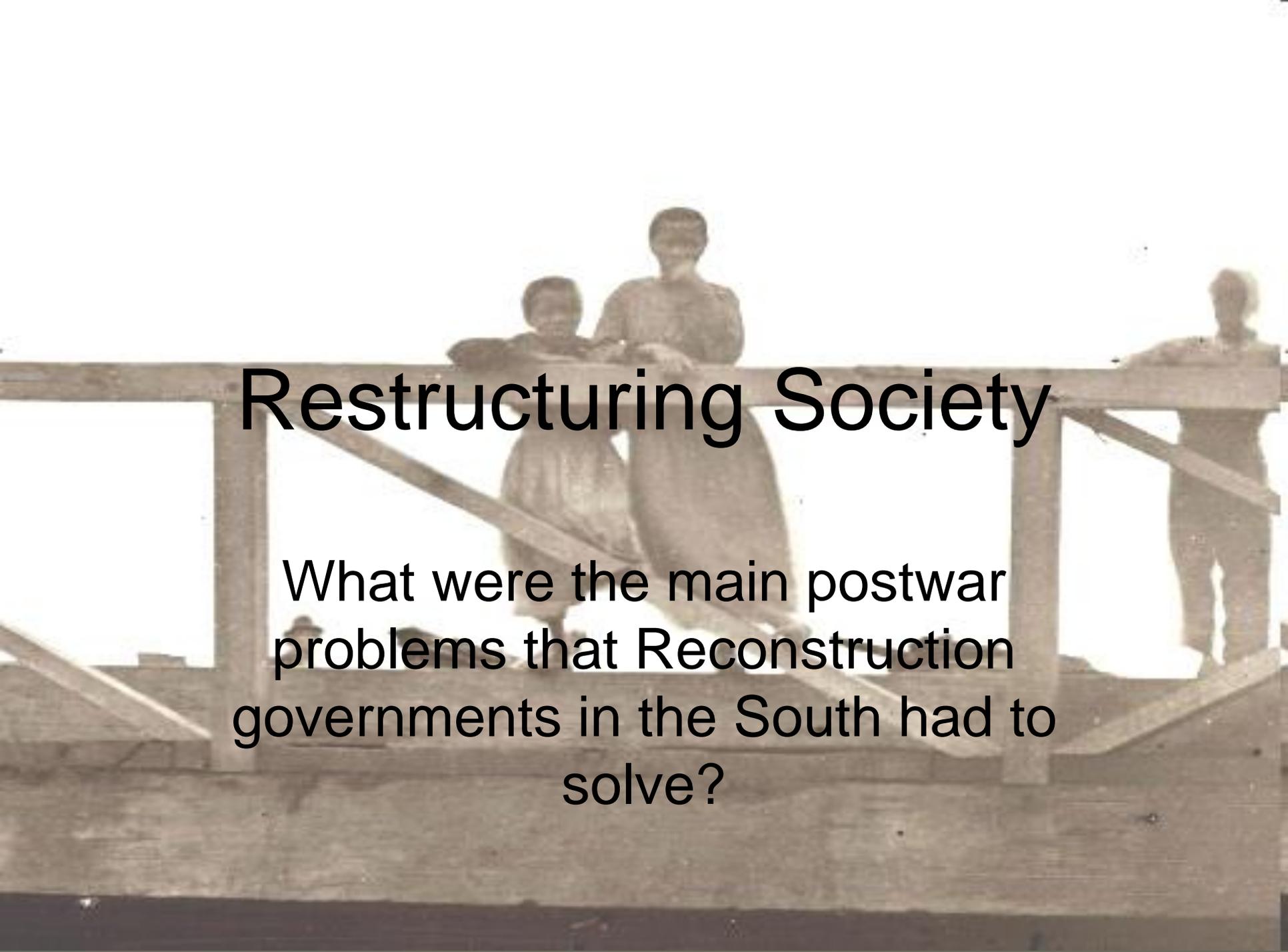
15th Amendment

15th Amendment

- ratified by the states in 1870
- some Southern governments refused to enforce the 14th and 15th Amendments
- violence became a tool to prevent voting

Enforcement Act of 1870

- gave federal government power to punish those who tried to suppress voters

A sepia-toned photograph showing a woman and a child standing on a wooden structure, possibly a bridge or a walkway. The woman is in the center, holding the child's hand. Another person is visible in the background on the right. The image is overlaid with text.

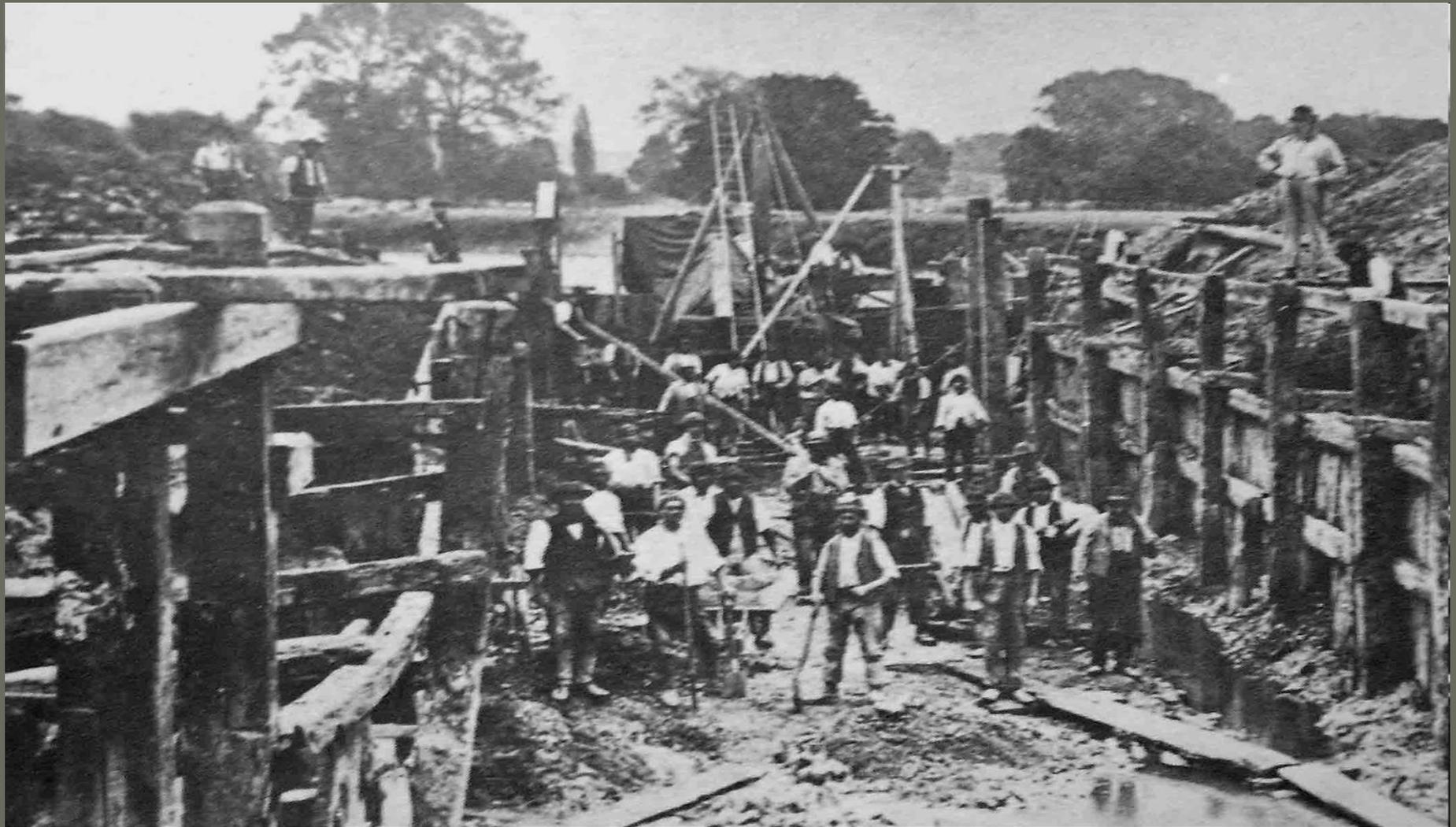
Restructuring Society

What were the main postwar problems that Reconstruction governments in the South had to solve?

Postwar Rebuilding



Postwar Rebuilding



Postwar Struggles

Public Works Programs

- built roads, bridges, and railroads
- established orphanages
- created institutions for the care of the mentally ill and disabled
- created the first public school systems throughout most of the South

Postwar Politics

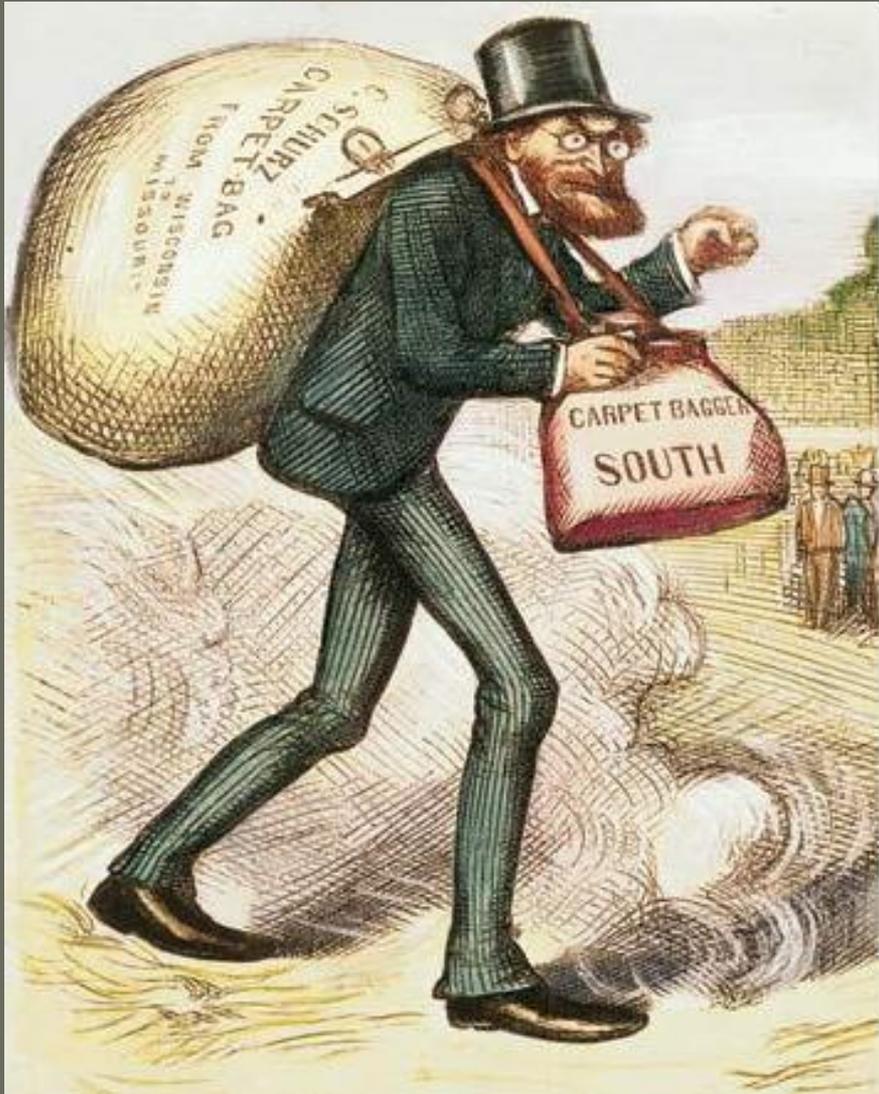
Scalawags - name given to white Southerners who joined the Republican Party

- Looking to gain political office through African-American vote

Carpetbaggers - Northerners who moved to the South after the war

- Southerners believed that the carpetbaggers wanted to exploit the South's postwar turmoil for their own profit

Carpetbaggers



This cartoon from a Southern Democratic newspaper depicts Carl Schurz, a liberal Republican who advocated legal equality for African Americans. Schurz is shown as a carpetbagger trudging down a dusty Southern road as a crowd of people watch his arrival.

What is the intent of this cartoon?

Who is the artist's audience?

African-American Voters



“ We are not prepared for this suffrage. But we can learn. Give a man tools and let him commence to use them and in time he will earn a trade. So it is with voting. We may not understand it at the start, but in time we shall learn to do our duty.”

Challenges after Slavery

Without land, jobs, tools, money, and with few skills besides those of farming, what were they to do?

How would they feed and clothe themselves?

How and where would they live?

How would they find their loved ones?

Reunification of Families

reconstructing their families became an important part of establishing an identity as a free people



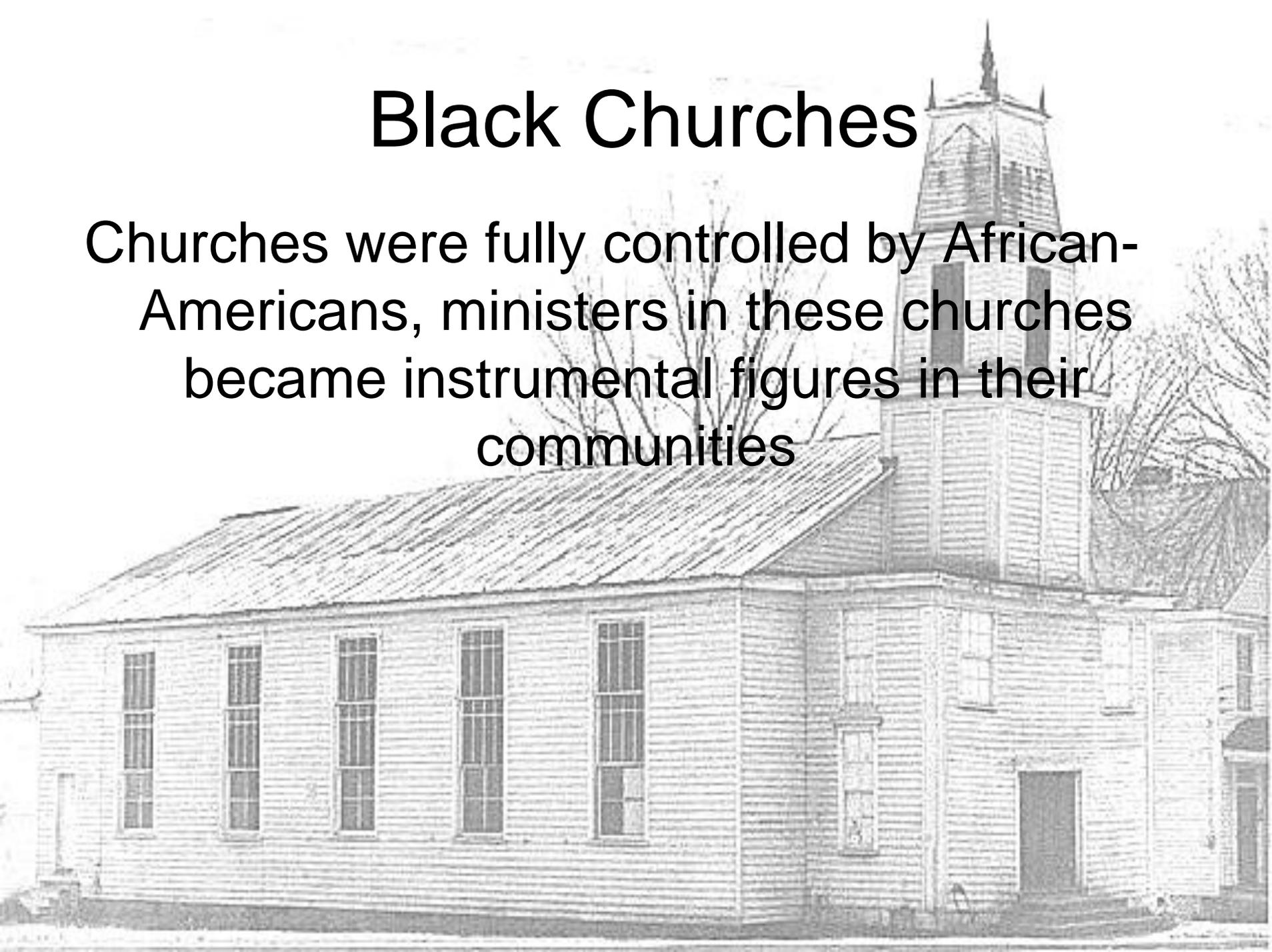
Knowledge is the “pathway from slavery to freedom”

- Frederick Douglass



Black Churches

Churches were fully controlled by African-Americans, ministers in these churches became instrumental figures in their communities



African-Americans in Politics



Hiram Rhodes Revels

First Black Senator

40 Acres and a Mule

General Sherman promised freed slaves to follow his Army 40 acres per family and use of Army mules on their new land



40 Acres and a Mule

August 1865

- Johnson ordered land returned to whites and eviction of Black farmers

Southern Homestead Act (1866)

- set aside 44 million acres of swampy land in the South for freed blacks and loyal whites

Sharecropping and Tenant Farming

Sharecropping - a system in which landowners give farm-workers land, seed, and tools in return for a part (share) of the crops they raise

Tenant Farming - a system in which farm-workers supply their own tools and rent farmland for cash

Sharecropping



Sharecropping: A Cycle of Poverty

Sharecroppers were supposed to have a chance to climb the economic ladder, but by the time they had shared their crops and paid their debts, they rarely had any money left. A sharecropper often became tied to one plantation, having no choice but to work until his or her debts were paid. (p391)

Cotton No Longer King

Southern Economy Diversifies:

- textile mills
- tobacco industry
- average wages increase



The Collapse of Reconstruction

What was responsible for the end of Reconstruction?

How does the end of Reconstruction influence the nation?

Bitterness and Resentment

...bitterness and resentment creates to



The “Invisible Empire of the South”



Ku Klux Klan

1866

- born in Tennessee as a social club for Confederate veterans
- membership spread rapidly through the South
- new chapters evolved into violent terrorist organizations

1868

- Klan chapters existed in nearly every Southern state
- goal was to restore white supremacy.
- methodology was to prevent Africa-Americans from exercising their political rights

Targets

1868 - 1871

- KKK attacks and kills thousands of men, women and children
- many of them black
- violence against whites was aimed at those who were willing to support or help Blacks
- Republicans in government during Reconstruction

Why is violence an effective tool?

Warnings



A cartoon threatening that the KKK would lynch carpetbaggers
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Independent Monitor, 1868.

Economic Pressure

- Klan attempted and succeed at making Blacks from making economic and political progress
- Black land-owners were subject to violence and the destruction of property
- left little options for other Blacks and they were pushed into working for Whites or as sharecroppers

Enforcement Acts

Enforcement Act 1870

- provided for the federal supervision of elections in Southern states

Enforcement Act 1871

- gave the president the power to use federal troops in areas where the Klan was active to prevent violence

Legislative Failures

Ulysses S Grant failed to use his power and the Enforcement Acts became useless

1882

- The Supreme Court ruled that the 1871 Enforcement Act was unconstitutional and Blacks were not protected by law against the violence of the Klan

The Klan Takes Hold

1880

- Klan events decreased, not due to legislation, but the Klan had seen their objective through and reestablished white supremacy in the South
- no longer needed such organized activity to limit the political and civil rights Blacks

Political Shifts

Amnesty Act (1872)

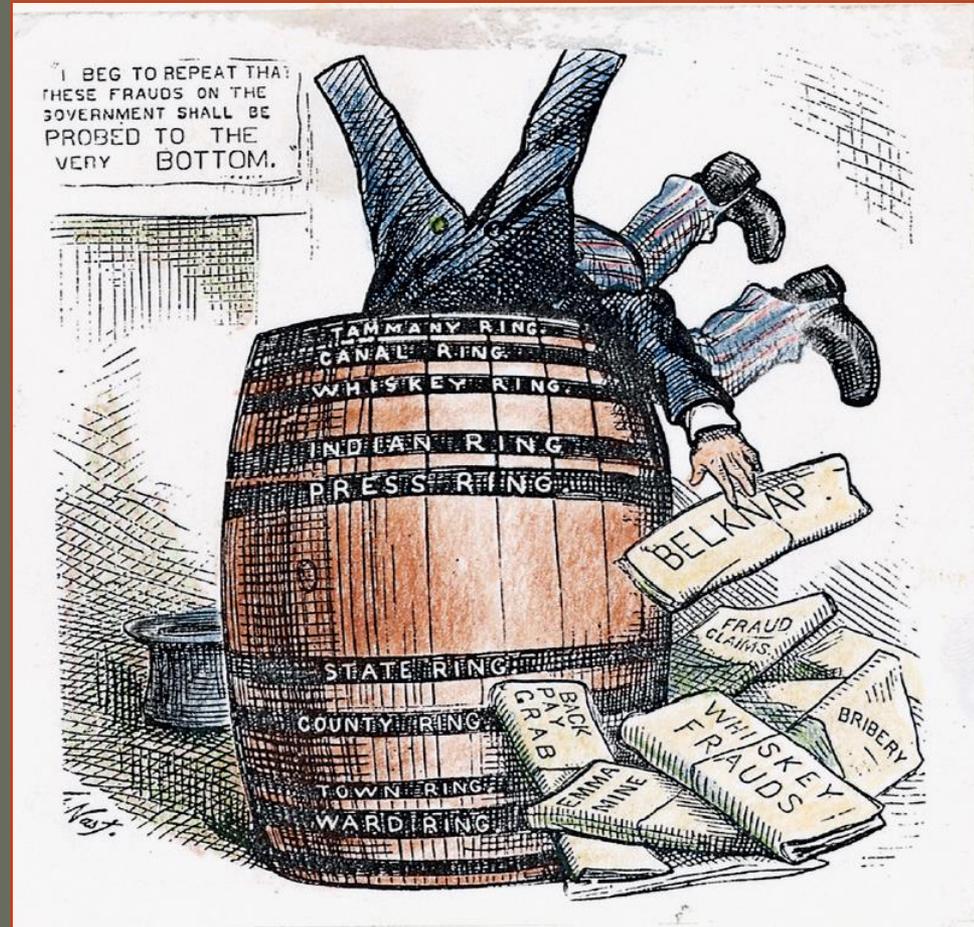
- Congress returned the right to vote and the right to hold federal and state to former Confederates

Freedman's Bureau Bill expires

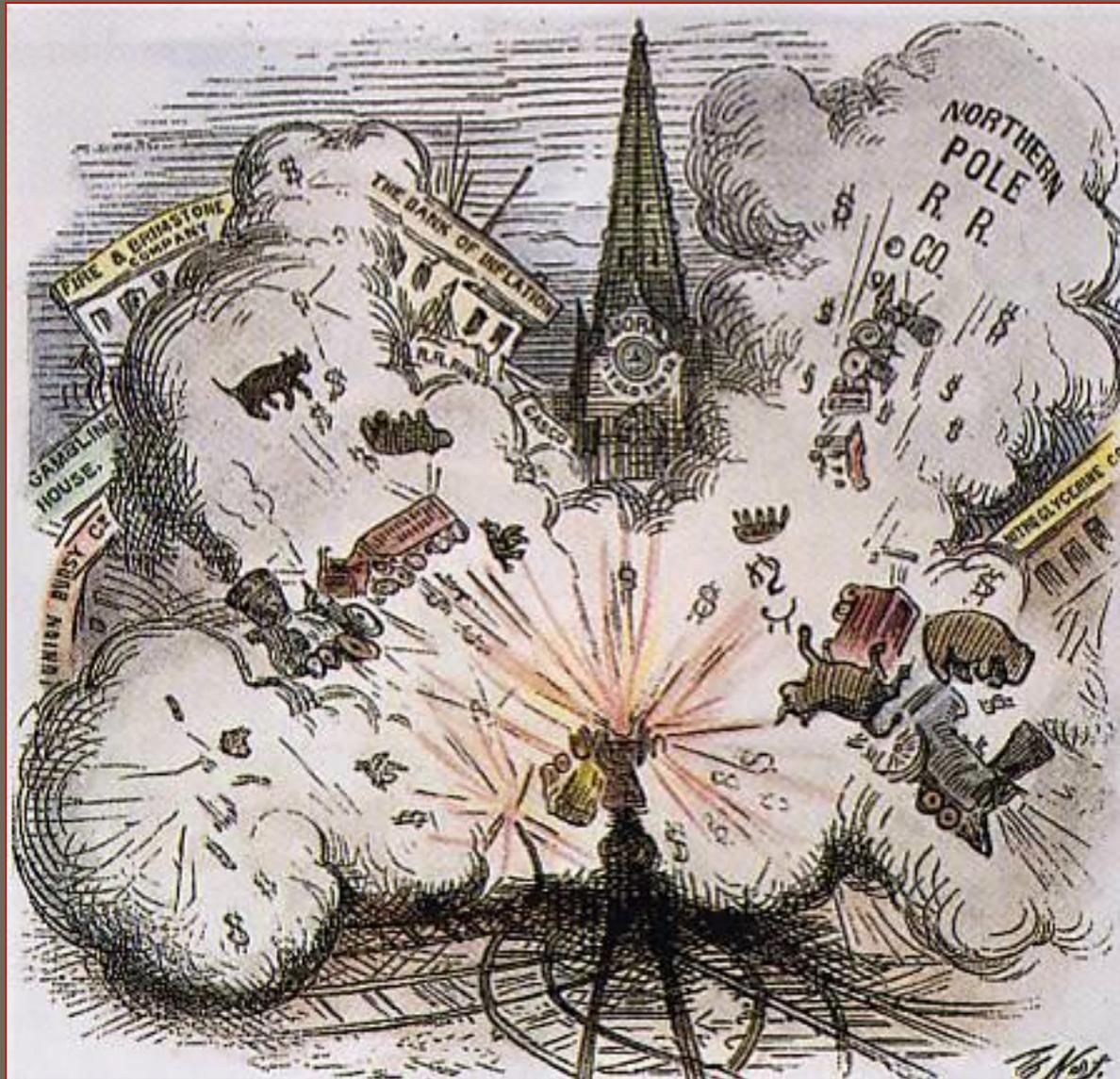
How does this create a political shift?

Corruption Creates Rifts

- scandal and corruption rocks the Grant administration
- creates a rift in the Republican Party making it difficult to monitor the Reconstruction of the South



Panic 1873



Economic Turmoil

Panic 1873

- economic success grew following the Civil War prompted by business investments in the South
- Jay Cooke's banking firm goes bankrupt setting off widespread panic and a temporary closing of the Stock Market
- triggered a five-year economic depression—a period of reduced business activity and high unemployment

3 million workers lost their jobs

Currency Battle

- Specie Resumption Act (1875) which promised to put the country back on the gold standard
- battle over currency and “greenbacks” ends here but pushed attention away from Reconstruction

“*Radicalism* is dissolving—going to pieces.”

Slaughterhouse cases (1873)

- most civil rights were ruled to be state, rather than federal, rights and therefore unprotected by the 14th Amendment.

U.S. v. Cruikshank (1876)

- 14th Amendment does not grant the federal government power to punish whites who oppressed blacks

U.S. v. Reese (1876)

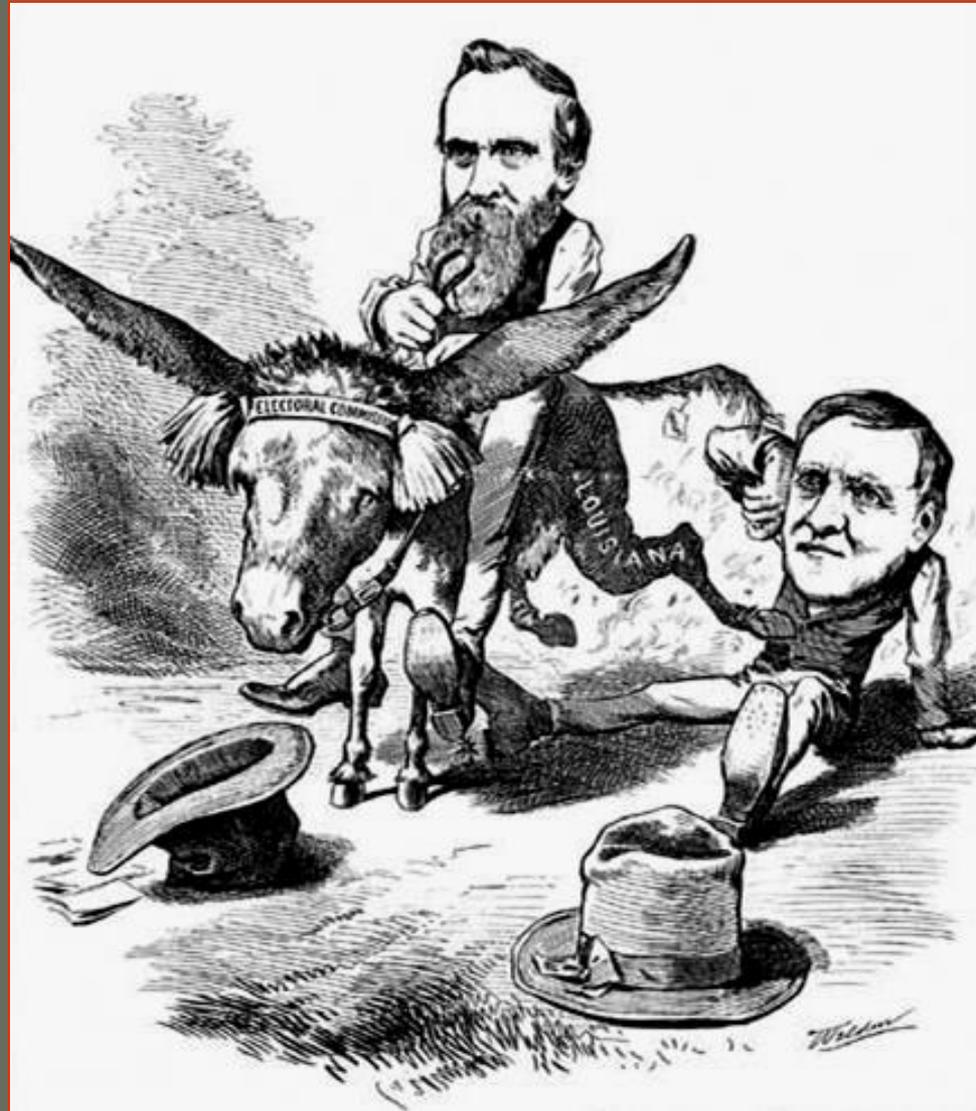
- 15th Amendment does not grant voting rights to anyone, but listed grounds on which states could not deny suffrage

Republicans Retreat from Reconstruction

Northern Support Fades

- Business interests shifted attention
- scalawags and carpetbaggers deserted the Republican Party
- Republican beliefs shifted: government could not impose the moral and social changes needed for progress

Hayes Prevails



Redemption

Redemption - Democratic term for their return to power in the South

- Democrats recapture the state governments of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia

Compromise of 1877

Compromise of 1877

Republicans agree to:

1. withdraw federal troops from Louisiana and South Carolina
2. give Democrats federal money to build a railroad from Texas to the West Coast and improve Southern rivers, harbors, and bridges
3. Hayes would appoint a conservative Southerner to the cabinet

Home Rule

Home Rule - the ability to run state governments without federal intervention

- the Redeemers set out to rescue the South:

- passed laws that restricted the rights of African Americans, wiped out social programs, slashed taxes, and dismantled public schools

Failures of Reconstruction

Mistakes

1. civil rights would be enough protection
2. no distribution of land limits Black economic power
3. underestimated the strength of racism

Success of Reconstruction

13th Amendment

- permanently abolished slavery in all of the states

14th and 15th Amendments passed despite Supreme Court limitations, they remained part of the Constitution

- the amendments provided the necessary constitutional foundation for important civil rights legislation