

# RECONSTRUCTION

## CHAPTER

22



Was a Total FAILURE

WHY?

It was a political solution to an economic and social problem.

### Three Aspects of Reconstruction

1. Physically rebuild the destruction of the South.
2. Integrate Freedmen into society as equals
3. Re-Integrate Southern whites into America. Get them to believe themselves part of America again.

#1: REBUILD THE SOUTH?

- **VACANT HOUSES, FARMS, ETC**
- **WIDOWED WOMEN**
- **DESTROYED CITIES**

• **“SHERMAN’S NECKTIES”**

• **1/5 OF STATE BUDGET SPENT ON ARTIFICIAL LIMBS**

- **CAPITAL (SLAVES) ARE INACCESSIBLE (> \$2 Billion)**
- **NO POLICE, GOVERNMENT, COURTS...**
- **ROVING BANDS OF EX-SOLDIERS**

**#2: Integrate the FREEDMEN?**

SOCIAL	ECONOMIC
CIVIL RIGHTS	JOBS AND EDUCATION
LEGAL PROTECTION	LAND AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT

**During the Civil War**

- General Sherman sent Freed slaves to the Port Royal Sea Islands
- Executive Order 15
- “40 Acres and a Mule”
- Ends with Lincoln’s Assassination
- Set false expectations of Freedmen



SINCE FIXING THIS WAS SO HARD--DO THE EASY THING

**POLITICS**

Politics

PRE 1860: Federal gov’t was controlled by southerners with the help of western farmers.

POST 1865: Northeast Businessmen now control EVERYTHING.

HOW TO MAINTAIN THIS POWER?

- **Keep Confederate leaders dis-enfranchised**
- **Give Blacks the vote**

- **Tie Blacks to the Republican Party**
- **Encourage business interests**

- **Tie westerners to the Rep. Party**
- **Increase Congressional power**

**#3: Re-Integrate White Southerners**  
**THE LINCOLN PLAN**

**10% OF THE STATE MUST SWEAR LOYALTY (Lincoln dies April of 1865) Tenn., Ark, & La. Comply, BUT Congress refuses to seat them**

**Congressional Reaction**

- Wade-Davis Bill:
  - 50% of state voters sign loyalty oaths
  - Stronger safeguards for Blacks
  - Must vote for 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment
  - Seceded states MUST be re-admitted by Congress as they had committed “State Suicide”.
- Lincoln Pocket Vetoes it, but is then assassinated. Prior to the assassination the Moderate Republicans sided with Lincoln. After it, they will let the Radical Republicans take over.

**WHEN 1 PARTY IS LEFT--IT SPLITS**

- **RADICAL REP’S: (25%)** Wanted to punish the rebels, and ensure Black equality. Idealistic and egalitarian.
- **MODERATE REP’S: (40%)** Voted for Black enfranchisement to get their vote and control the South. Angry over Lincoln’s death

- **CONSERVATIVE REP’S: (25%)** The business of America is business.
- **DEMOCRATS: (10%)** “Redeemers”, “The Lost Cause”, “Bourbons”.

**A southern Traitor???**

- From Tennessee
- Hated the southern aristocrats
- Born dirt poor
- Had owned two slaves
- Was a Unionists--gave speeches to keep Tennessee from seceding
- But hated most Northerners
- Hated Slaves

TWO differences from the Rad's

- A TOTALLY DIFFERENT, AND ABSOLUTE BELIEF IN THE CONSTITUTION
- A HATRED OF BLACKS
- CALLED IT "RESTORATION"

## THE JOHNSON PLAN

- **ACCEPT 13<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT** (signed into law Dec. 8th, 1865)
- **disenfranchised Planters and CSA Leaders**
- **Could ask him for pardons**
- **Never seceded, therefore--President decides how they re-enter the union.**

- **Early elections held 1866** (ex-CSA officers sweep elections)
- **Causes more Moderates to join Radical camp**
- **Only Tenn. Allowed to take their seats in Congress**

## Military Reconstruction Act



- HE PARDONED 13,000 SOUTHERN LEADERS
- AUTHORIZED EARLY SOUTHERN STATE ELECTIONS
- VETOED THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU (overturned by 2/3 Congressional vote)

- Overturned Sherman's Executive Order 15 which gave 40 acres and a mule to freedmen on the Sea Islands, which had been under control of the Union army since 1861 (off the coast of S. Carolina)
- Orders all land confiscated from CSA leaders to be returned.
- Jefferson Davis in 1877 will sue for the return of his brother's 4 plantations that he had illegally sold to his Black overseer and WIN.

- VETOED THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1866
- LOBBIED AGAINST THE 14TH AMENDMENT

WHY????

### A SOUTHERNER AT HEART

- Self-made man
- SIMPLE TAILOR
- GUILTY ABOUT ROLE IN CIVIL WAR?
- HATED NORTHERNERS, BLACKS, & OTHER SOUTHERN UNIONISTS
- GREAT ORATOR
- STUBBORN!!!!!!

THE  
OPPOSITION

Thaddeus  
Stevens



- **Born Poor**
- **Alcoholic father deserted family**
- **Club-footed**
- **Eldest son had to care for family**

How does this affect  
people???

They become either:

- A. Ultra-conservative
- B. Ultra Liberal

### STEVENS's BELIEFS:

- THEY ARE NOT STATES but rather **CONQUERED PROVINCES**.
- ONLY CONGRESS CAN RE-ADMIT THEM (CONG. JT. COMM. ON RECON.)
- Looking positively on the Sea Island experiment, Stevens proposed redistributing 394,000,000 acres owned by about 70,000 rebels

ONLY 2 POWERS LEFT TO  
JOHNSON

- VETO
- PARDON

But he lacked the  
political skills  
and power base  
to do anything

#### RADICAL REP. PLAN:

- FREEDMAN'S BUREAU (
  - To help the poor--more whites are helped than blacks)
  - \*\*Education\*\*
  - Labor disputes
  - Food (but not free land\*\*\*\*)
- 13th Amendment Dec. 1865-Jan 1866
- 14th amendment June 1866-July 1868

#### The Balance of Power in Congress



State	White Citizens	Freedmen
SC	291,000	411,000
Miss	353,000	436,000
Louis	357,000	350,000
GA	591,000	465,000
AL	596,000	437,000
VA	719,000	533,000
NC	631,000	331,000

- FORGED A COALITION WITH MODERATES TO OVER-RIDE MOST VETOES.
- BLACKS ARE EQUAL TO WHITES
- GIVE FREEDMEN "40 ACRES AND A MULE" NEVER HAPPENED.
- **UNION LEAGUE** tried to educate Freemen on the CIVIC DUTIES

- Military rule (Military or Congressional Recon Act) until both are signed and 40% pledge loyalty.
- Tenure of Office Act
- Impeachment Trial March 13, 1868

WHY NOT JUST WAIT A FEW MORE MONTHS?

## President Johnson's Impeachment

- ★ Johnson removed Stanton in February, 1868.
- ★ Johnson replaced generals in the field who were more sympathetic to Radical Reconstruction.
- ★ The House impeached him on February 24 before even drawing up the charges by a vote of 126 - 47!



## MYTHS OF RECONSTRUCTION

- SCALAWAGS
- CARPETBAGGERS
- UNQUALIFIED BLACKS IN POWER
- CORRUPTION OF NORTH AGAINST SOUTH

## The Election of 1872



- ★ Spoilsmen v. reformers.
- ★ Rumors of corruption during Grant's first term discredit Republicans.
- ★ Horace Greeley runs as a Democrat/Liberal Republican candidate.
- ★ Greeley attacked as a fool and a crank.
- ★ Greeley died on November 29, 1872!

## US GRANT

• LANDSLIDE ELECTORAL VOTE IN 1868  
214-80

• EVEN BIGGER VICTORY IN 1872. 286-2

BUT BY 1876 THE REP. CANDIDATE (HAYES), HAS TO CHEAT IN ORDER TO SQUEAK OUT A 185-184 "VICTORY".

Grant  
Vs.  
Hayes

WHY?

## 1872 Presidential Election



- CORRUPTION IN THE GRANT ADMINISTRATION
- NORTH NEEDED SOUTHERN COTTON

- The North and West really didn't want freedmen near them—so they became mired in a racist southern society (no – not that kind of Ho).



- GENERATIONS OF SLAVERY HAD LEFT FREEDMEN UNPREPARED FOR THE CHALLENGES OF FREEDOM
- AMERICA LIKES POLITICAL CHANGE.

- KKK & OTHER RACIST GROUPS (REDEEMERS)
- “SOLID SOUTH”
- INCREASE IN IMMIGRATION (NORTH)
- NEW YORK CITY POLITICS



**“REDEEMERS”**

A VERY POWERFUL WEAPON FOR OPPRESSION.

Forces passage of the 15th (1870)



**• CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1875 IS THE LAST GASP OF EQUALITY**

**The Civil Rights Act of 1875**

- ★ Crime for any individual to deny full & equal use of public conveyances and public places.
- ★ Prohibited discrimination in jury selection.
- ★ Shortcoming → lacked a strong enforcement mechanism.
- ★ No new civil rights act was attempted for 90 years!

## Northern Support Wanes

- ★ "Grantism" & corruption.
- ★ **Panic of 1873** [6-year depression].
- ★ Concern over westward expansion and Indian wars.



- ★ Key monetary issues:
  - \* should the government retire \$432m worth of "greenbacks" issued during the Civil War.
  - \* should war bonds be paid back in specie or greenbacks.

## 1876 Presidential Election

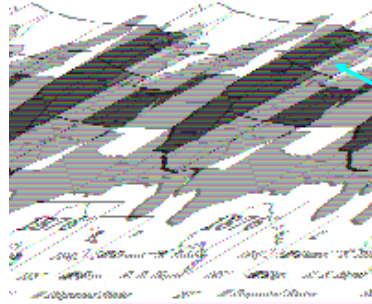


## The Political Crisis of 1877



- ★ "Corrupt Bargain" Part II?

Military Reconstruction has ended in the southern blue states, and they have taken away Black suffrage



THE COMPROMISE OF 1877 RESULTS IN:

- **BLACK CODES** (*de jure*):
  - Illegal to inter-marry
  - Illegal to occupy
    - Same rail cars

- Same schools
- Same churches
- Same restaurants
- Same parks
- 1897 Plessy V.S. Ferguson

1. JIM CROW LAWS
2. POLL TAXES



3. "UNDERSTANDING LAWS"

- **AGRARIAN WEST ALLIES W/ SOUTH**
- **LACK OF QUALITY CANDIDATES**
- **REP. FOCUS ON BUSINESS**

- **80% VOTER TURNOUT**
- **AMERICA LOSES 620,000 PEOPLE, BUT HAS A LARGER POPULATION AFTER THE WAR.**

### Tenancy & the Crop Lien System

Furnishing Merchant	Tenant Farmer	Landowner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Loan tools and seed up to 60% interest to tenant farmer to plant spring crop.</li> <li>▪ Farmer also secures food, clothing, and other necessities on credit from merchant until the harvest.</li> <li>▪ Merchant holds "lien" (mortgage) on part of tenant's future crops as repayment of debt.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plants crop, harvests in autumn.</li> <li>▪ Turns over up to <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> of crop to land owner as payment of rent.</li> <li>▪ Tenant gives remainder of crop to merchant in payment of debt.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rents land to tenant in exchange for <math>\frac{1}{3}</math> to <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> of tenant farmer's future crop.</li> </ul>

