

Unit 4 – Part 2

Reconstruction after the Civil War

- **Reconstruction** – program implemented by the federal government between 1865 and 1877 to repair damage to the South caused by the Civil War and restore the southern states to the Union
- **Radical Republicans** – Congressmen who advocated full citizenship rights for African Americans along with a harsh Reconstruction policy towards the South
- **Wade-Davis Bill** – required that a majority of prewar voters in the Confederate states swear loyalty to the Union before restoration could begin
- **Freedmen’s Bureau** – federal agency designed to aid freed slaves and poor white farmers in the South after the Civil War
- **Andrew Johnson** – Lincoln’s Vice President; became President after Lincoln’s assassination
- **black code** – law passed in southern states restricting the freedoms of African Americans
- **Civil Rights Act of 1866** – law that established federal guarantees of civil rights for all citizens
- **Fourteenth Amendment** – 1868 constitutional amendment which defined citizenship and guarantees citizens equality under the law
- **impeach** – accusation against a public official of wrong-doing in office
- **Fifteenth Amendment** – 1870 constitutional amendment that guaranteed voting rights regardless of race or previous condition of servitude
- **scalawag** – a negative term for a southern white man joined the Republican Party after the war
- **carpetbagger** – a negative term for Republican who relocated to the South after the war
- **sharecropping** – system in which a farmer tended a portion of a planter’s land in return for a share of the crop
- **share-tenancy** – similar to sharecropping, but the farmer decided the crop and bought his own supplies
- **tenant farming** – system in which a farmer paid rent to a landowner for the use of the land
- **Ku Klux Klan** – secret organization founded during Reconstruction whose aim was to terrorize African Americans
- **Enforcement Acts** – 1870 and 1871 laws that made it a federal offense to interfere with a citizen’s right to vote

How did the Radical Republicans’ plans for Reconstruction differ from Lincoln’s and Johnson’s?

Radical Republicans wanted to [punish the South for slavery](#) and for the war itself.

Both [Lincoln and Johnson](#) wanted the southern states to be [brought back into the Union](#) quickly, using less punitive measures.

The issues and results of Reconstruction had consequences for generations to come.

What were the immediate effects of Reconstruction?

After the war, there was a [struggle for political control](#). African Americans used the power of their vote to elect many representatives from mayors to the U.S. Senate.

Newly freed African Americans explored [new relationships to social, political and economic life](#). Groups like the [Ku Klux Klan](#) aimed to turn back their progress through [violence](#) and intimidation.

How and why did Reconstruction end?

Corruption throughout the North and South became a pressing issue. Financial crisis and people’s worry about the continued cost of military operations in the South eroded the reach of Reconstruction.

In addition, a series of Supreme Court decisions gave the federal government less control over the South and ate away at the few protections African Americans had gained.

I. Reconstruction (1865-1877)

Conflicting opinions	

Lincoln's Plan	
Johnson's Plan	
Congress Plan	

In accordance to President Lincoln and Johnson's plan for Reconstruction, a plantation owner announces to his slaves that they are now free – many former slaves will stay on the plantation owners land and work for food (sharecropping)

Under the Radical Republican Congress, during Reconstruction, southern states were placed under military control and forced to free slaves, write new state constitutions, and adapt new amendments (13,14,15), giving African-Americans rights.

What might happen when Union soldiers leave the South after Reconstruction? _____



Under the 15th amendment, African-Americans gained the right to vote – this right was quickly taken away in many southern states as restrictions were placed on African- Americans voting rights

Legislation

13th

14th

15th

Democracy's Turnstile

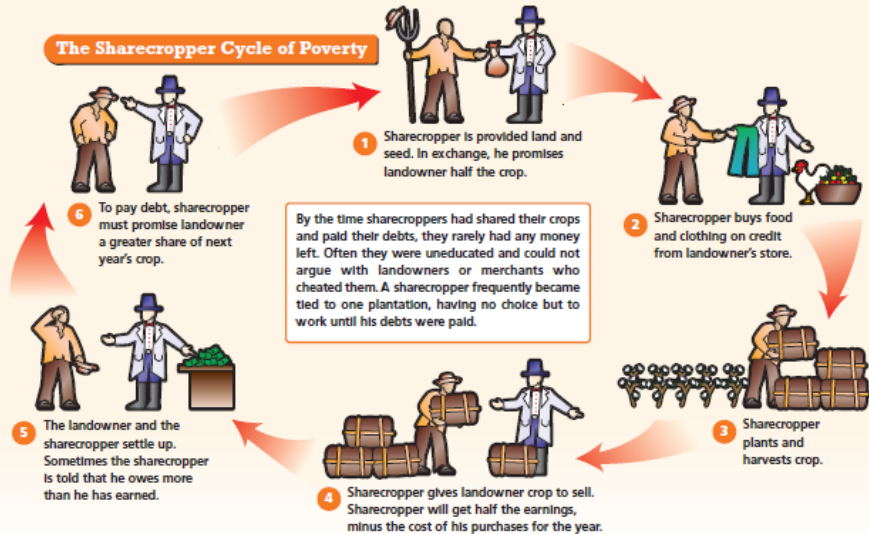


Poll Tax = Pay a tax to vote –
 Literacy Test = prove you could read by reading difficult portion of the U.S.
 Constitution – Grandfather Clause = if your grandfather could vote before 1865, you could vote without paying the tax or literacy test (poor white southerners could still vote)

South Tries to Restrict African-American Rights

1. Black Codes
2. Jim Crow Laws
4. Ku Klux Klan
5. Sharecropping

The Sharecropper Cycle of Poverty




Sharecropping was viewed as another form of slavery, because no money was made by the sharecroppers – sharecropping was not limited to African-Americans – many poor white southerners also became sharecroppers

Northerners Try to Help African-Americans

1. Freedmen's Bureau

SUMMARY

Reconstruction



During Reconstruction, Congress decided how the Southern states would be readmitted to the Union and passed laws to improve conditions for freed people.

Reconstruction and Daily Life

After slavery ended, freed African Americans reunited their families, attended school, and began working for pay. Racist violence and lack of land slowed their progress.

End of Reconstruction

In the 1870s, hostile Supreme Court decisions, the Southern Democrats' return to power, and the withdrawal of federal troops from the South ended Reconstruction.

Why might Reconstruction be considered a time in which the presidency was weak?

2. Carpetbaggers

3. Scalawag

President Elected (1868)

II. End of Reconstruction

Booker T. Washington

W.E.B. Dubois

Lasting Impacts
Democrats

Lasting Impacts
Republicans



RECONSTRUCTION: Rebuilding America AFTER the Civil War



My Reconstruction Plan

In this section, pretend you are Vice President Andrew Johnson. The Civil War had just ended and the president before you, Abraham Lincoln, has just been assassinated, or killed. Now YOU are the President of the United States and YOU have to help plan the Reconstruction of the United States. You are the leader of the country, and the country needs rebuilding and healing from 4 years of bloody war and a bitter fight about the issue of slavery. One million Americans have been killed or hurt in the war, families have been separated and jobs have been lost. The North is angry at the Confederate states, but as the President you have to help them recover and rejoin the Union. What is your Reconstruction plan? Write at least 5 things you plan to do...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.