

Reconstruction

Lesson Seven



The Politics of Reconstruction

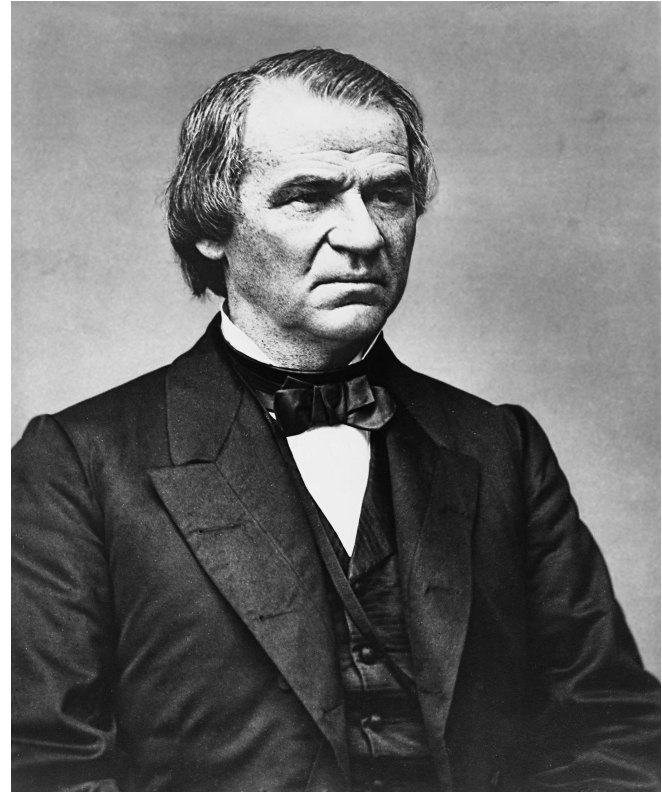
- **Reconstruction**—U.S. rebuilds, readmits South into Union (1865–1877)

Lincoln's Plan

- State readmitted if 10% of 1860 voters swear allegiance to Union
- **Radical Republicans** consider plan too lenient:
 - want to destroy political power of former slaveholders
 - want full citizenship and suffrage for African Americans

Johnson's Plan for Reconstruction

- Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's successor, forms own plan
- Excludes Confederate leaders, wealthy landowners
- Congress rejects new Southern governments, congressmen



- **Freedmen's Bureau** provides social services, medical care, education
 - for former slaves, poor whites
- Congress passes Civil Rights Act of 1866
 - gives former slaves citizenship, forbids **black codes**
- Johnson vetoes Civil Rights Act, Freedman's Bureau Act

THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU!

AN AGENCY TO KEEP THE **NEGRO** IN IDLENESS AT THE **EXPENSE** OF THE WHITE MAN.
 TWICE VETOED BY THE **PRESIDENT**, AND MADE A LAW BY **CONGRESS**.
 SUPPORT CONGRESS & YOU SUPPORT THE NEGRO. SUSTAIN THE PRESIDENT & YOU PROTECT THE WHITE MAN

IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE SHALT THOU EAT THY BREAD

Freedman's Bureau! Negro Estimate of Freedom!

CONGRESS, IN JULY, 1865, VOTED THE
NEGRO TROOPS \$300
 Each as a Bounty

THE SENATE, IN AUGUST, 1865, VOTED THE
WHITE Veterans \$100
 Each as a Bounty.

THE NEGRO GETS 1000 of the WHITE Soldier's coat 10000 Troops, some of the 100,000 and 1000 Troops.

APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS, JULY 1865
 To Support the Freedman's Bureau **\$6,944,500**

Construction	1,000,000
Printing for Negroes	60,000
Wages and Salary for	60,000
Colored	60,000
Travel for Negroes	1,700,000
Travel for Whites	1,000,000
Medical for Negroes	1,000,000
Medical for Whites	1,000,000
Boarding for Negroes	1,000,000
Boarding for Whites	1,000,000
Provision for Negroes	500,000
Provision for Whites	500,000
TOTAL	12,860,000

HEAVY TAXES, HARD LABOUR.

For 1864 and 1865, the FREEDMAN'S BUREAU cost the Tax-payers of the Nation, at least TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. For 1866, THE SHARE of the Tax-payers of Pennsylvania will be about ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. **GEAR,** is FOR the Freedman's Bureau. **CLYMER** is OPPOSED to it.

Congressional Reconstruction

- Congress overrides Johnson's vetoes
- **Fourteenth Amendment** grants full citizenship to African Americans
- Reconstruction Act of 1867 divides Confederacy into military districts
 - Johnson vetoes, Congress overrides veto

Johnson Impeached

- Radical Republicans looking to stop Johnson from blocking Reconstruction
- Find he has violated Tenure of Office Act for firing secretary of war
 - House votes to impeach; Senate does not convict

Grant elected



- Grant elected president in 1868; wins 9 of 10 African-American votes
- **Fifteenth Amendment** protects voting rights of African Americans
 - 1870, ratified by states

Reconstructing Society

- By 1870, all former Confederate states have rejoined Union
- Civil War devastated Southern economy; farms ruined, many men died in the war
- Republican governments begin public works programs, social services



Politics in the South

- **Carpetbaggers**—Northern Republicans, moved to the South after the war
 - some want to help rebuild; others looking to make profit
- **Scalawags**—Southerners who joined Republican Party
 - some looking for wealth, power; improved position
 - others want to support rebuilding of South; limit power of planters
- Southern Republicans, mostly made up of freed slaves
- Many scalawags and other Southern whites reject higher status, equal rights for blacks



Former Slaves Improve Their Lives

- Thousands move to reunite with family, marry, find jobs
- Freedmen found own churches; ministers become community leaders
- Reconstruction governments, churches establish schools

African Americans in Politics

- Few black officeholders in the South; only 16 in Congress
- Hiram Revels** is first black senator

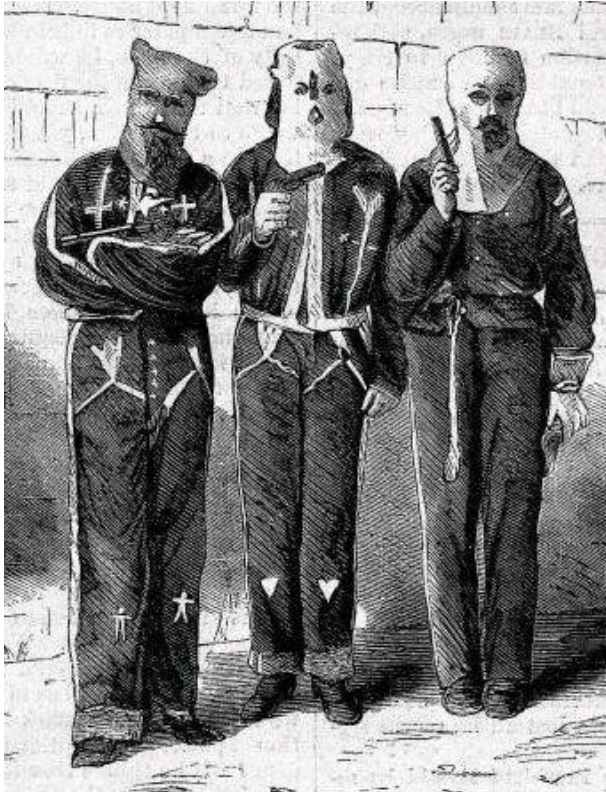


Sharecropping and Tenant Farmers

- Plantation owners in the South retain their land after the war
 - African Americans, poor whites forced to farm others' lands
- **Sharecropping**—to farm land owned by another, keep only part of crops
- Tenant farmers rent land from owner



The Collapse of Reconstruction



Opposition to Reconstruction

- **Ku Klux Klan (KKK)**—southern vigilante group, wants to:
 - destroy Republicans, aid planter class, repress African Americans
 - to achieve goals, KKK kills thousand of men, women, children
- Enforcement Acts of 1870, 1871 uphold federal power in South
- In 1872, Amnesty Act passes, Freedmen's Bureau expires
 - Southern Democrats regain power

