RECONSTRUCTION & THE NEW SOUTH 1865-1900
Fallout from the Civil War

• By the end of the Civil War - destruction in the former Confederacy was unparalleled in American History.

• 258,000 Confederate soldiers died; significant amounts of private property destroyed

• “Lost Cause” - southern myth which looked back at southern life pre-civil war

• Over 200,000 African Americans involved in the war were spread out looking to reunite with lost families, etc.
Mr. Jefferson...?
Civil War Fatalities in Comparison to Other Wars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>War</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil War</td>
<td>620,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World War II</td>
<td>318,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>World War I</td>
<td>115,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnam War</td>
<td>56,227</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korean War</td>
<td>33,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mexican War</td>
<td>13,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection</td>
<td>9,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revolutionary War</td>
<td>4,044</td>
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<tr>
<td>War of 1812</td>
<td>2,200</td>
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</table>
Problems with Peacemaking

- **Economic** chaos - infrastructure lost including RR, farms, bridges, etc
- **Social** Confusion
  - Aristocratic planters lost wealth and power to new bankers, merchants and small farmers
  - Changing status of blacks created social tensions
- **Political** uncertainty
  - State and local gov’ts had to be organized with relation to the Union
  - Political leaders of the North differed sharply over what should be done
  - Quarrels/infighting among Republican party
Critical Thinking Questions

1. How did the role of the federal government change as a result of the Civil War and Reconstruction?
2. In what ways did the events of the Civil War and Reconstruction amount to a revolution?
3. What is the “New South” and who promoted it?
4. Some historians have called Reconstruction a “Glorious Failure”? How accurate is this description?
Key Questions for the Union

1. How to bring the South back into the Union?
2. How to rebuild the South after its destruction during the war?
3. How to integrate and protect newly-emancipated black freedmen?
4. What branch of government should control the process of Reconstruction?
Stages of Reconstruction

1. Presidential Reconstruction (1863-1866)
2. Congressional (or Radical) Reconstruction (1867-1877)
3. Redemption (1877-1900)  (creation of the “New South”)
PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION

10% Plan

* Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction (December 8, 1863)

* Replace majority rule with “loyal rule” in the South.

* He didn’t consult Congress regarding Reconstruction.

* Pardon to all but the highest ranking military and civilian Confederate officers.

* When 10% of the voting population in the 1860 election had taken an oath of loyalty and established a government, it would be recognized.
PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION

• Lincoln’s Assassination (April 14, 1865)
• John Wilkes Booth

Ford’s Theatre, April 1865
John Wilkes Booth (1862)
Wade-Davis Bill (1864)

- Required 50% of the number of 1860 voters to take an “iron clad” oath of allegiance (swearing they had never voluntarily aided the rebellion).
- Required a state constitutional convention before the election of state officials.
- Enacted specific safeguards of freedmen’s liberties.

Senator Benjamin Wade (R-OH)

Congressman Henry W. Davis (R-MD)
13th Amendment

- Ratified in December, 1865.

- Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

- Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
Freedmen’s Bureau (1865)

- Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.
- Many former northern abolitionists risked their lives to help southern freedmen.
- Called “carpetbaggers” by white southern Democrats.
Freedmen’s Bureau Seen Through Southern Eyes

Plenty to eat and nothing to do.
President Andrew Johnson

Jacksonian Democrat.
Anti-Aristocrat.
White Supremacist.
Agreed with Lincoln that states had never legally left the Union.

Damn the negroes! I am fighting these traitorous aristocrats, their masters!
President Johnson’s Plan (10%+)

- Offered amnesty upon simple oath to all except Confederate civil and military officers and those with property over $20,000 (they could apply directly to Johnson)

- In new constitutions, they must accept minimum conditions repudiating slavery, secession and state debts.

- Named provisional governors in Confederate states and called them to oversee elections for constitutional conventions.

EFFECTS?

1. Disenfranchised certain leading Confederates.
2. Pardoned planter aristocrats brought them back to political power to control state organizations.
3. Republicans were outraged that planter elite were back in power in the South!
Radical Republican Motives

• Dislike for Johnson, thought him unworthy

• Fear of executive encroachment upon authority of Congress
  • Lincoln did expand executive branch to largest it had ever been

• Desire by Radical Republicans to protect Freedmen
  • wanted to redistribute confiscated southern land to blacks and poor whites
  • resentment over return of former Confederates to political power
Congress Ends Presidential Reconstruction

- Congress bars Southern Congressional delegates.

- Joint Committee on Reconstruction created.

- February, 1866 → President vetoed the Freedmen’s Bureau bill.

- March, 1866 → Johnson vetoed the 1866 Civil Rights Act.

- Congress passed both bills over Johnson’s vetoes → 1st in U. S. history
Growing Northern Alarm!

Many Southern state constitutions fell short of minimum requirements.

Johnson granted 13,500 special pardons.

Revival of southern defiance.

BLACK CODES
Black Codes

Purpose:

Guarantee stable labor supply now that blacks were emancipated.

Restore pre-emancipation system of race relations.

Forced many blacks to become sharecroppers [tenant farmers].
Johnson the Martyr / Samson

“If my blood is to be shed because I vindicate the Union and the preservation of this government in its original purity and character, let it be shed; let an altar to the Union be erected, and then, if it is necessary, take me and lay me upon it, and the blood that now warms and animates my existence shall be poured out as a fit libation to the Union.”

(February 1866)
Ratified in July, 1868.

- Provide a constitutional guarantee of the rights and security of freed people.
- Insure against neo-Confederate political power.
- Enshrine the national debt while repudiating that of the Confederacy.
- Southern states would be punished for denying the right to vote to black citizens!
Civil authorities in the territories were subject to military supervision.

Required new state constitutions, including black suffrage and ratification of the 13th and 14th Amendments.

In March, 1867, Congress passed an act that authorized the military to enroll eligible black voters and begin the process of constitution making.
Radical Plan for Readmission

What is the Radical Plan?
Reconstruction Acts of 1867:

• Constitutions and governments set up under the Johnson plan were thrown out
• Military supervision of civil authorities
• “Ironclad oath”
• New state constitutions with black suffrage
• Ratification of the Thirteenth & Fourteenth Amendments
• Military supervision of voter registration (e.g. freedmen) and of constitution making.
Reconstruction Acts of 1867

Military Reconstruction Act

Restart Reconstruction in the 10 Southern states that refused to ratify the 14th Amendment.

Divide the 10 “unreconstructed states” into 5 military districts.
Reconstruction Acts of 1867

Command of the Army Act

The President must issue all Reconstruction orders through the commander of the military.

Tenure of Office Act

The President could not remove any officials [esp. Cabinet members] without the Senate’s consent, if the position originally required Senate approval.

Designed to protect radical members of Lincoln’s government.

A question of the constitutionality of this law.

Edwin Stanton
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
The Senate Trial

11 week trial.

Johnson acquitted
35 to 19 (one short of required 2/3s vote).
Oh, I'm a good old rebel,
Now that's just what I am,
And for this yankee nation,
I do no give a damn.
I'm glad I fought a ganner,
I only wish we won.

I aint asked any pardon for anything I've done.

I hates the yankee nation and everything they do.
  I hates the declaration of independence, too.
I hates the glorious union, t'is dripping with our blood.
  I hates the striped banner, and fit it all I could

  I rode with Robert E. Lee,
  For three years, thereabout.
  Got wounded in four places,
  And I starved at point lookout.
  I caught the rheumatism
  A campin' in the snow.
  But I killed a chance of Yankees
  And I'd like to kill some more.

3 hundred thousand Yankees
  Is stiff in southern dust.
We got 3 hundred thousand
  Before they conquered us
They died of Southern Fever
  And southern steel and shot
I wish there were 3 million
  Instead of what we got.
I can't pick up my musket
  And fight 'um down no more
But I aint gonna love 'um
  Now that is certain sure
And I don't want no pardon
  For what I was and am
I won't be reconstructed
  And I do not give a damn

Oh, I'm a good old rebel,
Now that's just what I am,
And for this yankee nation,
  I do no give a damn.
I'm glad I fought a ganner,
I only wish we won.

I aint asked any pardon for anything I've done.
I aint asked any pardon for anything I've done.
Sharecropping

Percentage of sharecropped farms, by county
- 35% – 80%
- 26% – 34%
- 20% – 25%
- 13% – 19%
- 0% – 12%

Map showing the percentage of sharecropped farms by county in the southeastern United States.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Furnishing Merchant</th>
<th>Tenant Farmer</th>
<th>Landowner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loan tools and seed up to 60% interest to tenant farmer to plant spring crop.</td>
<td>Plants crop, harvests in autumn.</td>
<td>Rents land to tenant in exchange for ¼ to ½ of tenant farmer’s future crop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer also secures food, clothing, and other necessities on credit from merchant until the harvest.</td>
<td>Turns over up to ½ of crop to land owner as payment of rent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchant holds “lien” [mortgage] on part of tenant’s future crops as repayment of debt.</td>
<td>Tenant gives remainder of crop to merchant in payment of debt.</td>
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Black & White Political Participation

[Map showing political participation rates in different states, with bars indicating percentages for Black and White members, and shaded areas for states restored to Union in 1866.]
Colored Rule in the South?
Blacks in Southern Politics

Core voters were black veterans.
Blacks were politically unprepared.
Blacks could register and vote in states since 1867.

The 15th Amendment guaranteed federal voting.
Ratified in 1870.

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.

Women’s rights groups were furious that they were not granted the vote.
The “Invisible Empire of the South”
The Failure of Federal Enforcement

- Enforcement Acts of 1870 & 1871 [also known as the KKK Act].

- “The Lost Cause.”

- The rise of the “Bourbons.”

- Redeemers (prewar Democrats and Union Whigs).
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!
“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.
Election of 1876

• Tilden v. Hayes (Rep) Tilden won popular vote and 184 of electoral.
  • Election went to a panel of 15 voters: 7 went to Tilden/7 to Hayes
  • Last vote undecided
  • Goes to congress where a deal is struck
• Deal is.....Hayes wins election but Reconstruction troops in the South are removed.
• Result is 100 years of segregation in the South

How does this “deal” compare to the “corrupt bargain” of 1824?
Compromise of 1877

• Deal to put Hayes into office with promise to end Reconstruction.
• Was necessary as there was no clear majority winner despite Tilden owning a slight edge in popular vote.
  • How bad of a decision was this? What is worse - the compromises leading up to the Civil War regarding slavery or afterwards regarding Reconstruction?
The Political Crisis of 1877

- “Corrupt Bargain”
  Part II?
Civil Rights case of 1883

- Supreme Court declared Civil Rights Act of 1875 void (provided “the full and equal enjoyment” of public facilities)
- Stepping stone towards segregation
- **Jim Crow**: Segregation Laws in place until 1964
  - Jim Crow Laws segregated blacks from whites in all public areas including: hospitals, bathrooms, buses, schools, and parks.
- **Plessy v. Ferguson 1896**: Supreme Court rules that “separate but equal” is constitutional
- **Mississippi v. Williams**: Supreme Court approval of Mississippi Plan (implementation of literacy tests prior to voting)
Home Rule in the South

- **Redeemers**: voided Reconstruction and gave new rules for the South. “Saved” the South from carpetbaggers.

- Southern fear of **Carpetbaggers’** anger towards Union results in South blocking Northern investors.

- Using the *Plessy v. Ferg* ruling, the South formal takes back control in 1877
New South

• Agriculturally - Old large plantations divided up and used for sharecropping

• Industrially - massive exploitation of Southern resources in an attempt to catch up to Northern industry. (expansion of RRs)

• Politically - power base of Southern Democrats was the wealthy former confederates who wanted segregation and disenfranchisement

• Living Standards - very poor population, especially blacks. Only wealthy elite enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle.
Booker T. Washington

- **Atlanta Compromise**: Booker T. Washington is OK with segregation and the abandonment of Reconstruction.

- Washington believes that equality will come from economic growth in the black community instead of civil rights.
  - Close the racial gap with accommodation

- Supported technical training for blacks and improving the labor force rather than focusing on civil rights agendas
  - Blacks needed to prove their worth to society first
W.E.B. DuBois

- post 1900
- Anti-Booker T. Washington - sought civil rights and higher education (college)
- First African American to receive a doctorate from Harvard (1895)
- Felt blacks should receive an advanced education so the black community would have well-educated leaders.
- Civil Rights proponent who wanted immediate, legal changes. Established the NAACP (1909) and *The Crisis* newsletter. Also published *The Souls of Black Folks*