

THE FREEDMAN'S  
SPELLING-BOOK.



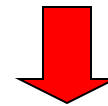
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# Reconstruction

1865 - 1877



After the Civil War, enormous problems faced the nation, especially the South. Americans had to bring the North and South together again.



The government developed a plan for states to return to the Union and created an organization to help people freed from slavery. This process was known as **Reconstruction**.





## Terms and People

- **Abraham Lincoln** – president who wanted to bind up the wounds of the Civil War as quickly as possible
- **amnesty** – a group pardon
- **freedman** – a man or woman who was legally freed from slavery after the Civil War
- **John Wilkes Booth** – a Confederate sympathizer who shot President Lincoln

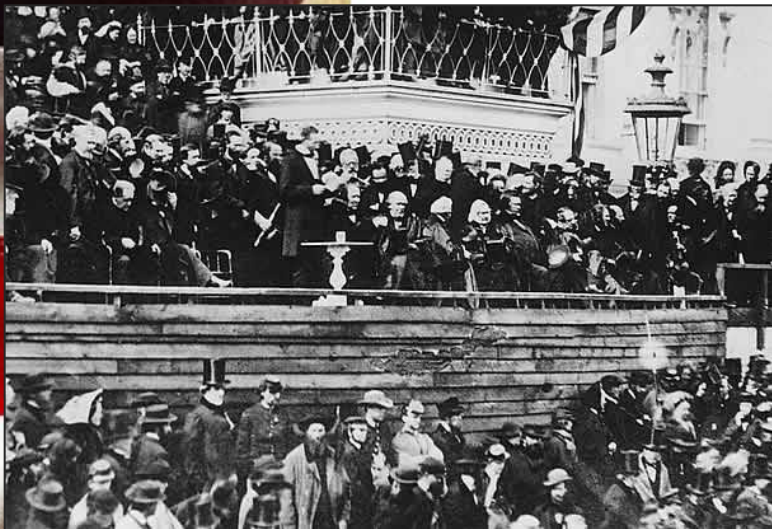
# Second Inaugural Address



President Lincoln hoped heal the nation and bring North and South together again.

In his second inaugural address he said, *“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”*

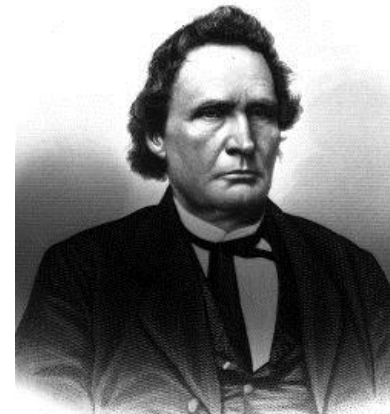
Because the costs of the war were so great, hard feelings still remained.



## Reconstruction Begins

In 1865, the South faced the challenge of building a new society that was not based on slavery. The process the federal government used to readmit the Confederate states to the Union is known as **Reconstruction**.

After the Civil War, Congress was controlled by a powerful group of congressman called the **Radical Republicans**. This group favored using federal power to create a “new order” in the South and promote full citizenship for freed African Americans. Congressman **Thaddeus Stevens**, the leader of the Radical Republicans, called for “the whole fabric of southern society *to be* changed.”





President **Abraham Lincoln** and Congress proposed different plans for Reconstruction.

<b>President Lincoln's plan</b>	<b>Ten Percent Plan</b>	When <b>10%</b> of a state's voters swore an oath of loyalty, they could organize a new state government.
<b>Congress's plan</b>	<b>Wade-Davis Bill</b>	When <b>50%</b> of a state's voters swore loyalty, they could organize a new state government.

# Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan

**Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan** made it easy for southern states to rejoin the Union.

**If...**

**Then...**

10% of a state's voters  
**swore loyalty to the U.S.**

That state could form a  
**new state government.**  
Former Confederates  
would receive **amnesty.**

That government  
declared an **end to slavery.**

The state could **take part in national government**  
again.



The image shows a close-up of the American flag, focusing on the stars and stripes. The stars are in the upper left, and the stripes are in the lower right.

## The Wade-Davis Bill

**The Wade-Davis Bill** was much stricter.

If...	Then...
50% of a state's voters <b>swore loyalty to the U.S.</b>	That state could rejoin the Union.
People in that state had <b>voluntarily fought for the Confederacy.</b>	They would not have <b>voting rights.</b>

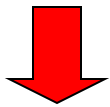
**Lincoln refused to sign the bill, so it was never passed.**





The government also had to deal with the needs of **freedmen**.

In 1865, Congress established the **Freedmen's Bureau**.



The Bureau's first duty was to **provide emergency relief to people displaced by the war**.



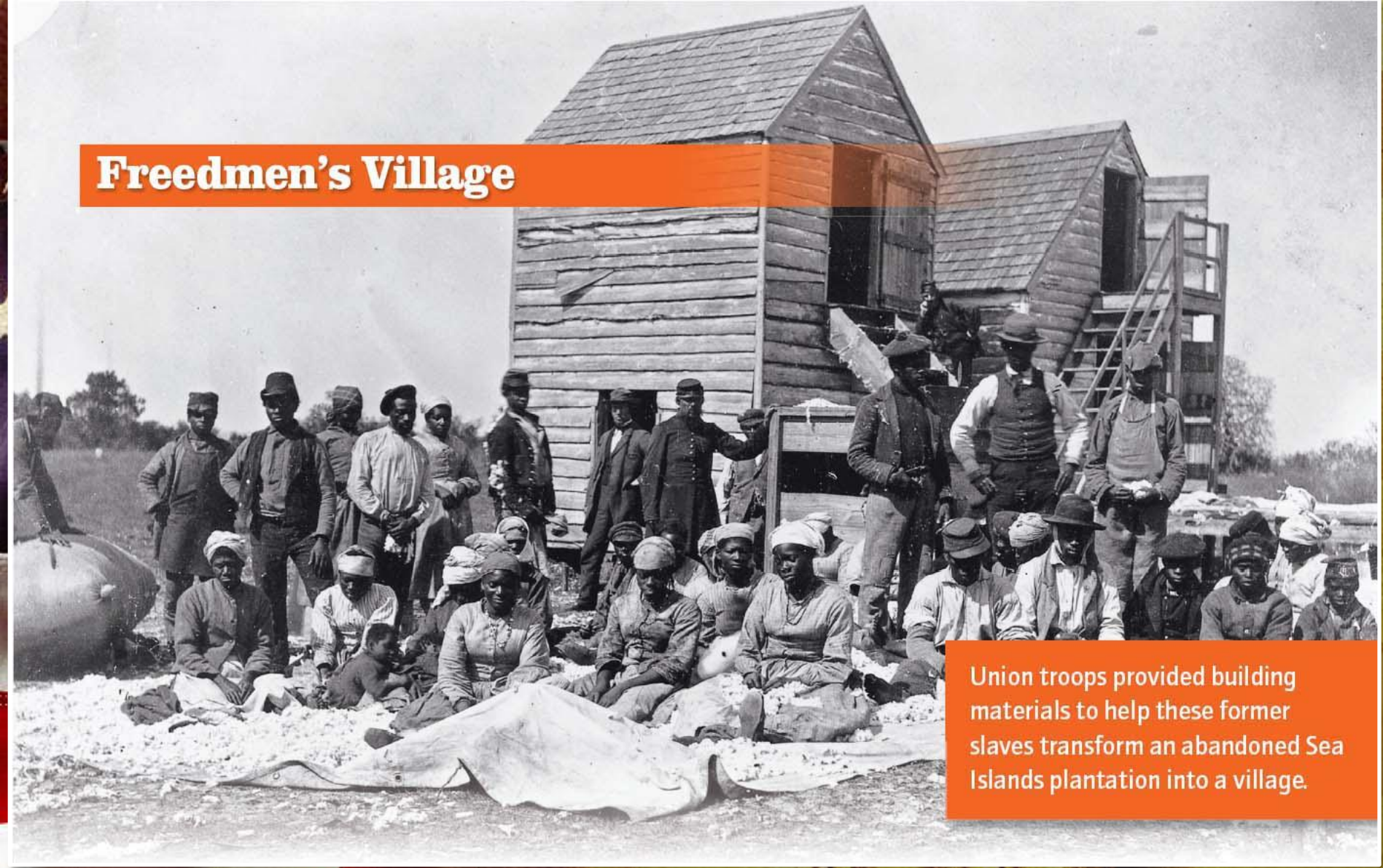
## The Freedmen's Bureau

Established to assist former slaves, this federal agency set up schools and hospitals for African Americans and distributed clothes, food, and fuel throughout the South.



- Set up by Congress to help newly freed slaves - 1865-1872
- Provided millions of meals for poor blacks & whites in South
- Set up more than 100 hospitals
- Distribution of abandoned land
- Resettled over 30,000 people displaced by the war
- Founded more than 4,300 schools.

## Freedmen's Village



Union troops provided building materials to help these former slaves transform an abandoned Sea Islands plantation into a village.



**President Lincoln did not live to put his plans into practice.**

**Lincoln was shot** by **John Wilkes Booth**, a Confederate sympathizer, while attending a play.

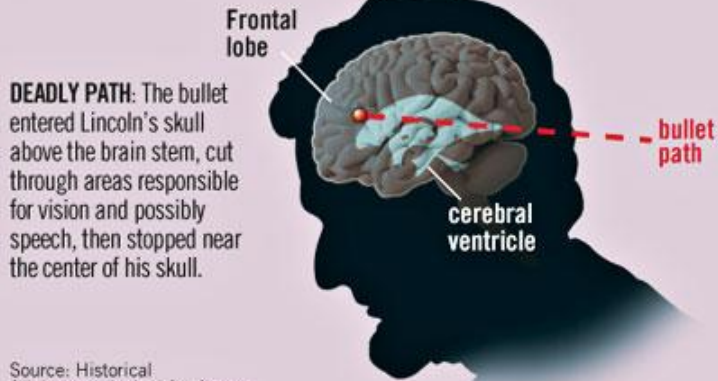


**Booth was captured and killed**, but Americans remained stunned by Lincoln's death.

# Lincoln's Assassination

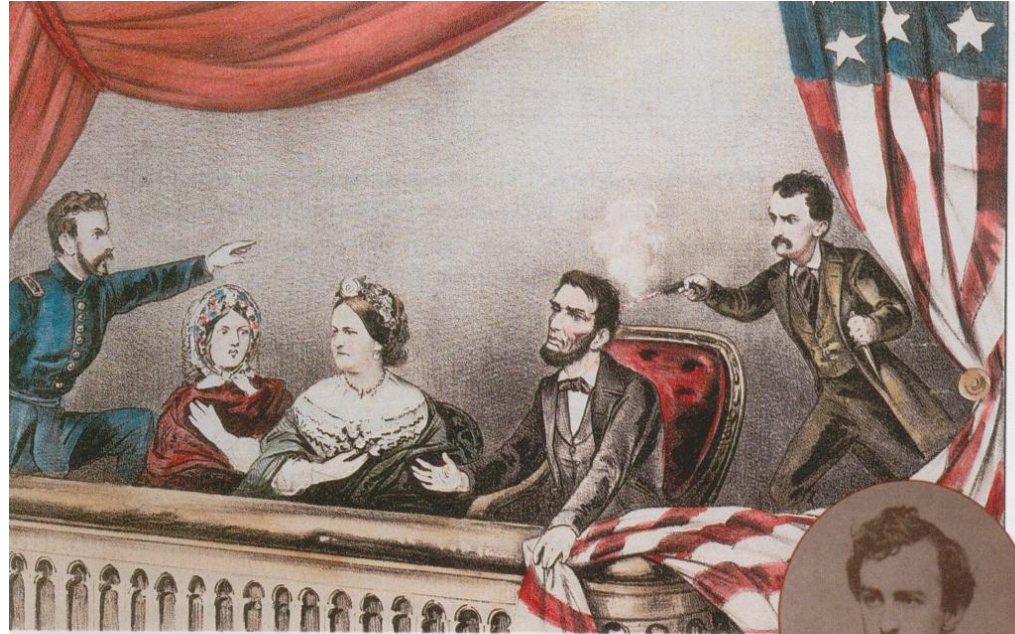
## PRESIDENTIAL POSTMORTEM

In May, medical experts pondered whether Lincoln would have survived if treated with today's techniques. Their verdict: Probably, though he might not be able to speak.



**DEADLY PATH:** The bullet entered Lincoln's skull above the brain stem, cut through areas responsible for vision and possibly speech, then stopped near the center of his skull.

Source: Historical Clinicopathological Conference



**O Captain my Captain!  
our fearful trip is done,  
The ship has weathered every rack,  
the prize we sought is won,  
The port is near, the bells I hear,  
the people all exulting,  
While follow eyes the steady keel,  
the vessel grim and daring;  
But O heart! heart! heart!  
O the bleeding drops of red,  
Where on the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.**





## Terms and People

- **Andrew Johnson** – Vice President who became President when Lincoln was assassinated
- **scalawag** – southern whites who had opposed secession
- **carpetbagger** – a northern white who went south to start a business or pursue political office
- **impeachment** – bringing of formal charges against a public official
- **black codes** – new laws used by southern states to control African Americans

# The Thirteenth Amendment

One of the great legacies of the war was the freeing of millions of enslaved people. The Emancipation Proclamation had freed slaves in the Confederacy, but many African Americans in the border states were still enslaved.

In January of 1865, President Lincoln urged Congress to end the institution of slavery. By year's end Congress passed the **Thirteenth Amendment** and 27 states, including eight in the South, ratified it. Slavery was banned in the United States.



*We the People*  
*Article I*

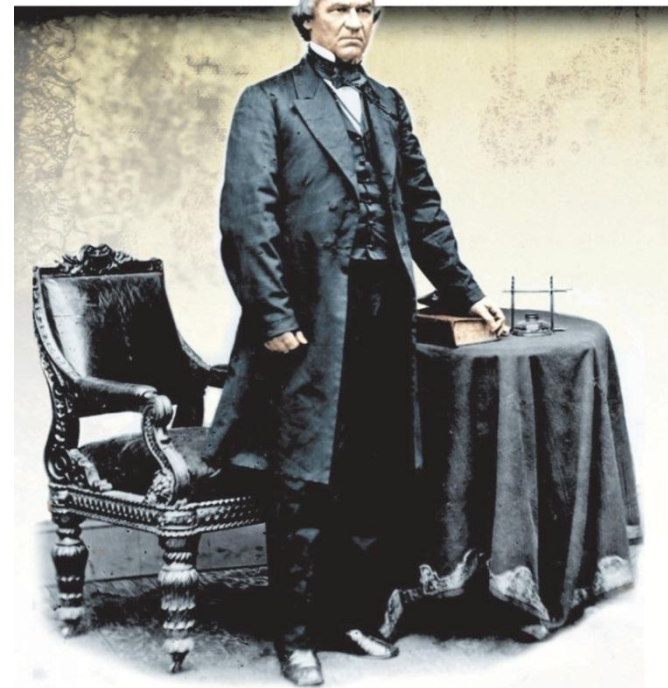
**Amendment XIII -**

- Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a 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*



Like Lincoln, President Johnson proposed a less demanding plan for Reconstruction.

- He gave **amnesty** to most former Confederates.
- He allowed southern states to organize new governments and elect Congressmen.





A close-up, vertical view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The stars are in the upper left, and the stripes are in the lower right.

## Radical Reconstruction

**Congress rejected Johnson's lenient approach and began to debate a new plan.**

To sidestep the abolishment of slavery, some Southerners supported **black codes**, a system of near-slavery.

Anger over these developments led **Radical Republicans** in Congress to adopt a hard line.

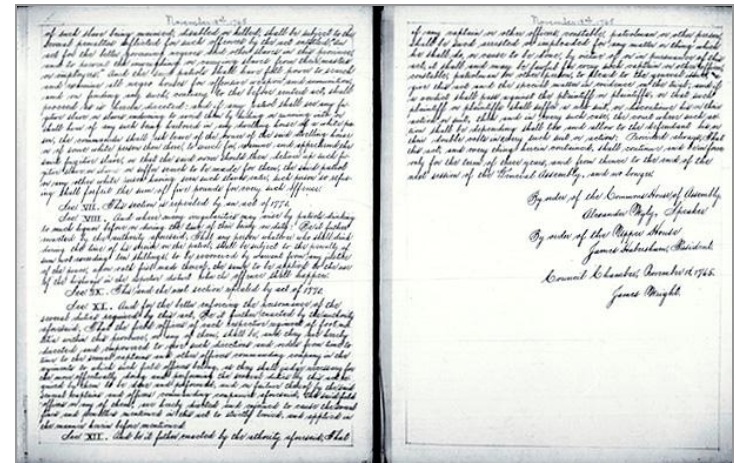
**The struggle over Reconstruction led to direct clashes between the President and Congress.**



# Black Codes

As Southern states set up new governments they passed laws, known as **black codes**, which limited the freedom of former slaves. African Americans were forbidden to meet in unsupervised groups or carry guns. Mississippi required African Americans to have written proof of employment or they could be put to work on a plantation.

Radical Republicans in Congress demanded full and equal citizenship for African Americans and refused to seat representatives from the South. Republican Congressmen wanted to destroy the South's old ruling class by remaking Southern politics and society.



## The Civil Rights Act

The **Civil Rights Act of 1866** was passed by Congress on 9th April 1866 over the **veto** of President Andrew Johnson. The act declared that all persons born in the United States were now citizens, without regard to race, color, or previous condition. As citizens they could make and enforce contracts, sue and be sued, give evidence in court, and inherit, purchase, lease, sell, and hold property. Persons who denied these rights to former slaves were guilty of a misdemeanor and faced fines and/or imprisonment.





Next, Congress passed the **14<sup>th</sup> Amendment**.

### **The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.**

All people born or naturalized in the United States are citizens.

States must allow all males over 21 to vote.

**The 14<sup>th</sup> amendment was not fully enforced until the 1970s.**

# The Reconstruction Acts of 1867

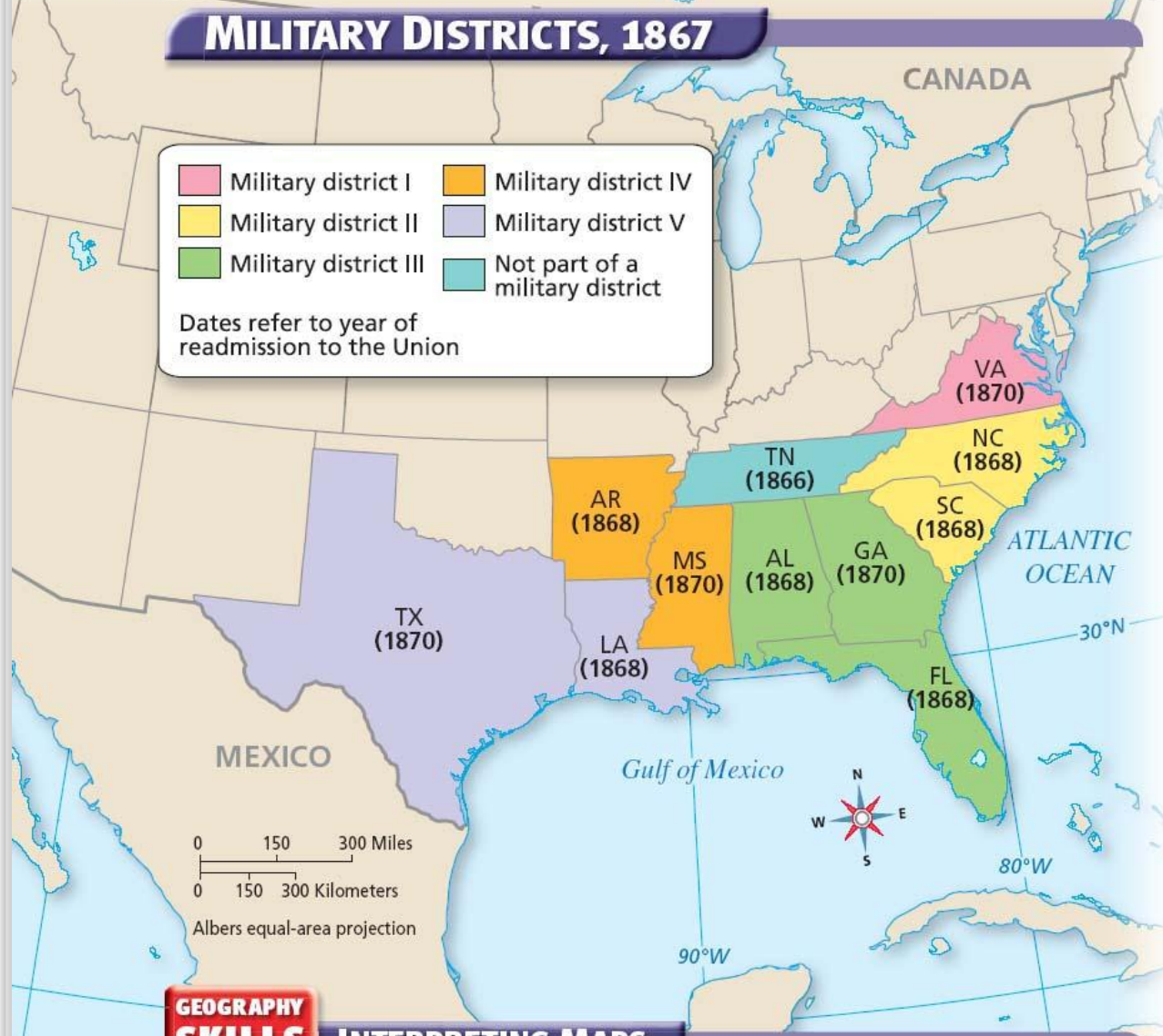
The **Reconstruction Acts of 1867** divided the South into five military districts and stated that in order for Southern states to reenter the Union and send representatives to Congress they must:

1. Approve new state constitutions.
2. Ratify the Fourteenth Amendment.
3. Allow African Americans to vote.



During Reconstruction, more than 600 African Americans served in Southern state legislatures and 14 were elected to Congress. Two African Americans served as U.S. Senators.

# MILITARY DISTRICTS, 1867



## GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

## INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Regions** Into how many military districts was the South divided? What states made up each district?
  - 2. Location** In what order were the states readmitted to the Union?
- See **Skills Handbook**, p. H20



Which side pushed for stricter controls of the new states?

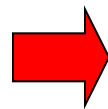
<b>President Andrew Johnson</b>	<b>Radical Republicans</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• majority of white men must swear oath of loyalty</li><li>• states must ratify 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment</li><li>• former Confederate officials may vote and hold office</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• state governments must disband</li><li>• states must write new constitutions</li><li>• states must ratify 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments</li><li>• must allow African American men to vote</li></ul>



## Radical Republican power peaked in 1868.

The Radicals tried to remove President Johnson from office by **impeachment**. Republicans claimed he violated the **Tenure of Office Act**. Johnson received **just enough votes to stay in office**.

Then, **General Ulysses S. Grant** won the 1868 presidential election.



**Grant was a moderate**, so the Radicals began to lose power.



# Johnson Is Impeached

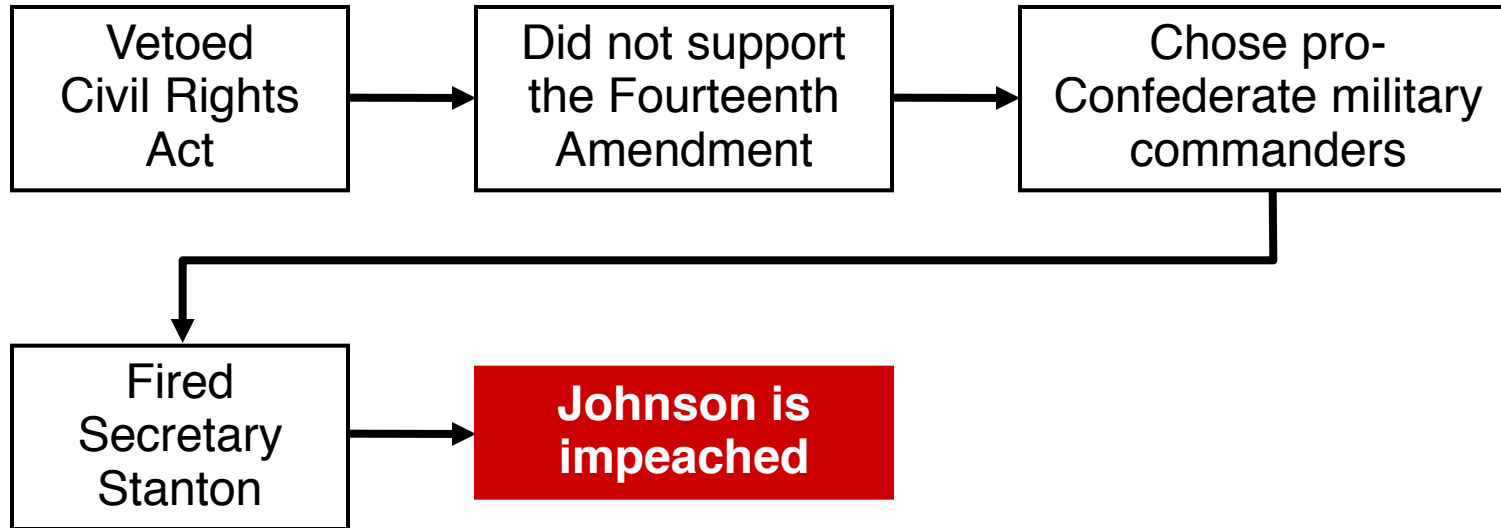
**Impeachment** – the process of accusing a public official of wrongdoing. The Constitution describes impeachable offences as “high crimes and misdemeanors.”

## The Impeachment Process

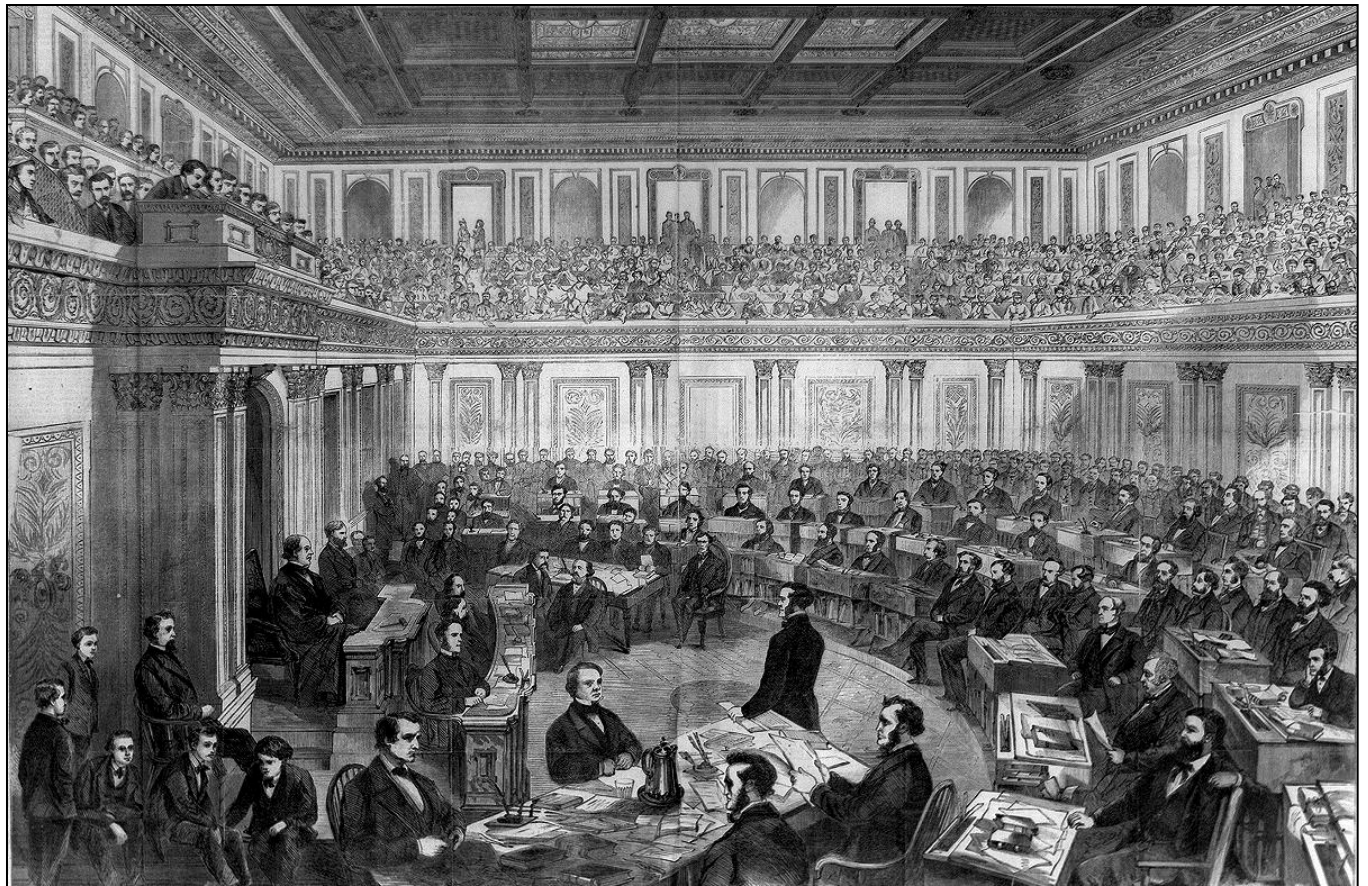
- House of Representatives brings formal charges against govt. official (President)
- Treason, Bribery, or High Crimes & misdemeanors
- Senate hears evidence against official (President)
- Senate determine guilt or innocence
- Senate votes on removal from office
- Two Presidents have been impeached
  - Andrew Johnson
  - William Jefferson Clinton
- Both were acquitted (found innocent) & were **not** removed from office.



# Events that led to President Johnson's Impeachment



If you were a member of Congress during Reconstruction, would you have voted in favor or against the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson?



# The Impact of Violence



The terror—  
"WORSE THAN  
SLAVERY"

Burning  
school-  
house

## POLITICAL CARTOON *Skills*

### The Ku Klux Klan

The KKK used terror and violence to keep African Americans from voting. Northern cartoonist Thomas Nast attacked the Klan and other secret societies in this cartoon.

#### 1. **Comprehension**

Identify two Klan activities shown in this cartoon.

#### 2. **Understanding Main Ideas**

How does Nast show the impact of the Ku Klux Klan and similar groups on African Americans?

#### 3. **Critical Thinking**

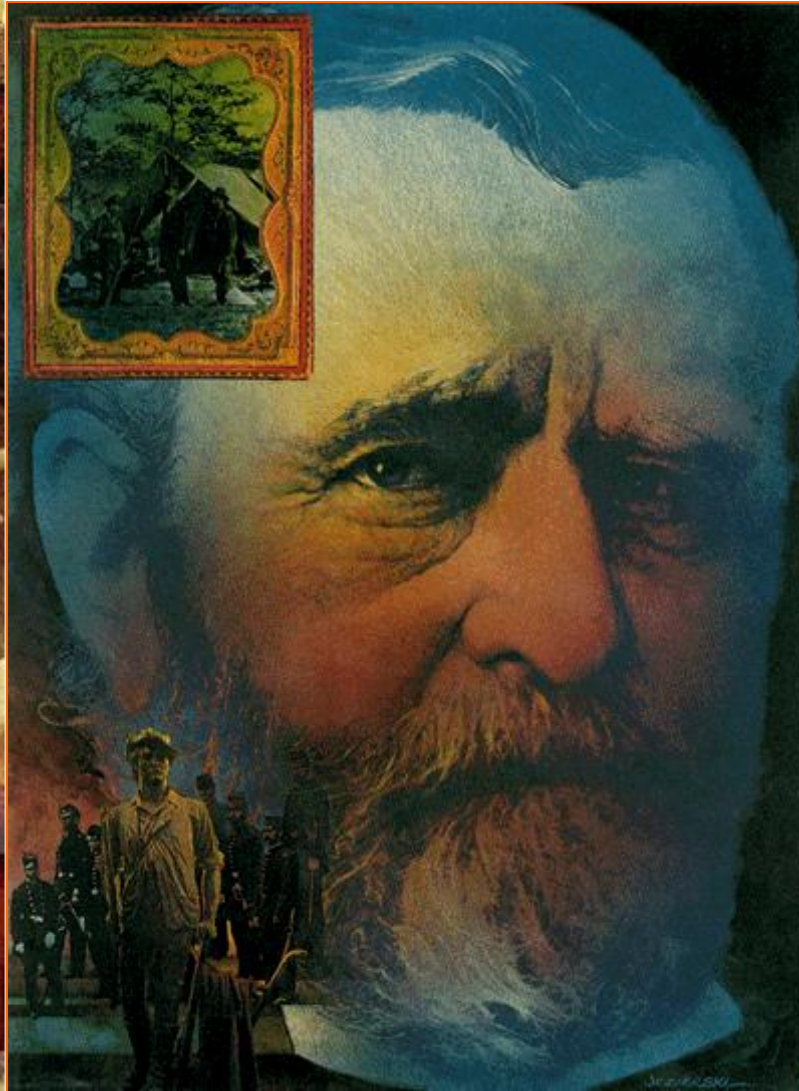
**Identifying a Point of View** What details in this cartoon show Nast's view of the Ku Klux Klan?

# The Ku Klux Klan



*Klan Attack*, Unknown Artist.

# President Grant



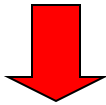
In 1868, the Republican Party gained control of the Executive Branch of government when Ulysses S. Grant won the presidency. Despite attacks by the Ku Klux Klan, about 500,000 African Americans in the South voted giving Grant a majority.

Republicans in Congress and President Grant passed the **Fifteenth Amendment** and a tough **anti-Klan law**. Attacks against African Americans declined and Grant won a second term in 1872.

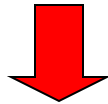


## The Ku Klux Klan

In 1869, Congress approved the **15<sup>th</sup> Amendment**.



States had to allow African Americans to vote.



Secret societies such as the **Ku Klux Klan** used terror and violence to keep African Americans from voting.



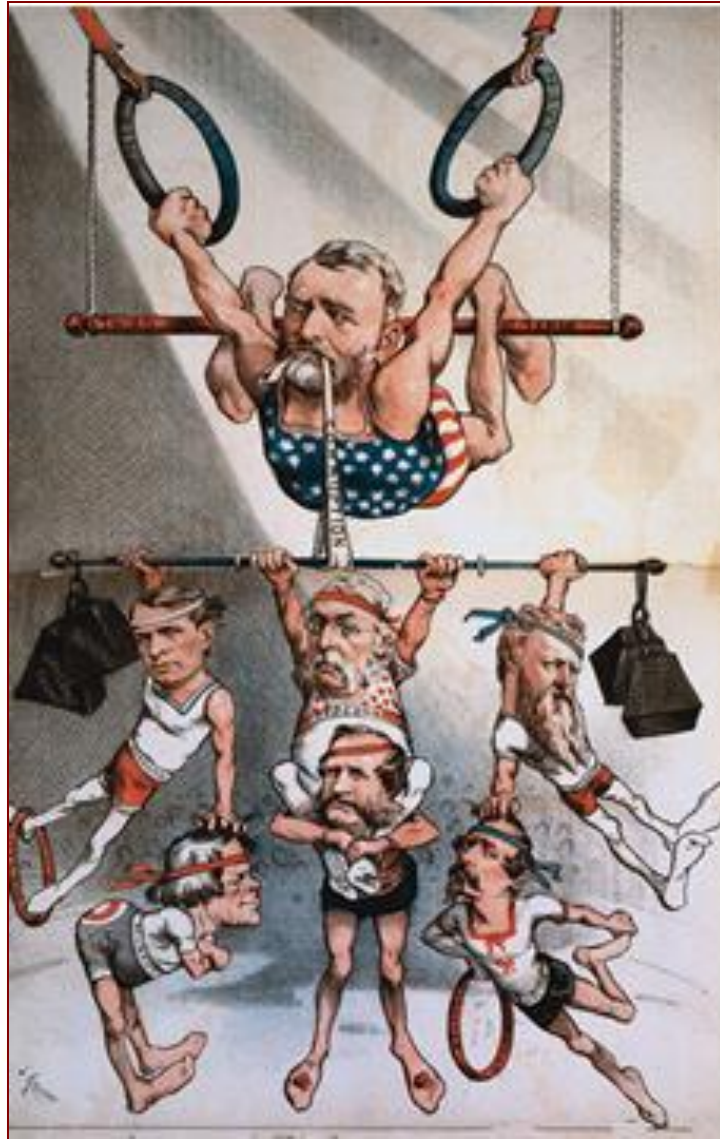


## Terms and People

- **poll tax** – a personal tax to be paid before voting
- **literacy test** – a test to see if a person can read and write
- **grandfather clause** – a provision that allowed a voter to avoid a literacy test if his father or grandfather had been eligible to vote on January 1, 1867
- **Homer Plessy** – an African American man arrested for sitting in a coach marked “for whites only”
- **sharecropper** – a laborer who works the land for the farmer who owns it in exchange for a share of the value of the crop
- **segregation** – enforced separation of races



## Scandals Weaken the Republicans



President Grant put army friends and his wife's relatives in government positions. Many of these appointees were unqualified and some took bribes. This political corruption caused a split in the Republican Party and they became less willing to impose tough policies on the South.

In 1873, several powerful Eastern banks ran out of money after making bad loans. A financial panic swept the country and the stock market collapsed. The **Panic of 1873** caused many banks to close and led to an economic depression and high unemployment. This depression lasted for nearly five years.

## Political Cartoon

A bitter war of political cartoons raged throughout the Reconstruction era. In this 1880 cartoon in the magazine *Puck*, James Albert Wales depicts the view of many traditional southern whites toward Radical Reconstruction under President Ulysses S. Grant.

President Grant rides atop a carpetbag stuffed with guns and bayonets, carried along by federal soldiers.

The woman representing "the Solid South" stumbles along a rough path, under the weight of a heavy carpetbag.



Grant presides over a South that is clearly still in ruins.

**Skills  
Focus**

**READING LIKE A HISTORIAN**

**Interpreting Political Cartoons** What is the cartoonist's message about Reconstruction? What details does he use to convey it?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H31

THE "STRONG" GOVERNMENT 1869—1877.

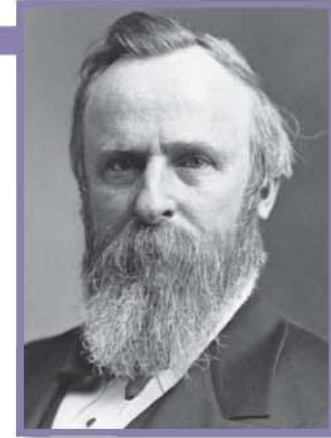
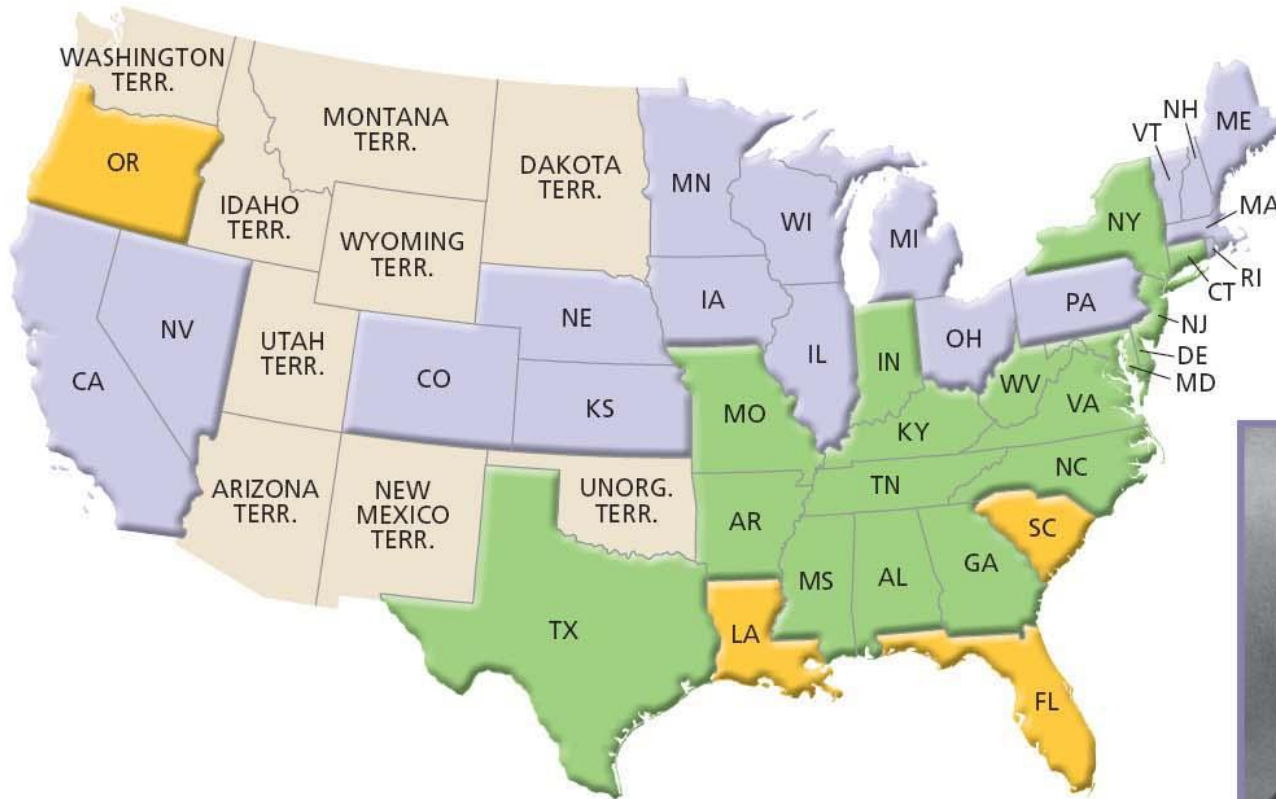
## Reconstruction Ends

In 1876, two Supreme Court decisions began to undo some of the changes in the South. In ***U.S. v. Cruikshank*** the Court ruled that only states had the power to punish individuals who violated the civil rights of African Americans. The Court also stated that the Fifteenth Amendment did not give everyone the right to vote and that states could prevent people from voting in ***U.S. v. Reese***.

The final blow to Reconstruction came with the presidential election of 1876. The race was very close and votes in some states were disputed. A special commission came up with the **Compromise of 1877**. The compromise forced the government to remove federal troops from the South and Southern Reconstruction governments soon collapsed.






# THE ELECTION OF 1876



Rutherford B. Hayes



Samuel J. Tilden

Candidate	Political Affiliation	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes
 Rutherford B. Hayes	Republican	165	4,036,298
 Samuel J. Tilden	Democratic	184	4,300,590
 Disputed		20	

## GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

### INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Region** What regional voting patterns can you identify on the map?
- 2. Location** In which states were the electoral votes disputed?

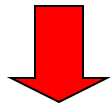
See **Skills Handbook**, p. H20



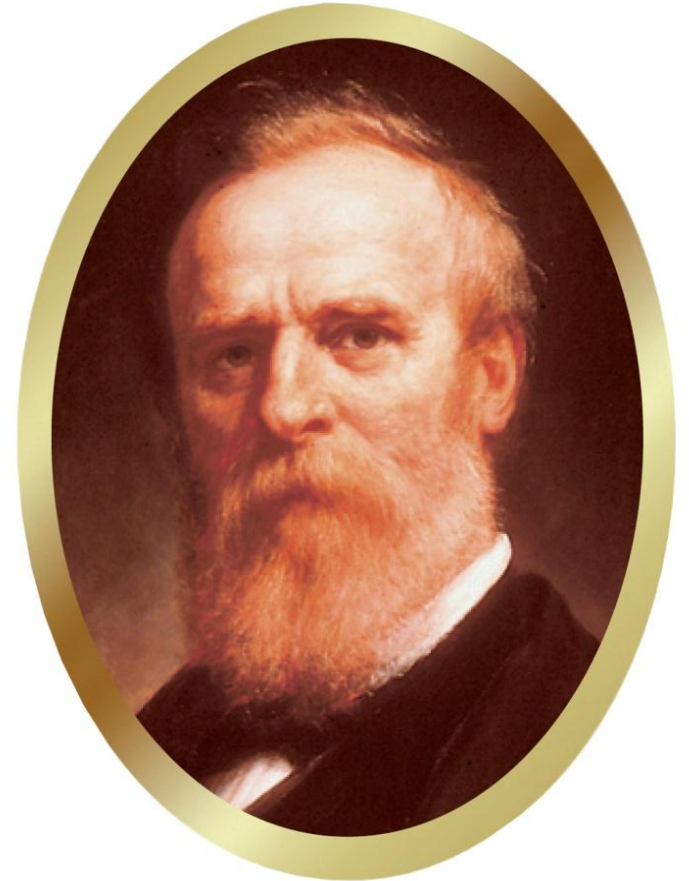
## Reconstruction Ends

Congress appointed a **15-person commission**, mostly Republicans, to settle the election results.

The commission decided to give Hayes, the Republican, **all 20 disputed electoral votes**.



**In return, Hayes agreed to end Reconstruction.**



**Rutherford B. Hayes**



**With Reconstruction over, African Americans began to lose their rights in the South.**

Southern whites passed laws to **keep African Americans from voting.**

One law required voters to pay a **poll tax**. This kept many poor freedmen from voting.

Another law required voters to pass a **literacy test**. It included a **grandfather clause** that allowed illiterate whites to vote.



Southern states also created laws requiring **segregation**, known as **Jim Crow laws**.

## White

Hospitals  
Cemeteries  
Playgrounds  
Restaurants  
Schools  
Streetcars



## Black

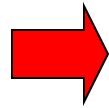
Hospitals  
Cemeteries  
Playgrounds  
Restaurants  
Schools  
Streetcars

# African Americans Lose Rights

**In 1896, the Supreme Court upheld segregation laws.**

## **Homer Plessy**

was arrested for sitting in a coach marked "for whites only."



The court ruled that a law could require "**separate but equal**" facilities for blacks and whites.

This rule remained in effect until the **1950s**.







## 40 Acres and a Mule

As the Civil War ended, General Sherman suggested that abandoned land in coastal South Carolina be split into 40-acre parcels and given to freedmen.

Some Republican leaders pushed for land reform arguing that civil rights meant little without economic independence. Other Congressmen believed that new civil and voting rights were enough to give African Americans a better life. Congress did not pass the land-reform plan.



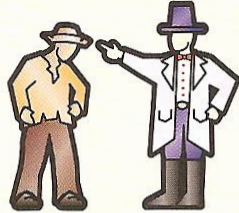
## Cycle of Poverty

Many poor African Americans were forced to become **sharecroppers**, a laborer who works the land for the farmer who owns it in exchange for a share of the value of the crop.

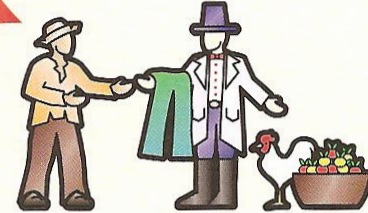


# Cycle of Poverty

## The Sharecropper Cycle of Poverty



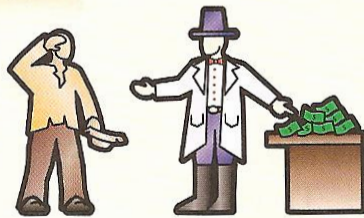
- 1 Sharecropper is provided land and seed. In exchange, he promises landowner half the crop.



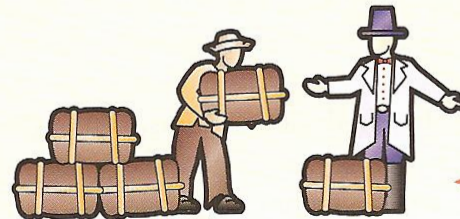
- 2 Sharecropper buys food and clothing on credit from landowner's store.

By the time sharecroppers had shared their crops and paid their debts, they rarely had any money left. Often they were uneducated and could not argue with landowners or merchants who cheated them. A sharecropper frequently became tied to one plantation, having no choice but to work until his debts were paid.

- 6 To pay debt, sharecropper must promise landowner a greater share of next year's crop.



- 5 When settling up, landowner says that sharecropper owes more than he has earned.



- 4 Sharecropper gives landowner crop to sell. Sharecropper will get half the earnings, minus the cost of his purchases for the year.



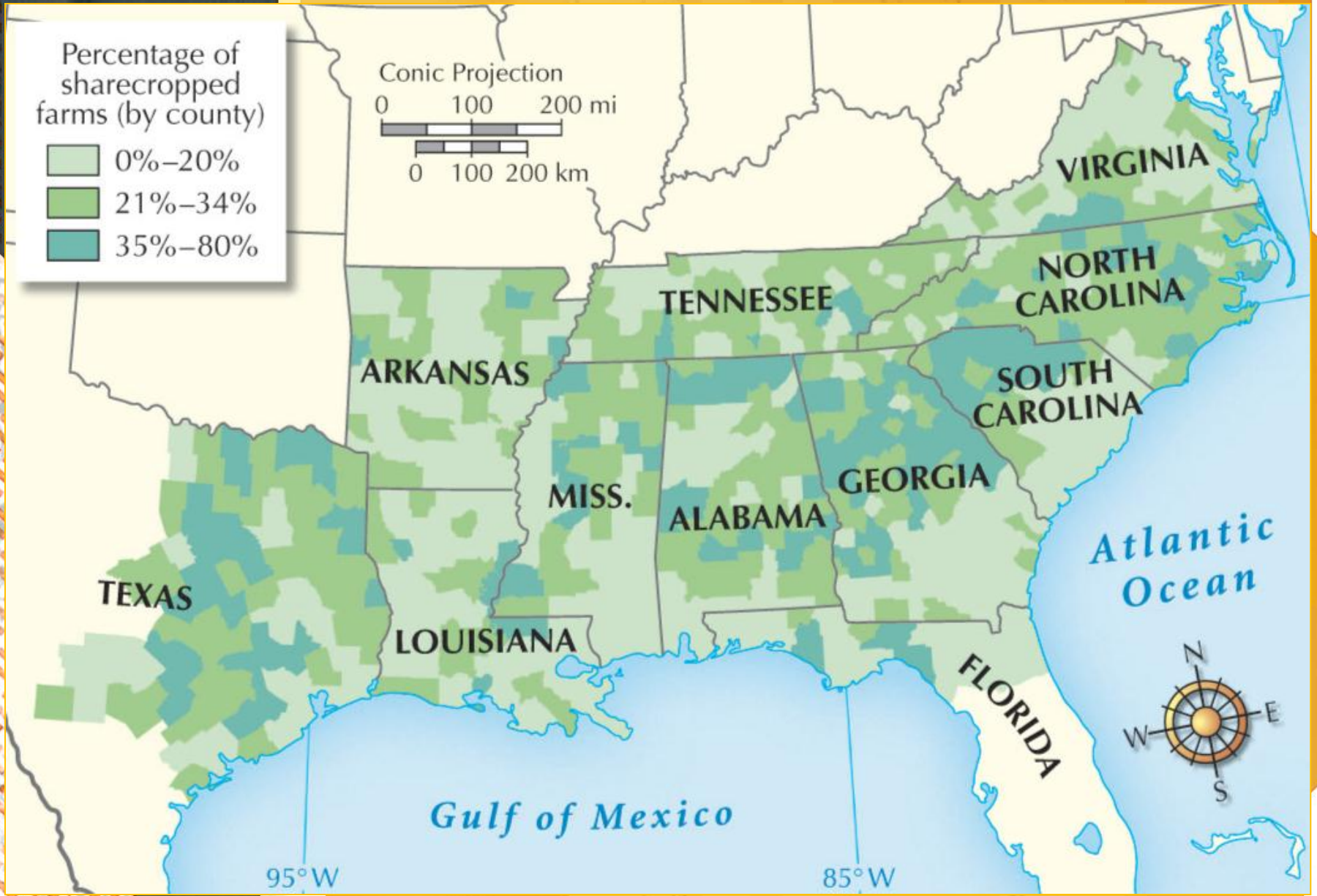
- 3 Sharecropper plants and harvests crop.



Percentage of sharecropped farms (by county)

- 0%–20%
- 21%–34%
- 35%–80%

Conic Projection  
0 100 200 mi  
0 100 200 km



95°W

85°W

Gulf of Mexico

Atlantic Ocean





## Industrial Growth

**The South's economy began to gradually recover.**

The **cotton**,  
**tobacco**, and  
**textile**  
industries  
thrived.

Factories  
developed  
**iron**, **timber**,  
and **oil**.

Southern leaders  
spoke of a "**New  
South**" that  
would no longer  
depend only on  
cotton.

**QUICK  
FACTS**

## **HOPES RAISED AND DENIED**

### **Slavery**

- No rights
- Forced labor
- No freedom of movement without permission
- Family members sold away from one another
- No representation in government



### **Freedom**

- Slavery banned
- Free to work for wages
- Could move and live anywhere
- Many families reunited
- Could serve in political office



### **Rights Denied**

- Sharecropping system created cycle of debt
- Ability to vote and hold office restricted
- White leadership regained control of southern state governments

Which Reconstruction-era amendments do you believe brought about the greatest change in American society?

In light of what occurred after Reconstruction, what other amendments do you believe should have been passed?

