

Notes: Reconstruction **(1865 - 1877)**

I. The Three Main Issues of Reconstruction

- A. how to deal with the 4 million Freedmen?
- B. how to treat the defeated South?
- C. who will control Reconstruction: Congress or President?

II. Lincoln's 10% Plan (1863)

- A. Philosophy
 - 1. South never left the Union - rather, they were states in rebellion
 - 2. leniency - "with malice towards none"
 - 3. political motive
- B. Terms (refer to handout)

III. Radical Republicans

- A. Leaders
 - 1. Charles Sumner (Senate - MA)
 - 2. Thaddeus Stephens (House of Rep. - PA)
- B. Philosophy
 - 1. South did secede - "conquered provinces"
 - 2. "make treason odious" - harsh reconstruction
- C. Motives
 - 1. political - build a Republican ruling coalition of "carpetbaggers", "scalawags", and freedmen, disenfranchise pro-confederate whites
 - 2. idealism - extend civil/political rights to freedmen
- D. the Wade-Davis Bill (1864) - see handout for terms

IV. Andrew Johnson and his plan

- A. Background and presidential style
- B. Philosophy
- C. Terms (see handout)

V. The South Responds

- A. Black Codes (vagrancy laws)
- B. Southern states elect former Confederates (Alexander Stephens - GA)
- C. Violence - the KKK

VI. Congressional Reconstruction (1865 - 1877)

- A. Terms (refer to handout)
- B. The impeachment of Andrew Johnson
 - 1. the Constitutional process
 - 2. the technicality (Tenure of Office Act)
 - 3. real reason - (Johnson not enforcing laws passed by Congress regarding Reconstruction)
 - 4. the outcome: he is impeached by the House of Representatives, but is found not guilty by one vote in his Senate trial

VII. Reconstruction “Carpetbagger” Governments: Myths and Realities

- A. the myth of “Negro Rule” - carpetbaggers and scalawags
- B. Achievements and Liabilities - comparable in their effectiveness to pre-Civil War Southern governments
- C. Return of the “Redeemers” (“Redemption”) - the old pre-war Southern Democrats rid the South of the Republican/Reconstruction governments

VIII. The End of Reconstruction (1877)

- “The Solid South” - for decades after Reconstruction, the South votes for the Democratic Party
- A. Reasons for the end
 - i. passing of the abolitionist generation
 - ii. Northern preoccupation with Industrialization
 - iii. moral exhaustion by Northern voters/Southern intransigence
- B. The Compromise of 1877
 - i. formal end of Reconstruction
 - ii. the disputed election of 1876 [Samuel Tilden (D-NY) vs. Rutherford B. Hayes (R - OH)]
- C. The Compromise
 - i. Hayes will be elected if he promises to withdraw the remaining federal troops from the South, thus formally ending Reconstruction
 - ii. Southern Democrats will be appointed to the Cabinet
 - iii. federal funds to build Southern railroads

IX. The birth of the Jim Crow system of segregation (1877 - 1900)

- A. the question of land
 - end of the war: “40 acres and a mule”
 - the emergence of sharecropping
 - **3. the biggest failure of Reconstruction: no economic base is provided for the freedmen to provide for their independence.
- B. Segregation and the Jim Crow System (1870s - 1960s)

- Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) - “separate but equal” doctrine
- “Jim Crow Laws” - Southern state laws establishing separate, segregated facilities

C. Voting Restrictions

- the 15th Amendment
- state “tests”
- literacy test (Constitutional interpretation test)
- the grandfather clause
- poll tax

D. the KKK

Louisiana registered black voters: 1896 - 130,334
1904 - 1,342

X. 3 Factions of the Republican Party during Reconstruction

CONSERVATIVES	MODERATES	RADICALS
- want a mild peace	- reject the punitive goals of the radicals	- stood for a harder peace (punish the South)
- rapid restoration of the defeated states to the Union	- do support some measures to extract at least some concessions from the South on black rights (for example: Lincoln, near the end of his life, supported limited suffrage for blacks who (1) were educated	- large numbers of ex-confederate Southern Whites should be disenfranchised
- South must accept only the abolition of slavery	(2) served in the Union Army	- freedmen should be given the right to vote and citizenship
		- property of planters who aided the Confederacy that has been confiscated should be distributed in 40 acre plots to the Freedmen (not all Radical Republicans supported this)

Impeachment: the Constitutional Process

Three things that a federal official may be impeached for:

1. treason
2. bribery
3. "high crimes and misdemeanors"

[Johnson was technically charged with committing a misdemeanor: breaking the Tenure of Office Act. The real charges against him were that he was not enforcing the Reconstruction policies passed by Congress.]

STEP 1 --- House of Representatives

- a. H of R draws up "articles of impeachment" stating the charges
- b. H of R hears evidence, arguments, debates
- c. H of R votes either that there IS enough evidence to require the individual to stand trial in the Senate or THERE IS NOT
- d. If the H of R votes yes (that there is enough evidence for a trial in the Senate), then that official is impeached. He is NOT removed from office, but he must now stand trial in the Senate

Andrew Johnson WAS impeached by the H of R and sent to trial in the Senate

STEP 2 --- Senate

- a. The "impeached" official stands trial before the Senate. The Senators act as the jury, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is the judge
- b. The Senate hears testimony, evidence, etc.
- c. The Senate votes either:
 - guilty - in which case the official is removed from his position
 - or
 - innocent - in which the official keeps his job

The Senate must vote by a 2/3 majority to find an official guilty.

Andrew Johnson was found not guilty because there was 1 vote less than the 2/3 majority

HANDOUT

Reconstruction Plans

Presidential Plans

II. Lincoln's 10% Plan (1863)

- a. If 10% of the 1860 voters in a state swear an oath of allegiance to the Union, they can form a government and re-enter the Union.
- b. All who take the oath are pardoned and their confiscated lands returned
- c. High Confederate leaders are excluded from holding office (Ark., Tenn., Louisiana comply)

V. Johnson's Plan (1865)

- a. recognized the 10% govt.'s of Lincoln's plan
- b. a majority must take an oath of allegiance to the Union (not an ironclad oath)
- c. pardon all who take the oath, except high Confederate officials (who must apply personally to Johnson for a pardon)
- d. each new state gov't. must
Tenn.
1. ratify the 13th Amendment
2. deny the ordinances of military secession
who
3. repudiate Confederate debt (including

Congressional Plans

IV. The Wade-Davis Bill (1864)

- a. a majority must take an ironclad oath that they had never opposed the Union
- b. Confederate leaders cannot vote
- c. the new state governments must abolish slavery and refuse to their debts
(Lincoln pocket-vetoes it)
Congress refuses to recognize Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana

VI. Congressional Reconstruction

- a. 13th amendment (1865) - freed slaves
- b. Civil Rights Bill of 1866
- c. Freedman's Bureau (1866)
- d. 14th Amendment (1866) - made men citizens and promised them "equal protection of the law"
- e. Reconstruction Act of 1867
 1. all Southern gov'ts except invalid
 2. divided the South into 5 districts, run by a general, would assure that all

14th
they can re-enter
Union

blacks) could vote
3. after the new state government
ratified the 13th and
amendments,
the

f. 15th Amendment (1870) - gave
freedmen the right to vote