

Reconstruction and Its Effects

The U.S. begins to rebuild the South, but former slaves face new challenges as support fades for the policies of Reconstruction.

Reconstruction and Its Effects

- SECTION 1** The Politics of Reconstruction
- SECTION 2** Reconstructing Society
- SECTION 3** The Collapse of Reconstruction

Section 1

The Politics of Reconstruction

Congress opposes Lincoln's and Johnson's plans for Reconstruction and instead implements its own plan to rebuild the South.

SECTION

1 The Politics of Reconstruction

Lincoln's Plan for Reconstruction

Lincoln's Ten-Percent Plan

- **Reconstruction**—period of rebuilding after Civil War, 1865–1877
- Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction calls for 10% allegiance
- **Radical Republicans** led by Charles Sumner, **Thaddeus Stevens**
 - want to destroy power of former slaveholders
 - give full citizenship, suffrage to African Americans

Radical Reaction

- 1864 **Wade-Davis Bill** makes Congress responsible for Reconstruction
- Lincoln uses pocket veto to kill Wade-Davis; Radicals outraged



SECTION

1

Johnson's Plan

Johnson Continues Lincoln's Policies

- President Andrew Johnson proposes own Presidential Reconstruction:
 - states must swear allegiance, annul war debts, ratify 13th Amendment
 - does not address voting rights, land, laws for former slaves
- States that had not applied under Lincoln agree to Johnson's terms
 - some states do not fully comply

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

1

continued Johnson's Plan

Presidential Reconstruction Comes to a Standstill

- Radical Republicans in Congress refuse new Southern legislators
- Congress enlarges **Freedmen's Bureau**—helps former slaves, poor whites
 - gives social services, medical care, education

Continued . . .

SECTION

1

continued Johnson's Plan**Civil Rights Act of 1866**

- Congress passes Civil Rights Act of 1866:
 - grants citizenship to African Americans
 - forbids **black codes** or discriminatory laws
- Black codes restore many restrictions of slavery
- Whites use violence to prevent blacks from improving their lives
- Johnson vetoes Freedmen's Bureau and Civil Rights Act
- Alienates moderate Republicans; angers Radicals



SECTION

1

Congressional Reconstruction

Moderates and Radicals Join Forces

- In mid-1866, moderate Republicans join Radicals to override veto
- Draft **Fourteenth Amendment**—makes African Americans full citizens
- Most Southern states reject amendment; not ratified until 1868

1866 Congressional Elections

- Johnson jeered on tour urging election of supporters of his plan
- Moderates, Radicals win 2/3 majority in Congress, can override veto

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

1

continued **Congressional Reconstruction****Reconstruction Act of 1867**

- 1867 Reconstruction Act doesn't recognize most new state governments
 - divides South into military districts
 - sets new conditions for reentry in Union
- Johnson believes act unconstitutional, vetoes; Congress overrides

Johnson Impeached

- Radicals seek to **impeach**—formally charge with misconduct in office
- Johnson fires Stanton—test constitutionality of Tenure of Office Act
- House Radicals impeach Johnson; Senate does not convict

Continued . . .

NEXT

SECTION

1

continued Congressional Reconstruction**Ulysses S. Grant Elected**

- 1868, Grant wins presidency with help of African-American vote
- **Fifteenth Amendment**— gives voting rights to all, regardless of color
- South does not enforce 14th, 15th Amendments
- White Southerners use violence to prevent blacks from voting
- Enforcement Act of 1870—federal government can punish violators



Section 2

Reconstructing Society

Various groups contribute to the rebuilding of Southern society after the war.

SECTION

2 Reconstructing Society

Conditions in the Postwar South

Physical and Economic Conditions

- By 1870, all Confederate states in Union with Republican governments
- Buildings, infrastructure, farms destroyed throughout South
- People poor; property value plummets, Confederate bonds worthless
- 1/5 white males dead, many maimed; tens of thousands black males dead

Public Works Programs

- Transportation; homes for orphans, disabled; public schools built
- Northern capitalists do not invest in South; states must raise taxes

SECTION

2

Politics in the Postwar South

Scalawags and Carpetbaggers

- Democrats call Southern white Republicans **scalawags**
 - most are small farmers
 - want better economic position
- **Carpetbaggers**—Northerners who moved to South after war

African Americans as Voters

- African Americans are largest group of Southern Republicans
- In many areas, 90% of African-American voters vote

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

2

continued **Politics in the Postwar South****Political Differences**

- Few scalawags support civil rights for blacks; many rejoin Democrats
- Republican governors appoint Democrats; do not win white support
- Some whites support Republicans; think end of slavery good for South
- Many whites refuse to accept new status or equal rights for blacks
- Several thousand Southerners emigrate to Europe, Mexico, Brazil

SECTION

2

Former Slaves Face Many Challenges

New-Won Freedoms

- At first, former slaves cautious about testing limits of freedom
- Some travel to new places
- Many leave plantations to find work in Southern towns

Reunification of Families

- Many search for loved ones on different plantations
- Couples can marry legally and be sure of keeping their children

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

2

continued **Former Slaves Face Many Challenges****Education**

- Freed people of all ages seek education
- African Americans establish schools and universities
- Initially, most teachers Northern whites; by 1869, most are black

Churches and Volunteer Groups

- Many African Americans found churches; mostly Baptist, Methodist
- Black ministers become influential community leaders
- African Americans form thousands of volunteer organizations:
 - foster independence
 - give financial, emotional support
 - offer leadership opportunities

Continued . . .

SECTION

2

continued **Former Slaves Face Many Challenges****Politics and African Americans**

- 1865–1877, African Americans hold local, state, federal office
- At first, most officeholders freeborn; by 1867 some former slaves
- Almost as many black as white citizens; black officeholders minority
 - only 16 African Americans in Congress
 - **Hiram Revels** is first black senator

Continued . . .

SECTION

2

continued **Former Slaves Face Many Challenges****Laws Against Segregation**

- By 1866, Republican governments repeal most black codes
- Anti-segregation laws created, but many not enforced
- Blacks focus on building up their community, not total integration

SECTION

2

Changes in the Southern Economy

40 Acres and a Mule

- Sherman: slaves who follow him can have 40 acres, use of army mules
 - freed slaves settle on abandoned land
 - Johnson orders them evicted
- Many Republicans reject seizing property; pass weak land-reform laws

Restoration of Plantations

- African Americans, poor whites want small farms
- Planters, Northern merchants, mill owners want cotton plantations
- Planters fear will be unable to make profit if must pay wages
- Freedmen work in mills, railroad, farming
 - planters prevent them getting land

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

2

continued **Changes in the Southern Economy****Sharecropping and Tenant Farming**

- Landless African Americans sign labor contracts with planters
 - neither freedmen nor planters happy with system
- **Sharecropping**—owner gives land, seed, tools for part of crops
- **Tenant farming**—rent land from owner; buy own tools

Cotton No Longer King

- Other countries increase cotton production; South creates oversupply
- Try to diversify—textiles, tobacco products; wages lower than North
- Banks hold Confederate debt, mounting planters' debts; many fail



Section 3

The Collapse of Reconstruction

Southern opposition to Radical Reconstruction, along with economic problems in the North, end Reconstruction.

SECTION

3 The Collapse of Reconstruction

Opposition to Reconstruction

Ku Klux Klan

- **Ku Klux Klan (KKK)**—Confederate veterans group that turns terrorist
- Grows rapidly; aims to restore white supremacy

Anti-Black Violence

- 1868–1871 Klan, others kill thousands, burn schools, churches, homes
- Klan works to force Republican state governments out of power
- Southern Democrats use violence to intimidate black voters
- White Democratic candidates win state elections in 1875, 1876

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

3

continued **Opposition to Reconstruction****Economic Pressure**

- Black landowners, non-farmers attacked, have property destroyed
- Need forces freedmen into wage labor, sharecropping for whites

Legislative Response

- 1870, 1871 Enforcement Acts passed to curtail Klan, Democrats
 - Supreme Court rules 1871 act unconstitutional
- Klan violence decreases because restore white supremacy in South

Shifts in Political Power

- 1872 Amnesty Act returns voting rights to many former Confederates
- Congress allows Freedmen's Bureau to expire

SECTION

3

Scandals and Money Crises Hurt Republicans

Fraud and Bribery

- Grant considered honest; appoints friends to political office
- Beginning in 1872, series of Grant administration scandals exposed

Republican Unity Shattered

- 1872, Liberal Republican Party forms, nominates Horace Greeley
- Democrats also nominate Greeley; Grant wins by wide margin
- Liberal Republicans weaken Radicals, make Reconstruction difficult

Continued Scandal

- Administration corruption continues; Grant does not seek reelection



SECTION

3

Economic Turmoil

The Panic of 1873

- Business opportunities in South lead investors to excessive debt
Largest government securities dealer bankrupts, starts **panic of 1873**
 - banks, businesses close; stock market collapses
- Panic triggers 5-year economic depression

Currency Dispute

- Panic of 1873 fuels dispute over currency
 - financial experts want return to gold standard
 - South, West want more greenbacks to pay debts
- 1875, Specie Resumption Act puts country back on gold standard

SECTION

3

Judicial and Popular Support Fades

Supreme Court Decisions

- 1870s Supreme Court decisions undermine 14th, 15th Amendments
- Federal government loses power to protect African-American rights

Northern Support Fades

- Northerners grow indifferent to events in South:
 - shift attention to national problems
 - want reconciliation between regions
 - begin to dislike Reconstruction policies
- Republicans give up from lack of judicial, public support, leaders
- Republicans conclude government cannot impose moral, social changes



SECTION

3

Democrats “Redeem” the South

Democrats Recapture the South

- **Redemption**—return of Democrats to power in the South, 1869–1875

Election of 1876

- Republicans nominate Governor **Rutherford B. Hayes**, not Grant
- Democrats choose Governor **Samuel J. Tilden**
- Tilden wins popular vote, 1 shy of electoral; 20 electoral disputed
- **Compromise of 1877**—Hayes gets presidency, Democrats get:
 - federal troops leave LA, SC
 - funding for Southern railroad, waterways
 - conservative Southerner in cabinet
- Compromise means end of Reconstruction

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

3

continued Democrats “Redeem” the South**Home Rule in the South**

- After Hayes removes federal troops, Democrats take over states
- **Home rule**—running state government without federal intervention

Legacy of Reconstruction

- Republicans fail to protect rights they gave to former slaves
- Unwillingness to distribute land blocks economic independence
- Amendments abolish slavery, give basis for civil rights legislation
- African-American schools, civic groups increase literacy, opportunity



This is the end of the chapter presentation of lecture notes. Click the HOME or EXIT button.



1

Three Worlds Meet

SECTION 1	Peopling the Americas
SECTION 2	North American Societies Around 1492
SECTION 3	West African Societies Around 1492
SECTION 4	European Societies Around 1492
SECTION 5	Transatlantic Encounters

▶ NEXT

Print Slide Show

1. On the **File** menu, select **Print**
2. In the pop-up menu, select **Microsoft PowerPoint**
If the dialog box does not include this pop-up, continue to step 4
3. In the **Print what** box, choose the presentation format you want to print: slides, notes, handouts, or outline
4. Click the **Print** button to print the PowerPoint presentation