



The Battle over Reconstruction

Freedman's Bureau was set up to help freedmen; **13th Amendment** abolished slavery.

Presidential Reconstruction:

- ▶ Lincoln wanted to readmit Southern states when 10% voters pledged allegiance to the Union and recognized end of slavery.
- ▶ Johnson insists Confederate leaders seek personal pardons, but liberally grants them.

Black Codes: New Southern state governments with former Confederate leaders pass "**Black Codes**," restricting the rights of freedmen.

Congressional Reconstruction

- ▶ Shocked at the Black Codes and the election of Confederate leaders, Radical Republicans refuse to seat Southerners in Congress.
- ▶ **Civil Rights Act**, passed over Johnson's veto, grants freedmen rights of citizenship, overturning Black Codes.
- ▶ Civil Rights Act is rewritten as **14th Amendment**, granting all citizens:
 - "**Due process of law**": right to fair procedures before a state government takes away a person's property or freedom
 - "**Equal protection of the laws**": state laws should treat people equally
- ▶ **Reconstruction Act (1867)** divides the South into military occupation zones.

Impeachment of President Andrew Johnson

- ▶ Radical Republicans pass the Tenure of Office Act: The President needs Senate consent to remove cabinet members.
- ▶ Johnson impeached for removing his Secretary of War. He is the first President to be impeached. When tried in the Senate, Johnson is saved from removal by one vote.

Reconstruction Governments

- ▶ **Carpetbaggers**, **scalawags**, and **freedmen** participate in Reconstruction governments.
- ▶ African Americans vote and serve in government during this experiment in biracial democracy. **Hiram Rhodes Revels** becomes the first African American in Congress.
- ▶ Reconstruction governments ban racial discrimination, establish public schools, and encourage railroad construction—but they are also guilty of corruption.

Reconstruction Economics

- ▶ **Sharecropper:** uses the land and tools of the landlord in exchange for part of crop
- ▶ **Tenant farmer:** rents land from landlord
- ▶ **Debt peonage:** loss of freedom to move away because of debts to landlord or business owner
- ▶ **“New South”:** new economy of South with greater crop diversity, more railroads, and some manufacturing

The End of Reconstruction

- ▶ North loses interest in reconstruction after economic depression in 1873.
- ▶ Rutherford B. Hayes withdraws troops in a deal to win the disputed 1877 Presidential election.
- ▶ Southern Democrats return to power.
- ▶ **Ku Klux Klan** and other groups terrorize African Americans.

The “Jim Crow” Laws: the “Nadir” in Race Relations

- ▶ Southern state governments take steps to stop African-American voting: literacy tests, poll taxes, residency requirements. Whites exempted by “grandfather clauses.”
- ▶ African Americans intimidated by violence and economic dependence.
- ▶ Southern state governments pass “**Jim Crow**” laws requiring racial segregation, or separation of whites and blacks, in schools, railroads, restaurants and other public places.
- ▶ “Jim Crow” laws upheld by the Supreme Court in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896): Facilities can be “separate but equal.”