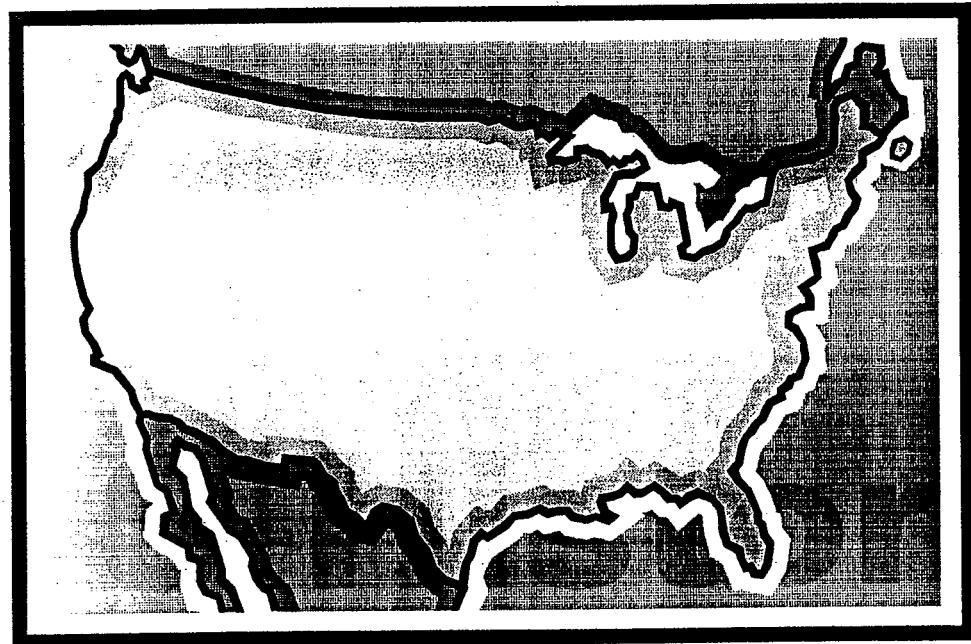


US History



Chapter 12: Reconstruction and Its Effects

Section 1: The Politics of Reconstruction

Section 2: Reconstructing Society

Section 3: The Collapse of Reconstruction

CHAPTER Twelve

SEC. 1

Congress Reacts

- Moderate Republicans enlarge Freedmen's Bureau assistance to former slaves by giving clothing + food, set up 40 hospitals, schools, teachers
- Civil Rights Act 1866 gave Blacks citizenship + outlaw Black codes in Southern States
- Johnson Vetoes Both + Angers G.O.P.
- Angry Moderates + Radicals work to shift power of Reconstruction to Congress by passing 14th Amend which guarantees all citizens equal protection of the law
- Later Radicals introduce 15th Amend or Black Suffrage or right to vote

WHITE SOUTH Response

- Most Southerners relieved by Johnson plan because he supported states' rights + not in favor of Black suffrage + pardons 13,000 former Confederates.

- All except Texas of remaining Confederates draw up new constitutions
- Many former Confederates still had political power + Radicals + Blacks felt betrayed

- VP Andrew Johnson becomes president after Lincoln's assassination
- Southerners considered Johnson traitor because he supported Union + wanted to deal harshly with Confederate leaders
- Radicals believed he was one of them - Both wrong
- Johnson continues Lincoln's plan with his own plan
- His plan = Each state would have to withdraw its secession, swear allegiance to Union, Annul Confederate war debts + Ratify 13th Amendment which abolishes slavery
- His plan differed little from Lincoln's
- Both plans failed to address the needs of former slaves in 3 areas; land, voting rights + protection under the law

- 1868 US Grant (G.O.P.) wins Presidency

- Johnson impeached for violating Office of Tenure Act + is one vote short of 2/3 majority needed

- Reconstruction Act 1867 abolishes govts formed in Confed States + Divide those states into 5 military districts + set up Readmission requirement

- 1866 Congressional Elections Moderate + Radicals G.O.P. win landslide victory + have votes to override veto

- Race Riots in South convinced North voters that Feds need to protect former slaves.

- Johnson angers Radicals with rejection of 14th Amendment

Lincoln's 10% Plan

Reconstruction was period when US began to rebuild after Civil War

Also process Fed. Govt. Used to re-admit Confederate States.

3 different approaches

by Lincoln, Johnson + Congress Lincoln favored lenient policy

He believed Secession was Constitutionally impossible so STATES never left the UNION

Radicals React

The Politics of Reconstruction

Johnson's Plan

Johnson's Plan

Radical Reaction

Radical Republicans (G.O.P.) felt Lincoln's plan too moderate + pass WADE DAVIS Bill that made Congress responsible for Reconstruction Not president

Thad Stevens + Charles Sumner want to destroy political power of slaveholders.

Full citizenship + voting rights for blacks

Lincoln used pocket veto to kill Wade Davis Bill

Pocket Veto

President has 10 days to either sign or veto bill passed by Congress. If president does neither bill automatically becomes law unless bill passed 10 days before end of congressional session, president can ignore it + kill it

CHAPTER

Twelve

SEC. 2

Southern Economy Changes

- Many former slaves who gained 40 acres + a mule soon after Civil War were ordered by President Johnson in 1865 to return it to original landowners
- Congress considered it wrong in first place to confiscate plantation owners' land
- They either reject land reform or pass weak laws such as:
 - 1866 Southern Homestead Act that set aside 44 million acres of swamps
 - Planters claim that to make plantation system work they needed complete control over laborers + pay little
 - Planters face labor shortages

Social Advances for African Americans

- Improved Education as 600,000 blacks enroll in schools by 1877
- Many founded their own churches, volunteer organizations
 - Baptist or Methodist Churches as Black Ministers become influential leaders
 - Hiram Revels becomes first black Senator
 - But only 16 of 125 Southerners elected to Congress.

Former Slaves Face Challenges

- Many former slaves move cautiously like turtle
 - Many move to towns + cities + pop doubles
 - Reunification of families w/help of Freedmen's Bureau
 - By 1866 most repeal Black Codes + desegregate

Post War South

- No longer King Cotton as South attempts to diversify
 - Cycle of Poverty puts most former slaves in poor economic position to own their land
 - Tenant Farming OR Renting land for cash and keeping their harvest = better chance
 - Sharecropping OR landlords divided their land + gave workers a few acres in return for crops as rent
 - 2 ALTERNATIVES EMERGE
 - Labor Contracts did not work out for former slaves or owners
 - Many former slaves forced to sign labor contracts
- Sharecropping + Tenants Farming
- Fed govt develops public works programs to rebuild South's infrastructure or roads, bridges etc.
 - First public schools built in South
 - But few financial resources + Northern Investors force state govts to raise taxes that drain existing resources + slowdown region's recovery

RECONSTRUCTING SOCIETY

Political Differences

Conflicting goals among G.O.P members led to disunity in party

Few scalawags share commitment to Civil Rights + Black Suffrage + return to Dem Party

Some G.O.P governors appoint white Democrats to office in effort to capture more white votes

It convinced very few + made blacks feel betrayed

Many white southerners refused to accept black's new status + resisted idea of equal rights + some emigrated

Scalawags + Carpetbaggers
They were negative labels by political enemies used to criticize their conflicting goals

Scalawags were white southerners who joined G.O.P to gain political office w/help of black vote for their own self-interests.

Mostly small farmers who wanted to prevent plantation owners from gaining power

Carpetbaggers were Northerners who moved south to exploit south's post war turmoil

15th Amendment

- Black males gain right to vote
- Govt to support G.O.P
- 90% will vote

Judicial + Popular Support fades

- Supreme Court undo Social + political changes that undermined the 14th + 15th Amendment

• Slaughterhouse Cases 1873 Contends basic Civil Rights obtained through citizenship in State the 14th amend did not protect it.

- US v. CRV Kshank 1876 - Fed Govt Could not punish whites for oppression

- US v. Reese Waters down 15th Amend by listing grounds on which States Could not deny Suffrage + Not Confer Suffrage

- Northern Support for Reconstruction fades due to Panic of 1873

Economic Turmoil

- Panic of 1873 due to North + South Investors over Invested or took more debt than they could afford + set off series of bank failures + close of Stock Market

- Triggers 5yr Economic Depression

- Pa. Banker Jay Cooke loses his Railroad lines = 3 million jobless

- CURRENCY DISPUTE: greenbacks not backed by gold standard

- 1875 Specie Resumption Act Restores Gold Standard but

- Farmers Complain

- It broke up Republican Unity

Corruption Continues

- 1875 Whiskey Ring Involved Whiskey Distillers bribing Internal Revenue Collectors to avoid taxes

- William Belknap (Sec of War) accepted bribes Also Bribes taken by Sec of Navy + Sec of Interior

- By 1876 Election US Grant Refuses to Seek ReElection

- In Return Democrats get home Rule or run state govt w/out Federal Intervention + An End to Reconstruction
- Republican Hayes Wins Election + becomes 1st President to win w/out winning pop. vote

- Congress appoints Commission to Solve Dispute were mostly Republicans.

- Tilden Wins popular vote but falls short 1 vote with 20 electoral votes IN DISPUTE.

- Tilden (NY Gov.) cleaned up NY corrupt Political Boss - Boss Tweed

- 1876 Election features Hayes (GOP) vs Tilden (D)

Compromise of 1877

The
Collapse
of
Reconstruction

Fraud and Bribery

- 1872 Credit Mobilier Affair involves Construction Company Skims off profits from govt. railroad contracts

- Group of GOP angered by Corruption call for honest govt. + form Liberal Republican Party

- They Choose Horace Greeley editor of New York Tribune as their Candidate who called for end to Reconstruction

- Greeley loses + dies soon after the election

White Opposition Groups

- Small group of Southern Whites

- Resort to violence against African Americans

- Ku Klux Klan started in Tennessee 1866 + turned into terrorist group

- Their goal was to restore White Supremacy + Prevent Black political rights, + put the GOP out of power

- NC State Sen. John Stephens was assassinated in 1870 for supporting Blacks + NOT abandoning them.

- Southern Dems openly used violence against GOP to win local elections
- Economic Repressals against former slaves kept them on the farms

Federal Power Shifts

- Congress passes 1870 Enforcement Act But Supreme Court ruled that Enforcement Act was unconstitutional

- Meanwhile Klan is successful in limiting Black political + civil rights

- 1872 Amnesty Act Returns the right to vote + hold federal + state offices, once revoked by 14th Amendment to former white Confederates

- 1872 Congress allows the Freedmen's Bureau expire or end

GOP hurt by Scandals

- In 1870's Grant administration hurt by scandals that take attention away from Reconstruction.

- Grant Considered honest but no political experience + Selected friends for political offices who were dishonest