

Chapter 18.1 Rebuilding the Union

Name _____

Date _____

Radical Republicans: vigorously opposed Andrew Johnson's lenient policies towards Reconstruction

Reconstruction: process of readmitting the Southern States into the Union

Freedmen's Bureau: federal agency that set up schools and hospitals for former slaves and poor whites. Also gave food and clothing find jobs

Andrew Johnson- became President after Lincoln was shot.

Black codes: southern laws meant to limit the freedom of former slaves.

Fourteenth Amendment-- granted all citizens equal protection of the law.

Summary :

Main Idea: During Reconstruction the president and Congress fought over how to rebuild the South.

When Lincoln was killed in 1865 his vice president Andrew Johnson became president.

President Andrew Johnson's Plan for Reconstruction:

A majority of voters in each southern state had to pledge loyalty to the union.

Each state had to ratify the 13th Amendment, which banned slavery throughout the nation.

Johnson was a democrat and former slave owner. His mild program toward the South led to a break with the Radical Republicans in congress and finally to his impeachment.

Republicans outnumbered Democrats in both houses.

Radical Republicans believed African Americans were entitled to the same political rights and opportunities as whites. They also believed that the Confederate leaders should be punished for their roles in the Civil War.

As the South rebuilt, they set up new governments that looked much like old ones. They refused to ratify the 13th Amendment. They passed laws known as "black codes".

SO...when Congress met in December 1865--Northern congressmen refused to allow Southern congressmen to take their seats back in Congress. Committees set up instead to determine the state of the South and determine if the Southern states should be represented.

Congress passed a bill promoting civil rights in 1866. Johnson shocked Congress by vetoing the bill. He argued it operated against the "white race." Congress overrode the Presidential veto and the bill became law.

Johnson also refused to support the 14th Amendment. So did every former Confederate state except Tennessee. As a result the moderate and radical republicans joined forces to pass the Reconstruction Acts of 1867.

They divided the south into 5 military districts, each run by an army commander. Before a state could re-enter the Union, they had to approve the new state constitution that gave the vote to all adult men, and they must ratify the Fourteenth Amendment.

Southern voters chose delegates to draft new state constitutions. About 3/4 were republicans. Many republicans were poor white farmers who called the civil war a "rich man's " war. They were called scalawags for going along with Radical reconstruction.

Some southern republicans were Carpetbaggers. A Carpetbagger is a person from the northern states who went to the South after the Civil War to profit from the Reconstruction.

African Americans made up the rest of the Republican delegates. Southern legislatures completed the tasks of Reconstruction Acts and were let back into the Union.

During reconstruction more than 600 African Americans served in state legislatures throughout the South.

Johnson fought against many of Congress's reform efforts during Radical Reconstruction. In 1867 Congress passed the Tenure of Office Act which prohibited the president from firing government officials without Senate approval. In February, Johnson fired Secretary of War Edwin Stanton over disagreements about Reconstruction. Three days later the House voted to Impeach Johnson.

In the end the president was acquitted by a single vote.

Chapter 18.2 Reconstruction and Daily Life

Name _____

Date _____

Freedmen's schools: started by the Freedmen's bureau, northern missionary groups and African American organizations. Classes were held in former slave markets, warehouses, billiard rooms, churches and houses.

Sharecropping- a system in which a worker rented a plot of land to farm, the landowner provided the tools, seed, and housing, and the sharecropper gave the landowner a share of the crop at harvest time.

Ku Klux Klan: secret group that terrorized African Americans and sought to restore Democratic power and keep former slaves powerless.

lynched-(of a mob) kill (someone), especially by hanging, for an alleged offense with or without a legal trial.

Summary :

Main Idea: As the South rebuilt millions of newly freed African Americans worked to improve their lives.

What happened in everyday life?

African Americans left the plantations. Some searched for family members. They were now free to travel.

Freedman's Bureau assisted in helping find families split apart. Former slaves were allowed to marry. They could raise families without the fear of their children being sold.

Children and adults enrolled in schools.(Freedmen's Schools)

Northern teachers, black and white, went South to teach freed people.

White racists killed teachers and burned freemen's schools in some parts of the South.

More than anything else, freed men wanted land.

General William Tecumseh Sherman suggested that the abandoned land in coastal S.C be split into 40 acre parcels and given to free men. The rumor spread that freed men would get 40 acres and a mule. Few men received land, and those who did had to return it to the former owner once President Johnson pardoned them.

Without their own property, many freed men returned to work on plantations. They returned as wage earners, not slaves. African Americans chose the best contract offers.

Contract system was better than slavery, but some slaves were cheated out of wages and prohibited from leaving the plantations. They would also be punished for breaking a contract, even if the plantation owners were abusing or cheating them.

Plantation system was destroyed in the South - no slave labor force.

Plantation system was replaced by Sharecropping: landowners give farmers land and materials in return for part of the crops they raise.

African Americans faced violent racism in the South. A secret group called the Ku Klux Klan rose up in the south, they wanted to keep freed men oppressed and restore democratic control of the South. The Klan's goals were to restore Democratic control of the South and keep former slaves powerless.

The Klan attacked African Americans and white Republicans - lynched some victims - killing them on the spot without trial. Kept republicans away from voting out of fear - Democrats increased their power.

Chapter 18.3 End of Reconstruction.

Name _____

Date _____

*Fifteenth Amendment
Extended voting rights to
African Americans.*

*Panic of 1873: financial crisis
in which banks closed and the
stock market collapsed.*

*Compromise of 1877: An
agreement that resolved an
1876 election dispute.
Rutherford B Hayes became
president and then removed
the last federal troops from
the South.*

Main Idea: As white Southerners regained power, Reconstruction ended as did black advances toward equality.

*Despite the Ku Klux Klan, General Ulysses S. Grant - republican - won in 1868
A bill was passed to allow Federal Marshals to arrest Klansmen. In 1872, the presidential election was peaceful and fair. Grant won a second term.
Grant's presidency was plagued by scandals - he filled his administration with army friends and his wife's relatives (many who were unqualified) & took bribes, avoided taxes - so busy with corruption - economic mess resulted in high unemployment & low business activity.
Scandal also divided the Republican party.*

Panic of 1873- banks across the land closed when Eastern banks ran out of money after making bad loans. The stock market collapsed, and panic caused economic depression. The railroad industry suffered. Railroad failures left Midwestern families with no way to move their crops and farmers were ruined. The depression lasted about 5 years

Reconstruction ends: Americans blamed the economic crises on the Republicans. American's grew tired of hearing about the South's problems and the nation lost interest in Reconstruction.

Additionally, the Supreme Court began to undo some changes that had been made in the South. They gave only the states the power to punish those who violated the civil rights of African Americans.

They also ruled in 1876 that the Fifteenth Amendment did not give everyone the right to vote. In other words, states could prevent African Americans from voting for other reasons. States later imposed poll taxes and literacy tests to restrict the vote.

The final blow to Reconstruction came with the 1876 presidential election.

When the race between Democrat Samuel J. Tilden and Republican Rutherford B. Hayes ended without a clear winner, Congress appointed a special committee to decide the election.

With the Compromise of 1877, the committee made Hayes president. In return, Republicans removed federal troops from the South, causing Southern Reconstruction governments to collapse.

African Americans made lasting gains during Reconstruction. Protection of civil rights became part of the U.S. Constitution.

Black schools and churches were established.

But many African Americans remained poor. Few took part in politics. Furthermore, African Americans continued to face widespread violence and prejudice.

Summary :