
Summary

Reconstruction was a 12-year period that lasted from 1865-1877 and included the rebuilding of the South following the Civil War. Reconstruction was the time period in which the states of the South were brought back into the Union. It included the physical, social, and financial rebuilding of the Confederate States. After the Civil War ended, the South was left in ruins. Farms had been destroyed, cities had been razed, and the social organization of the population had been shattered. The people of the North, along with the Union's Government and the defeated south, had to take action to reconstruct this destroyed society. During this time, the various plans for reconstruction included **Lincoln's Plan (Neutral towards the south)** - which consisted of the Freedman's Bureau and the 10% plan, with the goal of re-establishing peace, re-establishing the southern governments, and helping the blacks - **Johnson's Plan (Lenient on the south)** - which strived to appease whites by giving land back to the them, while hindering black advancement, and supporting the broken confederacy through granting war pardons and allowing confederate states to make their own governments, and the **Radical Republican's Plan (Harsh on the south)** which included dividing the south into five different military districts, forcing the southern states to make new constitutions, forcing them to grant slaves the right to vote in order to be admitted back into the U.S., and passing the 14th amendment, which granted African American civil rights. All plans however, included rebuilding the South. Which was one success achieved during Reconstruction. Many of the southern cities were industrialized. Were once plantations had been, factories now stood. Historically, the Southern's economy and society was changed do to this rural to urban movement and building. However, because of the extreme political and moral standpoints of the three plans and the diverse group of citizens in the United States, a plan which was in the middle ground of the three was set in motion. Some of the key changes that happened include the changes made by Congress: the Civil Rights Act: which protected the Blacks' Civil Rights, the 13th Amendment; which legally ended slavery throughout the U.S, The 14th Amendment; which guaranteed citizenship to all men, including African Americans, and The 15th Amendment; which granted African American males the right to vote. However, shortly after their steps towards freedom, the black's were once again restricted with black codes and the Jim Crow laws set by racist state governments in the South. The freed slaves also faced the terror of the Klu Klux Klan, which was a white supremacy group that tortured and killed African Americans and any who sympathized with their cause. From a social standpoint, blacks were more accepted into society than before, yet black codes still stopped them from becoming citizens and groups like the KKK disturbed any chance the ex-slaves had at striving towards their rights. Reconstruction was seen as a major failure for this reason, some saying that African Americans were worse off with the fear of the KKK hanging over them. Reconstruction was a time of major historical changes, that impacted the political and social developments of the entire United States and the opinions of the public concerning slavery.

Possible Essay Questions

The below section includes possible essay questions and answer ideas. Make sure you understand the below section just has ideas you still have to give examples and/or explain with a full response.

1. Define Reconstruction and explain why it was necessary following the Civil War? - Reconstruction was an era within the United States following the Civil War, it included the rebuilding of the Southern infrastructure, society, and economy. It was necessary because of the massive destruction caused by the Civil War in the South. Include in your answer the +physical(destroyed cities being rebuilt), +social (Rural to Urban changes, Black's making movements towards civil rights) , and +political laws (13th,14th,15th amendments, Jim Crow Laws, Black Codes) and +history/culture of the South (Racist Attitudes, Life now without slaves, KKK, etc) and how it changed through reconstruction.

2. What were the major successes and failures of Reconstruction? -

Successes: Freedmen's Bureau, Civil Rights Act of 1866, 13th Amendment, 14th Amendment, 15th Amendment, the unification of the Union, physical and industrial rebuilding of the South. The complete abolition of slavery in the United States.

RECONSTRUCTION

Isabel Castillo, Mason Walls, Orville Billie

Failures: Continued segregation/discrimination with use of Black Codes and Jim Crow laws, Cycle of poverty increase due to sharecropping and tenant farming, increased power of the KKK, corruption and scandal involved with Carpetbaggers and reconstruction funding, Share Cropping, and Tenant Farming.

3. Why did Reconstruction come to an end and how did it socially impact the country? - +Reconstruction came to an end due to the Compromise of 1877, which was set because of political disagreements (Between President Johnson and the Radical Republicans) not yielding results in the South + Civil Rights changed for the better in regards to the social system of America with the expansion of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments and the Civil Rights Act of 1866. + Civil Rights were also threatened with the expansion of Black Codes, Jim Crow Laws, and KKK. + Ultimately Reconstruction forced the country to address Civil Rights

-----Key Terms-----

Abe Lincoln: President during the Civil War and the start of Reconstruction. Shot soon after he worked to pass 13th Amendment (his plan was good to South).

Andrew Johnson: Vice President during war and become president after Lincoln was shot. (his plan favored South).

Radical Republicans: Northern congressmen who supported a harsh Southern punishment or recovery plan (favored Black Rights).

Freedmen's Bureau: Organization who supported the newly freed slaves. Worked to provide clothes, food, shelter, schools, and Civil Rights protection (Agency fails due to corruption).

Black Codes: Rules implemented by democratic South to restrict Black access (included curfew, segregation).

Jim Crow Laws: Laws to keep Blacks separate from whites and prevent them from voting and exercising basic civil rights.

Literacy Test- A test given to voters, this was created to discourage African Americans from voting.

Civil Rights Act of 1866: Protected the Civil Rights of Blacks living in the U.S. (moved the government to support them).

Impeach: To bring charges against political official for wrongdoing. Then taken to trial.

13th Amendment: Banned slavery in the U.S.

14th Amendment: protected African American citizenship rights in the U.S.

15th Amendment: protected African American males right to vote.

Share Cropping: Is when ex-slave owners would rent part of their land to poor whites and blacks in return for apportion of their crops. left the renters in poverty unable to get out.

Tenant Farming: Very similar to share cropping their renters just had it a bit better off.

KKK: Southern Whites, who did not agree with Blacks Rights. So in order to maintain power they used tactics to bully blacks from voting and enjoying new freedoms.

Compromise of 1877: President Election was very close so the Democrats and Republicans made a compromise. Republican would win the election if they would agree to leave South. This ended Reconstruction and gave the South back to South.

Carpetbagger: Corrupt Northerners who came to take advantage of South ruined Reconstruction.

Successes of Reconstruction: 13th, 14th and 15th Amendment, union, South's economy is more diversified.

Failures of Reconstruction: KKK, Black Rights taken away, racism, segregation, lots of conflicts, gave up Blacks.

Civil War: A war between citizens of the same country.

Succession: To break from or separate. 11 states broke away to form confederacy.

Segregation: The action or state of setting someone or something apart from other people or things or being set apart.

Discrimination: The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things on the grounds of race, age, or sex.

Cycle of Poverty: Poor whites and freedmen have no jobs, no homes, and no money to buy land.

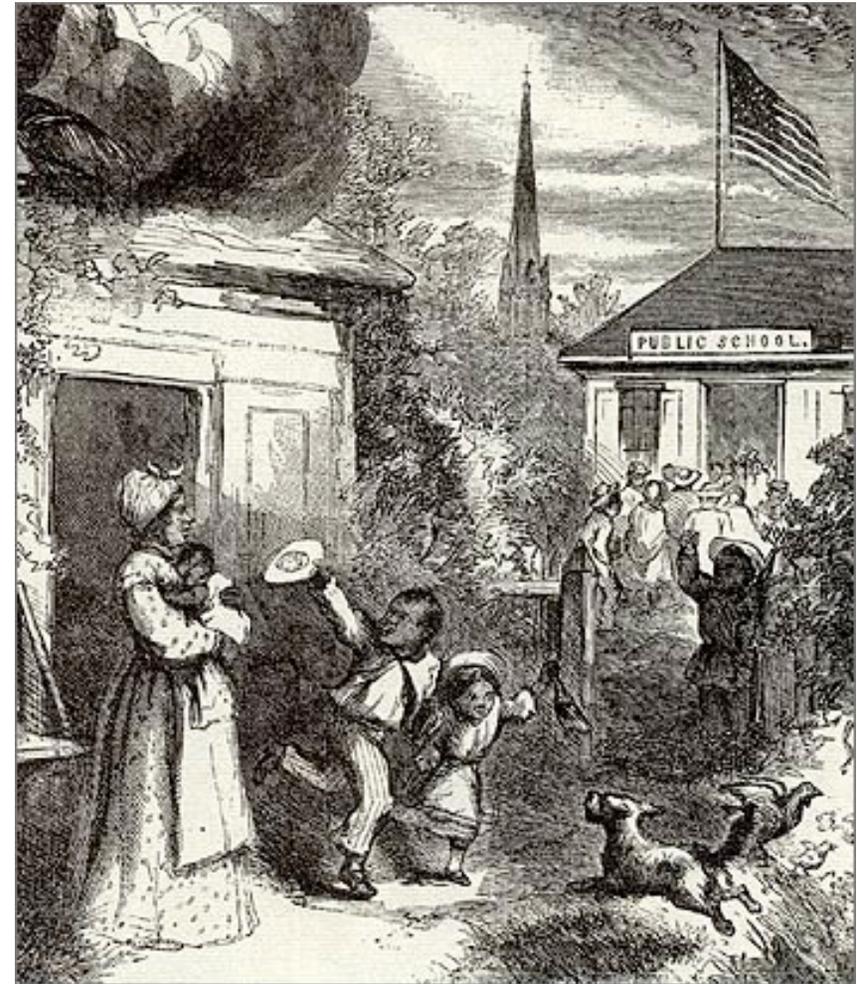
Nationalism: Pride in ones country (you love where you are from).

Standard H.B.1- Analyze the impact and changes that Reconstruction had on the historical, political and social developments of the US.



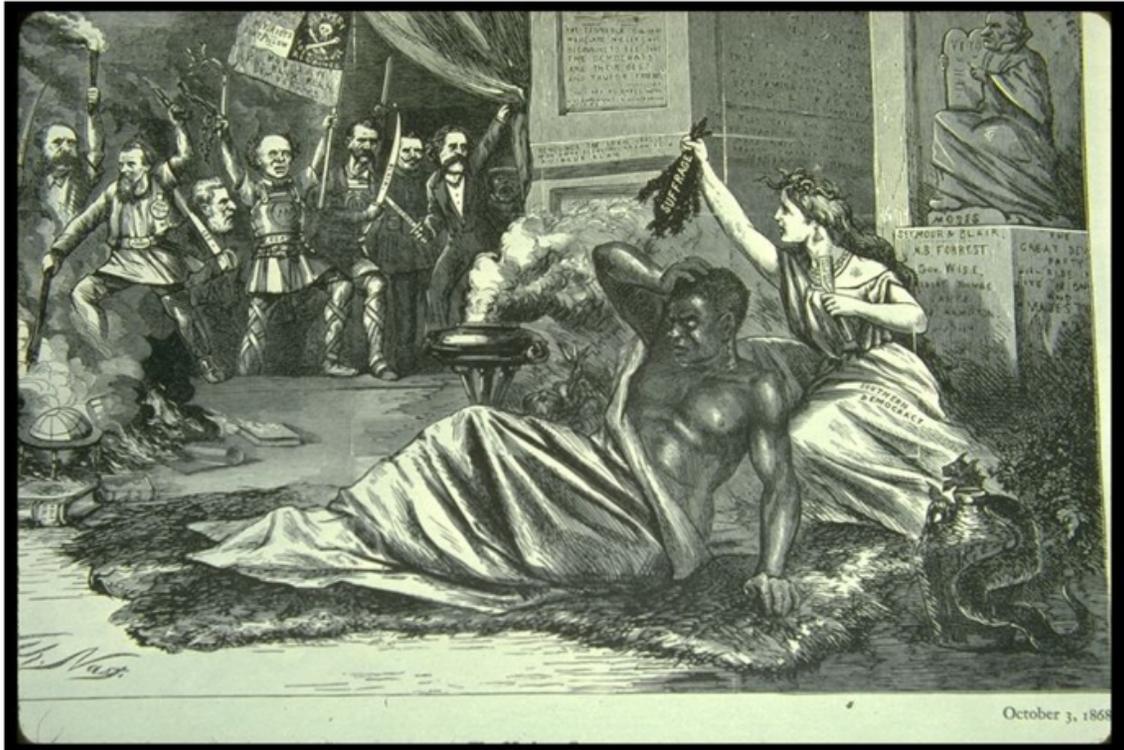
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Life often became worse than slavery for the African Americans due to the unending torment the ex-slaves felt from members of the KKK (on the right) and ex-confederates (on the left). As written above in the cartoon, the union as it was at that moment was a lost cause. Life seemed hopeless for African Americans during this terrible time of poverty, constant murder and torture by KKK, and racism in every part of the country.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

In this scene, the artist imagines a happy scene where African American children are being allowed an education, at a public school. This scene depicts what some of the Republicans wanted, and all the African Americans wanted, following the Civil War. Receiving government funded education and support would have changed African American lives.



In this cartoon, the woman represents the government. She is holding a rag above the African American's head that states "suffrage." All the white men in the background are against African Americans gaining the right to vote, and the lady is vastly outnumbered. This cartoon shows that during the Reconstruction era, no one could stop racist groups from killing the ex-slaves and ruining their right to vote.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The woman once again represents the Government. She is showing this injured African American to an audience, in an attempt to get them to realize that he is a man, he did fight for this country, and he is a defender of liberty. Following the Civil War, many African American veterans lived in the South and were extremely hated for their victory and their race.