

SECTION 22
RECONSTRUCTION
1865-1877

Reconstruction—rebuilding the Union: a twofold process of re-admitting the defeated Confederate states into the Union and determining the status of freed African-Americans

1492

1865-77

2020

THE CIVIL WAR ACCOMPLISHED THREE THINGS:

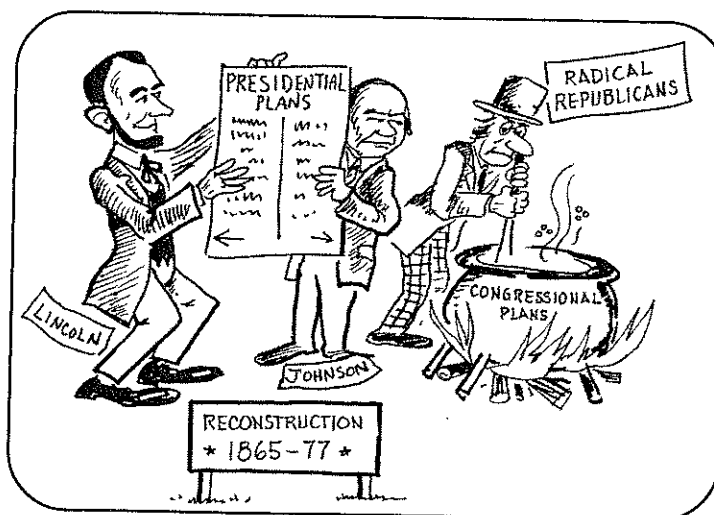
- ◆ It saved the Union—“man’s last best hope” for self-government, as Lincoln put it.
- ◆ It established federal over state sovereignty.
- ◆ It abolished slavery and freed 4,000,000 slaves.

Now, there arose a constitutional issue:

WHO SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF RECONSTRUCTION?

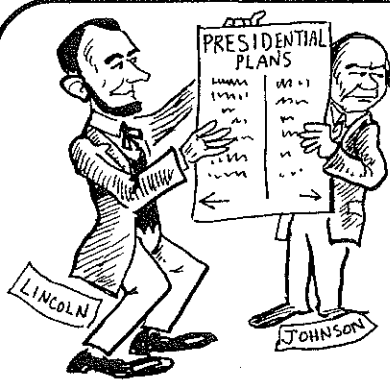
The PRESIDENT or CONGRESS?

“THE PRESIDENT,”
said President Abraham Lincoln
and other moderate Republicans.



“CONGRESS,”
said radical Republicans
in Congress.

WHERE WOULD IT ALL LEAD?



“THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF RECONSTRUCTION,”
said President Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln claimed that states had no legal right to leave the Union. Southerners had *rebelled* as individuals rather than *seceded* as states. They had never left the Union; thus they required pardons rather than readmittance.

The Constitution gives the president power to grant pardons. Therefore, the president should direct reconstruction of the Union. Andrew Johnson, who became president after Lincoln died, agreed.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN’S TEN PERCENT RECONSTRUCTION PLAN, 1863-1865

On December 8, 1863, anticipating the war’s end, President Lincoln issued the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction. It reflected the magnanimous words of his 2nd Inaugural Address: “With malice toward none....”

LET ‘EM UP
EASY, I SAY.



There were two major points to Lincoln’s lenient Ten Percent Plan:

1) AMNESTY: All southerners— except Confederate leaders and those who resigned from congress or from military commissions to support the rebellion—could win pardon and regain citizenship by taking an oath of loyalty:

“I, _____, do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the union of the States thereunder; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves....”

2) EXECUTIVE RECOGNITION: When ten percent of a state’s registered voters, as of 1860, took the loyalty oath and formed a government loyal to the United States, the president would recognize it as the legal government.

By 1864 Lincoln’s plan took effect in the Union-occupied states of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee. Congress, however, rejected the plan as too lenient and instead enacted the Wade-Davis Bill (July 4, 1864), imposing harsher terms for readmitting Confederate states into the Union. Lincoln rejected this plan with a pocket veto. These events forecast the executive-legislative struggle for control of reconstruction once the Civil War ended.

On April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated. He died the next day, as did his reconstruction plan.

PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON’S MODERATE RECONSTRUCTION PLAN, 1865

When Vice President Andrew Johnson of Tennessee became president upon Lincoln’s death on April 15th, 1865, he followed a reconstruction plan similar to Lincoln’s.



Beginning while Congress was in summer recess, he set moderate requirements for states’ readmission to the Union:

- 1) loyalty oaths in exchange for amnesty for all southerners except Confederate leaders and those whose wealth exceeded \$20,000 (Johnson disdained rich people.)
- 2) ratification of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery
- 3) repudiation of Confederate war debts
- 4) disavowal of secession ordinances.

By December 4, 1865, when Congress convened, all the southern states except Texas had met these requirements. But Congress, insisting on harsher requirements, refused to readmit them. Trouble lay ahead.

On December 18, 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery became law.



“CONGRESS SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF RECONSTRUCTION,” SAID RADICAL REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS.

“Radicals” was a term given by newspapers to Republican congressmen who opposed the mild reconstruction plans of Presidents Lincoln and Johnson.

Led by Congressman Thaddeus Stevens and Senator Charles Sumner, radical Republicans claimed that the southern states had *seceded* and should be treated as a conquered territories—a task of Congress, according to the Constitution. Therefore, congress should direct reconstruction

RADICAL REPUBLICANS’ RECONSTRUCTION PLAN, 1866-1867

December 4, 1865—When Congress convened, radical Republicans led by Representative Thaddeus Stevens and Senator Charles Sumner rejected President Johnson's moderate reconstruction plan. They established instead, the JOINT COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN, composed of six senators and nine representatives, to direct reconstruction. Stevens dominated the committee and Congress.

February 19, 1866—Alarmed by BLACK CODES enacted by southern states to restrict the social and economic freedom of former slaves, the JOINT COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN increased the power of the FREEDMAN'S BUREAU. This agency, founded by Congress in 1865, helped the 4,000,000 former slaves adjust to freedom by providing economic aid, voting instructions, and schools.

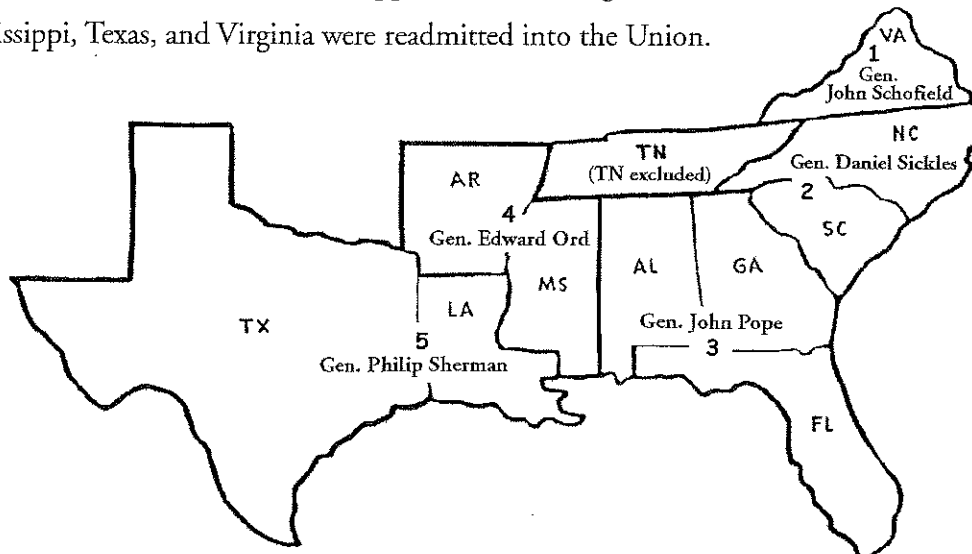
November 1866—Radical Republicans, strengthened in numbers by the midterm congressional elections, set out to force the South to accept a proposed 14th Amendment granting citizenship to blacks. Tennessee had already approved the 14th Amendment and thereby won restoration to the Union in July 1866.

March 2, 1867—Congress passed the FIRST RECONSTRUCTION ACT. This act, followed by a series of others, replaced southern governments (excluding Tennessee) with FIVE MILITARY DISTRICTS. The districts were governed by Union generals who were instructed to protect life and property. Readmission to the Union would now require:

- 1) writing state constitutions giving blacks the vote;
- 2) ratification of the 14th Amendment, making blacks citizens
- 3) later, ratification of the 15th Amendment, giving black men the vote.

By 1868 all the seceding states except Mississippi, Texas, and Virginia were readmitted into the Union.

By 1870 Mississippi, Texas, and Virginia were readmitted into the Union.



22-3 ★ RECONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS

13TH AMENDMENT: ABOLISHED SLAVERY

Ratified December 18, 1865



14TH AMENDMENT: GRANTED BLACK CITIZENSHIP

Ratified July 28, 1868



15TH AMENDMENT: GAVE BLACK MEN THE VOTE

Ratified March 30, 1870



1868: IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON

Radical Republicans in the House of Representatives impeached (brought to trial) President Johnson



for firing Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, a radical Republican, and thus violating the Tenure of Office Act.

The Senate vote was one short of the two-thirds needed for conviction. Johnson remained in office but lost power to the Radicals.

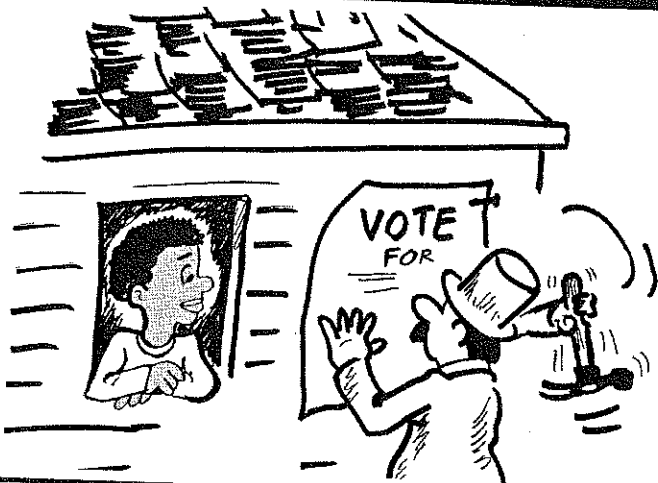
1868: ELECTION OF PRESIDENT ULYSSES S. GRANT

1868—Ulysses S. Grant was elected president, with the support of radical Republicans and newly enfranchised African-Americans. He received nearly all 700,000 black votes cast.



Grant served two terms as president, 1868 to 1876. Honest but ineffective, his administration was marked by corruption.

AFRICAN-AMERICANS EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE



The Ku Klux Klan, a secret white society, intimidated blacks to keep them from voting.

Nevertheless, African-Americans succeeded in voting and winning elective offices throughout the South during reconstruction.