Reconstruction

- Take notes on the following slides. You will need to copy the text in red.
Key Questions

1. How do we bring the South back into the Union?

2. How do we rebuild the South after its destruction during the war?

3. How do we integrate and protect newly emancipated black freedmen?

4. What branch of government should control the process of Reconstruction?
The South is destroyed

- The Civil War ended April 9, 1865.
- Most of the land in the South was destroyed by the Civil War. The South would need to be rebuilt.
- This rebuilding of the South was called Reconstruction.
Reconstruction Plan

- President Lincoln wanted to reunite the nation as quickly as possible.
- Any southern state with at least 10% of its voters making a pledge to be loyal to the U.S. could be readmitted to the Union.
- The South also had to accept a ban on slavery.
Southern Military Districts, 1867

Dates tell when states were readmitted to Union.
Ratified in December, 1865.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
The Slaves Are Free

- With the ending of the war, the slaves were now free.
- The 13th Amendment to the Constitution was passed.
- The 13th Amendment made slavery illegal forever in the United States.
Slavery is Dead?
The Freedmen’s Bureau

- The Freedmen’s Bureau was established to help poor blacks and whites in the South.
- The Freedmen’s Bureau established schools in the South.
- Laws against educating slaves during the Civil War meant that most ex-slaves did not know how to read and write.
Freedmen's Bureau (1865)

- Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.
- Many former northern abolitionists risked their lives to help southern freedmen.
- Called "carpetbaggers" by white southern Democrats.
Freedmen's Bureau Seen Through Southern Eyes

Plenty to eat and nothing to do.
Freedmen's Bureau School
Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address

- On March 4, 1865, President Lincoln laid out his approach to Reconstruction in his second inaugural address.
- He hoped to reunite the nation and its people.
Lincoln is assassinated

- Just six days after the war ended, on April 15, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated while watching a play.
- Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, a Southerner who was angry at Lincoln.
- Vice-President Andrew Johnson became president.
The Black Codes

- The Black Codes were laws passed by Southern states that limited the newfound freedom of African Americans.
- Black Codes forced African Americans to work on farms or as servants. They also prevented African Americans from owning guns, holding public meetings, or renting property in cities.
Black Codes

★ Purpose:
  * Guarantee stable labor supply now that blacks were emancipated.
  * Restore pre-emancipation system of race relations.

★ Forced many blacks to become sharecroppers [tenant farmers].
Voting Rights

- Other laws were passed to keep blacks from voting.
- One law said former slaves had to pay a tax to vote. It was called a poll tax.
- Another law was passed that said a person could only vote if their grandfather had voted. These laws were called the Grandfather Clause.
Radical Republicans

- The Black Codes angered many Republicans in Congress who felt the South was returning to its old ways.
- The Radical Republicans wanted the South to change more before they could be readmitted to the Union.
- They were angry at President Johnson for letting the South off so easy.
The 14th Amendment

- The 14th Amendment guaranteed citizenship to all people born or naturalized within the U.S. except for the Indians.
- It said that state governments could not “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.”
Johnson and The Radical Republicans

- Congress was angry at President Johnson for not going along with their Reconstruction policies.
- As a result, Congress impeached Johnson.
President Johnson's Plan (10%+)

- Offered amnesty upon simple oath to all except Confederate civil and military officers and those with property over $20,000 (they could apply directly to Johnson)

- In new constitutions, they must accept minimum conditions repudiating slavery, secession and state debts.

- Named provisional governors in Confederate states and called them to oversee elections for constitutional conventions.

**EFFECTS?**

1. Disenfranchised certain leading Confederates.
2. Pardoned planter aristocrats brought them back to political power to control state organizations.
3. Republicans were outraged that planter elite were back in power in the South!
Reconstruction Acts of 1867

★ Command of the Army Act
* The President must issue all Reconstruction orders through the commander of the military.

★ Tenure of Office Act
* The President could not remove any officials [esp. Cabinet members] without the Senate’s consent, if the position originally required Senate approval.
  ▪ Designed to protect radical members of Lincoln’s government.
  ▪ A question of the constitutionality of this law.
Impeachment

- Impeachment is the process of charging a public official with a crime.
- The next step was to try the president in the Senate.
- By a single vote, Republicans failed to convict Johnson.
- The only other time a president has been impeached was Bill Clinton.
The “Invisible Empire of the South”
Ku Klux Klan

- In 1866 a group of white southerners created the Ku Klux Klan.
- The KKK was a secret society opposed to African Americans obtaining civil rights, particularly the right to vote.
- The KKK used violence and intimidation to frighten blacks.
- Klan members wore white robes and hoods to hide their identities.
- The Klan was known to have murdered many people.
Two women and a man, members of the Ku Klux Klan, stand near a burning cross at night, probably in Denver, Colorado, ca. 1930. Western History Dept., Denver Public Library.
15th Amendment

- In 1870 the 15th Amendment became law.
- The 15th Amendment gave African American men the right to vote.
- Women’s rights activists were angry because the amendment did not also grant women the right to vote.
Segregation and Jim Crow Laws

- Starting in 1881, blacks had to stay in separate hotels, sit in separate parts of theaters, ride in separate rail cars, and have separate schools, libraries, and parks. This is known as segregation.

- Segregation - the legal separation of blacks and whites in public places

- Jim Crow Laws - laws that forced segregation
Plessy v. Ferguson

- The Supreme Court ruled segregation was legal in Plessy v. Ferguson.
- They said that segregation was fair as long as “separate-but-equal” facilities were provided for African Americans.
- In practice, the African American facilities were usually “separate-and-unequal.”
- It would take until the 1965, 100 years after the Civil War ended, for Jim Crow laws to be outlawed and blacks to finally realize legal equality in America.
Black

“Adjustment”

in the South
During Reconstruction, ex-slaves were promised 40 acres of land and a mule.

Unfortunately, the government never came through with their promise.

During the riots in the 1960’s, people were overheard saying, “That’s for my 40 acres and a mule,” as they stole something from a store.

Film maker Spike Lee’s company is called 40 Acres and a Mule.
### Tenancy & the Crop Lien System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Furnishing Merchant</th>
<th>Tenant Farmer</th>
<th>Landowner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○ Loan tools and seed up to 60% interest to tenant farmer to plant spring crop.</td>
<td>○ Plants crop, harvests in autumn.</td>
<td>○ Rents land to tenant in exchange for ( \frac{1}{4} ) to ( \frac{1}{2} ) of tenant farmer’s future crop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Farmer also secures food, clothing, and other necessities on credit from merchant until the harvest.</td>
<td>○ Turns over up to ( \frac{1}{2} ) of crop to landowner as payment of rent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Merchant holds “lien” {mortgage} on part of tenant’s future crops as repayment of debt.</td>
<td>○ Tenant gives remainder of crop to merchant in payment of debt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The Civil Rights Act of 1875

★ Crime for any individual to deny full & equal use of public conveyances and public places.

★ Prohibited discrimination in jury selection.

★ Shortcoming → lacked a strong enforcement mechanism.

★ No new civil rights act was attempted for 90 years!
The Abandonment of Reconstruction
Northern Support Wanes

- “Grantism” & corruption.
- **Panic of 1873** [6-year depression].
- Concern over westward expansion and Indian wars.
- **Key monetary issues:**
  - should the government retire $432m worth of “greenbacks” issued during the Civil War.
  - should war bonds be paid back in specie or greenbacks.
1876 Presidential Tickets

GRAND NATIONAL REPUBLICAN BANNER.

GOV. RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, FOR PRESIDENT.
HON. WM. A. WHEELER, FOR VICE PRESIDENT.

GRAND NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC BANNER.

GOV. SAMUEL J. TILDEN, FOR PRESIDENT.
GOV. THOS. A. HENDRICKS, FOR VICE PRESIDENT.
1876 Presidential Election

1876

ELECTORAL VOTE TOTAL: 369
MINOR 1% 93,895
50% 185
50% 184

POPULAR VOTE TOTAL: 8,430,783
Republican (Hayes)
Democratic (Tilden)

Territories
A Political Crisis: The “Compromise” of 1877