

## US History US & Slavery

### 2. Reconstruction

#### Reconstruction (1865-1877)

Period after the Civil War during which Northern political leaders created plans for the governance of the South and a way for former Confederate states to rejoin the Union. Southern resentment of this era lasted well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Attempted to rebuild the South socially, politically, economically, & psychologically without slavery.

Abraham Lincoln's assassination (1865)

- Assassinated by John Wilkes Booth
- Lincoln strongly supported African American rights

#### Andrew Johnson's Presidency (1865-1869)

Johnson became president after Lincoln's death (former slaveholder from Tennessee)

Carpetbaggers – Northerners who moved South after the Civil War for reconstruction

- The Federal government supported Carpetbagger-led governments in Southern states
- These governments mandated African American voting rights in the South
- Southern whites hated the Carpetbaggers and tried to find ways to avoid their laws

#### Southern White Resistance to Reconstruction

Ku Klux Klan (1866)

- Created in Tennessee by former slaveholders
- Goal was to intimidate African Americans and stop them from voting through violence

Black Codes – laws passed in the south limiting the rights of former slaves

- Examples – not permitted to own guns, live in cities, and if found without work be forced to do hard labor

14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1868) – gave citizenship to African Americans

- Was supposed to guard against Black Codes but did not work

#### Radical Reconstruction

Republicans won a 2/3 majority in the House and Senate and passed even more radical laws reinforcing Reconstruction. Was opposed by President Johnson who was impeached by radical Republicans but not removed.

During this time, several African Americans were elected to offices for the first time.

Hiram Revels – first African American Senator (Mississippi)

P.B.S. Pinchback – first African American Governor (Louisiana)

## **Ulysses S. Grant's Presidency (1869-1877)**

Passed Force Bill – Made it illegal to be part of the KKK

15<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1870) – Gave African Americans the right to vote

In order to be admitted back into the US, southern states had to end slavery and allow black men to vote.

Black Codes were used as a loophole to the 15<sup>th</sup> amendment:

Grandfather Clause – you could only vote if your grandfather was eligible to vote

Poll Tax – you had to pay a fee to vote (former slaves could not afford this)

Literacy Test – Had to read a passage and answer questions (most former slaves could not)

## **Southern Whites Take Back Power**

Radical Republicans lost power in the North due to political corruption.

Mississippi Plan – White southern Democrats voted out Carpetbagger Republicans

Used Black Codes to prevent African American voters

Solid South – Using the Mississippi Plan White Southern Democrats take back political power every Southern state.

## **Segregation**

Segregation – Separate but equal facilities established by Jim Crow Laws (never truly equal)

Jim Crow Laws – State and local laws that enforced racial segregation in the southern US

-All were enacted to reverse gains made by African Americans during reconstruction

## **End of Reconstruction**

Compromise of 1877 – Tied presidential election led to a deal between the Republicans & Democrats

-Republicans could have the White House if they removed soldiers from the South and ended Reconstruction

Results:

1877 – Federal government removed remaining soldiers from the south

Southern Whites united behind the Democratic Party to institute Jim Crow laws in every southern state

African Americans were reduced to second class citizenship

Question?

Did America succeed in physically, economically, socially, and psychologically rebuilding the South without Slavery?