

U.S. HISTORY: 1865 TO THE PRESENT -USII.2 STUDY GUIDE – THE ONGOING EFFECTS OF RECONSTRUCTION (2023 STANDARDS)

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STANDARD USII.2A—LINCOLN’S ASSASSINATION

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the effects of Reconstruction on American life by

- a) describing the impact of the **assassination of Abraham Lincoln** and the political aftermath of the Civil War;

How did the assassination of Abraham Lincoln affect Reconstruction?

- Lincoln was assassinated **just days after the Civil War ended** in 1865.
- Vice President **Andrew Johnson** became president and took a **softer approach** to rebuilding the South.
- Many members of Congress thought Johnson’s plan was too easy on former Confederates.



Lincoln's assassination greatly complicated the process of Reconstruction

- This led to **conflict between the President and Congress**, especially over how to protect the rights of formerly enslaved people.
- Congress** eventually took control of Reconstruction, enforcing **stricter policies**

STANDARD USII.2B—RECONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS, FREEDMEN’S BUREAU, AND CIVIL RIGHTS POLICIES

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the effects of Reconstruction on American life by

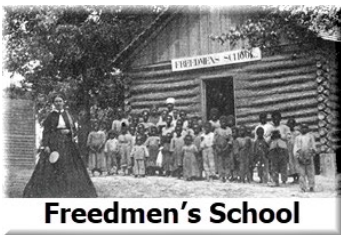
- b) analyzing the goals and effects of the **Reconstruction Amendments**, the **Freedmen’s Bureau**, and **civil rights policies** that changed the meaning of citizenship in the United States;

How did the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments change citizenship?

Reconstruction Amendments:

- 13th Amendment (1865):** Abolished slavery.
- 14th Amendment (1868):** Gave citizenship to all people born in the U.S. and guaranteed equal protection under the law.
- 15th Amendment (1870):** Gave African American men the right to vote.

Freedmen’s Bureau:



Freedmen’s School

- Created by Congress to help formerly enslaved people.
- Built schools and hospitals, provided food and shelter, and offered legal assistance.
- Helped lay the foundation for **public education** in the South.

13th Amendment bans slavery

14th Amendment grants citizenship to all persons born in the U.S. and guarantees them equal protection under the law.

15th Amendment ensures all citizens the right to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Challenges Faced:

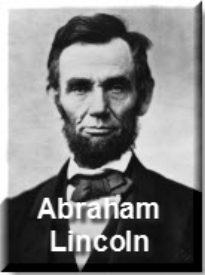
- Black Codes** were passed to limit African Americans’ rights.
- Violence and intimidation**, especially from groups like the Ku Klux Klan, tried to stop African Americans from voting or holding office.
- Racial tensions** remained high, and many policies were not enforced equally.

STANDARD USII.2c -- LASTING LEGACIES OF KEY INDIVIDUALS

c) The impact of Reconstruction policies on the South and North.

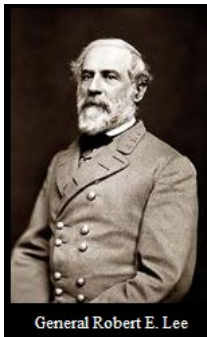
How did key leaders shape the future of the nation?

Abraham Lincoln:



- His plan for **Reconstruction** was not fully formed at the time of his assassination in April 1865.
- Sought to reconstruct the nation by bringing Southern states **back into the Union** when 10 percent of voters accepted the end of slavery and reunion.
- The **resistance of white Southerners** to the rights of formerly enslaved people, in Black Codes and violence, led Lincoln's party to begin a more thorough Reconstruction two years after the war's end.
- The **Gettysburg Address** became a lasting symbol of democracy and equality.

Robert E. Lee:



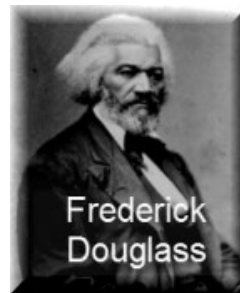
- Urged Southerners to **reconcile** with Northerners at the end of the war and **reunite** as Americans when some wanted to continue to fight.
- Remained silent as laws to create equality for African Americans were proposed and did not encourage white Southerners to cooperate
- Died in 1870 before Reconstruction was fully in place
- After his death, Lee became the leading symbol for the **"Lost Cause" movement**, in which white Southerners celebrated the leaders of the Confederacy as fighters for a just cause rather than the creation of a new nation based on slavery

Ulysses S. Grant:



- Actively worked to protect the **rights of African Americans**, including supporting the passage of the 15th Amendment and taking action against the **Ku Klux Klan**.
- He aimed to heal the divisions of the Civil War and establish a **unified nation**.
- His administration was plagued by **scandals** and corruption

Frederick Douglass:



- Fought for adoption of constitutional amendments that **guaranteed voting rights**
- Was a powerful voice for human rights and civil liberties for all until his death in 1895.

Hiram Revels:



The first Black American to serve in the United States **Senate**.

- Advocated **compromise** and moderation.
- Vigorously supported **racial equality** and worked to reassure his fellow senators about the capability of African Americans.

STANDARD USII.2D -- ROLE OF CONGRESS AND THE SUPREME COURT

d) describing the role of Congress and the Supreme Court in specific plans and policies including, but not limited to Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan;

What was the government's role in Reconstruction plans?

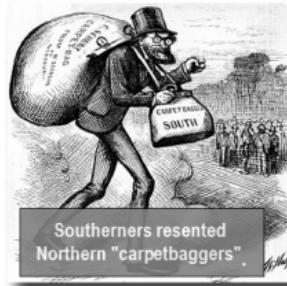
- **Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan:** Allowed Southern states to rejoin the Union if 10% of voters pledged loyalty.
- **Congress's Plans:**
 - **Denied seats** to Southern representatives.
 - Passed the **Civil Rights Act of 1866**.
 - Proposed and passed the **14th Amendment**.
- **Supreme Court:** Sometimes **weakened** protections for African Americans

STANDARD USII.2E -- MOTIVATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS

d) describing the role and motivations of individuals who sought to gain from Reconstruction including, but not limited to formerly enslaved people elected to office during the years right after the Civil War

Who shaped Reconstruction, and why?

- **Formerly enslaved African Americans:**
 - Ran for and were **elected to office**.
 - Became educators, leaders, and community builders.
- **Carpetbaggers:** Northerners who **moved South**—some to help, some to make money.
- **Scalawags:** Southern whites who supported Reconstruction and civil rights.

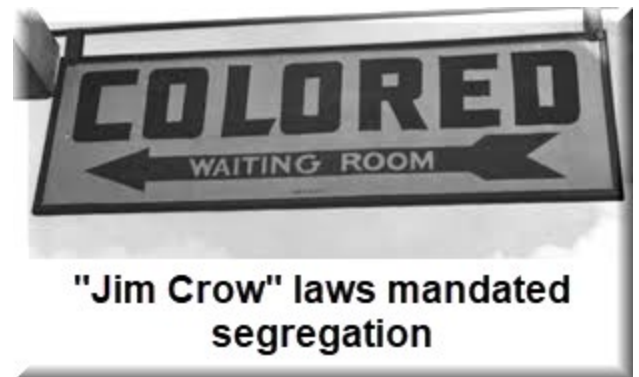


STANDARD USII.2F -- ELECTION OF 1876 AND THE END OF RECONSTRUCTION

f) explaining how the 1876 presidential election led to the end of Reconstruction.

How did Reconstruction come to an end?

- The 1876 presidential election between Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel Tilden was extremely close so a **compromise** was made:
 - Hayes became president.
 - Federal troops were withdrawn from the South.
- This **Compromise of 1877** effectively **ended Reconstruction**.
- Southern states **quickly rolled back many civil rights gains**, leading to the **Jim Crow** era of **segregation** and **voter suppression**.



SUMMARY: COSTS AND BENEFITS OF RECONSTRUCTION

Benefits:

- Slavery ended, and **legal equality** was introduced.
- African Americans **gained citizenship** and voting rights (at least temporarily).
- **Freedmen's Bureau** provided education and support.
- Public school systems were established in the South.

Challenges and Costs:

- **Racial violence** and **intimidation** limited freedoms.
- **Sharecropping** replaced slavery with another system of economic dependence.
- **Black Codes** and later **Jim Crow laws** restricted rights.
- Civil rights gains were **not fully protected** or enforced.