

# Chapter 15

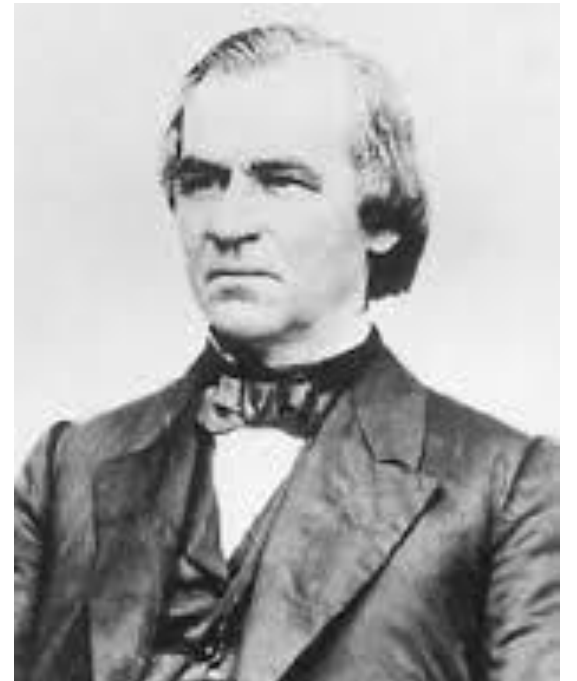
## Reconstruction, 1865-1877



# The Struggle for National Reconstruction

## Presidential Approaches: From Lincoln to Johnson

- President Lincoln offers Ten Percent Plan. However, Wade Davis Bill Passes
- Andrew Johnson (Dem) assumes office after Lincoln's assassination in 1865
  - Ex-Confederate friends; abolitionist enemies
  - Easy reentry for former Confederate states
  - Within months all former Confederate states met terms
- Black Codes-
- Congress overrules president but violence erupts
- Freedman's Bureau
  - Aid former slaves, civil rights bill, investigate mistreatment of blacks
  - Johnson vetoes
    - Result:



## Radical Republicans and the Fourteenth Amendment

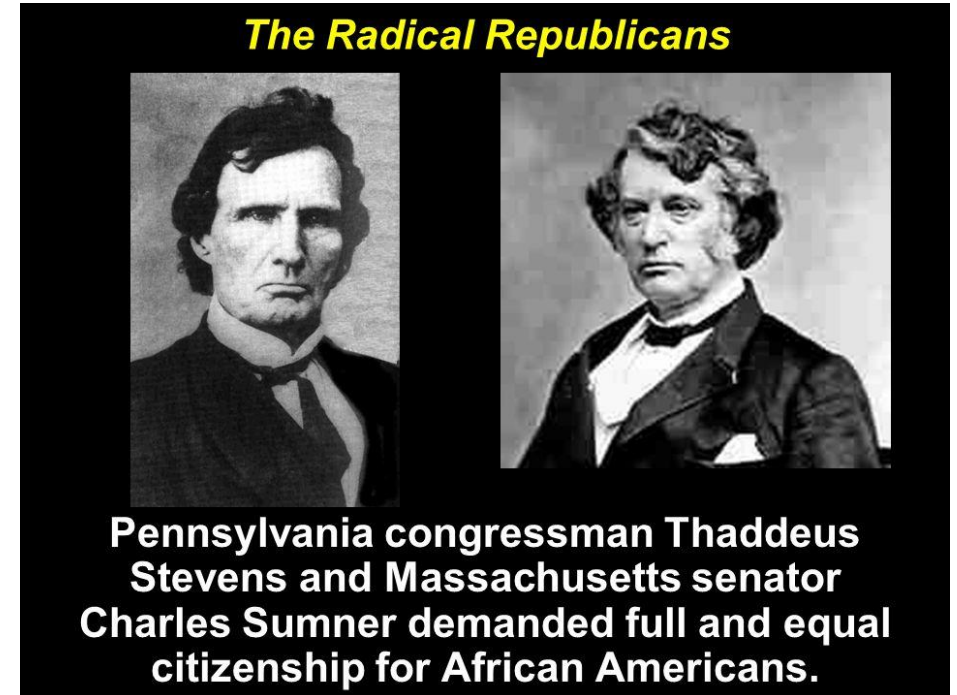
- 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed-
- Majority Republican in Congress
- Charles Sumner (Senate) and Thaddeus Stevens (House)

## Radical Reconstruction

- Reconstruction Act of 1867-
  - Johnson's reaction

## The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson

- Johnson responded by “suspending” Radical secretary of war.
- He appointed Ulysses S. Grant. However, Grant resigned so Stanton can resume place as secretary of war.
  - Effect:



## The Election of 1868 and the Fifteenth Amendment

- Grant won election, gaining popularity during impeachment
- 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment-
  - Literacy tests
  - Poll taxes



## Woman Suffrage Denied

- Women's rights leaders hoped for suffrage like \_\_\_\_\_.
- Equal Rights Association 1869 hoped that women would relax desire for suffrage and let black male suffrage take priority.
- Women leaders abandoned trust in men and focused exclusively on women's rights.
  - National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA)
- Minor vs. Happersett (1875)
- Wisconsin granted women suffrage in 1869

# The Meaning of Freedom

## The Quest for Land

### Freed Slaves and Northerners: Conflicting Goals

- Republicans sought to restore cotton with former slaves as wage workers on confiscated slavers' land.
- Few Republicans like Thaddeus Stevens argued that freeman had right to land because of years of slavery.
- Some states broke up large landholdings and resold it freeman at discounted rate.

## Wage Labor and Sharecropping

- Few opportunities for freeman/freewomen
  - Effect:
- Conflict between employers/freemen and labor of women.
- Many freedmen adopted white culture's ideal of domesticity.
  - “key to civilization and progress”
- Some were offered a share of the crop, they paid their rent in shares of the harvest; were given tools and land to farm in exchange for labor= sharecroppers
  - Started out in debt
  - Debt became a pretext to peonage
  - Mostly cotton industry
- Too dependent on cotton



# Republican Governments in the South

- 1868-1871 all Confederate states rejoined the Union
- African American Republicans began to hold public office
  - Protection from federal troops
- Education reform, social services, commerce, and transportation
- Union League
  - Black and white republicans
  - Wing of Radical Republicans
  - Goals:

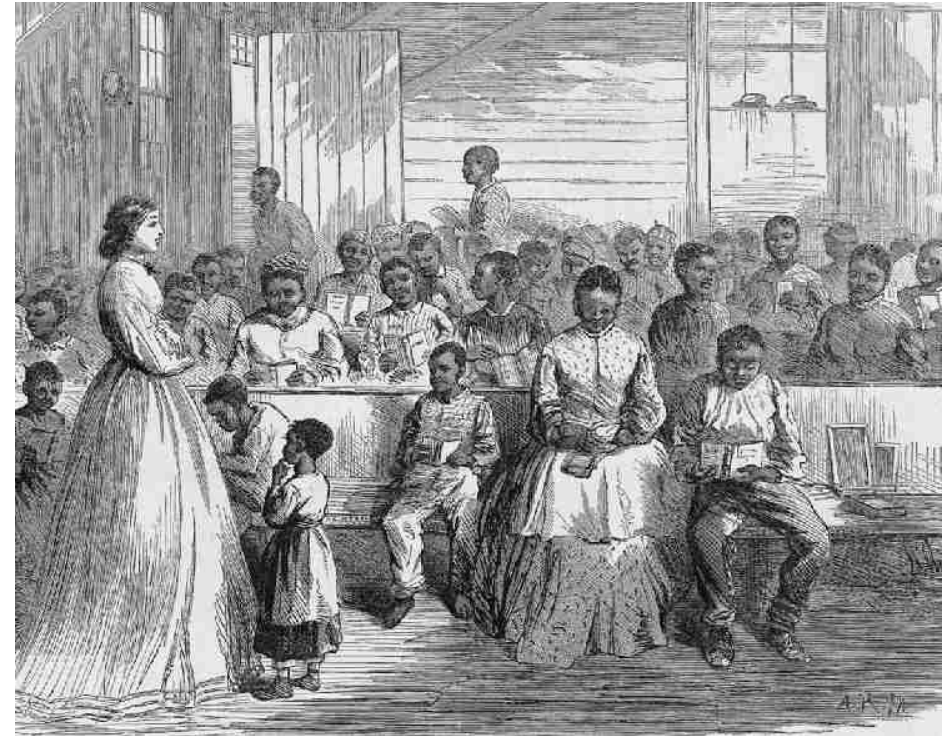


- Freedman's Bureau
  - monitored unfair labor contracts
  - Financial aide
  - Established schools and universities
  - 3000 teachers in the South (more than half were black)
  - Resentment
    - Scalawags
    - Carpetbaggers
- Republican Party recruited \_\_\_\_\_, mostly preachers or artisans.
  - Most became officeholders across the South
  - African American majority in lower house of legislature
  - \_\_\_\_\_ state administrators; \_\_\_\_\_ state legislatures; \_\_\_\_\_ congressmen



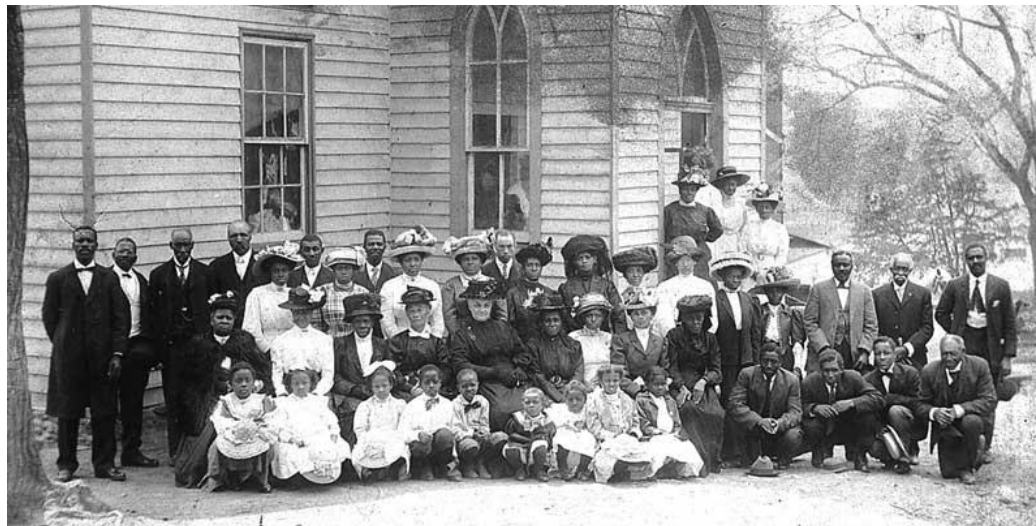


- Reform
  - Abolish Black Codes, voting rights, married women, economy
- Republicans brought southern state and city governments up to date
  - Outlawed corporal punishment
  - Penitentiaries
  - Free public health services
  - Soup kitchens
  - Street lights
- Most impressive of all were achievements in public education
  - Who else benefited?



# Building Black Communities

- Independent churches became central institutions
- The growth of southern black churches, schools, newspapers, and civic groups was one of the most enduring initiatives of the Reconstruction era.
- Desegregation was avoided. Why?
- Radical Republican, Charles Sumner fought for desegregation but failed.
- Civil Rights Act of 1875 (last until \_\_\_\_\_)



# The Undoing of Reconstruction

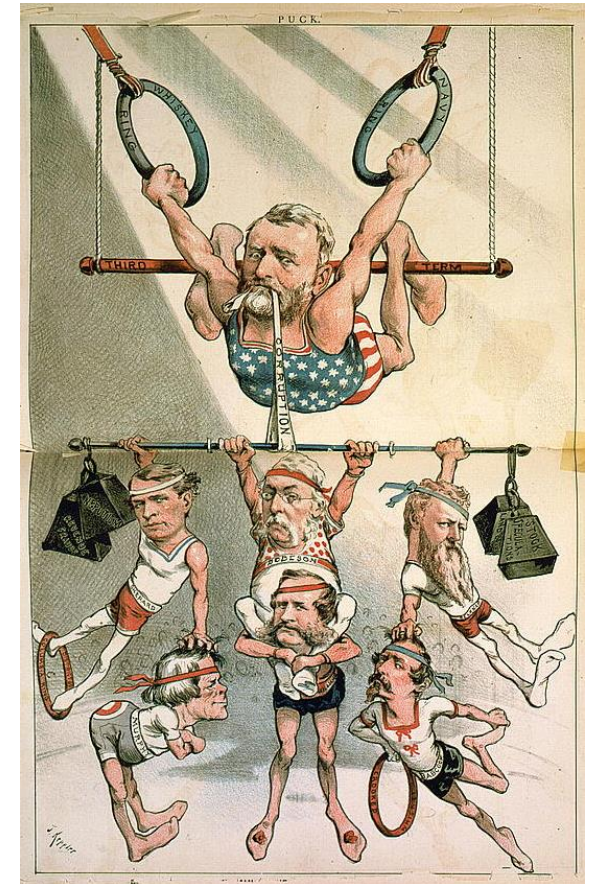
- Conflict of interest between African Americans and Republicans.
  - Black autonomy vs. reincorporate ex-Confederates (economy)
  - Only full scale military intervention could force the ex-Confederacy to accept Reconstruction

## The Republican Unraveling

- Severe economic depression began in 1873
- Initial panic was triggered by bankruptcy of North Pacific Railroad Co. Why?
- Grant rejected pleas to intervene and help economy
- Layoffs, unemployment, high crop prices
- Republicans discredited
- Corrupt politics in connection with corrupt businessmen
- Programs that helped African Americans in the south plummeted

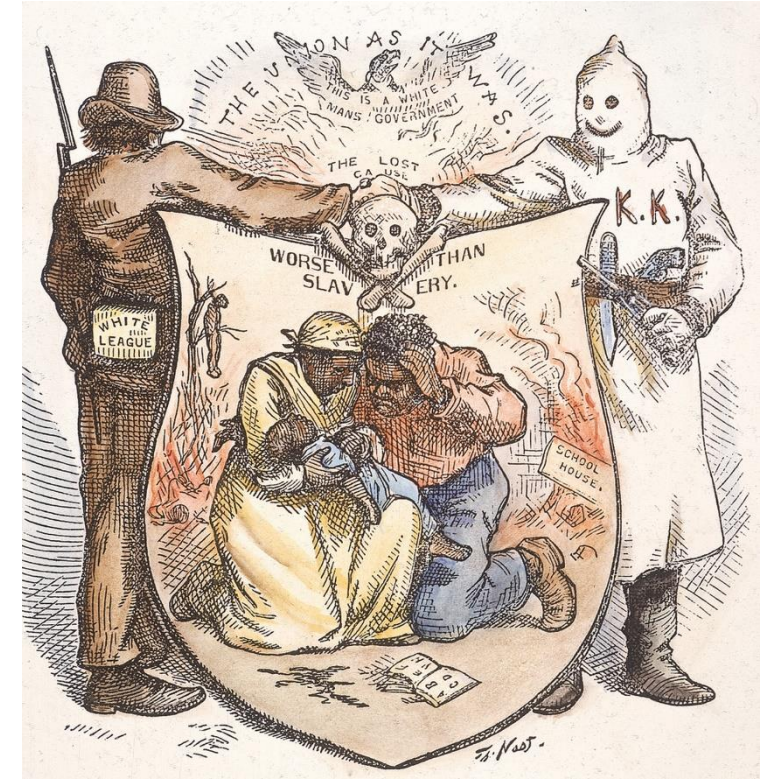
# The Disillusioned Liberals

- Liberal Republicans (very misleading name)
  - Small government, limited voting rights, reconciliation with the South, against Reconstruction
- Credit Mobilier scandal
  - Fake company established that gave shares to government
- Whisky Ring
  - Tax fraud
  - The leader was Grant's private secretary
    - Grant's reaction



# Counterrevolution in the South

- Ex-Confederates used terrorism against Republicans
  - Black voters
  - Beaten, shot, hanged
- Ku Klux Klan (1866)
  - Nathan Bedford Forrest, ex-Confederate general
  - Violent acts against supporters of TN Republican governor
  - KKK was directly represented in TN Democratic party
  - Used violence to intimidate Republicans in the south
    - Burned schools, churches, beat teachers, murdered politicians
  - Enforcement Acts
- Democrat party dominated the House of Representatives by the mid 1870s. How?
- Only three southern states had Republican governments by 1876



## The Supreme Court Rejection of Equal Rights

- “Slaughterhouse Cases”
  - U.S. v. Cruikshank-
    - The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment did not protect citizens from vigilante behavior

## The Political Crisis of 1877

- Rutherford B. Hayes (R) was nominated for election of 1876. He ran against Samuel Tilden whom favored “home rule”.
- With a slim margin of electoral votes between the two candidates, both Democrats and Republicans submitted “electoral” votes to Congress from disputed southern states, claiming theirs to be the real number.
- An electoral commission was appointed to settle the issue.
- Both parties agreed to elect Hayes (R) if he promised to end Reconstruction

# Lasting Legacies

- Slow decline of Radical Republican power from the 1870s through the mid 1880s
- Simultaneous rise of ex-Confederate power in the South and Democrats on the national stage
- 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments stayed intact. However...
- Constitutional framework that the civil rights movement of the twentieth century would be built was established
- New federal power established by Republicans was used in U.S. imperialism

