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# Inheritance: Reconstruction

Frederick Douglass

Abraham Lincoln

Mark Twain

# Reconstruction

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- Extent of problem
- Constitutional solutions
- Political dilemmas
  - demobilization?
  - retribution?
  - reintegration?
  - emancipation?

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# Re-Union?





# 4 million freedmen



"Emancipated Negroes Celebrating the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln": a scene in northern Virginia near Winchester. (*Le Monde Illustré*, March 21, 1863)

# What to do with the freedmen?

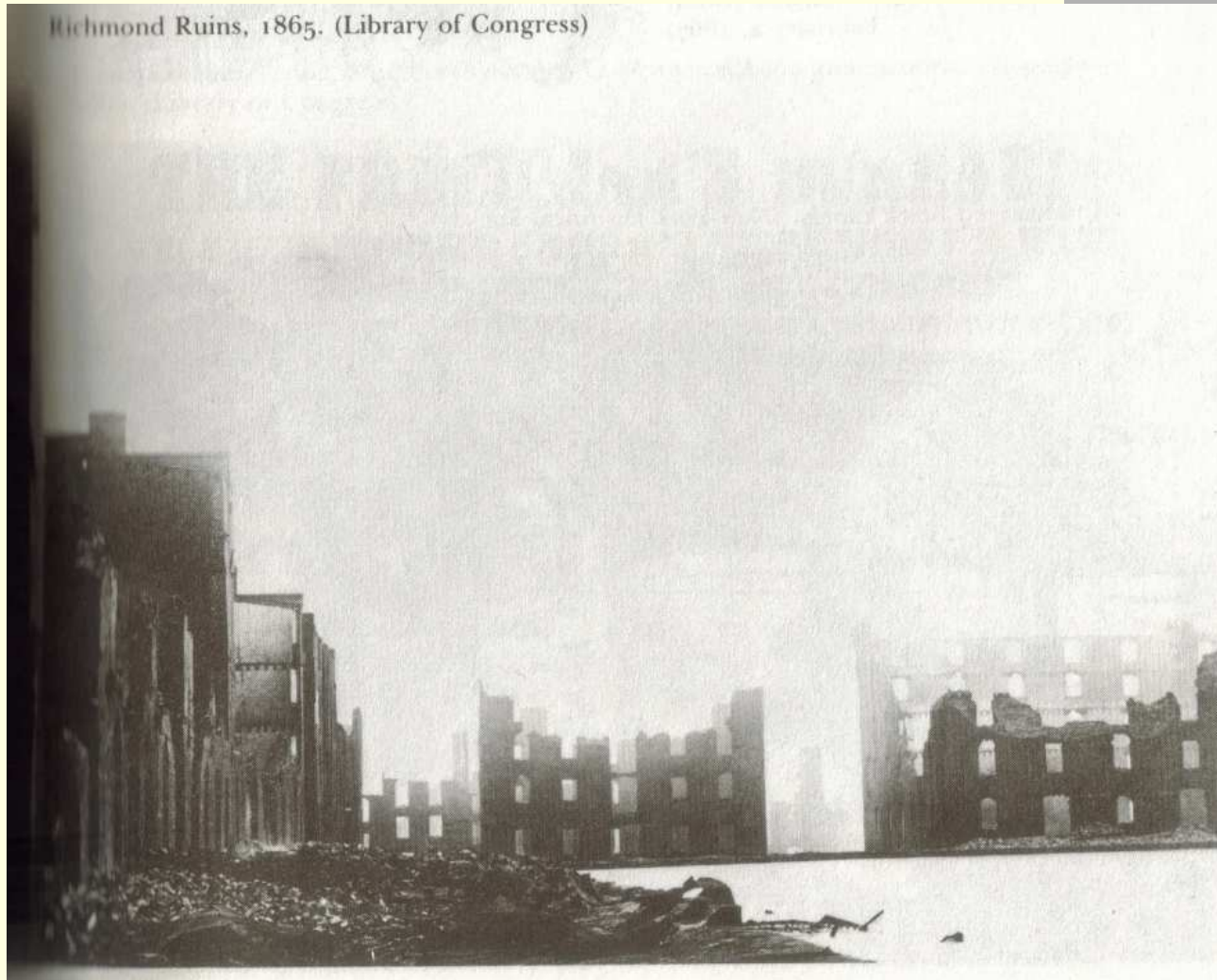
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Black Refugees Crossing the Rappahannock River, Virginia, 1862. (Library of Congress)

# The South in Ruins

Richmond Ruins, 1865. (Library of Congress)



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# Constitutional Solutions

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- 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1865)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1868)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1870)

# 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1865)

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- **Section 1.** Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.
- **Section 2.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

# 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1868)

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- **Section 1.** All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.
- **Section 2.** Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed.

# 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1870)

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- **Section 1.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
- **Section 2.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

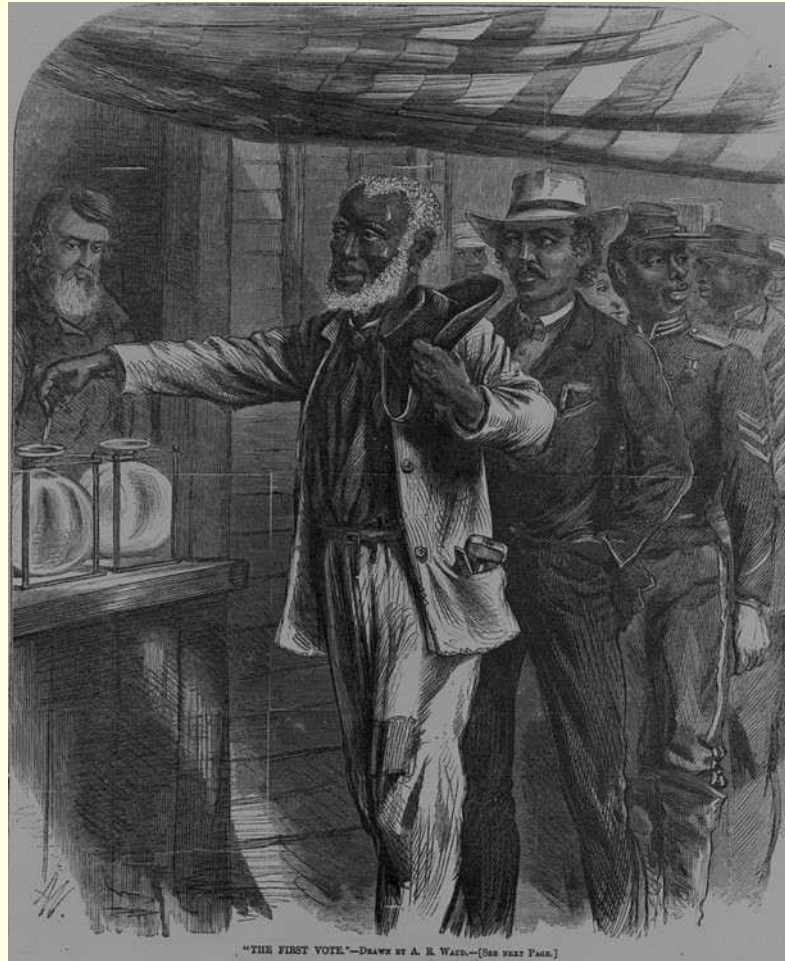


# Reconstruction

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- Extent of problem
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- **Political dilemmas**
  - Retribution?
  - Demobilization?
  - Reintegration and rebuilding?
  - Emancipation and responsibility for freedmen?

# Negro voting



"THE FIRST VOTE."—DRAWN BY A. R. WARD.—[SEE NEXT PAGE.]

# “Nothing but Freedom”

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- Frederick Douglass
- Freedman’s Bureau
- Black Codes
- Reconstruction Acts of 1867
- Property rights

# “Nothing but Freedom”

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- **Freedman’s Bureau**
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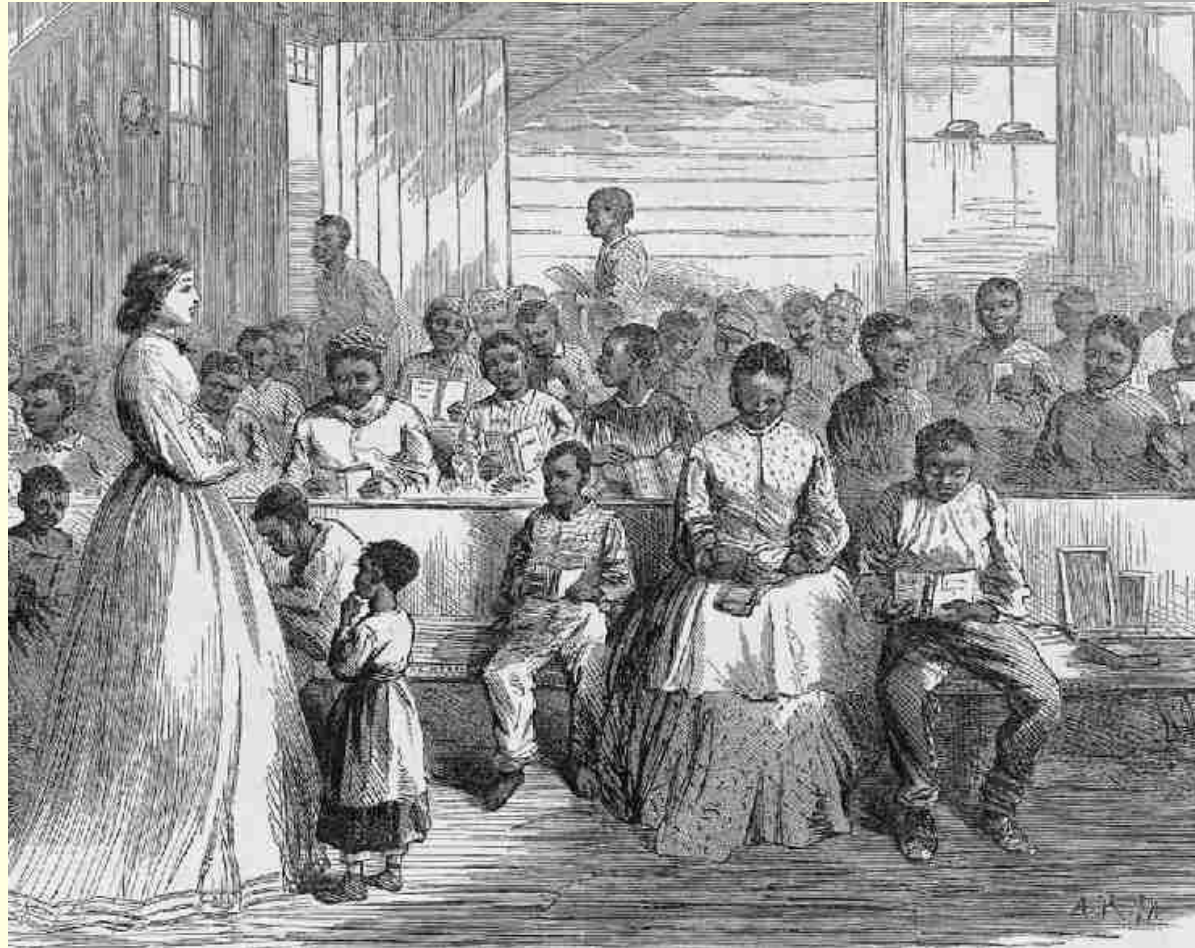
# The Freedmen's Bureau



"The Freedmen's Bureau": the Bureau as promoter of racial peace in the postwar South.  
(*Harper's Weekly*, July 25, 1868)



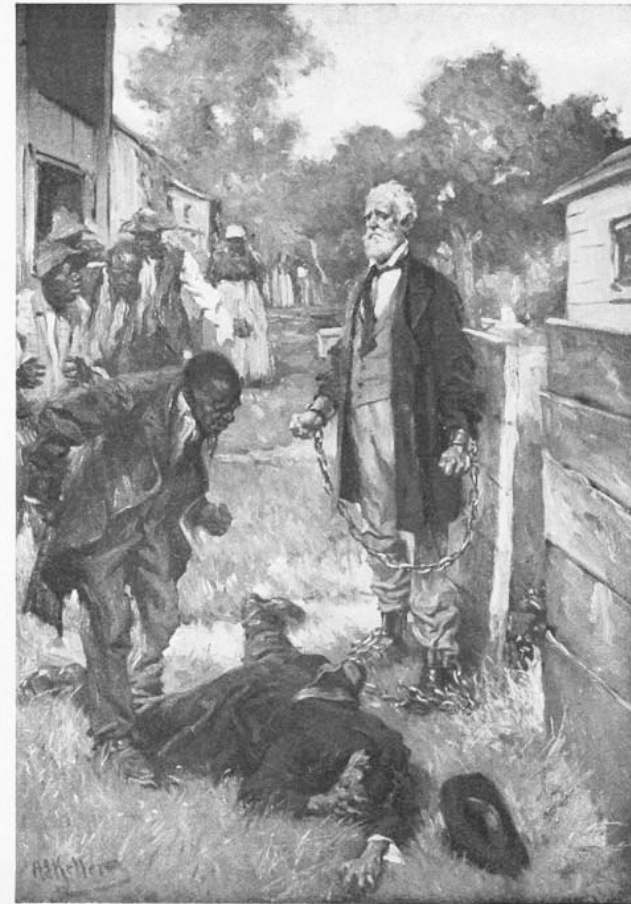
# Negro education





# The white vision of Negro power.

- An illustration from *The Clansman*: “Take dat f’um yo equal—”
- The white man in chains.



“Take dat f’um yo’ equal—”



# “Nothing but Freedom”

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# The Black Codes

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- Dissatisfied with the new freedoms enjoyed by African Americans, several Southern state legislatures passed laws to limit the rights of African Americans. These "Black Codes" were designed to drive freedmen back to the plantations, to restrict their freedom of movement, and to deny them equality before the law. They set curfews, required blacks to have white sponsors, and sharply restricted their rights of assembly.

# “Nothing but Freedom”

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- Frederick Douglass
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# Carpetbaggers and Scalawags

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- Thomas Nast, “The Man With the (Carpet) Bags” (1872)



# “Nothing but Freedom”

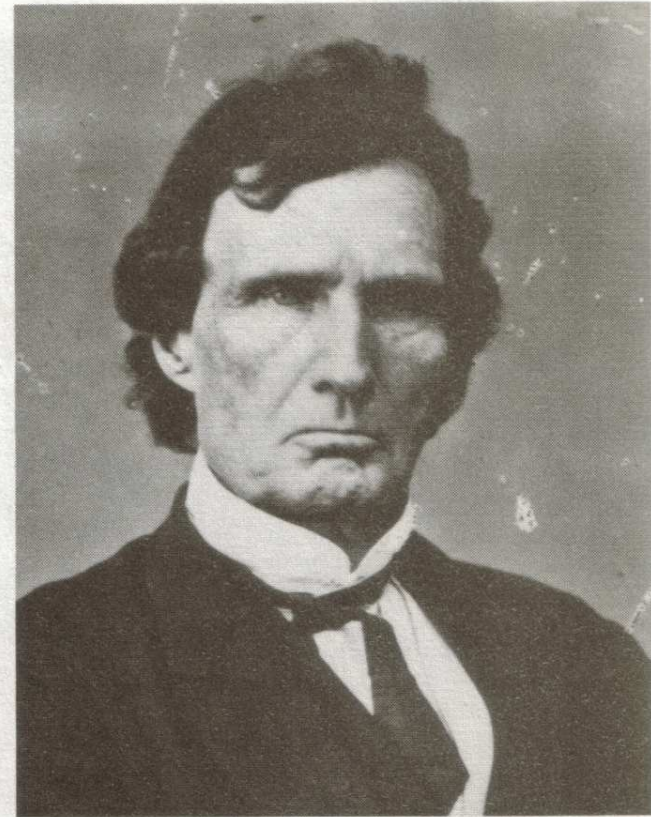
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# Thaddeus Stevens

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- Thaddeus Stevens, abolitionist, radical Republican, and hated by the white South



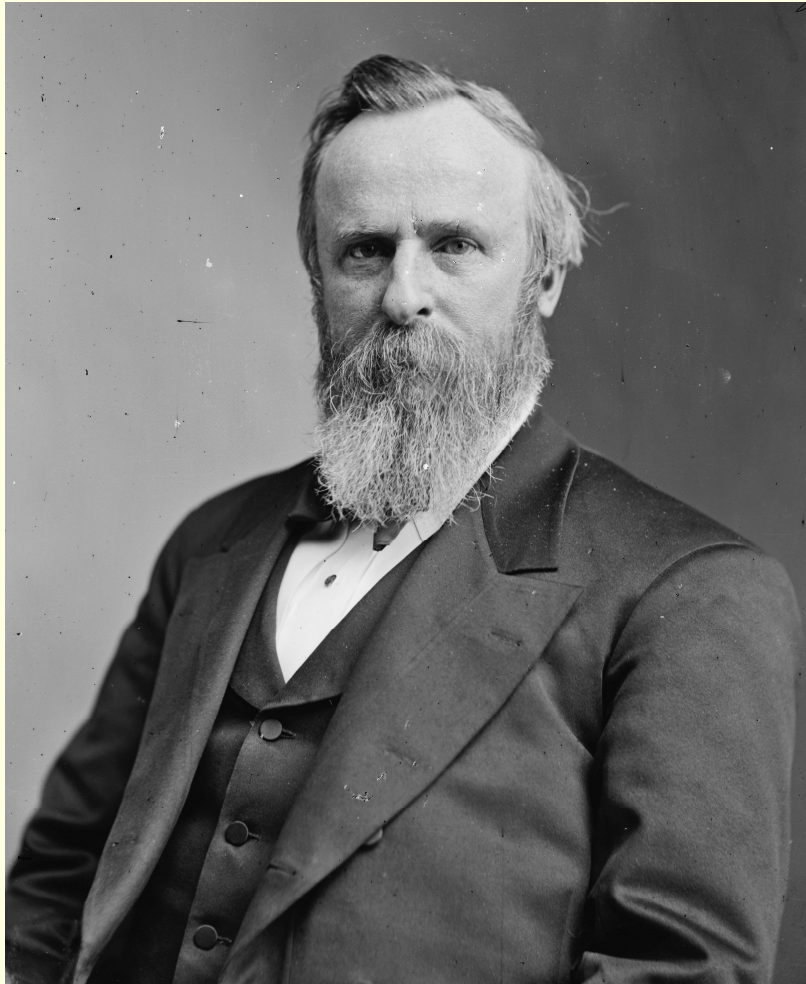
Thaddeus Stevens, Congressman from Pennsylvania, floor leader of House Republicans, and outspoken Radical. (Library of Congress)

# The Compromise of 1877

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- The price of peace
- Voting
  - franchise; enfranchise; disenfranchise
- Ku Klux Klan
- *A southern problem?*

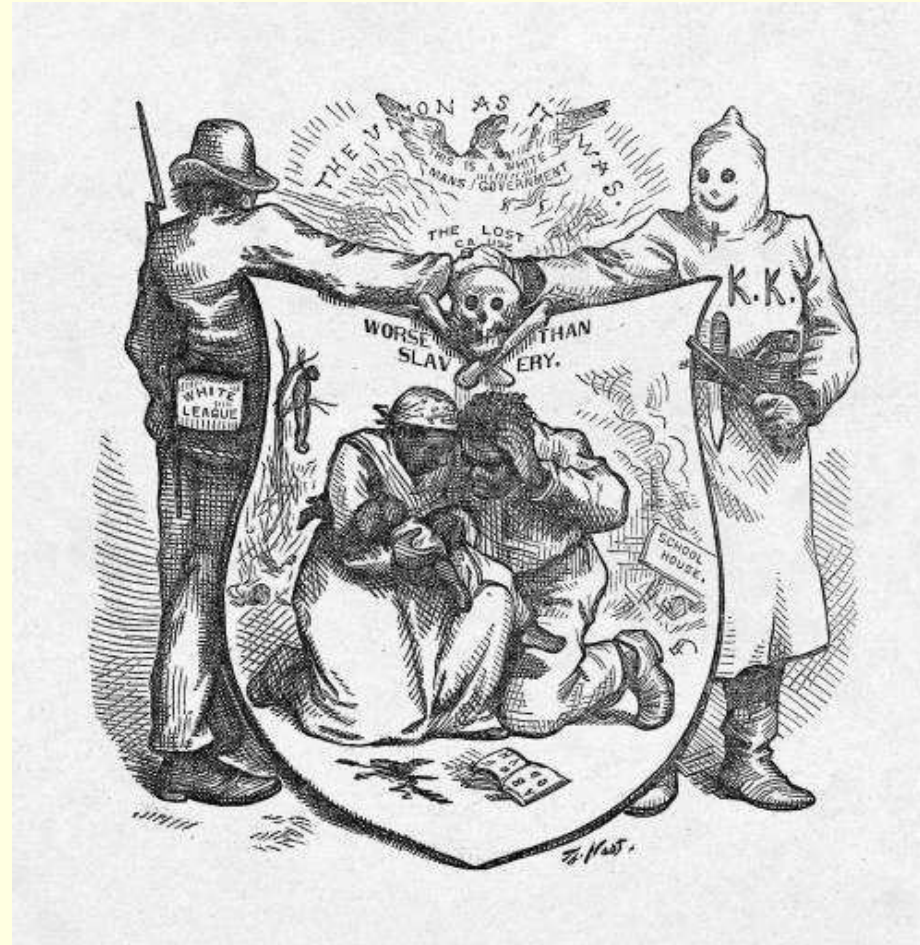
# Rutherford B. Hayes & the election of 1876



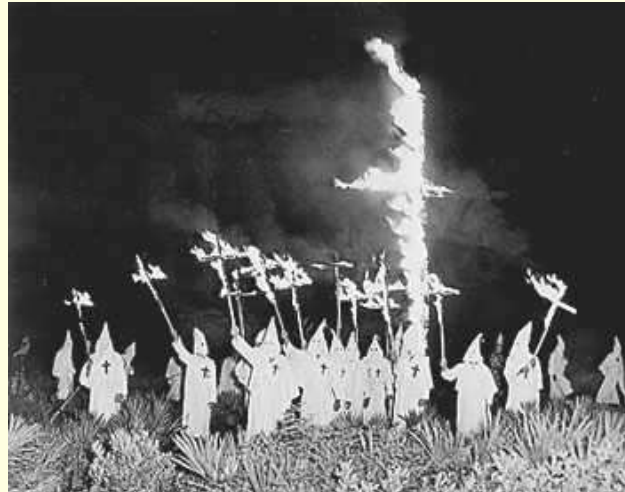
- Troops will be recalled from the statehouse property in the three states.
- Funds will be provided to build the Texas and Pacific Railroad.
- A southerner will be appointed as Postmaster General.
- Funds will be appropriated to rebuild the economy in the South.
- The solution to the race problem will be left to the state governments.



# The abandonment of the freedmen.



# So, who won?



A PROSPECTIVE SCENE IN THE CITY OF OAKS, 11TH OF MARCH, 1868.



- A Ku Klux Klan rally

- A cartoon from the *Independent Monitor*, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 1868

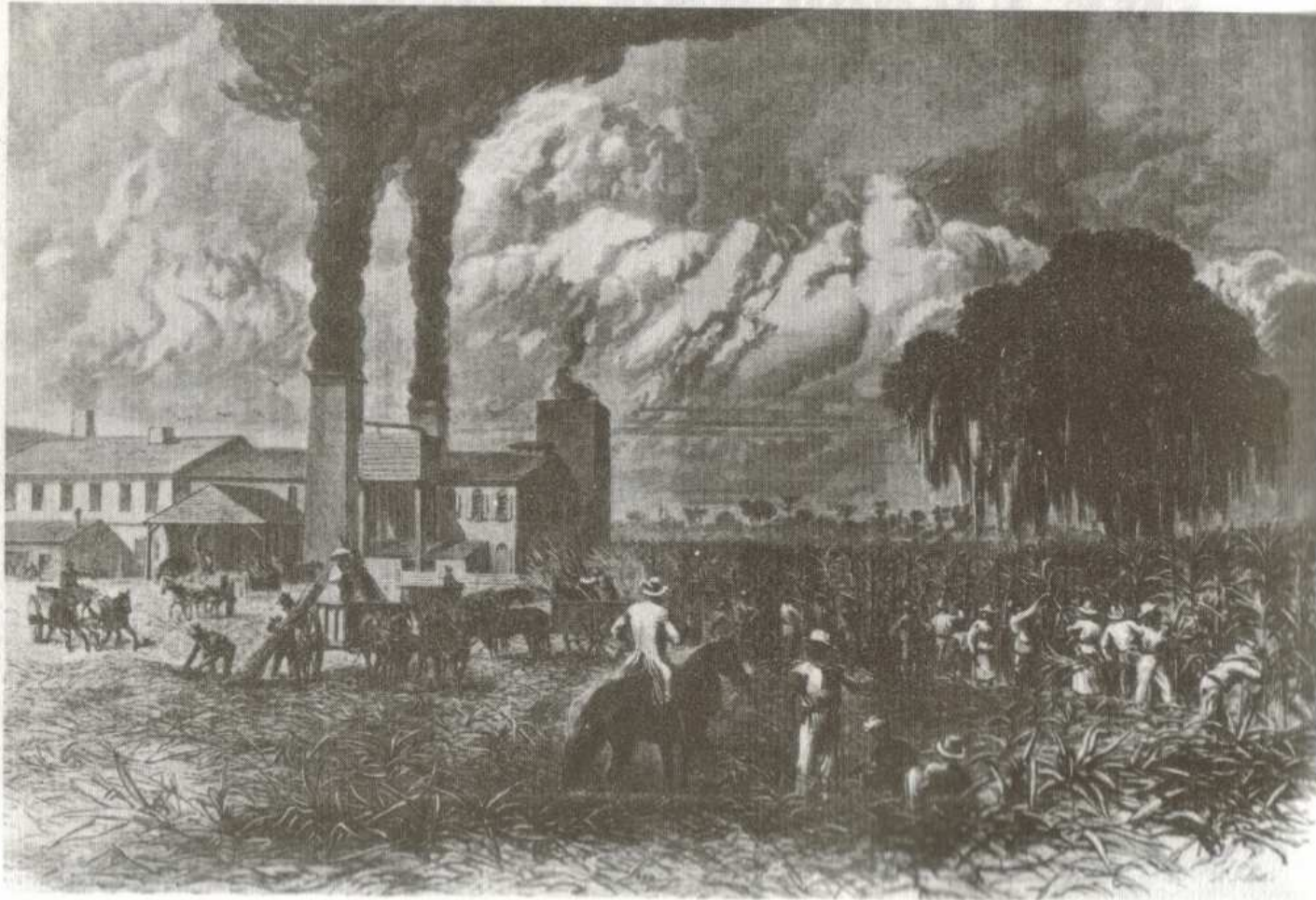
# The Confederacy by other means?





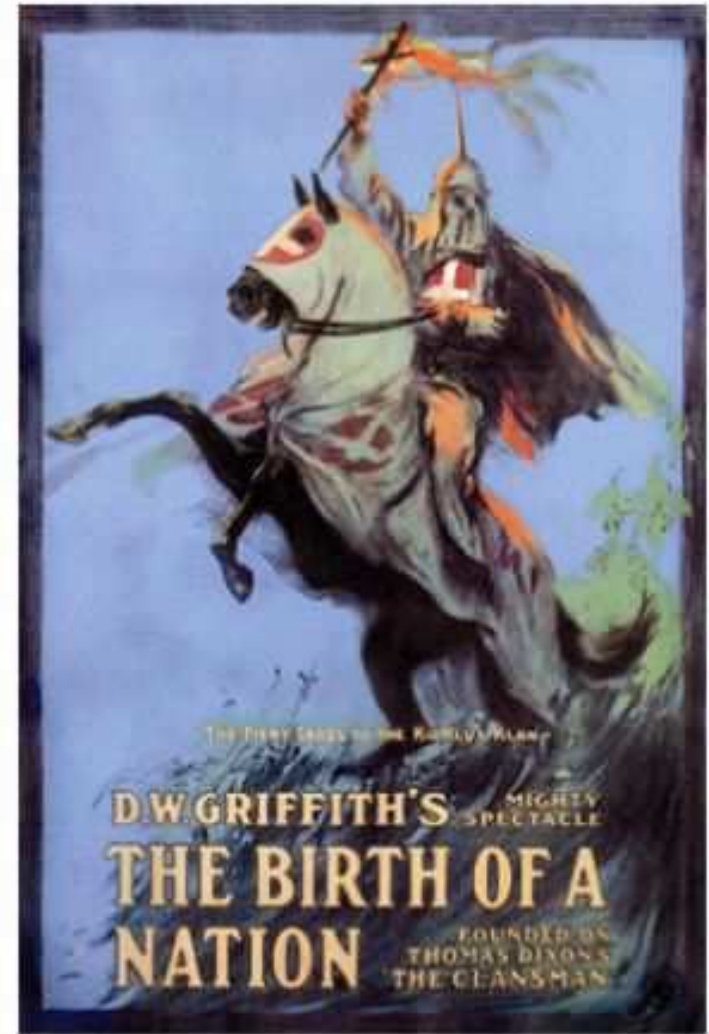
So, what has been done with the freedmen?

"The Sugar Harvest in Louisiana." (*Harper's Weekly*, October 30, 1875)



# The Birth of a Nation

- Directed by D. W. Griffith and released in 1915, *The Birth of a Nation* was the highest grossing film of the silent-film era, and it reflected the nation's understanding of Reconstruction until the middle of the twentieth century.



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James M. McPherson, *The Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* (1989).

Eric Foner, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877* (1988).

## FURTHER READING