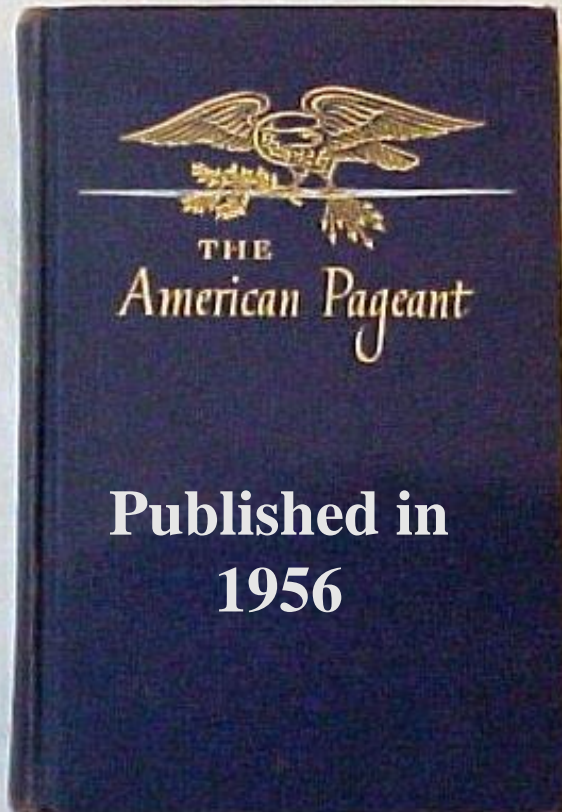


# Reconstruction (1865 – 1877) – Chapter 15

**Historiography:** The study of the way *interpretations* of history change.

Events in history only happen once, but history books are always being rewritten...why?

*Answer questions 1 and 2, then read excerpts from Reconstruction chapter of 1956 edition of American Pageant to answer questions 3 and 4 on handout*

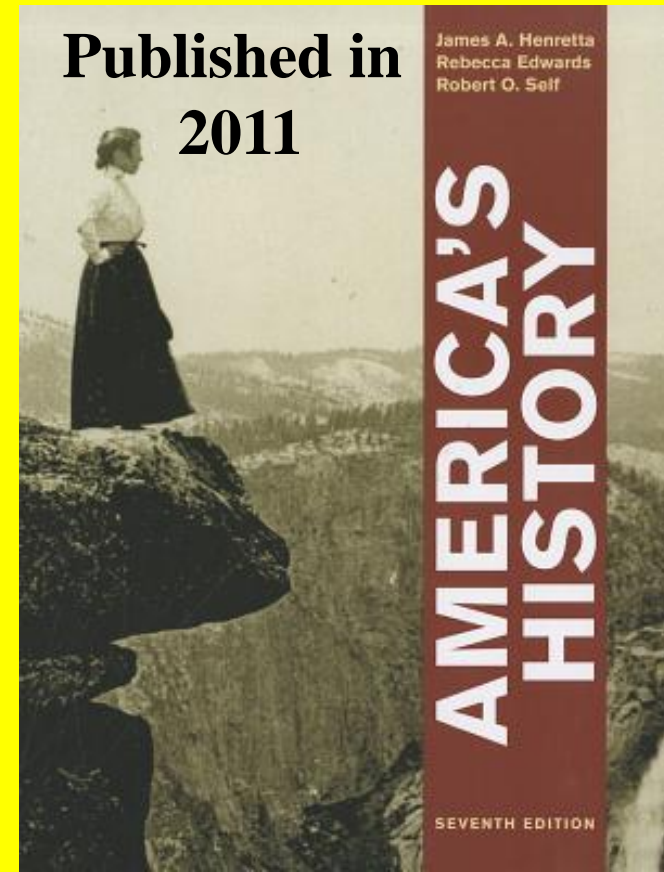


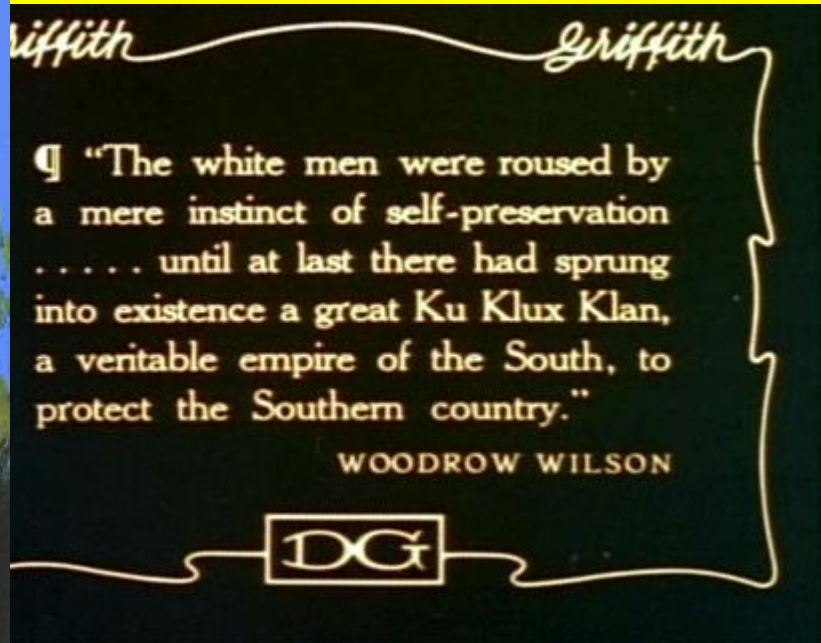
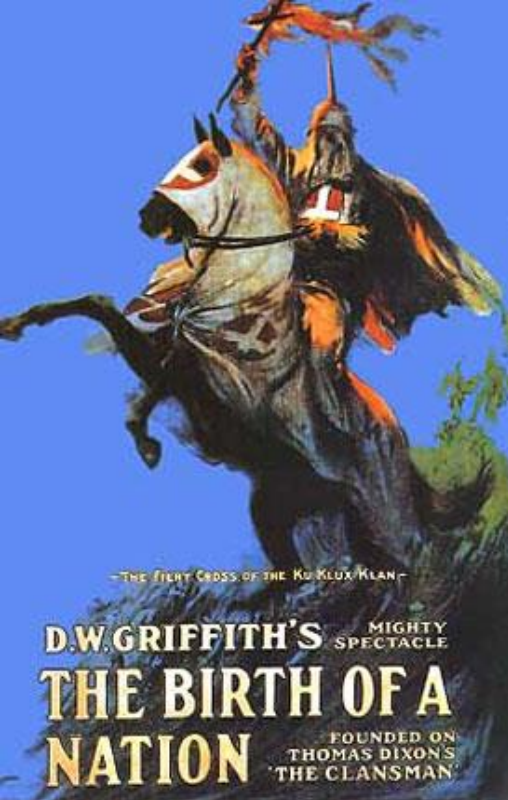
1) Predict what aspects of the excerpts from the 1956 textbook on Reconstruction is likely similar to Chapter 15 on Reconstruction your 2011 textbook? Why?

2) Predict what excerpts from the 1956 textbook on Reconstruction is likely different from Chapter 15 on Reconstruction in your 2011 textbook? Why?

3) Copy several quotes from the 1956 ed. Textbook excerpts that bring up factual or interpretation questions for you below:

4) On back, answer: *Why is examining a 60 year old textbook relevant to you as a modern history student?*





## Historiography of Reconstruction

The 1915 film *The Birth of a Nation* depicts KKK as heroes and blacks as villains of Reconstruction while the 2016 film of the same name depicts Nat Turner as a hero when he leads an uprising of enslaved people who kill dozens of whites.

Interpretations of Reconstruction change drastically following 1960's Civil Rights era

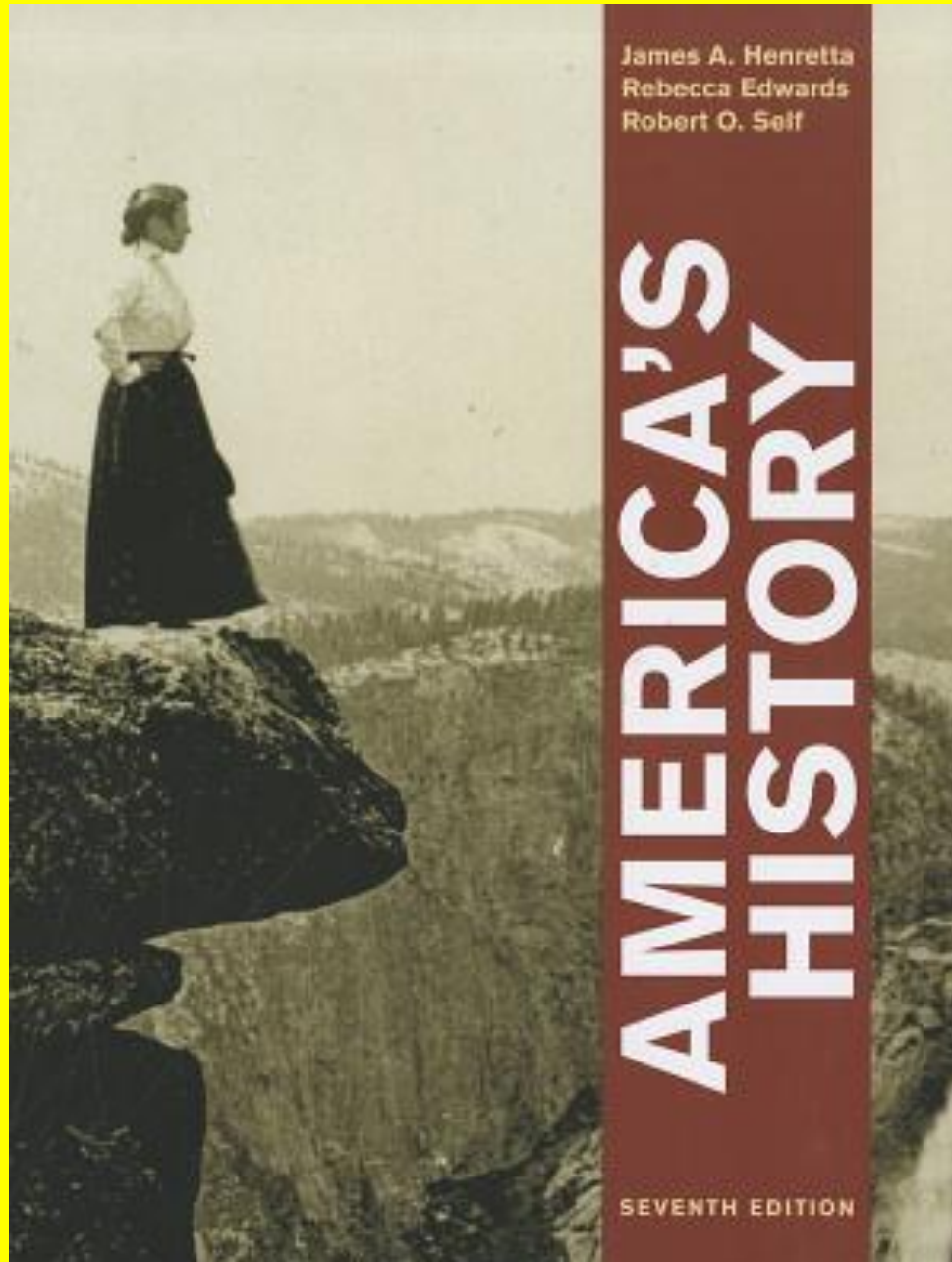
*Historiography is constantly changing*

*How history is told often reveals as much about the time it was told as about the past*





## Crash Course US History Episode #22



### **Chapter 15 Homework**

#### **Due Thursday 11/30**

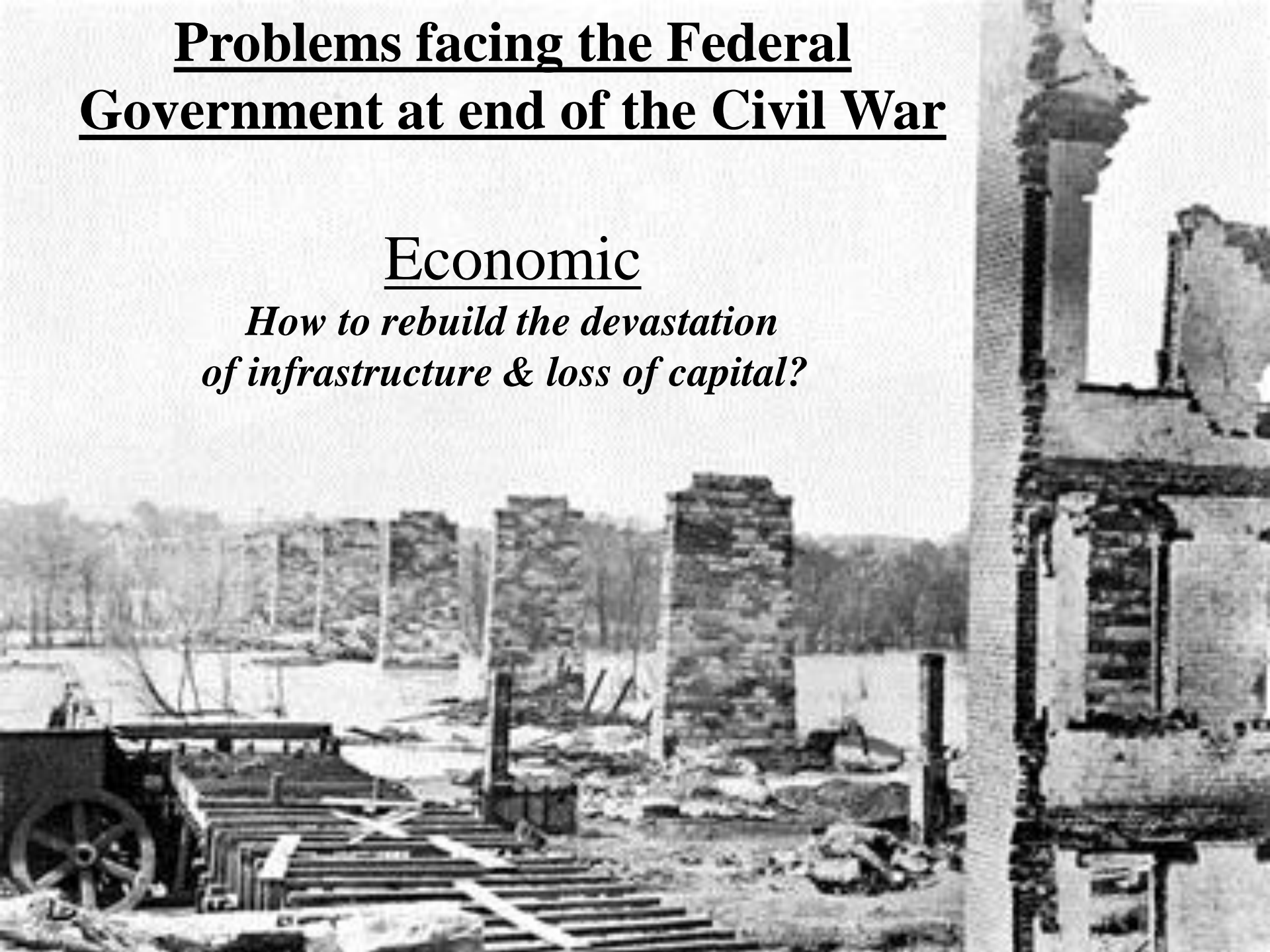
We will be discussing these two questions in class on Thursday 11/30. For your assigned question, prepare “Talking Points” notes. The notes should summarize arguments based on specific people, events and ideas related to Reconstruction. Read Chapter 15, see slideshow and watch videos to prepare your notes.

- 1) What were the goals of Radical Republicans and of freed people during Reconstruction? How did these differ, and what were the results?***
- 2) Why did Reconstruction falter? To what extent was its failure the results of events in the South, in the North and in Washington , D.C.?***

# Problems facing the Federal Government at end of the Civil War

## Economic

*How to rebuild the devastation  
of infrastructure & loss of capital?*





# Political

*How to bring Southern states back into the union?*

## Wade-Davis Bill

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Address

### **A BILL**

To guarantee to certain States whose governments have been usurped or overthrown, a republican form of government.

No. 244.

~~Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled~~

Whereas ~~the~~ <sup>so-called</sup> confederate States are a public enemy, waging an  
4 unjust war, whose injustice is so glaring, that they have no  
5 right to claim the mitigation of the extreme rights of war

“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”





# **Social:** *What will happen to the Freedmen?*



# Lincoln disagrees with majority in Congress at the end of the Civil War on these economic, political & social questions

- “Radical Republicans” in Congress see the South as Conquered Provinces who committed “Political Suicide” by leaving the Union and deserve little aid or sympathy
- Lincoln sees the Confederate states as Runaway Sisters who never left the Union and deserve help. Strongly wants to end slavery but is unclear publically (for political reasons) on what status of African-Americans will be until after Election of 1864.

Debate begins in early 1864 on if a “*lenient*” or “*strict*” post-war policy for the readmission of the Southern States is preferable

- Lincoln proposes lenient 10% Plan to readmit Southern States

the **Ten-Percent Plan**, which specified that a southern state could be readmitted into the Union once **10** percent of its voters (from the voter rolls for the election of 1860) swore an oath of allegiance to the Union.

- Radical Republicans propose a stricter 50% Plan (aka -Wade-Davis Bill)

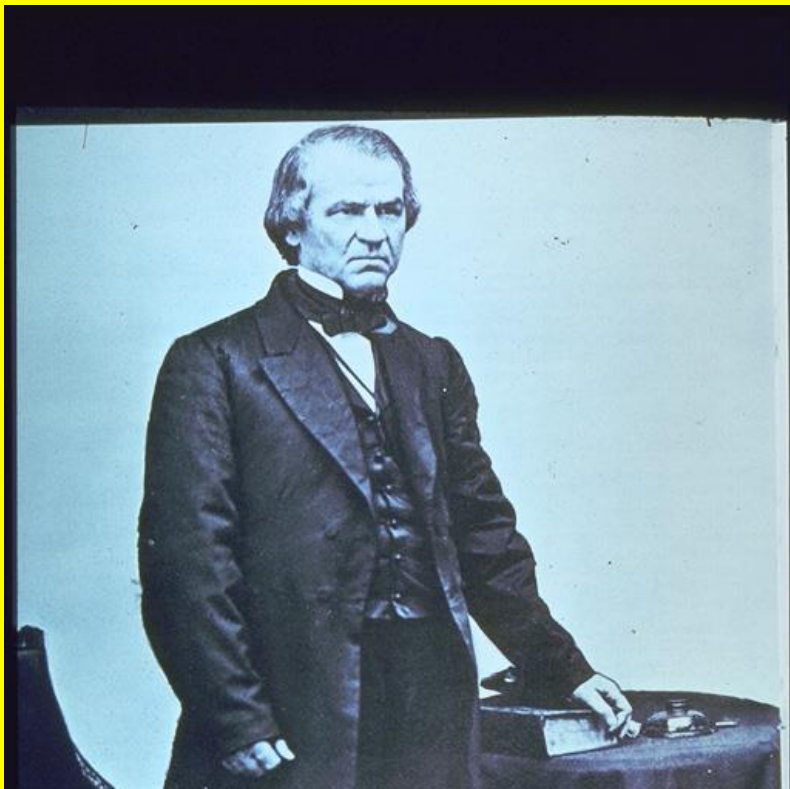
A more stringent **plan** was proposed by Senator Benjamin **Wade** and Representative Henry **Davis** in February 1864. The **Wade-Davis Bill** required that 50 percent of a state's white males take a loyalty oath to be readmitted to the Union. In addition, states were required to give blacks the right to vote.

- Lincoln “pocket vetoes” Wade-Davis Bill and works hard to pass 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment through Congress after re-election

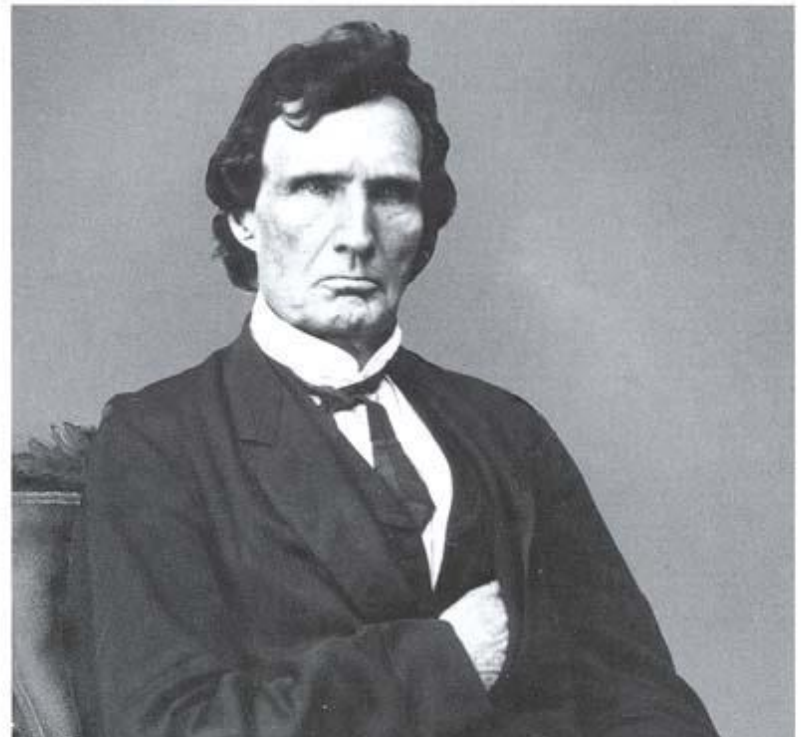


- Following Nov. 1864 election, the war finally ends and the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment is approved by Congress, but Lincoln is assassinated (April, 1865)
- Andrew Johnson, a Tennessee Democrat picked for VP as a sign of unity with the South, only served 2 weeks as Vice President before the death of Lincoln
- New President Johnson quickly deepens conflict with Congressional Radical Republicans who are led by Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania

## Andrew Johnson

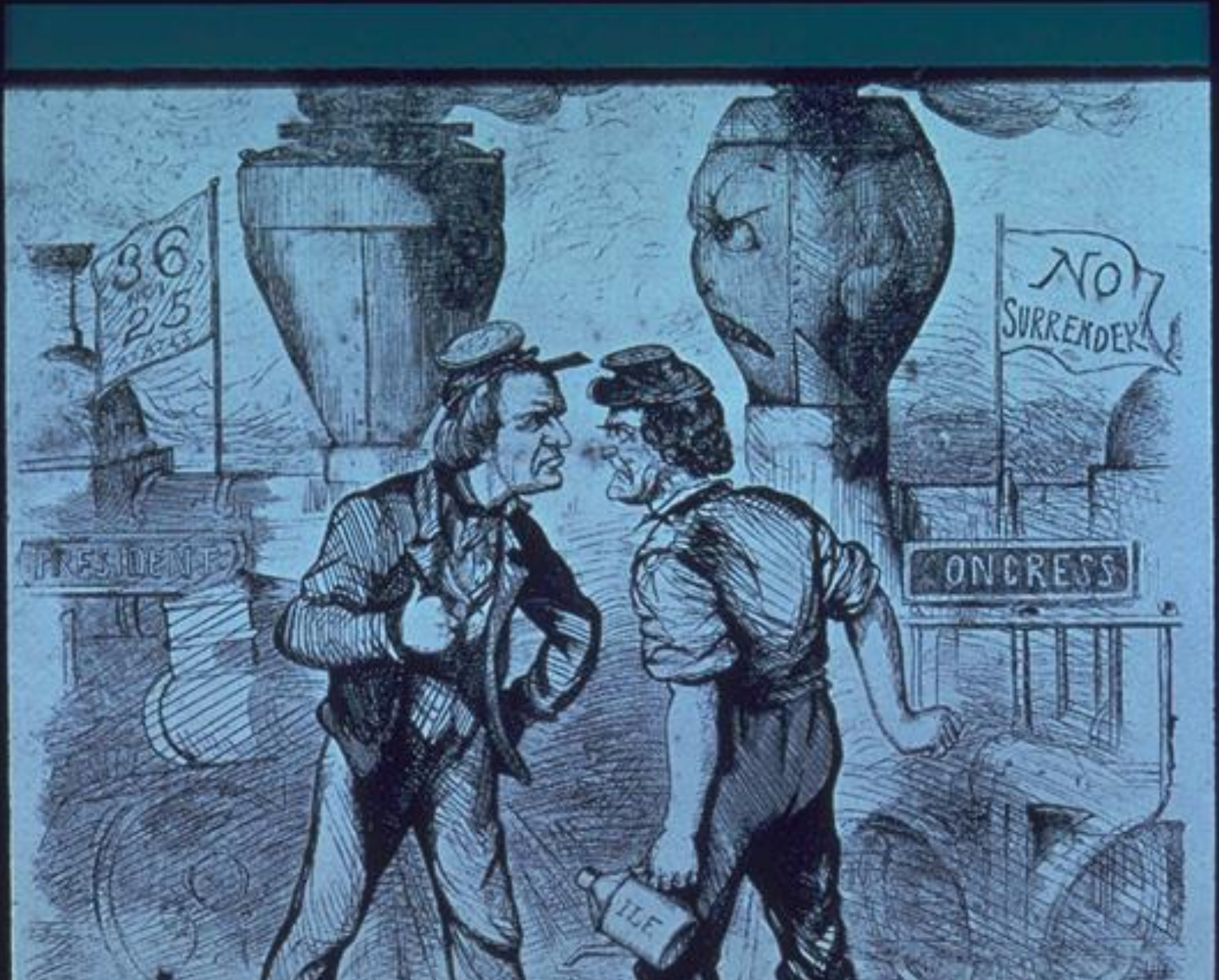


## Thaddeus Stevens





**Cartoon illustrating conflict over Reconstruction policy  
between Johnson (President) & Stevens (Congress)**





- Black Codes (see example below) were enacted by most Southern states immediately after 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment with intent to continue white supremacy...President Johnson approves
- Johnson also pardons many former Confederate leaders and allowed them to represent Southern states in Congress
- Radical Republicans in Congress become incensed and wonder if North really won the war

## 246. BLACK CODE OF MISSISSIPPI 1865

(*Laws of Mississippi*, 1865, p. 82 ff.)

The so-called Black Codes represented the Southern effort to solve the problem of the freedmen. The codes varied in harshness: those of Georgia, for example, were notably lenient; those of Louisiana and Mississippi severe. "The legislation," says Professor Fleming, "showed the combined influence of the old laws for free negroes, the vagrancy laws of the North and South for whites, the customs of slavery times, the British West Indies legislation for ex-slaves, and the regulations of the U. S. War and Treasury Departments and of the Freedmen's Bureau" (*Sequel of Appomattox*, p. 94). The laws below regulate civil rights, apprenticeship, vagrancy, and penal crimes. Most of these black laws were suspended by the military governors of the reconstructed states, and the Civil Rights Act and the Fourteenth Amendment were designed to protect the negro in his civil and legal rights. On the Black Codes, see, W. L. Fleming, *Sequel to Appomattox*, ch. iv; E. B. Oberholtzer, *History*

Sec. 3. . . . All freedmen, free negroes, or mulattoes who do now and have herebefore lived and cohabited together as husband and wife shall be taken and held in law as legally married, and the issue shall be taken and held as legitimate for all purposes; that it shall not be lawful for any freedman, free negro, or mulatto to intermarry with any white person; nor for any white person to intermarry with any freedman, free negro, or mulatto; and any person who shall so intermarry, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof shall be confined in the State penitentiary for life; and those shall be deemed freedmen, free negroes, and mulattoes who are of pure negro blood, and those descended from a negro to the third generation, inclusive, though one ancestor in



**So-called “Radicals” push creation of Freedman’s Bureau, a federal agency to assist former slaves...generally successful in area of education and some social small scale financial assistance but had some shortcoming...**



**Shortcomings of Freedman’s Bureau:**  
**“40 Acres & a Mule” promised & taken away**

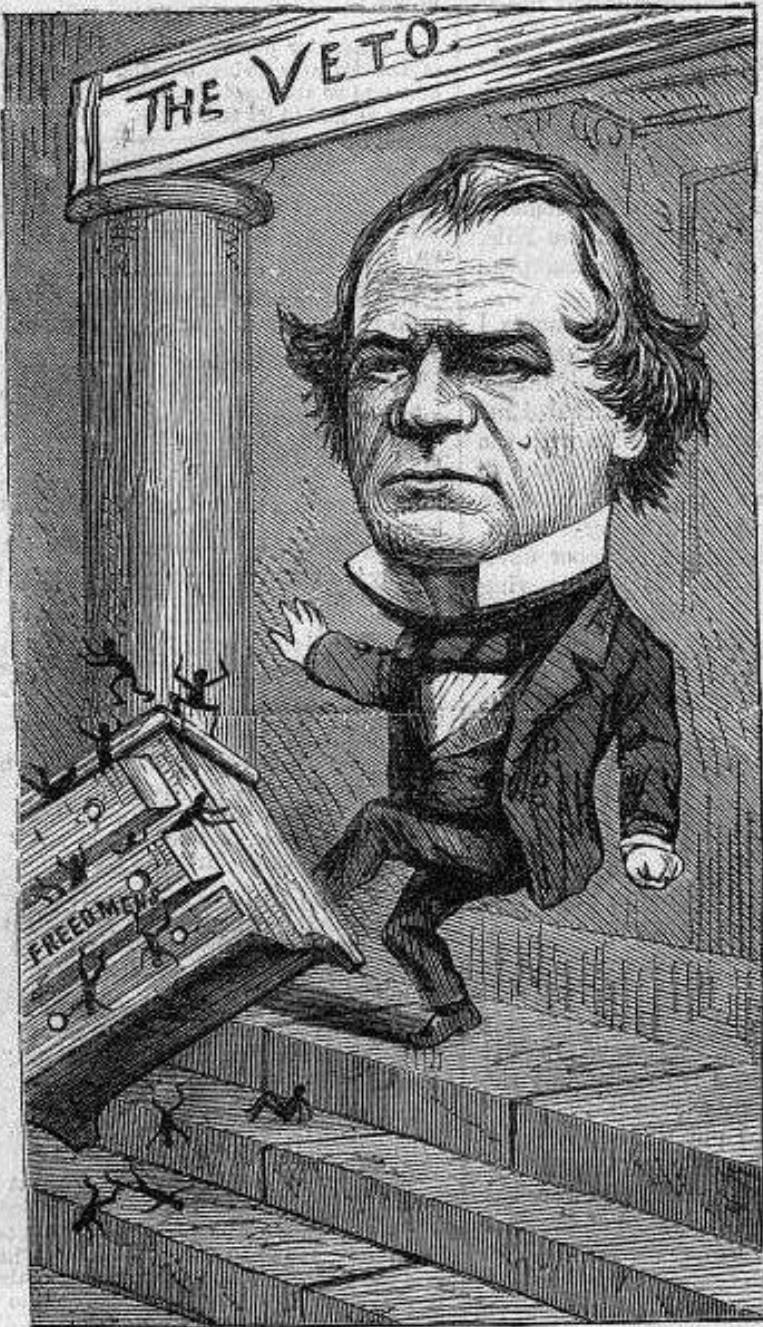
**Lack of funding & corruption hurt efforts of  
the Freedmen's Bureau**



# Political Conflicts & Southern Resentment Grow

- Radicals in Congress override Johnson's Veto of Civil Rights Bill & Freedmen's Bureau in early 1866
- Republicans propose 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to ensure "equal protection under the law" to all citizens

*What is the meaning of the cartoon?*





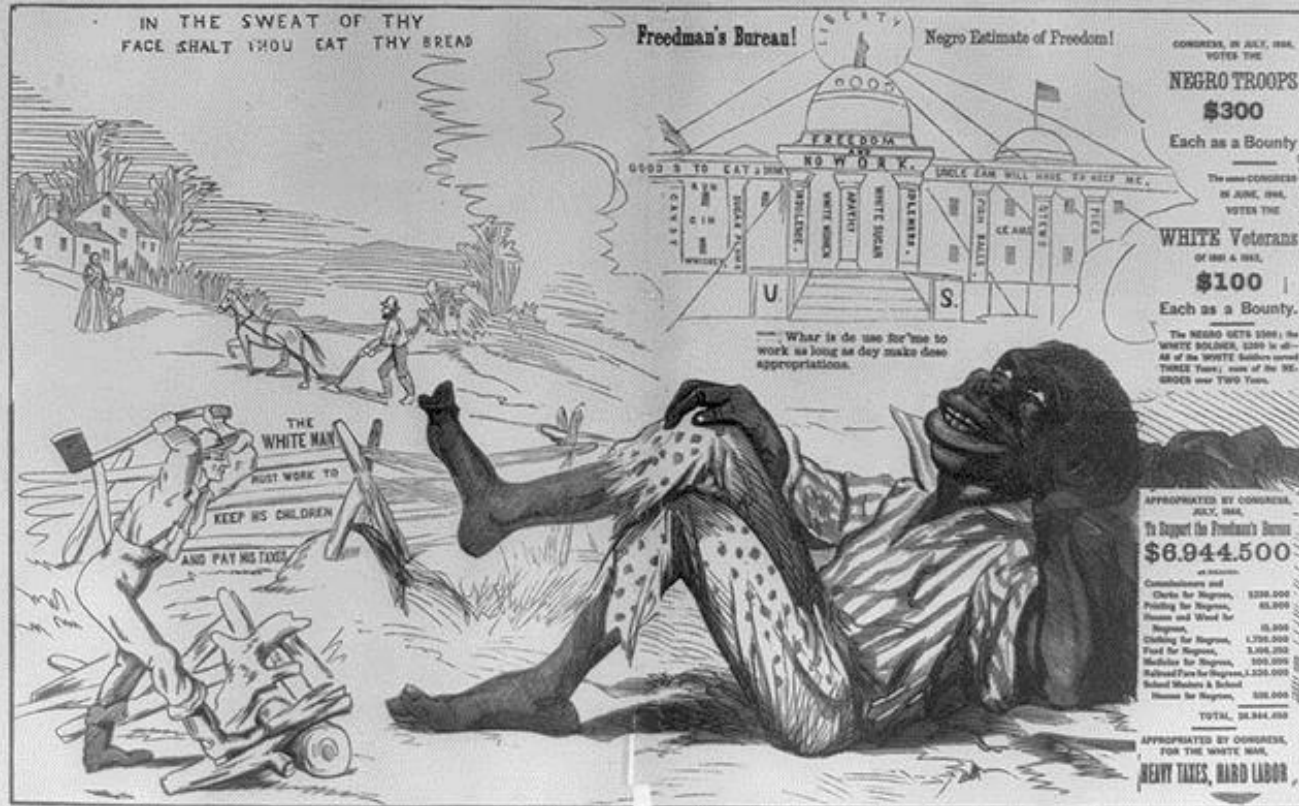
**Some criticize the Freeman's Bureau and support President Johnson's veto**

# THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU!

AN AGENCY TO KEEP THE **NEGRO** IN IDLENESS AT THE **EXPENSE** OF THE WHITE MAN.

TWICE VETOED BY THE **PRESIDENT**, AND MADE A LAW BY **CONGRESS**.

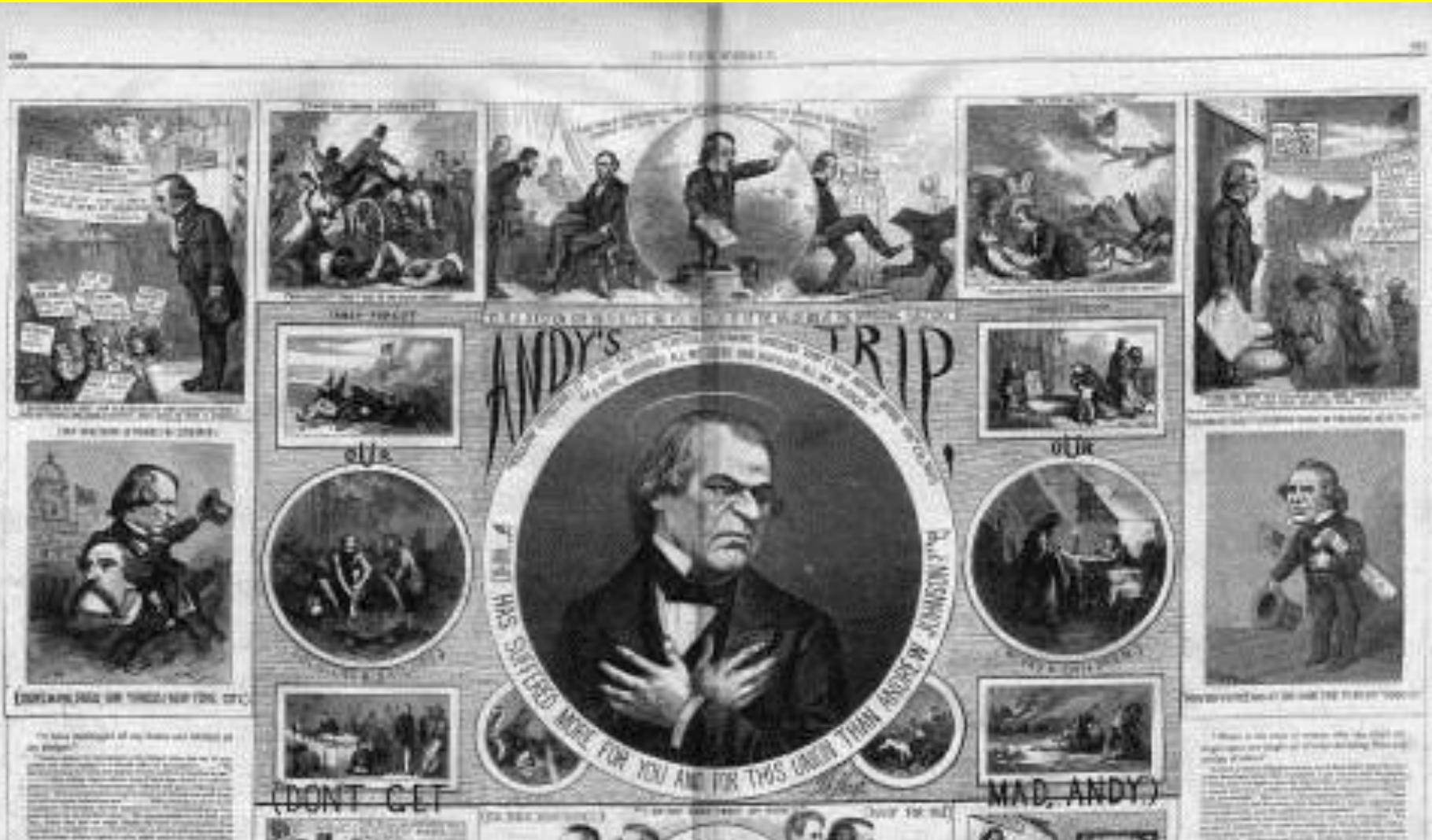
**SUPPORT CONGRESS & YOU SUPPORT THE NEGRO. SUSTAIN THE PRESIDENT & YOU PROTECT THE WHITE MAN**



For 1864 and 1865, the FREEDMAN'S BUREAU cost the Tax-payers of the Nation, at least TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. For 1866, THE SHARE of the Tax-payers of Pennsylvania will be about ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. GEAR is FOR the Freedman's Bureau. CLYMER is OPPOSED to it.

***Which political party published this poster in 1866?***

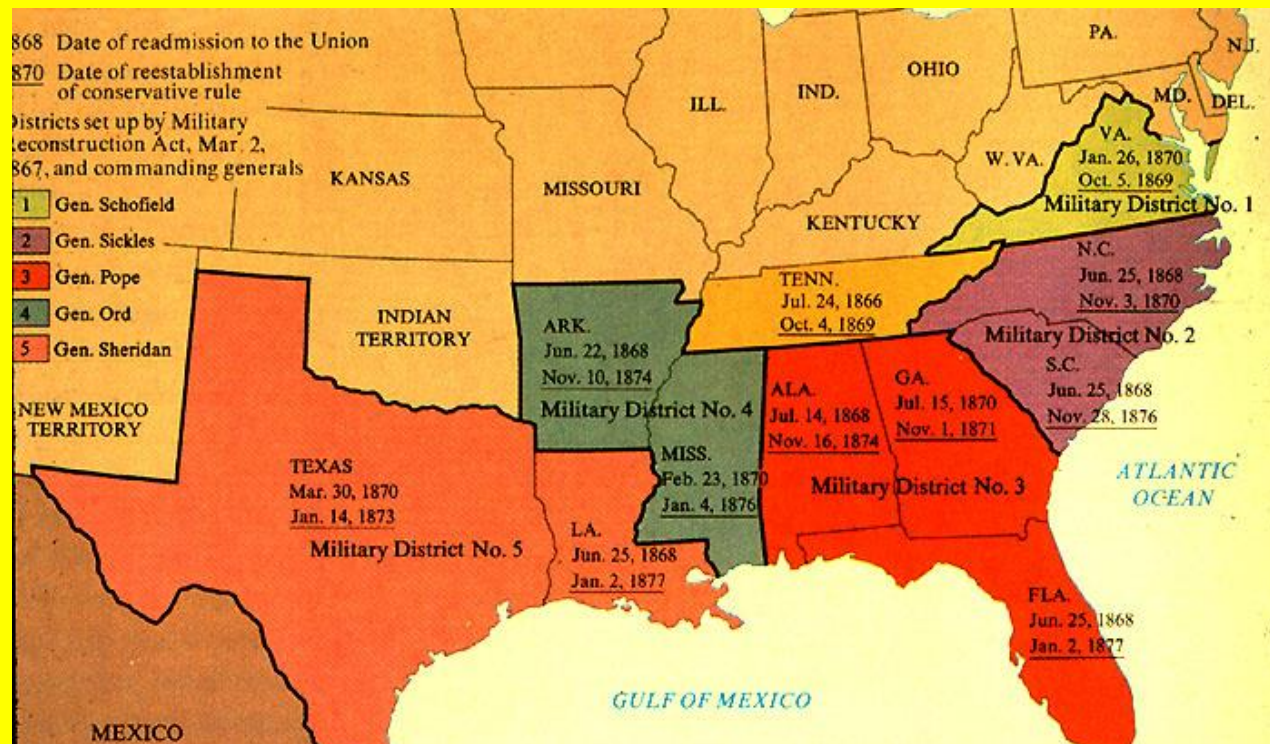
Ill conceived Swing Around the Circle Tour meant to convince states not to ratify 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and to support Northern Democrats in Congressional Election of 1866 Seals Johnson's Political Fate



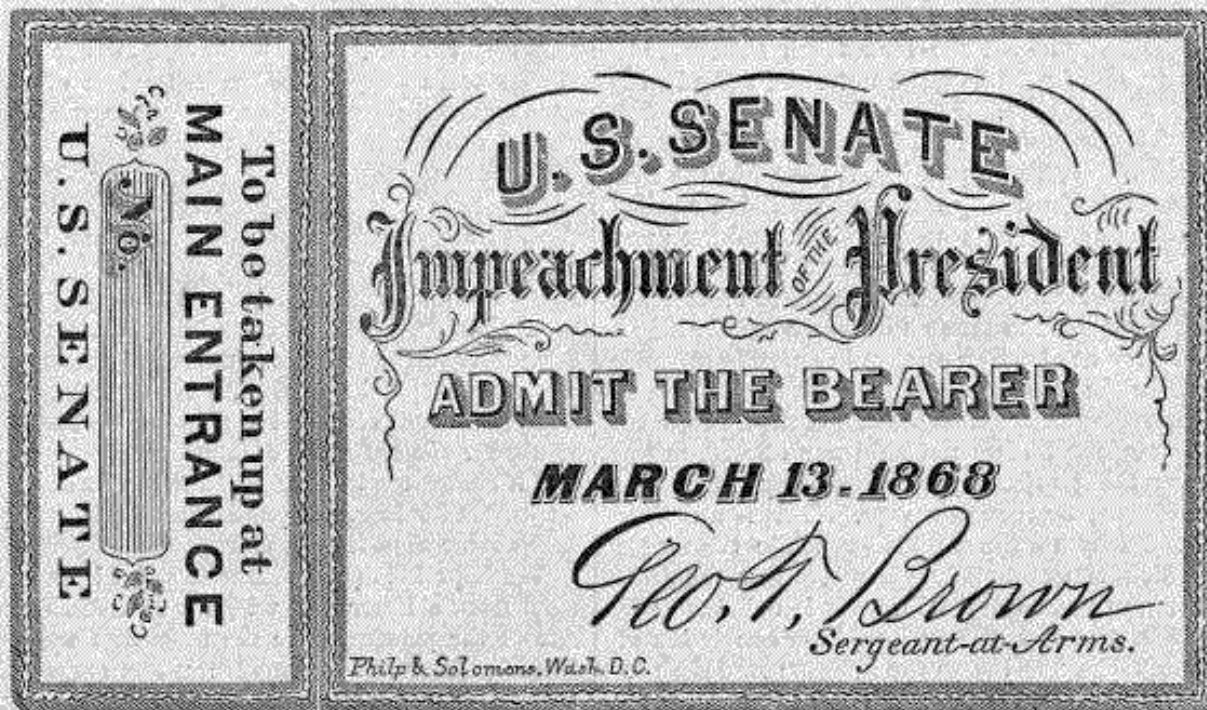


# Military/Radical/Black Reconstruction

- After 1866 Congressional elections, Radical Republicans have a “super majority” and take control of reconstruction process by overriding Johnson's vetoes
  - Reconstruction Act of 1867 is passed and authorizes extended military force requiring Southern states to accept 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment as well as grant suffrage to Freedmen as condition for readmission to union.
- Army stays in some states for up to 9 years following readmission to enforce new black civil rights. Republicans dominate South temporarily

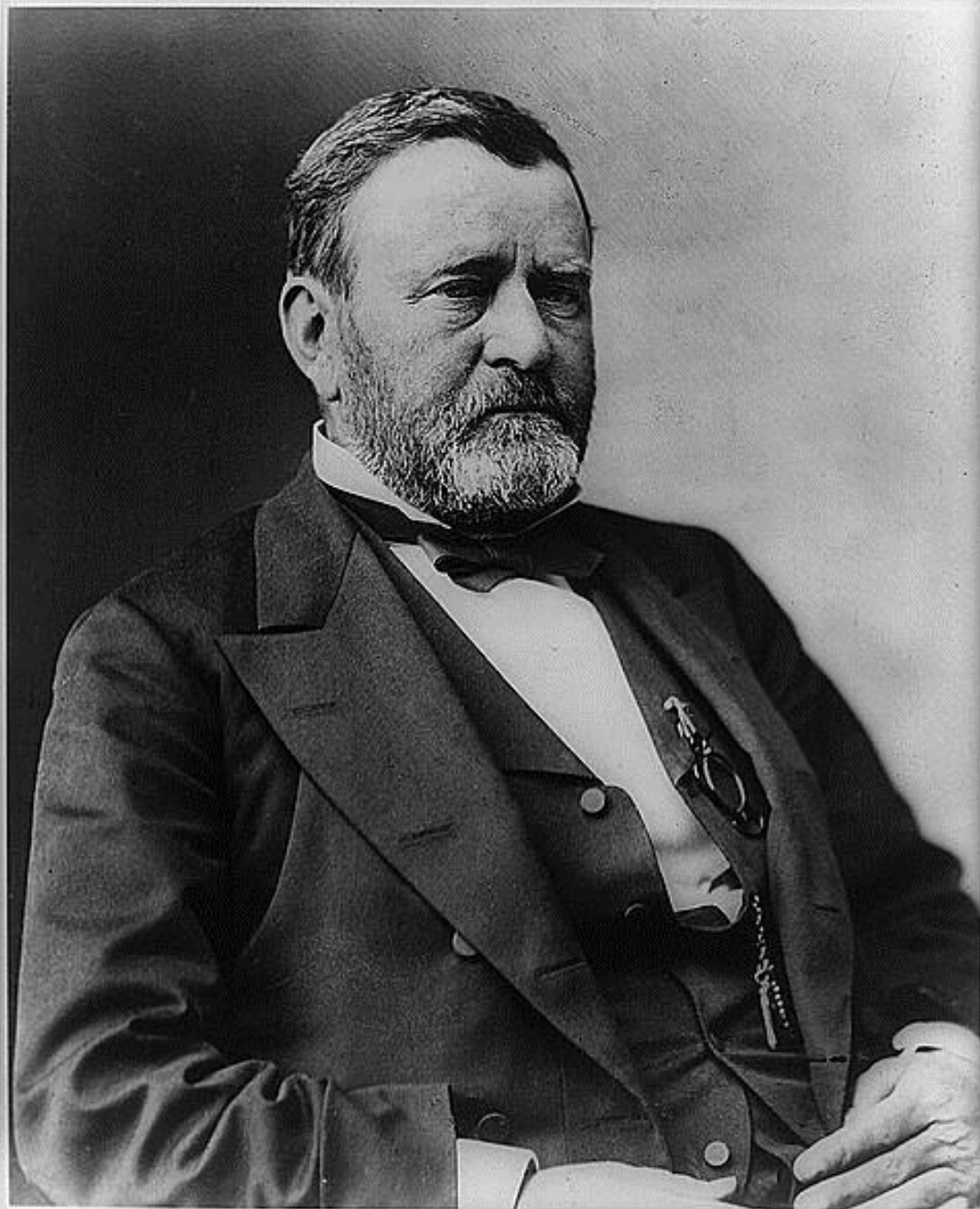


- Firing of Sect. of War Edwin Stanton for violating the Tenure of Office Act in August, 1867 triggers impeachment of Johnson for political (not criminal) reasons.
- Not enough Senators vote to remove Johnson from office, but president loses all political influence & Radical Republicans take full control of Congress & Reconstruction policies



FAC-SIMILE OF TICKET OF ADMISSION TO THE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL.





**Former Union General  
Ulysses Grant turned  
Republican politician elected  
President in 1868 & reelected  
in 1872 despite  
political inexperience &  
widespread corruption of  
people he hired**

**Why?**

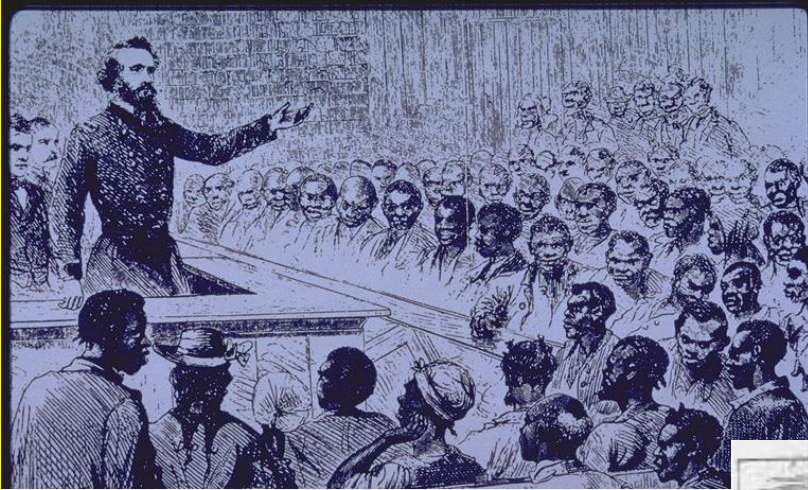
**Republicans use  
Waving the Bloody Shirt to  
appeal to Northerners**

**&**

**Passage of the  
15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to gain  
support from Southern  
Freedmen**



**Southern Republican Party backed by Union League, Carpetbaggers & Scalawags elects some blacks to many state & federal offices...greatly angers white Southern Democrats**

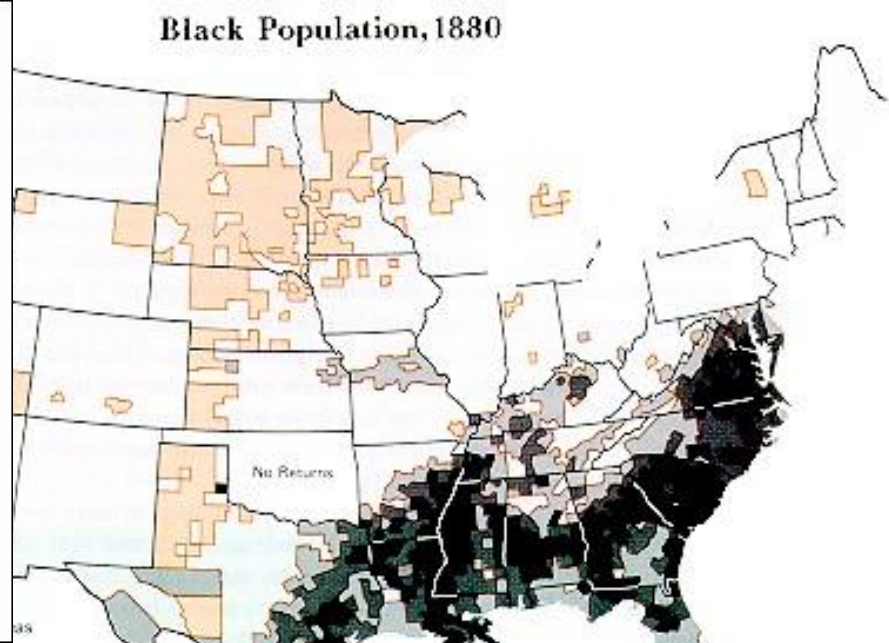
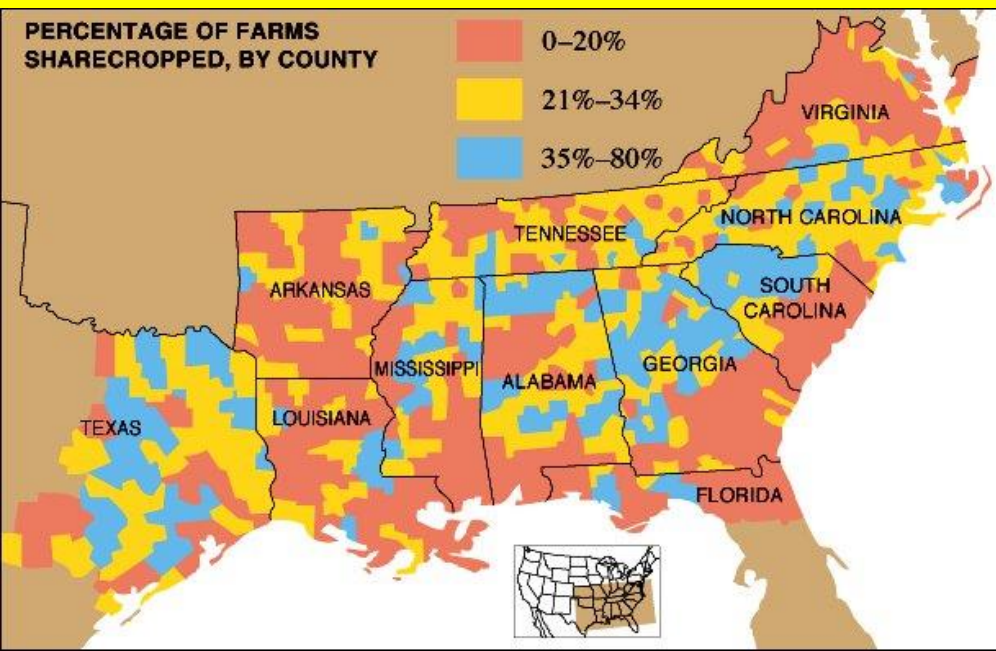




# Economic Impacts of Reconstruction on Freedmen

- Goals of former slaves and those of northern white Republicans begin to differ – land ownership (freedmen's goal) vs. wage labor (white Republicans goal)
- Gradually, slave labor mainly replaced by Sharecropping (paying rent for farm land with a predetermined share of crops harvested. This gave freedmen more autonomy, but also resulting in cycle of debt
- With no federal financial aid or land redistribution after end of Freedmen's Bureau in 1870, the economic opportunities of former slaves severely limited for generations

## *Significance of maps?*





## **Ku Klux Klan**

**and other similar paramilitary vigilante groups established by Southern Democrats for “Self Protection” aimed to “Redeem” the South from what they viewed as Northern/Republican “occupation”**

- **KKK call themselves Redeemers who want Home Rule**
- **Anti-Klan Enforcement Acts ('70 & '71) were not effective**

**Historiography Question:  
*Were KKK members “terrorists” or “respectable Southern whites goaded to desperation and tomfoolery”?***



**“Revolutionary” accomplishments of Reconstruction:**  
**Constitutional changes for African-Americans are short lived and  
only on paper for most for the next 100 years.**

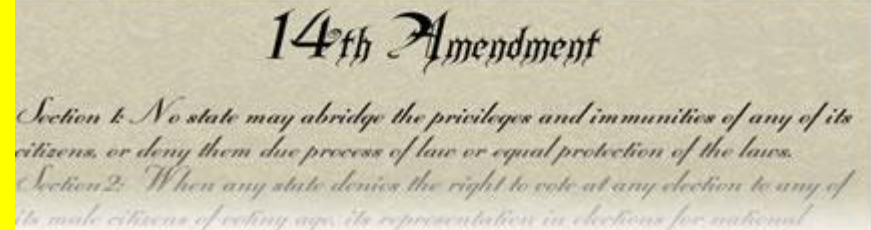
## **13th Amendment (1865)**

**Ends slavery**



## **14th Amendment (1866)**

**Establishes black citizenship &  
“equal protection under the law”**



## **15th Amendment (1870)**

**Suffrage for all men**







# So...was Reconstruction a Success or a Failure?

The answer to this questions has been an evolving debate for historians and subject of very interesting historiography



***1) What were the goals of Radical Republicans and of freed people during Reconstruction? How did these differ, and what were the results?***

***2) Why did Reconstruction falter? To what extent was its failure the results of events in the South, in the North and in Washington , D.C.?***