

## Chapter 18: Reconstruction

### I. Reconstruction

- a. The process of bringing confederate states back into the union
- b. Lincoln's Reconstruction Plan-10% Plan
  1. Southern States could elect new state governments after 10% of the voters took a vow of loyalty to the US
  2. High ranking Confederate officials could not vote in this election
- c. Johnson's Plan
  - a. Just like Lincoln's plan
  - b. Granted amnesty (forgave) to all southern leaders that pledged loyalty
  - c. Allowed them to create new governments as long as they:
    1. wrote new constitutions that outlawed slavery and secession
    2. Ratified the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment-abolish slavery
- d. Congress' Plan - Radical Reconstruction Plan (**RADICAL REPUBLICANS**)
  - a. Reconstruction Act of 1867
    1. Set up a military occupation of the south
  - b. States must write new state constitutions, approved by Congress
  - c. Must guarantee black voting rights for state elections
  - d. Must ratify the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> amendments
  - e. Confederate leaders lose all political power
  - f. passed the Civil Rights Act of 1865-guarantee equal rights for African Americans
  - g. Scalawags-poor white farmers- supported Radical Republicans
  - h. Carpetbaggers-white northerners that came south also supported the Radical Republicans

### II. Problems with Radical Reconstruction

- a. Southern leaders passed **black codes**—laws that limited the freedom of former slaves.
- b. Congress passes the Tenure of Office Act 1867-said that the president could not fire Cabinet members
  1. President Johnson then fires his Secretary of War
  2. Congress votes to impeach Johnson
  3. Senate acquits (finds not guilty) by one vote!

### III. African Americans and Reconstruction

- a. Government creates the Freedmen's Bureau to help African American families reunite and go to school (Freedmen's school)
- b. 40 Acres and a mule
  - i. African Americans promised land in the south to work on-did not pass
  - ii. Johnson pardoned many Confederate leaders and plantation owners who took back the land
- c. Contract System-Freed Africans instead worked under contract on farms
  - i. low wages, could not leave the plantation
  - ii. often cheated out of wages
  - iii. like slavery again!
- d. Sharecropping system
  - i. Some freedmen given farms by owners to run with tools & seeds, etc
  - ii. Had to give the owner shares of the crop in exchange
  - iii. Many ended up in debt as a result-did not make enough
- e. 1866-Ku Klux Klan formed-targeted African Americans with violence and terror and ignored by the government

### IV. End of Reconstruction

- a. Grant elected 1872-political corruption hurts his administration-unqualified advisers
- b. Liberal Republicans form to stop the corruption, splits the Republicans
- c. Panic of 1873-economic depression in the US that takes the focus away from Reconstruction
- d. 1876 Supreme Court rules that the federal government did not have the power to punish violators of African American civil rights-said only the states could-increases violence against African Americans
- e. Election of 1876-tie between Samuel J. Tilden and Rutherford B. Hayes,
  - i. Compromise of 1877- Special committee decided the vote and made Hayes the president-ENDING Reconstruction

### V. Reconstruction Amendments

- a. 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment abolishes slavery
- b. 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment gives African Americans citizenship (only African American Men)
- c. 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment gives African American men only the right to vote, angers white women

