

· THE · RECONSTRUCTION · PERIOD ·

"With malice toward none, with charity for all...to bind up the nation's wounds...."

A. Lincoln

"I am for Negro suffrage in every rebel state. If it be just, it should not be denied; if it be necessary, it should be adopted; if it be a punishment to traitors, they deserve it."

Thaddeus Stevens

Turbulent post-Civil War period from 1865 to 1877 ...

P _____ → **readmit secessionist states into Union** YES ← circle → NO
No strict post-war conditions vs. firm readmission demands!

S _____ → **integrate freed slaves into society** YES ← circle → NO
Represents true failure of Reconstruction!

E _____ → **fix South's economy & blend w/ North's** YES ← circle → NO
Driving force that committed South to secession & war!

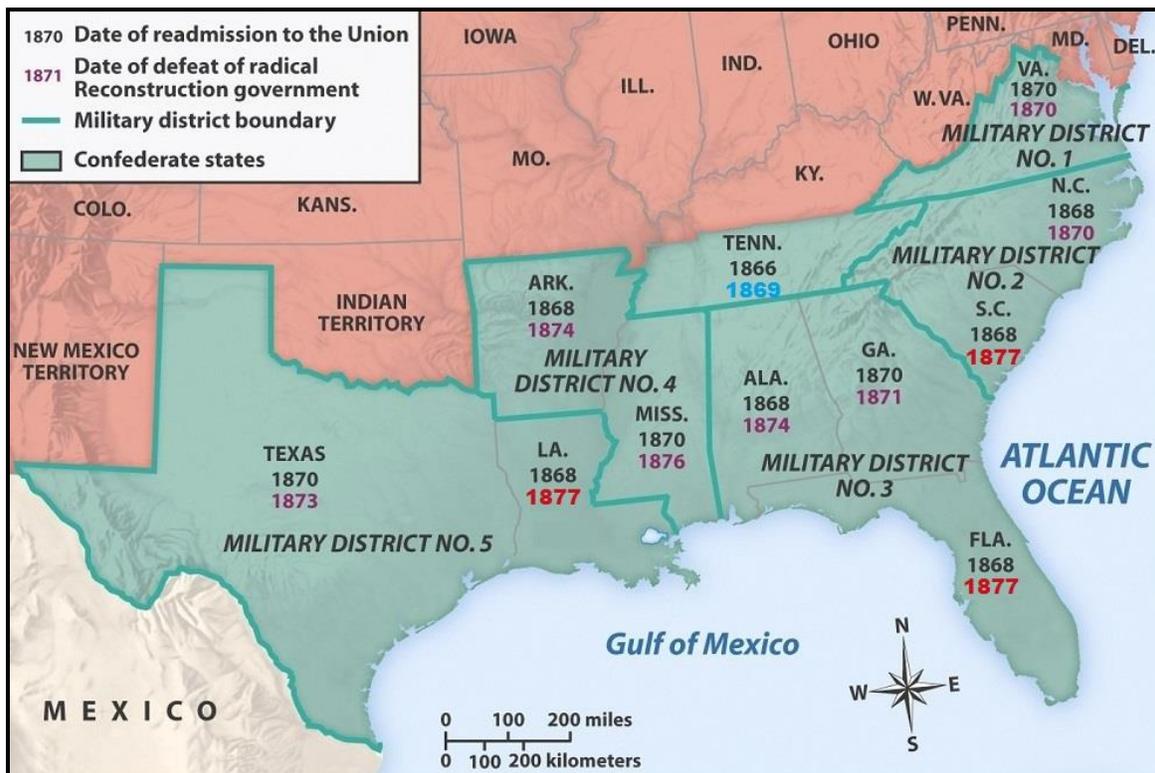
Three "overnight" episodes contributed to Reconstruction's failure ...

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- ◆ President Abraham Lincoln → “_____ (aka Presidential) Plan”
 - ✓ Desired mild, flexible, compassionate policies toward South
 - ✓ President Andrew Johnson’s ideas were similar (“Restoration”)
- ◆ Radical Republicans → “_____ (aka Congressional) Reconstruction”
 - ✓ Charles Sumner, Thaddeus Stevens, Benjamin Wade, Henry W. Davis
 - ✓ Considered themselves Reconstruction’s “moral trustees”
 - ✓ Thought secession states should be treated harshly (conquests of war)
 - ✓ Vindictive; shortsighted; unrealistic
 - tried to legislate morality
 - demanded immediate civil political & civil racial equality
 - ✓ Wade-Davis Bill (vetoed by Lincoln) became four Reconstruction Acts
 - ✓ Reconstruction Act of 1867
 - abolished gov’ts formed in Confederate states
 - est’d standards for readmission to Union (inc. 14th Amendment)
 - divided Confederate states (not Tennessee) into five military districts



◆ “Reconstruction Amendments”

- ✓ 13th (1865) →
- ✓ 14th (1868) →
- ✓ 15th (1870) →

◆ Emancipated blacks set adrift between slavery & freedom

- ✓ Remained in South as sharecroppers & tenant farmers
- ✓ Migrated to northern cities in search of jobs
- ✓ Went west to become exodusters & cowboys

◆ Johnson’s impeachment

- ✓ Intent of Radical Republicans was to weaken presidency
- ✓ Charged with violating Tenure of Office Act; other charges silly
 - law passed to manipulate Johnson
 - dismissed Sec. of War Edwin Stanton
 - law passed *after* appointment by *another* President
- ✓ Johnson survived by one vote (though perhaps not really that close)



- ◆ Election of 1876 marks historical “end” of Reconstruction Period
 - ✓ Sam Tilden (D) = 204 electoral votes vs. Rutherford B. Hayes (R) = 165
 - ✓ Election tainted by disputed electoral votes in three southern states
 - Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina remaining “unredeemed” states
 - Redeemers = upper class dominated southern politics thru 1910
 - ✓ Electoral Commission formed (15 members = 5 + 5 + 5 & 7 + 7 + 1)
 - ✓ Wormley Conference ... political deal ... Compromise of 1877
 - Republicans (aka northerners) →
 - Democrats (aka southerners) →
 - ✓ Historical assessment
 - Hayes & Tilden not directly involved in decision
 - w/ open black vote, Tilden likely wins Florida
 - Hayes average President; Tilden 50/50 better or worse

- ◆ Legacy of Reconstruction
 - ✓ South’s economy survived, then flourished
 - redistribution of property spread wealth
 - agriculture more diversified & productive (“King Cotton” dethroned)
 - infrastructure updated & technological improvements (“New South”)
 - industry & manufacturing appear (Birmingham = “South’s Pittsburgh”)
 - ✓ Less effective southern leadership
 - disenfranchisement of Confederate leaders
 - elevated less-educated & self-serving
 - one-party gov’t fastened to South
 - ✓ Racial equality unrealized in mind & matter
 - “Jim Crow” legislation
 - *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) est’d “separate but equal” principle
 - poll taxes & literacy tests blocked black voters
 - terrorist organizations such as Ku Klux Klan
 - slavery ... subordination ... segregation
 - ✓ Sectional resentment was increased
 - Radicals (inc. carpetbaggers & scalawags) vs. Redeemers
 - “waving the bloody shirt” tactic