

# · 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!*

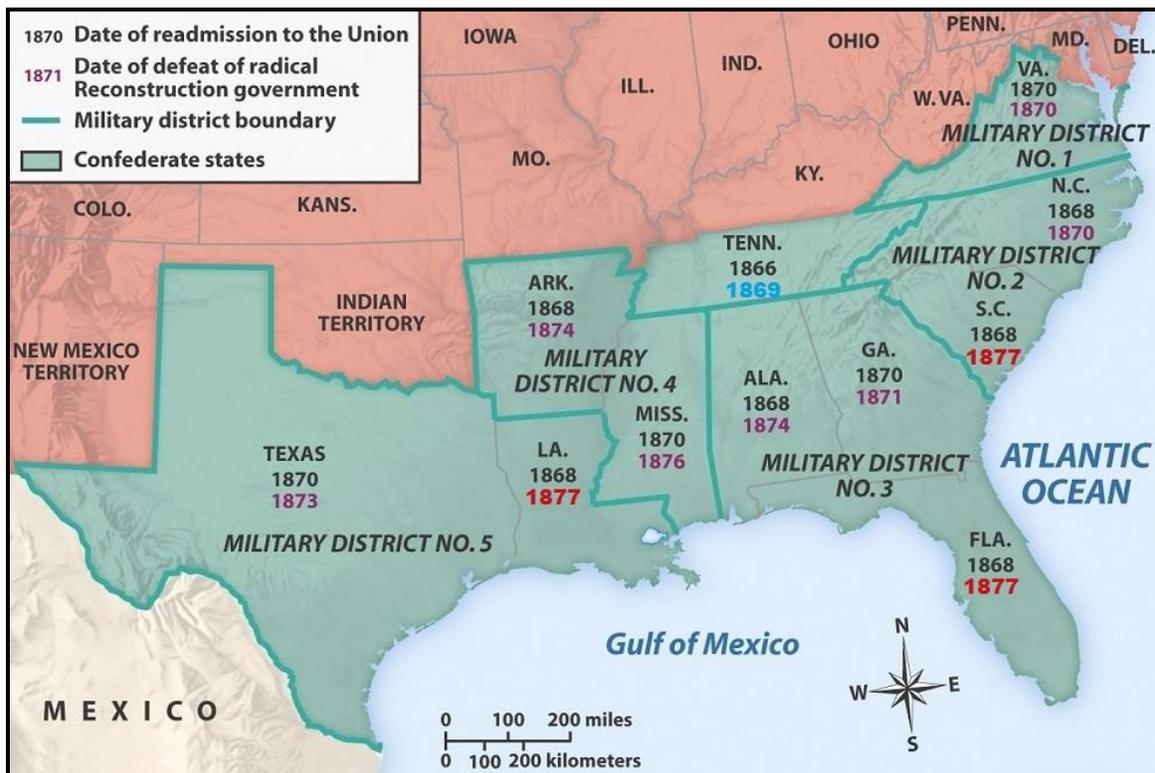
Three "overnight" episodes contributed to Reconstruction's failure ...

①

②

③

- ◆ 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