

# · THE · RECONSTRUCTION · PERIOD ·

“Even though Republicans failed in their effort to establish an effective and durable organization in the South, they nevertheless emerged from the era of reconstruction in a powerful position . . . , [and] they found a large number of southern Democrats remarkably easy to work with. . . . The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, which could have been adopted only under the conditions of radical reconstruction, make the blunders of that era . . . dwindle into insignificance.”

Kenneth M. Stampp (historian), *The Era of Reconstruction, 1865-1877*, 1965

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“Whether measured by the dreams inspired by emancipation or the more limited goals of securing blacks’ rights . . . , Reconstruction must be judged a failure. . . . For the nation as a whole, the collapse of Reconstruction was a tragedy that deeply affected the course of its development. If racism contributed to the undoing of Reconstruction, so also Reconstruction’s demise . . . accelerated racism’s spread, until by the early twentieth century it pervaded the nation’s culture and politics.”

Eric Foner (historian), *A Short History of Reconstruction: 1863-1877*, 1990

1. Using the excerpts above and your knowledge of United States history, answer (a), (b), and (c).
  - a) Briefly describe ONE major difference between Stampp’s and Foner’s historical interpretations of Reconstruction.
  - b) Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event or development during the period 1863 to 1900 not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Stampp’s argument.
  - c) Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event or development during the period 1863 to 1900 not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Foner’s argument.

Write your response to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1 on this page within the box. Use BLUE or BLACK pen only.

Q1

End of response area for Q1.