

Chapter 12

Reconstruction and Its Effects

Section 1: The Politics of Reconstruction



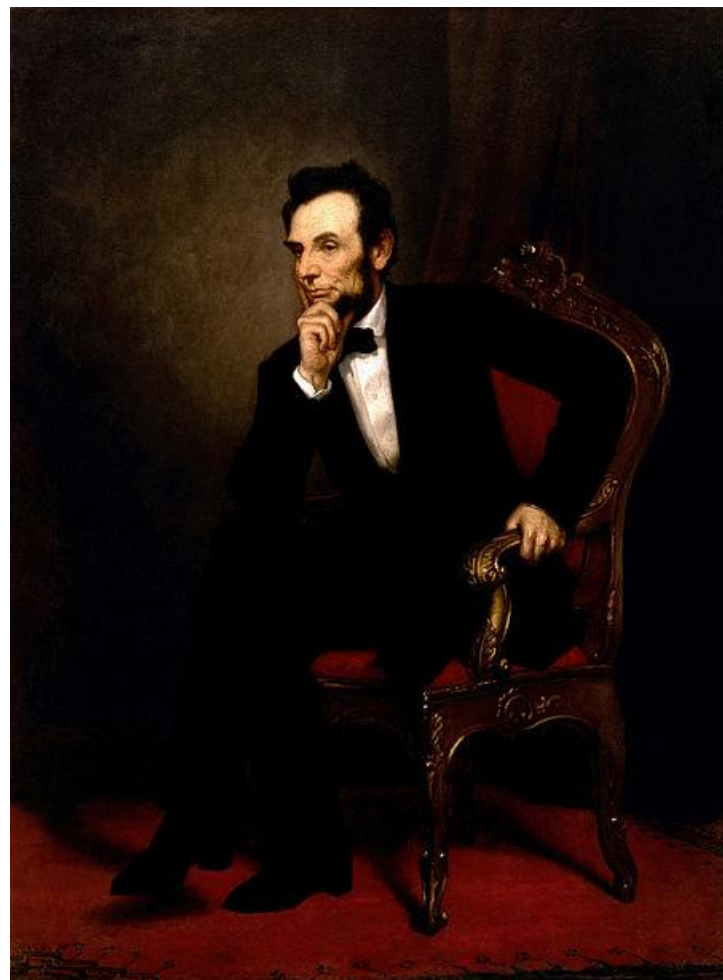
Return of Confederate States

- Timeframe: 1865-1877
- Process used by federal government to “restore” Confederate states to the Union
- Differing views of approach to process



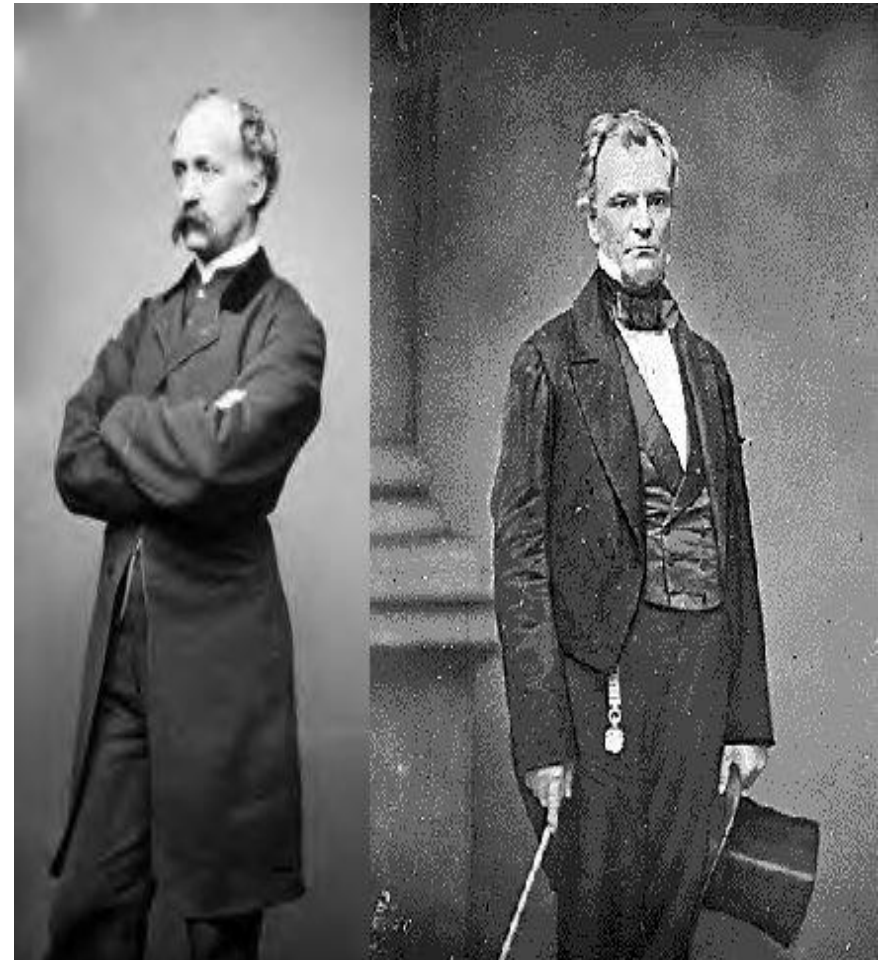
Lincoln's Vision

- 10% Plan – “With Malice Towards None”
 - Leniency and Expediency
 - Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction:
 - Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Virginia



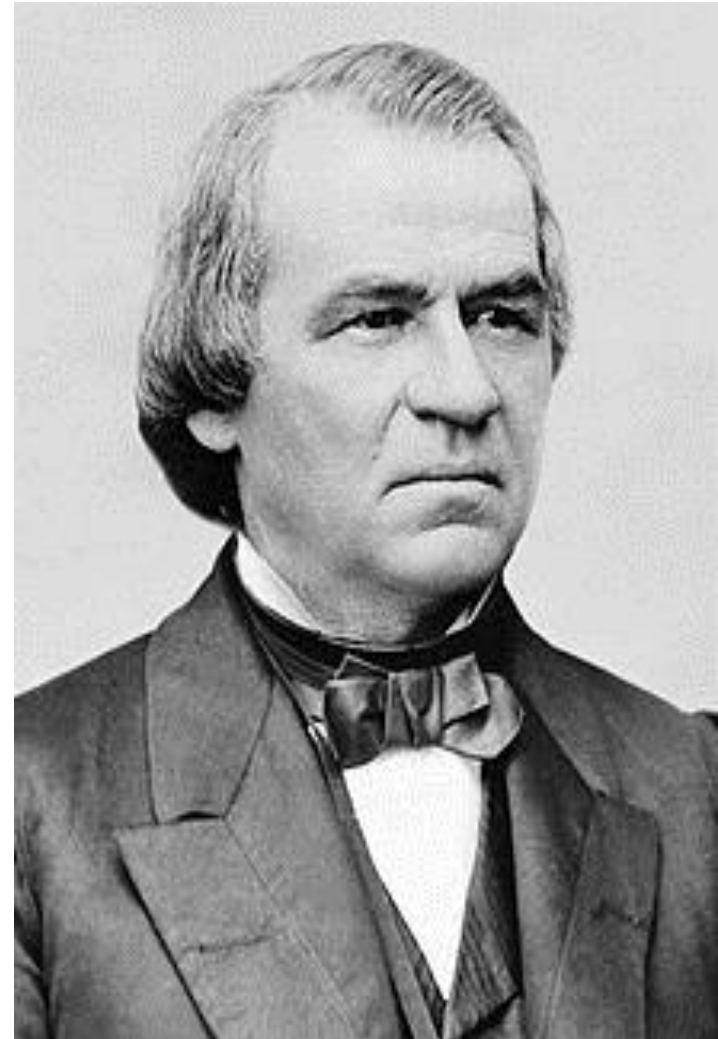
Radical Republicans Rebel

- Wade-Davis Bill
 - Destruction of “slaveocracy”
 - Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner
 - Congress:
 - Majority of voters must take oath to gain rights outlined in Lincoln’s plan
 - Passed :



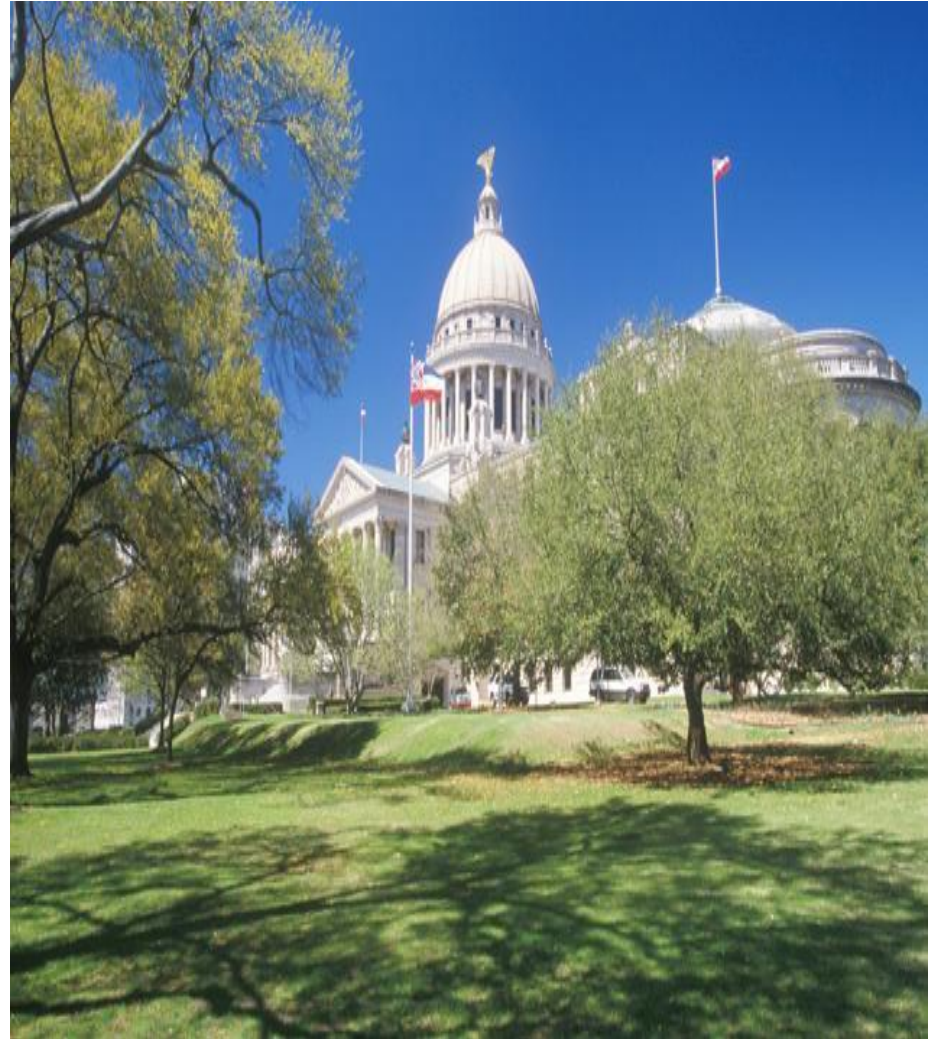
Johnson's Vision

- Presidential Reconstruction
 - Remaining states must:
 - withdraw:
 - take oath
 - High-ranking Confederate officials and wealthy plantation owners excluded
 - annul Confederate war debts
 - Ratify:
 - Remaining 7 Confederate states:



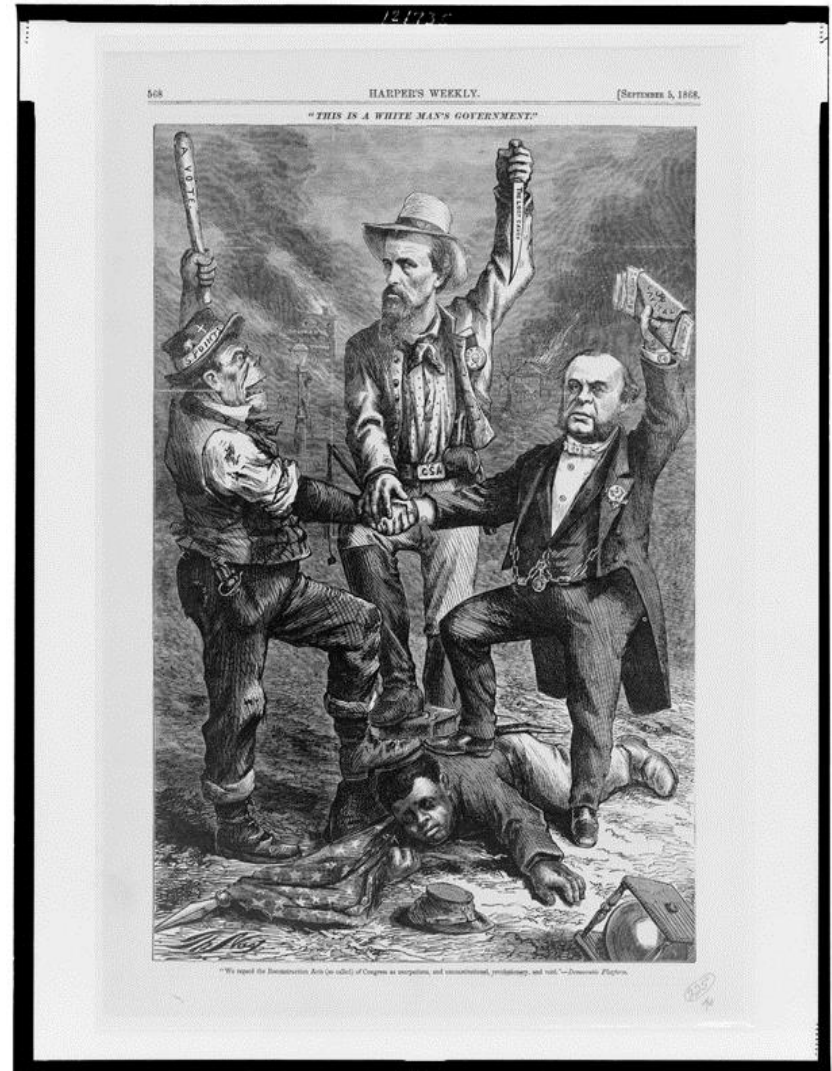
Better Late Than Never – Mississippi Ratifies the 13th Amendment

- <http://www.mediaite.com/tv/jon-stewart-travels-back-to-the-19th-century-to-report-on-mississippi-13th-amendment-non-ratification/>



Black Codes

- Slavery:
- Enforced through violence at times
- Blacks banned from
 - Carrying:
 - Serving on:
 - Testifying:
 - Traveling without :
 - Owning land in some states

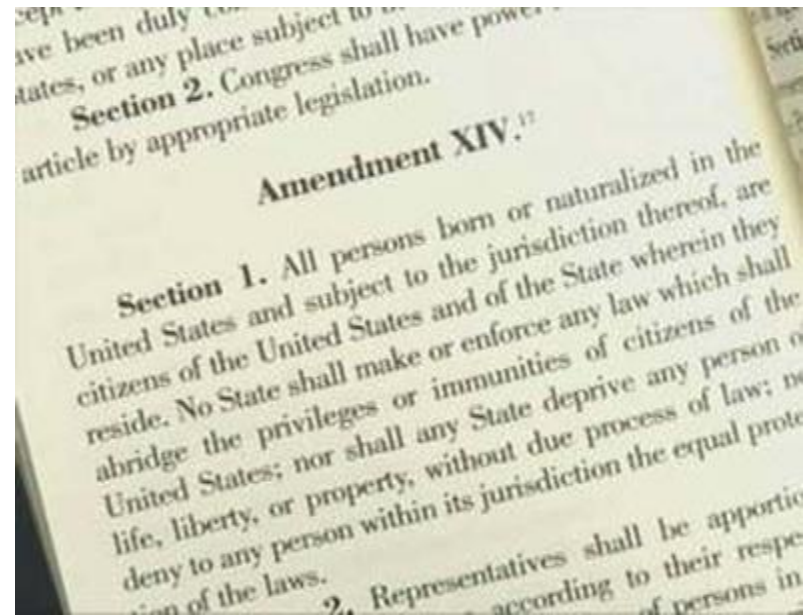


Impact of Black Codes Explained

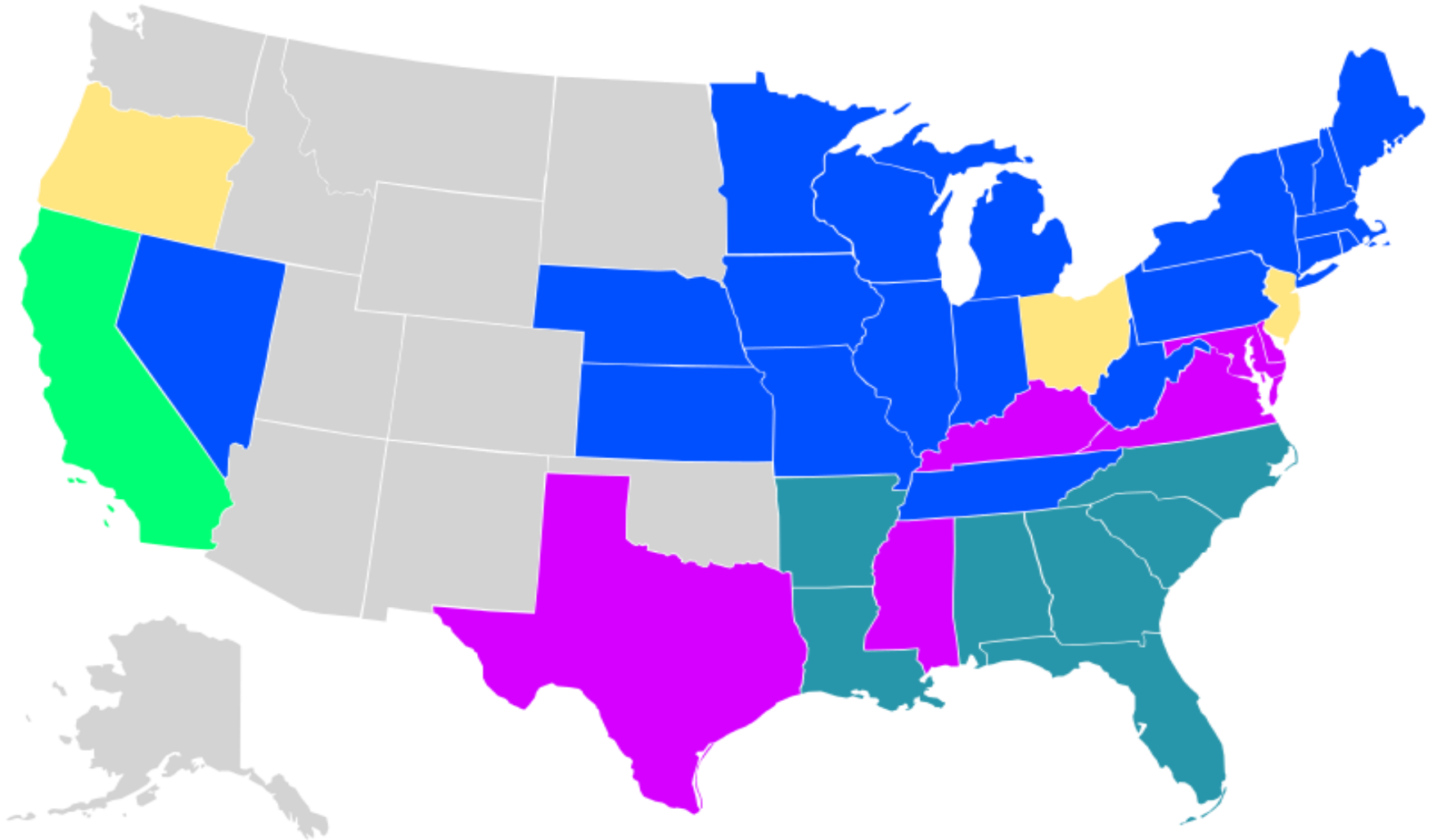
- What was the larger purpose of these laws?
- What did it make it all but impossible for African Americans to do?
- What activities were in effect considered criminal for African Americans?
- What were vagrancy statutes?
- By the end of the 20th century, what had happened to African Americans as a result of these laws?
- <http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/black-codes/>

14th Amendment

- Made:
- Penalties for states that barred any male citizen from voting
- Most Confederate leaders barred from office-holding with a 2/3 vote of Congress
- Opposed by President Johnson
- Tennessee:
- Finally:



Ratification of the 14th Amendment



The 14th Amendment Today

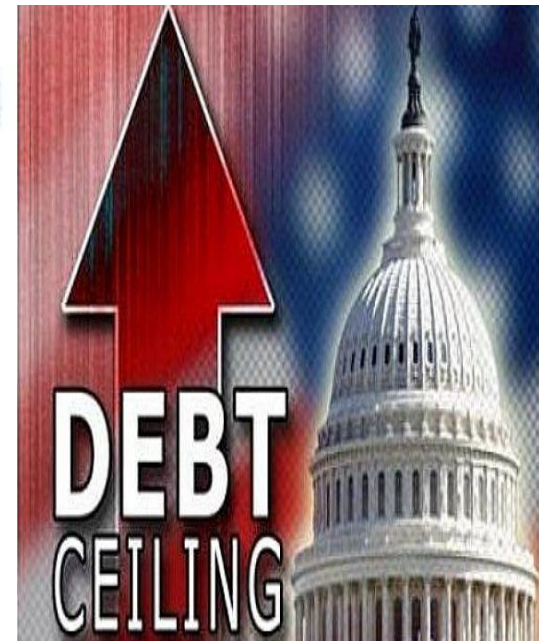
- The 14th Amendment states that the “validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned.”
- The 14th Amendment states that “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States.”



Mitch McConnell
Wants to
'Review' 14th
Amendment

That pesky part about
birthright citizenship

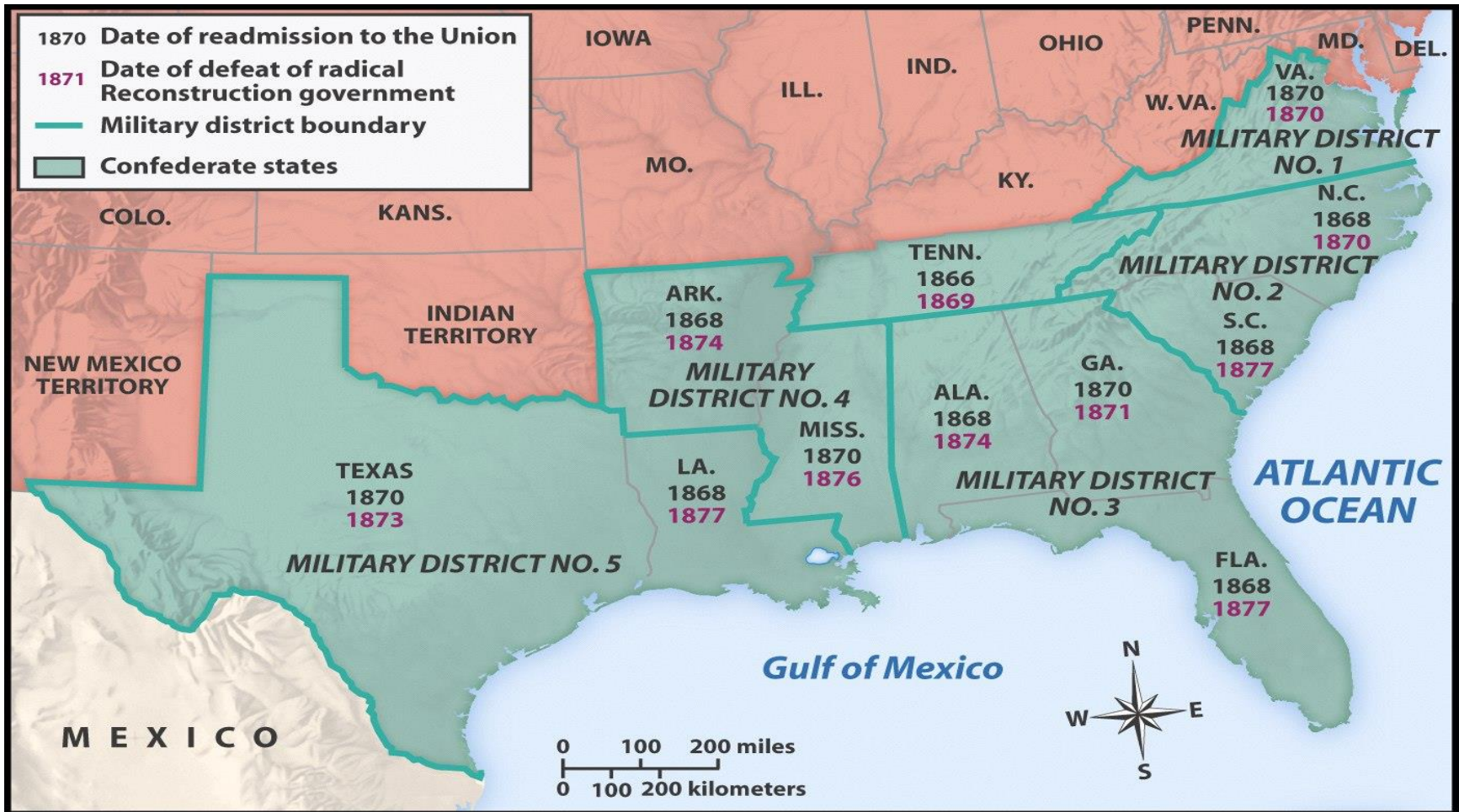
Aug 3, 2010 6:38 AM CDT



Reconstruction Act of 1867

- Republicans win 2/3 majority in Congress in 1866
- Reconstruction Act passed in 1867
 - State governments formed under Lincoln and Johnson = not recognized (except Tennessee)
 - 5:
 - Voters to elect delegates to conventions
 - new constitutions would be drafted → :
 - States had to ratify the 14th Amendment
 - Johnson vetoed → Congress overrode veto

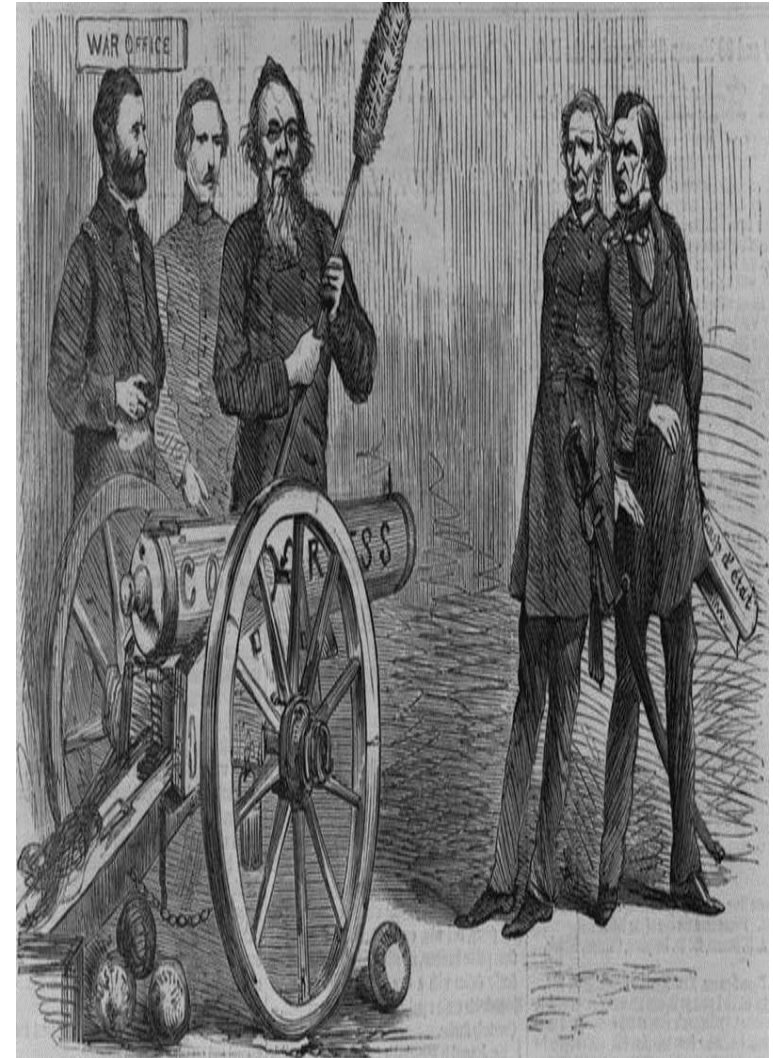
Military Reconstruction



Map 15-1
America: A Concise History, Third Edition
 © 2006 Bedford/St. Martin's

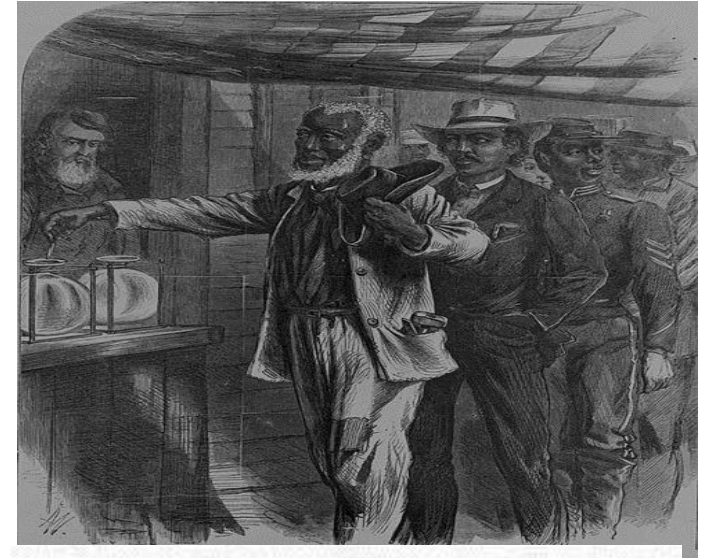
Johnson's Impeachment

- Radicals believed Johnson was failing to enforce the Reconstruction Act
- March 1857:
- Johnson:
- Congress impeached him for violating the Tenure of Office Act
 - Johnson argues Lincoln appointed Stanton
- Johnson escaped:



Election of 1868

- Grant elected defeating democrat Horatio Seymour
 - African American vote had bolstered his win in the popular vote
- 15th Amendment
 - Banned:
 - Enforcement Act of 1870



Section 2: Reconstructing Society



Devastation of Postwar South

- All:
- Challenges:
 - Rebuilding buildings and infrastructure
 - Property values ↓
 - Personal wealth ↓
 - Adult male population ↓
- Republican Governments Cope:
 - Est. :
 - Raise taxes → slows recovery



Postwar Politics

- Scalawags
 - White:
 - Most were small farmers
 - Some aimed to gain political office
 - Few shared Republican commitment to rights for African Americans
- Carpetbaggers
 - Northerners:
 - Diverse motives, some legitimate, some not.
- African Americans
 - 90%:
 - 90% vote in many parts of the South

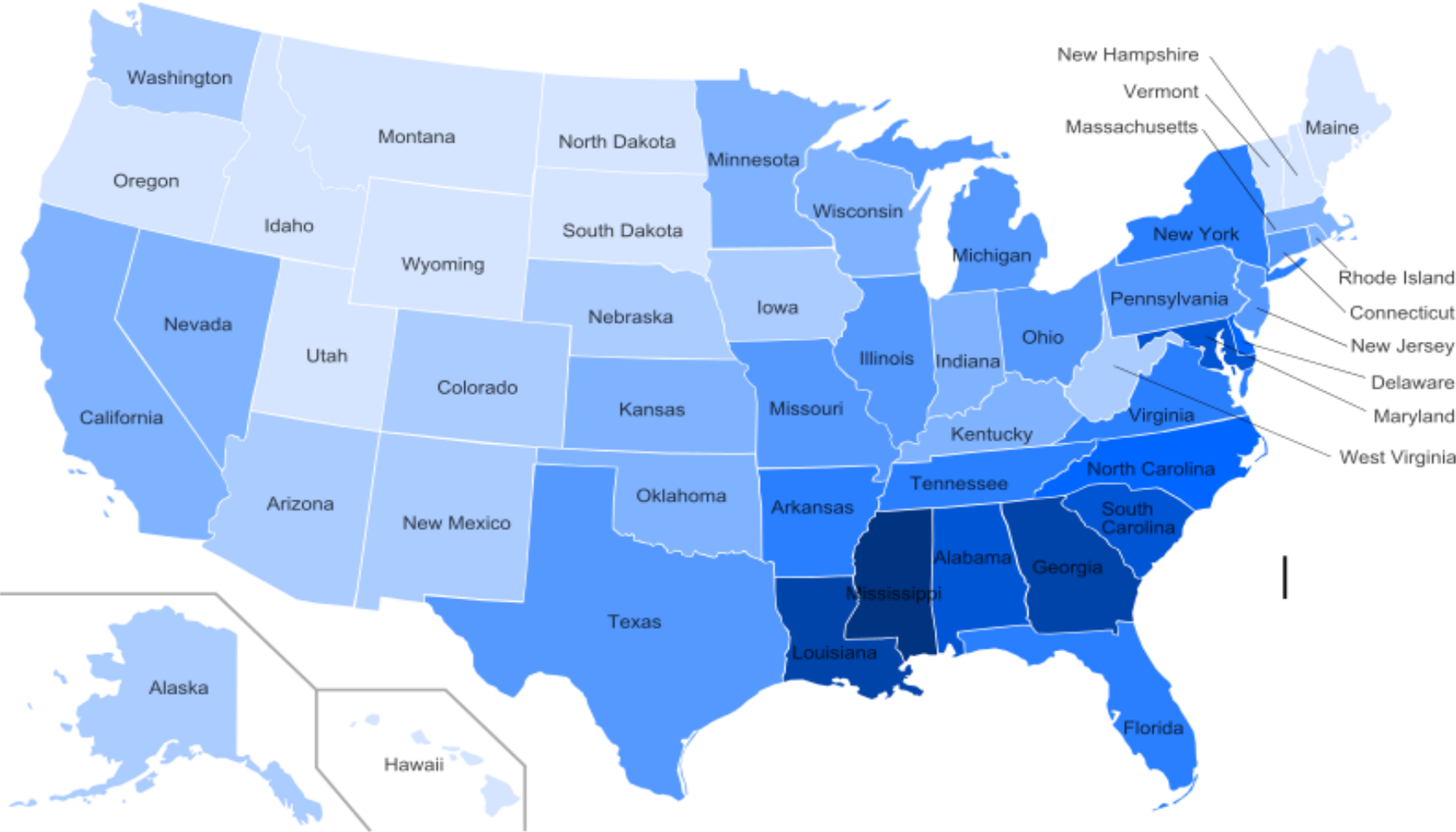


Challenges and Opportunities for African Americans

- Challenges:
 - Lacked:
 - Violent :
 - Continued segregation +/-
- Opportunities:
 - Movement
 - To cities for jobs
 - To reunite families
 - Marriage



2010 Census – African Americans by State



Challenges and Opportunities for African Americans

- Education
 - 80% of:
 - 600,000 African Americans enrolled in elementary school by 1877
- Churches and Volunteer Groups
 - Baptist and Methodist = most popular
 - Under:
 - Provided support and create opportunities



OLIVEY AT THE PARSONS—THE FREEDMEN'S UNION INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, RICHMOND, VA.—FROM A PICTURE BY OUR SPECIAL AGENT, JAS. E. SUTTON.

Challenges and Opportunities for African Americans

- Politics
 - Hold:
 - Involvement still not proportionate to population
 - No:
 - Hiram Revels
 - Black Codes repealed by 1866
 - Desegregation:



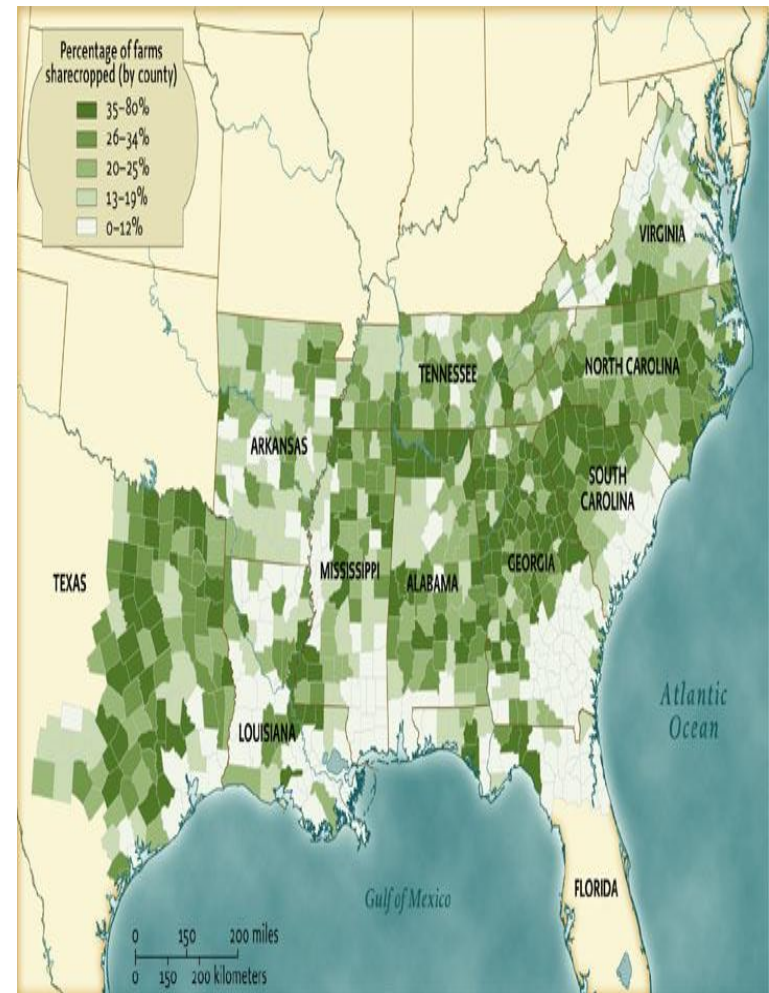
Question of Land Redistribution

- Sherman's 40 Acres and a Mule
 - Overturned:
- Stevens and Radical Republicans:
- Southern Homestead Act of 1866
 - 44 million acres of swampy land set aside for freed blacks and loyal whites



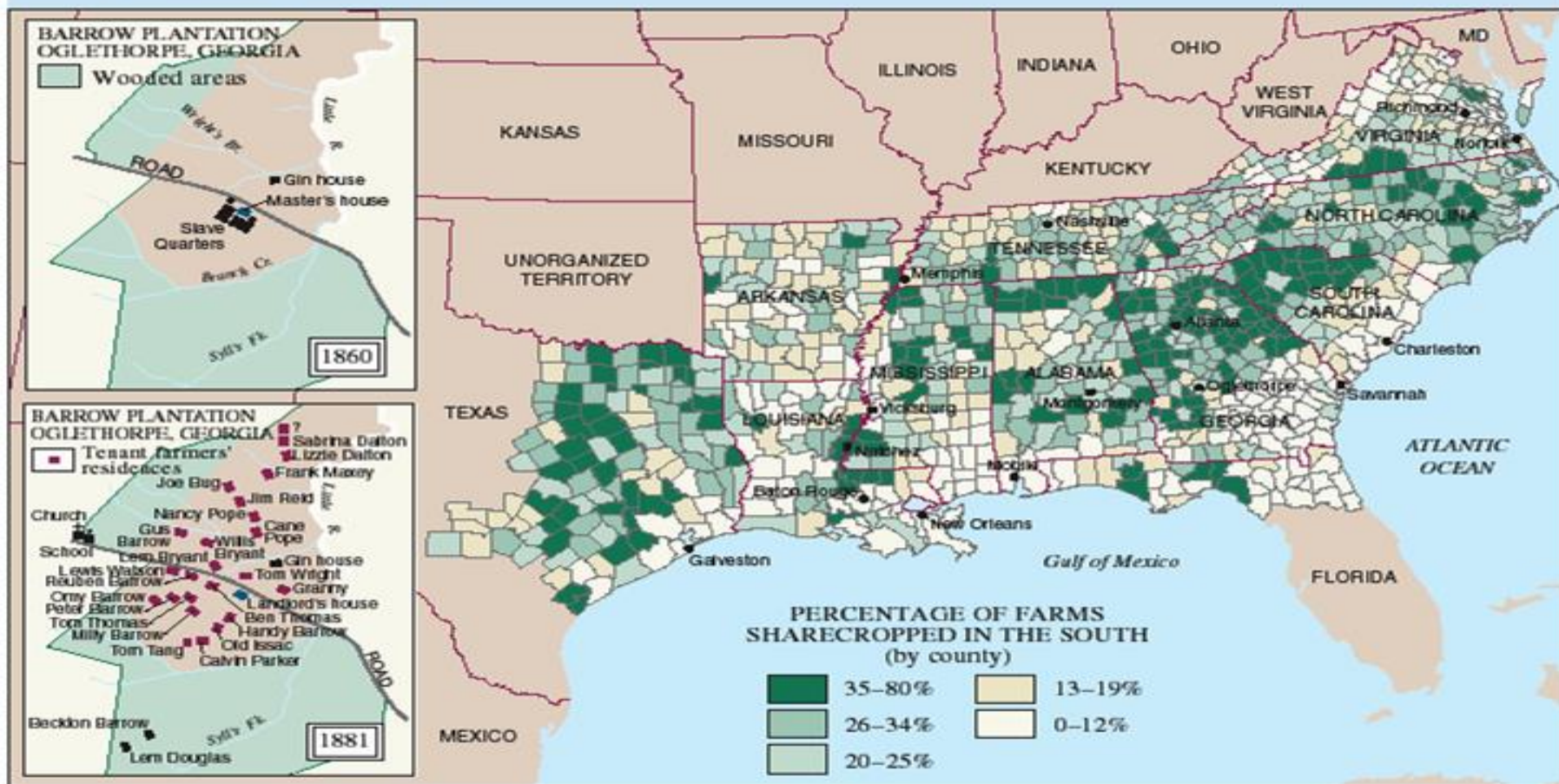
The New Plantation System

- Planters determined to restore pre-Civil war system and profits
 - Labor shortages
 - Resistance from former slave
- Sharecropping
- Tenant farming
 - Farmers:
 - Bought tools on credit
 - Kept all of their harvest
 - Seldom worked out



The Rise of Tenancy in the South, 1880

Although no longer slaves and after resisting labor contracts and the gang system of field labor, the freedpeople (as well as many poor whites) became tenant farmers, working on shares in the New South. The former slaves on the Barrow Plantation in Georgia, for example, moved their households to individual 25 to 30 acre tenant farms, which they rented from the Barrow family in annual contracts requiring payment in cotton and other cash crops. Where was the highest percentage of tenant farms, and how do you explain it? How would you explain the low percentage areas? What do you notice about how circumstances have changed—and not changed—on the Barrow plantation?



A Freedman's Work Contract

As you read this rather typical work contract defining the first economic relationship between whites and blacks in the early months of the postwar period, note the regulation of social behavior and deportment, as well as work and "pay" arrangements. How different is this from slavery? As a freedman or freedwoman, would you have signed such an agreement? Why or why not? What options did you have?

State of South Carolina Darlington District Articles of Agreement

This Agreement entered into between Mrs. Adele Allston Exect of the one part, and the Freedmen and Women of The Upper Quarters plantation of the other part Witnesseth:

That the latter agree, for the remainder of the present year, to reside upon and devote their labor to the cultivation of the Plantation of the former. And they further agree, that they will in all respects, conform to such reasonable and necessary plantation rules and regulations as Mrs. Allston's Agent may prescribe; that they will not keep any gun, pistol, or other offensive weapon, or leave the plantation without permission from their employer; that in all things connected with their duties as laborers on said plantation, they will yield prompt obedience to all orders from Mrs. Allston or his [sic] agent; that they will be orderly and quiet in their conduct, avoiding drunkenness and other gross vices; that they will not misuse any of the Plantation Tools, or Agricultural Implements, or any Animals entrusted to their care, or any Boats, Flats, Carts or Wagons; that they will give up at the expiration of this Contract, all Tools & c., belonging to the Plantation, and in case any property, of any description belonging to the Plantation shall be willfully or through negligence destroyed or injured, the value of the Articles so destroyed, shall be deducted from the portion of the Crops which the person or persons, so offending, shall be entitled to receive under this Contract.

Any deviations from the condition of the foregoing Contract may, upon sufficient proof, be punished with dismissal from the Plantation, or in such other manner as may be determined by the Provost Court; and the person or persons so dismissed, shall forfeit the whole, or a part of his, her or their portion of the crop, as the Court may decide.

In consideration of the foregoing Services duly performed, Mrs. Allston agrees, after deducting Seventy five bushels of Corn for each work Animal, exclusively used in cultivating the Crops for the present year; to turn over to the said Freedmen and Women, one half of the remaining Corn, Peas, Potatoes, made this season. He [sic] further agrees to furnish the usual rations until the Contract is performed.

All Cotton Seed Produced on the Plantation is to be reserved for the use of the Plantation. The Freedmen, Women and Children are to be treated in a manner consistent with their freedom. Necessary medical attention will be furnished as heretofore.

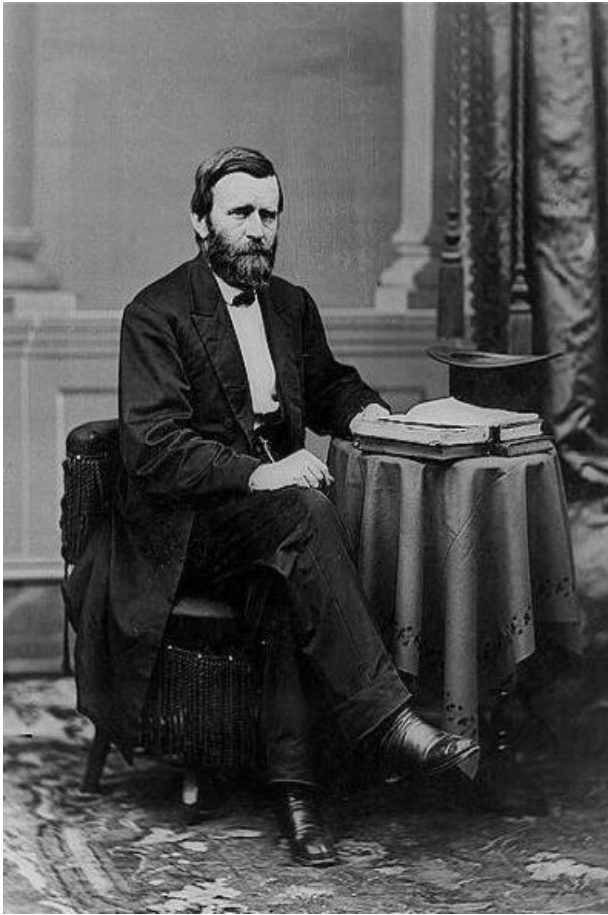
Any deviation from the conditions of this Contract upon the part of the said Mrs. Allston or her Agent or Agents shall be punished in such manner as may be determined by a Provost Court, or a Military Commission. This agreement to continue till the first day of January 1866.

Witness our hand at The Upper Quarters this 28th day of July 1865.

Failures and Improvements

- Failures
 - Falling cotton prices
 - Payment of Confederate war debts → bank failures
 - Available credit
- Improvements
 - Diversification:
 - Rising wages

Section 3: The Collapse of Reconstruction



The Ku Klux Klan

- Roots
 - Tennessee 1866
 - Social Club for Confederate veterans
- Restoring white supremacy
 - Prevent African Americans from making economic progress
 - Use of violent tactics
 - Target:
 - Undermine Reconstruction governments:



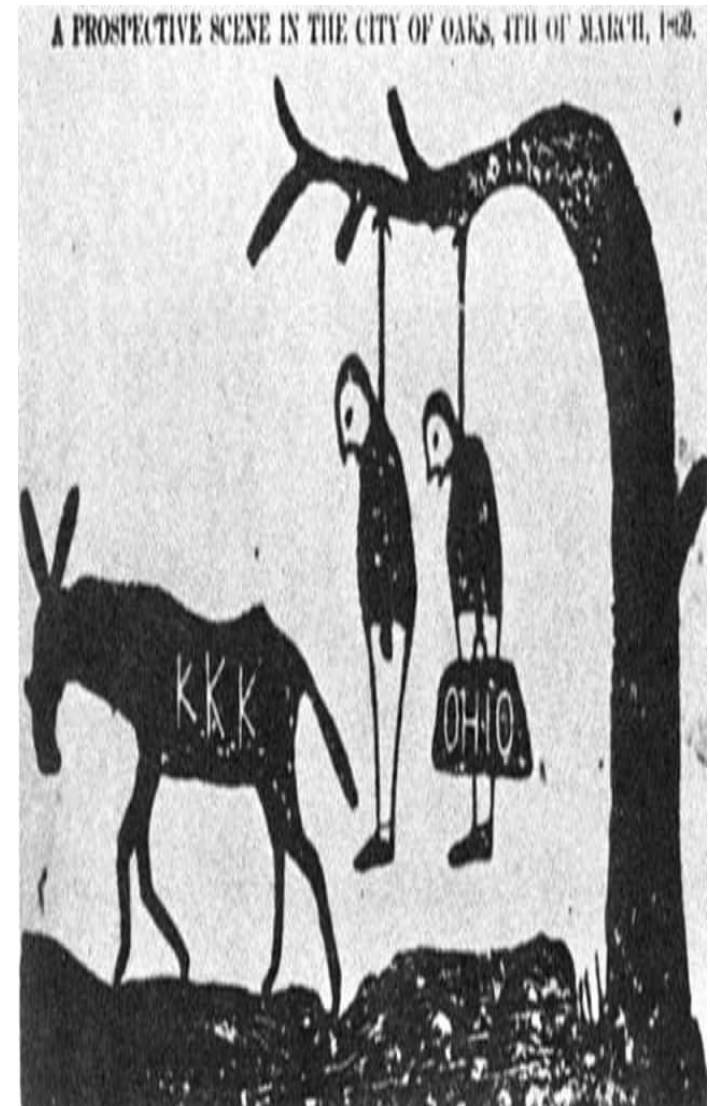
Photo, page 467
America: A Concise History, Third Edition
© 2006 Bedford/St. Martin's



Photo, page 452
America: A Concise History, Third Edition
© 2006 Bedford/St. Martin's

Battle for Reconstruction

- Congress fights back
 - Enforcement Acts of 1870 and 1871
 - Grant = too passive
 - Supreme Court overturns 1871 Act in 1882
- White supremacy restored
 - Despite ↓ in activity:
 - Freedmen's Bureau:
 - Amnesty Act of 1872:



Grant Administration Scandals

- Roots of Problem
 - Lack of political experience
 - Political:
- Credit Mobilier – 1872
 - Construction Co. working on:



The Sun.
NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1872.

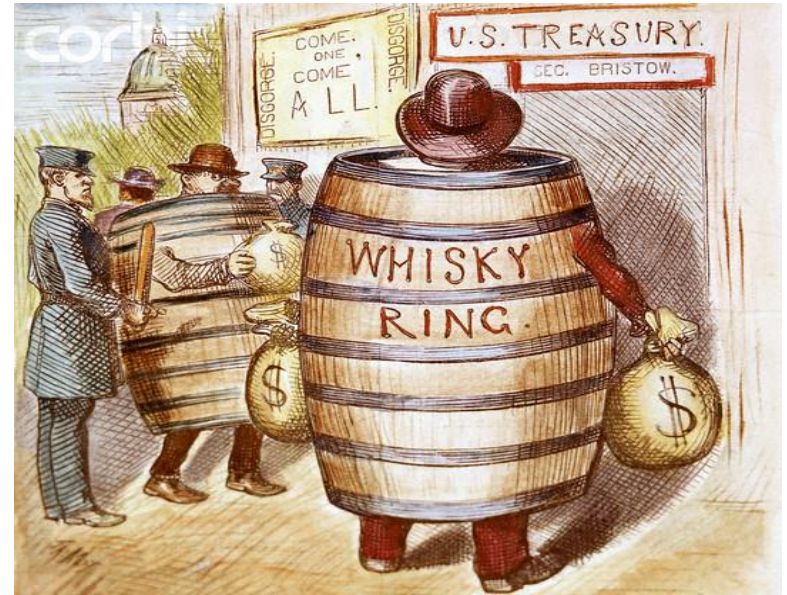
THE KING OF FRAUDS.
How the Credit Mobilier Bought its Way Through Congress.

COLOSSAL BRIBERY.
Congressmen who Have Robbed the People, and who now Support the National Robber.

HOW SOME MEN GET FORTUNES.
Princely Gifts to the Chairmen of Committees in Congress.

Grant Administration Scandals

- Election of 1872
 - Grant wins over Greeley despite scandals
 - Reflected:
- Whiskey Ring – 1875
 - IRS collectors & others:
 - Cost govt. \$\$\$
- Other notable scandals
 - Sec. of War - Indian territory trading
 - Sec. of Navy – Ship building bribes
 - Sec of Interior – Land speculators



Panic of 1873

- Postwar Speculation
 - Investors borrow and build in North and South
 - ↑ investor debt
- Bank Crisis
 - Cooke's RR investments go bad → his banking firm (nation's largest dealer in govt. securities) went bankrupt
 - Panic sets in:
 - 5-year:



Currency Issues

- Roots of problem
 - Economic depression
 - Civil War – ? of withdrawal of govt. issued greenbacks
 - Opposed by Southern and Western farmers
- Specie Resumption Act – 1875:



The Gold Standard

- Monetary system in which the standard economic unit of account is based on a fixed quantity of gold.
- In 1792, Congress passed the Mint and Coinage Act. It authorized the Federal Government's use of the "Bank of the United States" to hold its reserves, as well as establish a fixed ratio of gold to the U.S. dollar
- Due to the inflationary finance measures undertaken to help pay for the US Civil War, the government found it difficult to pay its obligations in gold or silver and suspended payments of obligations not legally specified in specie
- On June 5, 1933, the United States went off the gold standard, a monetary system in which currency is backed by gold, when Congress enacted a joint resolution nullifying the right of creditors to demand payment in gold. The United States had been on a gold standard since 1879, except for an embargo on gold exports during World War I, but bank failures during the Great Depression of the 1930s frightened the public into hoarding gold, making the policy untenable

Reconstruction Falters

- Supreme Court
 - *Slaughterhouse cases* – 1873: Basic civil rights protected by states, not 14th Amendment
 - *U.S. v. Cruikshank* – 1876: 14th Amendment did not give federal govt. power to punish whites who oppressed blacks.
 - *U.S. v. Reese* – 1876: Interpreted 15th Amendment as setting criteria for denying suffrage



Reconstruction Falters

- Failing Northern Support
 - Shifting:
 - Republican political leaders Sumner, Stevens = dead
 - Give up on imposing moral and social change



End of Reconstruction

- Home Rule for South
 - Democrats:
 - Wiped:
- Failures
 - Extended:
 - Land redistribution
 - Underestimated determination of :
- Achievements
 - 13th 14th & 15th Amendments
 - ↓ in African American illiteracy
 - Laid foundations for later fights for civil rights