

**RECONSTRUCTION,
CHAPTER 17
NOTES-PART 1**

Civil War Aftermath

- ◎ Over 600,000 soldiers died
 - 360,000 Union
 - 260,000 Confederate
- ◎ “United States” was now understood as a singular rather than a plural noun

South was Devastated

- ⦿ Agricultural land was destroyed
- ⦿ Towns and cities were in ruins
 - Richmond
 - Atlanta
- ⦿ All the money invested into slaves and cotton was gone
- ⦿ Emancipation was difficult for the planter elite to handle

Lincoln's Plan

- ◎ Lincoln based his program on bringing the seceded states back into the Union as quickly as possible
 - Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction in December of 1863 offered “full pardon” and the restoration of property (not slaves) to white Southerners willing to swear an oath of allegiance to the United States
 - Prominent Confederate leaders were excluded, but Lincoln indicated he would pardon them

Lincoln's Plan continued:

- TEN PERCENT PLAN
- When the number of voters in the South who took the offer reached 10 percent of those who had voted in the election of 1860, the group could establish a legitimate state government
- No slavery would be allowed

Wade-Davis bill

- ⦿ Required 50 percent of a seceding state's white male citizens to take a loyalty oath before elections could be held for a convention to rewrite the state's constitution
- ⦿ Sponsored by Senator Benjamin Wade of Ohio and Congressman Henry Davis of Maryland (Both Radical Republicans)
- ⦿ Radicals viewed Reconstruction as part of the larger effort to win the war and abolish slavery
- ⦿ Lincoln pocket-vetoed it—refused to sign it within 10 days of the adjournment of Congress

Ad-Hoc Land Redistribution

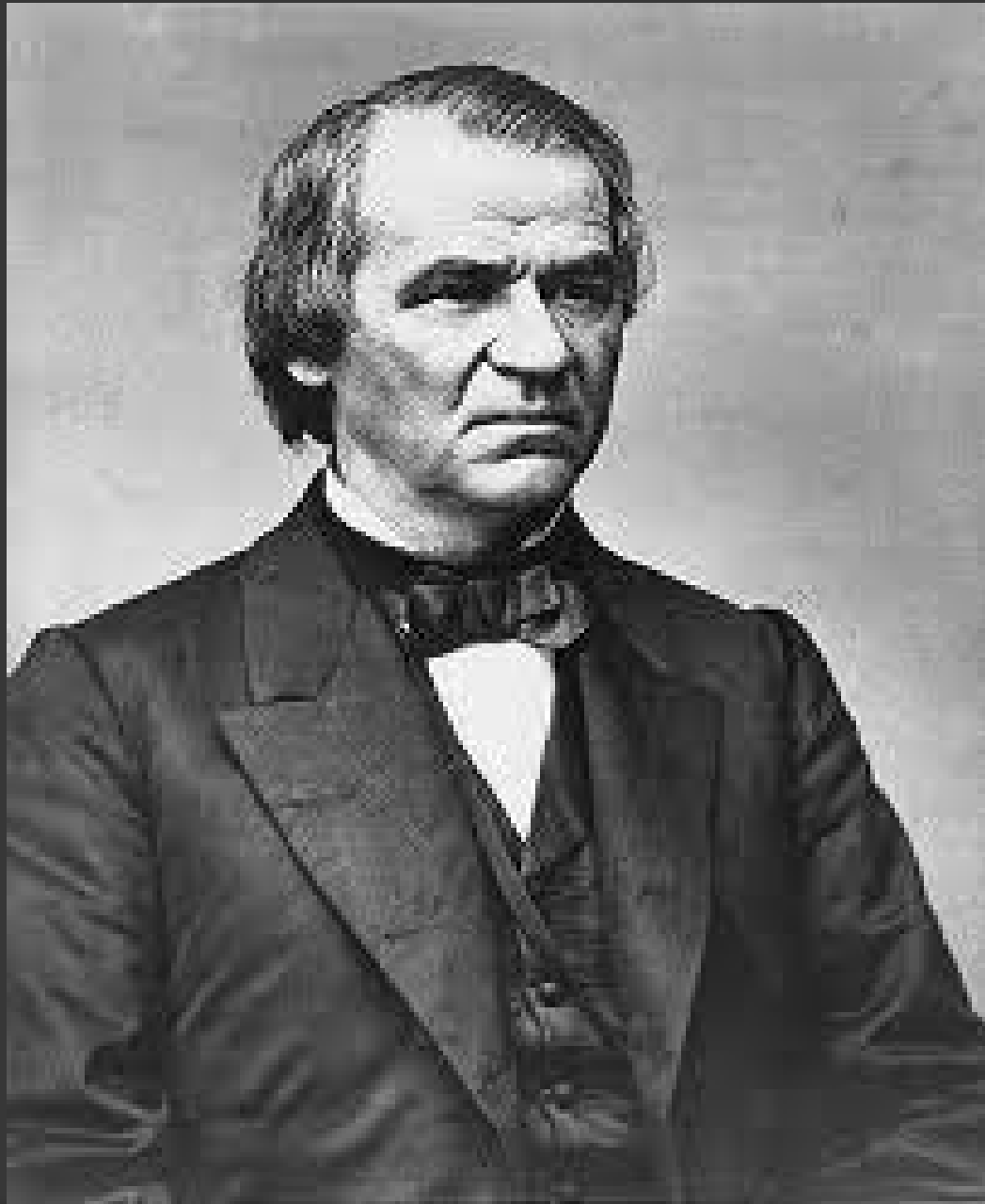
- Generals handled the issue of land redistribution during the Civil War
- General Sherman's Special Field Order 15 set aside the Sea Islands off the Georgia coast and part of the South Carolina low-country for settlement of freed people
 - Each family would get 40 acres of land and a mule
 - Sherman just wanted to get rid of the former slaves following his army around

Freedmen's Bureau

- Established in March of 1865, the Freedmen's Bureau provided food, clothing and fuel to former slaves
- Forty acres of abandoned land could be leased to freed slaves or white Unionists
- Lincoln seemed to have favored a speedy restoration of the Union and a minimum of federal intervention

Andrew Johnson

- Johnson entered the presidency after Lincoln's assassination
- Johnson was a Democrat and former slave owner from Tennessee.
- He was a tailor by trade and was educated by his wife
- He had championed the rights of the yeoman farmers and viewed plantation owners with contempt



Why was Johnson Vice President?

- Johnson was the only southern member of the U.S. Senate to remain loyal to the Union
- Johnson was the military governor of Tennessee in 1862 and was successful at cultivating Unionist support
- He was nominated as the VP candidate in 1864 to get support from northern and border state “War Democrats”

- ⦿ Johnson appealed initially to Radical Republicans who wanted to punish the South
- ⦿ Johnson however, thought that reconstruction policy was for the executive branch to determine, not Congress
- ⦿ Johnson outlined mild terms for reentry to the Union because he blamed the Southern aristocracy (not the states)

Johnson's Plan

- 1865: Johnson granted amnesty and pardon to all Confederates who pledged loyalty to the Union and support for emancipation
- Johnson's plan was put into place when Congress was not in session
- Congress was not happy

Radical Republicans

- ◎ Radical vision for the South:
 - Elimination of large estates, wasteful agriculture, contempt for honest labor, and pampered oligarchy
 - Republicans would develop small farms, free schools, manufacturing, respect for honest labor, and political equality