

CONTENT BLOCK

Reconstruction

# **5 Essential Questions about Reconstruction**

1. How is the South going to be rebuilt?
2. What is going to happen to free blacks?
3. How are Southern states going to be re-integrated into the Union?
4. Who is in charge of the process?
5. Should the South and/or its leaders be punished?

# Lincoln's 10% Plan 1863

- **Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction--1863**
- ***Lenient*** Reconstruction
- believed handful of individuals led secession – not entire **state**
- pardon all confederates EXCEPT – high ranking confederate officials and those accused of war crimes.
- individuals swear allegiance to the Union
- promise to obey all laws
- when **10%** of those who voted in 1860 took the allegiance then the state could apply for statehood.
- Lincoln's "with malice toward none, with **Charity** for all."
- **Louisiana**, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Virginia applied for statehood
- ANGERED ***Radical Republicans*** who wanted more intense punishment.

# Wade – Davis Bill

## (Radical Reconstruction 1864)

- Led by Charles Sumner (Senator MA) and Thaddeus Stevens (Congressman PA)
- Radicals believe south gave up their rights & must come back as conquered territory
- Wanted African Americans to be given full citizenship and right to vote
- Congress was in charge of reconstruction – not the president.
- For states to be readmitted, a majority of citizens must state allegiance to the Union 50%
- Take a solemn oath to support the union.
- Lincoln used pocket veto to kill bill
- Radicals were infuriated that the President have overstepped his bounds.
- Refuse to give seats to LA delegates even though state followed 10% plan

# Freedman's Bureau

## (1865 meant to help former slaves)

- Thaddeus Stevens Radical Republican angry for two reasons.
  - Southern life had not changed
  - Southerners now had a larger representation in the House of Representatives.
- Punish the South but also help the unfortunate
- Set up programs to give handouts to needy
- Several generals had promised African Americans who fought **"40 Acres & Mule"** Sherman
- Gave food and clothing
- Set up 40 hospitals, **4100** primary schools, 61 industrial industries, and 74 teacher training schools.
- **President Johnson tries to veto, congress overrides but bill allowed to expire in 1872**

# Johnson's Plan 1865

## (Presidential Reconstruction)

- Johnson – Democrat – becomes president upon Lincoln's assassination
- Johnson's dislikes planter aristocrats and is strong unionist from Tennessee
- Republicans thought Johnson would follow their plan. His plan instead followed Lincoln's lenient plan.
- Listed states that could be readmitted: AL, MS, FL, GA, NC, SC
- States must declare secession void and swear allegiance to the Union
- States must ratify 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment and repudiate all Confederate debts
- Plan did not allow plantation owners and confederate leaders to vote.
- Disenfranchises Confederates with \$20,000+ assets, but they could petition for pardon
- He did pardon 13,500 confederate leaders (Johnson's ego)
- Many states quickly rejoined the Union and did not follow Johnson's plan.
- Congress in 1865 was going to be dominated by old line Southerners b/c slaves now count 5/5, south could gain 12 seats!
- Angered Republicans because it said nothing about slaves and did not punish the OLD SOUTH.

# Black Codes 1865

## Laws that restrict African Americans

- **BLACK CODES 1865** (laws that restrict African Americans)
- Southern laws to restrict blacks and poor whites
- Prohibited blacks from carrying weapons, serving on juries, testifying against whites, marrying, whites, starting their own businesses, and traveling without permits.
- Could be punished for idleness and forced to work
- “Labor contracts” – blacks work for 1 year for tiny wage
- “Negro Catchers” enforce contracts and levy fines that are paid off by labor
- American Americans could not purchase land
- Codes reinforced the idea that the South had not changed.
- MS is 1<sup>st</sup> state to pass & they are harshest

# 13<sup>th</sup> amendment 1865

- What does it do?
- Here's what it says: ***Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.***
- So, *can* slavery exist?



# Civil Rights Act of 1866

- Gave African Americans ***citizenship*** and equal rights
- Forbade states from passing ***Black Codes***
- Voted to continue and enlarge the ***Freedman's Bureau***
- -Johnson ***vetos*** both suggestions

# 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment 1866

- All persons born or naturalized in the US would be considered **Citizen**
- **Equal** protection of the law
- No **person/state** could deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process
- Barred most **confederate** political leaders from holding state and federal office
- Johnson told southern states not to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment (**10 of 11 don't, TN does**)
- Ratified in **1868**

# 1866 Congressional Elections

- Johnson needed to keep **Democrats & moderate Republicans** on his side
- Went on a **Whistle Stop** campaign
- His plan **fails** because of his harsh language, heavy drinking and short temper
- Ulysses S. Grant got a huge welcome and Johnson was booed
- His **Whistle Stop** campaign helped the opposition get elected and he lost control of Congress
- Congress could now control reconstruction and **override** any veto

# Reconstruction Act 1867

- **Military Reconstruction Act**
- Radicals and Moderates joined in passing the Reconstruction Act of 1867
- Did not recognize any Southern statehood except **TN (b/c they ratified the 14<sup>th</sup>)**
- Divided the South into **5 districts** controlled by a Civil War General (**Union, & 20K Union soldier patrol districts**)
- Each state would hold state conventions to rewrite state constitutions.
- Newly freed African Americans and individuals who were not involved in leadership in the war could take part.
- African American men gained the **vote** (**written into state constitutions**) and approve the **state constitutions**
- JOHNSON VETOES the Act and Congress **overrides**
- **15<sup>th</sup> assures Republicans that states won't just amend suffrage in their constitutions after re-admission**

# Johnson's Impeachment 1867

- Radicals wanted Johnson's office
- Passed Tenure of Office Act – President couldn't fire his appointees approved by the Senate without their **consent**
- Johnson purposely fired Sec of War Edwin Stanton- an ally of the radicals. **(Stanton spies on Johnson for radicals)**
- The House created 11 charges of impeachment – 9 involving his violation of the Tenure of Office Act.
- Trial lasted 11 weeks and he won by **1 vote (acquitted)**
- Vote 126 to 47 in House
- 35 to 19 in Senate—lacked necessary 2/3 majority by **1** vote.

# Et Al...

- **Scalawags**: a nickname for southern whites who supported Reconstruction following the Civil War. Some were former Unionists.
- **Carpetbaggers**: negative term Southerners gave to Northerners who moved to the South during the Reconstruction era
- **KKK**: founded in 1865 in Pulaski, Tennessee by veterans of the Confederate Army
- **Alaska Purchase**: Johnson's only success, 1867 from Russia, negotiated by Sec of State Seward