

Rebuilding the Union

Before You Read

In the last chapter, you read about how the North won the nation’s long and bloody civil war.

In this section, you will learn about the effort to rebuild the Union—and the conflict it caused between the president and Congress.

As You Read

Use this diagram to take notes on the different plans for Reconstruction.

Person(s)	Reconstruction Plan
Lincoln	
Johnson	
Radical Republicans	

TERMS & NAMES

Reconstruction The process of readmitting Confederate states to the Union

Freedmen’s Bureau Organization that helped former slaves

Andrew Johnson 17th president

black codes Laws limiting freedom of former slaves

Radical Republicans Congressmen who wanted the federal government to change Southern society

civil rights Rights granted to all citizens

Fourteenth Amendment

Amendment providing equal rights for all U.S. citizens

Reconstruction Begins (pages 533–534)

What was Reconstruction?

Reconstruction was the process of bringing the Confederate states back into the Union after the Civil War. It lasted from 1865 to 1877.

President Lincoln’s Reconstruction plan included pardoning Confederate officials. He wanted Southern states to quickly form new governments and send representatives to Congress.

To help former slaves, Lincoln set up the **Freedmen’s Bureau**. The Bureau set up schools and hospitals for African Americans. It also gave out clothes, food, and fuel.

Lincoln was killed in 1865. Vice-President **Andrew Johnson** became president. Johnson based his Reconstruction plan on Lincoln’s goals. Southern state governments had to forbid slavery. They had to accept the *supreme* power of the federal government. Johnson pardoned white Southerners who pledged loyalty.

1. What did President Johnson require of the Confederate states?

Rebuilding Brings Conflict (pages 534–535)

Who were the Radical Republicans?

The new state governments in the South seemed very much like the old ones. Some states refused to *ratify* the Thirteenth Amendment. This amendment had ended slavery. Southern states also passed **black codes**. These laws limited the freedom of former slaves.

When Congress met late in 1865, its members would not seat representatives from the South. Instead, Congress set up a committee to study conditions in the South.

There were more Republicans than Democrats in Congress. Most Republicans believed that the federal government should stay out of affairs of the states. The **Radical Republicans** did not agree. They wanted the federal government to be active in changing Southern politics and society. They demanded full and equal citizenship for freed African Americans. Their goal was to turn the South into a place of small farms, free schools, respect for labor, and political equality.

2. What did Radical Republicans want?

The Civil Rights Act; The Fourteenth Amendment (pages 535–536)

What did the Fourteenth Amendment state?

Urged by the Radical Republicans, Congress passed a bill promoting **civil rights**. These are rights granted to all citizens. The Civil Rights Act of 1865 declared that all persons born in the United States were citizens. The act also stated that all citizens were entitled to equal rights regardless of their race.

President Johnson rejected, or *vetoed*, the bill. He argued that making African Americans full citizens would “operate against the white race.” Congress voted to override the president’s veto. This meant that two-thirds of the House and two-thirds of the Senate voted for the bill after the president’s veto. As a result, the bill became law.

Republicans were not satisfied with passing laws that *ensured* equal rights. They wanted the Constitution to protect equality. As a result, Congress proposed the **Fourteenth Amendment**. It stated that all people born in the United States were citizens and had the same rights. President Johnson refused to support the amendment. So did most Southern states. This made both moderate and Radical Republicans angry.

Together, the two groups passed the Reconstruction Acts of 1867. This began the period known as Radical Reconstruction. One of the acts divided the South into five districts under Army rule. The act also set two requirements for a state to reenter the Union. First, it had to grant African-American males the right to vote. Second, it had to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment.

3. What did Southern states have to do before they could reenter the Union?

The New Southern Governments (page 536)

Who wrote the new state constitutions?

In 1867, Southern voters chose delegates to draft their new state constitutions. About three-fourths of the delegates were Republicans. Almost half of the Republicans were poor white farmers. These

delegates were called scalawags (scoundrels) for going along with Radical Reconstruction.

One-fourth of the Republican delegates were carpetbaggers. These were white Northerners who had rushed to the South after the war. African Americans made up the rest of the Republican delegates.

The new state constitutions set up public schools. They gave the vote to all adult males, including African Americans. By 1869, voters in each former Confederate state had approved their new constitutions. As a result, the states came back into the Union. They could again send representatives to Congress.

During Reconstruction, more than 600 African Americans served in Southern state legislatures. More than a dozen also served in Congress.

4. To what three groups did the Republican delegates belong?

Johnson Is Impeached (page 537)

Why was Johnson impeached?

President Johnson fought many of Congress’s efforts during Radical Reconstruction. The conflict between Johnson and Congress soon brought a showdown.

In 1867, Congress passed the Tenure of Office Act. This act said that the president could not fire Cabinet members without the Senate’s approval. Johnson did not support the law. In February 1868, he fired his secretary of war. Because of this, the House of Representatives voted to impeach the president. This means that the House formally accused him of improper behavior.

The lawmakers charged Johnson with disobeying the Tenure of Office Act. But most saw Johnson’s real crime as blocking their Reconstruction plans. The case went to the Senate for trial. President Johnson was *acquitted*, or cleared, by one vote.

5. What did Congress see as Johnson’s “real” crime?

Reconstruction and Daily Life

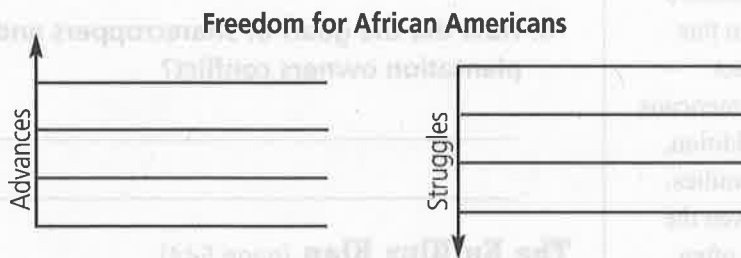
Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the conflict that arose between the president and Congress over Reconstruction.

In this section, you will learn how Southerners—in particular, freed African Americans—worked to improve their lives.

As You Read

Use this diagram to take notes on the advances and struggles African Americans experienced with their newfound freedom.



Responding to Freedom; Starting Schools (pages 540–541)

Why did freed slaves travel?

African Americans' first reaction to freedom was to leave plantations. Some former slaves returned to where they had been born. Others traveled in search of family members separated from them during slavery. The Freedmen's Bureau helped many families to reunite.

No longer slaves, African Americans could work for themselves. However, first they had to learn to read and write. Throughout the South, African-American children and adults flocked to **freedmen's schools**. These schools were set up by the Freedmen's Bureau, Northern missionary groups, and African-American organizations.

More than 150,000 African-American students were attending 3,000 schools by 1869. Southern and Northern teachers, both white and black, taught in the schools. However, many white Southerners worked against these teachers' efforts. White racists even killed teachers and burned schools in some parts of the South.

TERMS & NAMES

freedmen's school A school set up to educate former slaves

sharecropping System in which a landowner provided land to a farmer in return for a share of the crop

Ku Klux Klan Group that sought to keep former slaves powerless

lynch To punish a person by killing him or her without a trial

1. Why did former slaves want an education?

40 Acres and a Mule (page 542)

Why did freedmen want land?

More than anything else, freed people hoped to own land. They saw land as a key to economic freedom. As the Civil War ended, a rumor spread that all freedmen would get 40 acres and a mule. In the end, most freedmen never got land.

Radical Republican leaders pushed to make land reform part of the Reconstruction Acts of 1867. Their plan called for taking land from plantation owners and giving it to freed people.

However, many in Congress were against the plan. They believed that new civil rights and voting freedoms were enough to give African Americans a better life. Supporters of the plan disagreed. They argued that civil rights meant little without economic independence. They added that owning land could give freedmen that independence. In the end, Congress did not pass the land-reform plan.

2. Why did many in Congress oppose the land reform plan?

The Contract System (pages 542–543)

What was the contract system?

Without their own land, many freedmen had to return to work on the plantations. They returned not as slaves, but as wage earners. This meant that plantation owners had to pay them for their work.

After the Civil War, planters desperately needed workers to raise cotton. Cotton was still the South's main cash crop. African Americans reacted to this demand for labor by choosing the best contract offers. Under the contract system, African Americans could decide which planter to work for. In addition, planters could not abuse freedmen or split families.

The contract system had its drawbacks. Even the best contracts paid very low wages. Workers often could not leave the plantation without permission. Many owners cheated workers out of wages and other benefits. Furthermore, laws punished workers for breaking their contracts. This was true even if owners were abusing or cheating workers.

3. What were the drawbacks of the contract system?

Sharecropping and Debt (pages 543–544)

What was sharecropping?

The drawbacks of the contract system made many African Americans turn to **sharecropping**. Under the sharecropping system, a worker rented a plot of land to farm. The landowner provided the tools, seed, and housing. At harvest time, the sharecropper gave the landowner a share of the crop. This system gave families without land a place to farm. In return, landowners got cheap labor.

Problems soon arose with the sharecropping system. One reason was that farmers and landowners

had opposite goals. Farmers wanted to grow food to feed their families. But landowners forced them to grow cash crops, such as cotton. This meant that farmers had to buy their food. Most farmers were too poor to pay for goods. As a result, they had to borrow money and thus were always in *debt*.

African Americans were not the only ones who became sharecroppers. Many white farmers also began sharecropping. Some had lost their land in the war. Others had lost it to taxes.

After the war, the value of cotton dropped. Southern planters responded by trying to grow even more of the cash crop. As a result, the price of cotton dropped even further.

4. How did the goals of sharecroppers and plantation owners conflict?

The Ku Klux Klan (page 544)

What was the Ku Klux Klan?

During Reconstruction, African Americans in the South faced violent racism. Many planters and former Confederate soldiers did not want African Americans to have more rights. Such feelings spurred the rise in 1866 of the **Ku Klux Klan**. The members of this secret society wanted to restore Democratic control of the South. They also wanted to keep former slaves powerless.

Klansmen dressed in white robes and hoods. They attacked African Americans and other Republicans. They beat people and burned homes. They even hanged some victims without a trial. This was known as **lynching**. Klan victims had little protection. Military authorities were sympathetic to white Southerners. They often ignored the Klan violence.

The Klan's terror tactics kept Republicans away from the polls. As a result, Democrats increased their power in the South.

5. What were the goals of the Ku Klux Klan?

End of Reconstruction

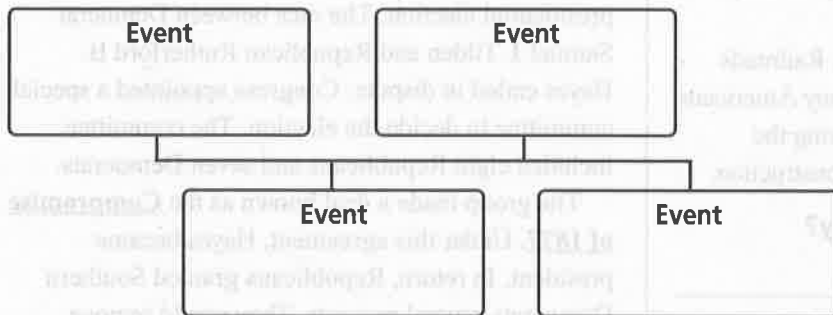
Before You Read

In the last section, you read how African Americans in the South coped with their newfound freedom.

In this section, you will learn about how Southern Democrats regained power and Reconstruction ended.

As You Read

Use this diagram to take notes on the events contributing to the end of Reconstruction.



TERMS & NAMES

Fifteenth Amendment Gave African Americans full voting rights

Panic of 1873 Financial panic caused by failure of several powerful banks

Compromise of 1877 Deal between Republicans and Democrats that allowed Rutherford Hayes to become president

The Election of Grant; The Fifteenth Amendment (pages 545–546)

What was African Americans' role in Grant's election?

Republican candidate Ulysses S. Grant won the presidency in 1868. Grant got 214 electoral votes. His Democratic opponent received only 80. The popular count was much closer. Grant received a majority of only 306,000 votes.

This slim majority highlighted freedmen's role in the Republican victory. About 500,000 African Americans voted in the South. They did so despite attacks by the Ku Klux Klan. Most voted for Grant.

African Americans played an important role in the 1868 presidential election. As a result, Radical Republicans worried that Southern states might try to keep African Americans from voting in future elections. To prevent this, Radical leaders proposed the **Fifteenth Amendment**. This amendment stated that citizens could not be stopped from voting "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." The amendment became law in 1870.

1. What did the Fifteenth Amendment state?

Grant Fights the Klan

(page 546)

How did Grant battle the Klan?

During President Grant's first year in office, Ku Klux Klan violence continued. As a result, Grant asked Congress to pass a tough law against the Klan. Congress approved the anti-Klan bill. Federal marshals then arrested thousands of Klansmen.

Klan violence against African Americans declined. As a result, the 1872 presidential election was both fair and peaceful in the South. Grant won the election and served a second term.

2. What was the result of the anti-Klan bill?

Scandal and Panic Weaken Republicans

(page 547)

What was the Panic of 1873?

Scandals hurt the Grant administration. They also weakened support for Reconstruction. Many of Grant's advisers were unqualified. Others took bribes. In 1872, some outraged Republican officials formed a new group, the Liberal Republican Party. The Republicans suddenly were split. As a result, they were less willing to *impose* tough Reconstruction plans on the South.

In 1873, an economic depression struck the nation. The depression began when several powerful Eastern banks failed. A financial panic, known as the **Panic of 1873**, followed. Banks across the land closed. The stock market temporarily collapsed.

The depression lasted about five years. Railroads failed, and many farmers were ruined. Many Americans blamed the Republicans for the crisis. During the depression, the nation lost interest in Reconstruction.

3. What hurt the Republican Party?

Supreme Court Reversals (page 548)

How did the Supreme Court affect Reconstruction?

The Supreme Court also hurt the Republicans' Reconstruction efforts. In an 1876 case, *U.S. v. Cruikshank*, the Court ruled that the federal government could not punish individuals who *violated* the civil rights of African Americans. Only the states had that power, the Court ruled. Southern state officials rarely punished attackers. As a result, violence against African Americans increased.

In another 1876 case, *U.S. v. Reese*, the Court weakened the Fifteenth Amendment. This amendment sought to ensure the right to vote for African Americans. The Court ruled that the amendment merely listed grounds on which states could not deny the vote. As a result, states could

prevent African Americans from voting for other reasons.

4. In what ways did the Supreme Court weaken Reconstruction?

Reconstruction Ends; Legacy of Reconstruction (pages 548–549)

What was the Compromise of 1877?

The final blow to Reconstruction came with the 1876 presidential election. The race between Democrat Samuel J. Tilden and Republican Rutherford B. Hayes ended in dispute. Congress appointed a special committee to decide the election. The committee included eight Republicans and seven Democrats.

The group made a deal known as the **Compromise of 1877**. Under this agreement, Hayes became president. In return, Republicans granted Southern Democrats several requests. They would remove federal troops from the South and provide federal funds for construction and improvement projects. After the removal of troops, Reconstruction governments in the South collapsed.

African Americans made lasting gains during Reconstruction. Protection of civil rights became part of the U.S. Constitution. Black schools and churches begun during Reconstruction *endured*.

But many African Americans still lived in poverty. Legally, they could vote and hold public office. But few took part in politics. Furthermore, African Americans continued to face widespread violence and prejudice.

5. How was the legacy of Reconstruction a mixed one for African Americans?

Glossary/After You Read**acquit** To clear of a charge**debt** A state of owing money or goods**endure** To carry on despite hardship**ensure** To make certain or guarantee**impose** To force or set requirements**ratify** To approve or make valid**supreme** Highest**veto** To reject**violate** To break a law or refuse to honor**Terms & Names****A.** Fill in the blanks with the letter of the term that best completes the sentence.

- black codes
- Reconstruction
- Fourteenth Amendment
- Fifteenth Amendment
- Compromise of 1877

1. Republicans and Democrats reached an agreement known as the _____, which gave Rutherford Hayes the presidency.

2. The _____ stated that all people born in the United States were citizens.

3. _____ was the process of bringing Confederate states back into the Union.

4. To ensure full voting rights for African Americans, Congress passed the _____.

5. While African Americans were no longer enslaved, _____ greatly limited their freedom.

B. Write the letter of the best description or definition of the word.

- The Freedmen's Bureau was
 - a group that terrorized African Americans.
 - a new political party.
 - a government organization that helped former slaves.
 - a branch of the Democratic Party.
- Radical Republicans were
 - congressmen who wanted to change the South.
 - a group that terrorized African Americans.
 - ex-Confederate soldiers.
 - supporters of President Andrew Johnson.
- Lynching is
 - a form of farming.
 - the act of charging a president with wrongdoing.
 - the act of killing someone without a trial.
 - a type of land reform.

- 4. The Panic of 1873
 - a. was caused by African American riots.
 - b. was caused by bank failures.
 - c. led to the destruction of cities.
 - d. led to years of economic boom.
- 5. Sharecropping is
 - a. a form of farming.
 - b. a form of education.
 - c. a form of terrorism.
 - d. a form of sharing political power.

Main Ideas

1. What were some activities of the Freedmen's Bureau?

2. What did the Reconstruction Acts of 1867 do?

3. How did former slaves try to improve their lives after freedom?

4. Why was the Ku Klux Klan created?

5. What did Republicans and Democrats gain from the Compromise of 1877?

Thinking Critically

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1. Why were land ownership and education so important to freed African Americans?
- 2. Do you think Reconstruction was a success or a failure? Explain.