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Chapter 1 : Reconstruction era - Wikipedia

Contents. Emancipation and Reconstruction ; Presidential Reconstruction ; Radical Reconstruction ; Reconstruction Comes to an End ; The Union victory in the Civil War in may have given some 4.

Visit Website Did you know? During Reconstruction, the Republican Party in the South represented a coalition of blacks who made up the overwhelming majority of Republican voters in the region along with "carpetbaggers" and "scalawags," as white Republicans from the North and South, respectively, were known. Emancipation changed the stakes of the Civil War, ensuring that a Union victory would mean large-scale social revolution in the South. It was still very unclear, however, what form this revolution would take. Over the next several years, Lincoln considered ideas about how to welcome the devastated South back into the Union, but as the war drew to a close in early he still had no clear plan. In a speech delivered on April 11, while referring to plans for Reconstruction in Louisiana, Lincoln proposed that some blacks—“including free blacks and those who had enlisted in the military”—deserved the right to vote. He was assassinated three days later, however, and it would fall to his successor to put plans for Reconstruction in place. Apart from being required to uphold the abolition of slavery in compliance with the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, swear loyalty to the Union and pay off war debt, southern state governments were given free reign to rebuild themselves. These repressive codes enraged many in the North, including numerous members of Congress, which refused to seat congressmen and senators elected from the southern states. The first bill extended the life of the bureau, originally established as a temporary organization charged with assisting refugees and freed slaves, while the second defined all persons born in the United States as national citizens who were to enjoy equality before the law. After Johnson vetoed the bills—“causing a permanent rupture in his relationship with Congress that would culminate in his impeachment in —”the Civil Rights Act became the first major bill to become law over presidential veto. African-American participation in southern public life after would be by far the most radical development of Reconstruction, which was essentially a large-scale experiment in interracial democracy unlike that of any other society following the abolition of slavery. Blacks won election to southern state governments and even to the U. Congress during this period. Reconstruction Comes to an End After, an increasing number of southern whites turned to violence in response to the revolutionary changes of Radical Reconstruction. The Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist organizations targeted local Republican leaders, white and black, and other African Americans who challenged white authority. Though federal legislation passed during the administration of President Ulysses S. Grant in took aim at the Klan and others who attempted to interfere with black suffrage and other political rights, white supremacy gradually reasserted its hold on the South after the early s as support for Reconstruction waned. Racism was still a potent force in both South and North, and Republicans became more conservative and less egalitarian as the decade continued. In —“after an economic depression plunged much of the South into poverty—the Democratic Party won control of the House of Representatives for the first time since the Civil War. When Democrats waged a campaign of violence to take control of Mississippi in, Grant refused to send federal troops, marking the end of federal support for Reconstruction-era state governments in the South. In the contested presidential election that year, Republican candidate Rutherford B. Hayes reached a compromise with Democrats in Congress: In exchange for certification of his election, he acknowledged Democratic control of the entire South. A century later, the legacy of Reconstruction would be revived during the civil rights movement of the s, as African Americans fought for the political, economic and social equality that had long been denied them.

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Chapter 2 : Investigating US History

Reconstruction was the period directly after the end of the Civil War (). This era was a necessary time for the United States to restore the divided nation. The eleven rebel states that had been defeated leaving the government unsure whether to punish or pardon them.

Being white myself, I know that many whites are loath to admit that the scourge of racism still exists, but it does and it runs deep in our history. The more that I work on my Civil War and Gettysburg text, which now appears will morph into at least two and maybe three books when I am done, I find terribly distressing parallels to attitudes and actions of some which mirror the attitudes and actions of our ancestors, Northern and Southern following the Civil War. When the shooting stopped and the South was vanquished, many Southerners continued the war by other means and Northerners, divided after the death of Abraham Lincoln failed to achieve the most important political goal, after the restoration of the Union, that of true freedom for African Americans. Sadly, for some that war is still not over, as was evidenced in the aftermath of the Emanuel A. Massacre just two weeks ago. Likewise the burnings of six predominantly black churches across the South raises the specter of the racial violence that targeted blacks for a century after the Civil War. This is another section of my text. I do hope that it challenges you as much as writing it challenged me. It is a fatal mistake to hold that this war is over because the fighting has ceased. Defeated on the battlefield Southerners soon turned to political, psychological and violent means to reverse their losses. The new President, Andrew Johnson was probably the worst possible leader to lead the country in the aftermath of war for all practical purposes Johnson was a Democrat who believed in white supremacy, he had been brought onto the ticket for his efforts to keep Kentucky in the Union and to support Unionist elements in Tennessee. While his selection helped Lincoln in parts of the North and the Border States it was a disaster for the post-war era. He required only minor concessions from the former Confederates before allowing them to resume their political rights and retain their land. As for freedmen, he seemed to think that they needed no further protection beyond the fact of their emancipation. It was natural that we should yield to our old prejudices. Johnson vetoed the Civil Rights bill but Congress overrode his veto. The various black codes enacted throughout the South: Five Negro women were raped. Ninety homes, twelve schools and four churches were burned. In New Orleans in the summer of , another riot against blacks killed thirty-five Negroes and three whites. The Fourteenth Amendment was of particular importance for it overturned the Dred Scott decision which denied citizenship to blacks. Johnson opposed the amendment and worked against its passage by campaigning for men who would oppose it in the elections. Section one of the amendment read: No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. Grant succeeded Johnson as President in but his efforts at Reconstruction were met mostly by failure as well as a weariness on the part of many Northerners to continue to invest any more effort into it. Slowly even proponents of Reconstruction began to retreat from it and Southerners, knowing that they were winning the political battle continued their pressure. Both politically and through the use of terror to demoralize and drive from power anyone who supported it. Congressman Thaddeus Stevens, one of the most effective leaders of the Radical Republicans died in in despair that the rights of blacks were being rolled back even as legislation was passed supporting them. While Grant attempted to smash the Ku Klux Klan by military means his administration, heavily made up of economic conservative Republicans who had little interest in the rights of African Americans gave little other support to those fighting for equal rights for blacks. In the end Southern intransigence wore out the political will of Northerners to carry on, even the strongest supporters of equality. They paraded at regular intervals through African American sections of small towns in the rural black majority areas, intimidating the residents and inciting racial confrontations. During the elections of the White Liners, Red Shirts and others would be seen in threatening positions near Republican

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rallies and on Election Day swarmed the polls to keep blacks and Republicans out, even seizing ballot boxes. I shall try at once to get troops from the general government. Of course it will be a difficult thing to do. Preserve the peace by the forces in your own stateâ€œ. He negotiated a deal with Democrats which resulted in blacks being forced from the polls and the Democrats returning to power in the state. The White League in Louisiana was particularly brutal and on Easter Sunday massacred blacks in Colfax Louisiana killing at least seventy-one and possibly as many as three-hundred blacks, killing many as they tried to surrender. Hayes and all Federal troops assigned to enforce it were withdrawn. Hampton was elected as the first post-Reconstruction governor of South Carolina in and campaigned against the black codes, and during his term in office even appointed African Americans to political offices in the state and maintained a regiment of African American state militia in Charleston against strident opposition. The legislation which helped provide blacks with some measure of freedom was rolled back after Reconstruction ended. In the black codes were upheld by the Supreme Court in the case of Plessy v. The limited social equity and privileges enjoyed by blacks, not only in the South, but in the entire nation were erased by the stroke of the judicial pen. What can more certainly arouse race hate, what more certainly create and perpetuate a feeling of distrust between these races, than state enactments, which, in fact, proceed on the ground that colored citizens are so inferior and degraded that they cannot be allowed to sit in public coaches occupied by white citizens? That, as all will admit, is the real meaning of such legislation as was enacted in Louisiana. Goldfield America Aflame p. Sword and Olive Branch: Guelzo Fateful Lightning p. Norton and Company Inc. New York and London p. Zinn The Other Civil War p. Foner Forever Free p. Constitution retrieved from [https: Jordan Marching Home](https://www.jordanmarchinghome.com) p. Egnal Clash of Extremes p. Perman Illegitimacy and Insurgency in the Reconstructed South pp. Perman Illegitimacy and Insurgency in the Reconstructed South p. Longacre Gentleman and Soldier p. The History of Christianity Volume 2: Huntington Who are We? Gray Fighting Talk p.

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Chapter 3 : Reconstruction - HISTORY

Reconstruction was a failure from before the calendrierdelascience.com North had zero plans to deal with the circumstances of Emancipation. Emancipation originated as a war measure, not a policy.

Reconstruction in Practice Grant Administration; Reconstruction Ends As the Civil War retreated into history, issues other than Reconstruction began to dominate the political agenda. The Republican party slowly backed away from programs and reforms that might have improved the quality of life for African Americans and protected their rights, so recently made a part of the Constitution. A combination of Supreme Court decisions and a lack of political will brought an end to Reconstruction. The election of Grant. Grant was nominated as the Republican candidate for president in 1868. The electorate had a clear choice. The Republican platform endorsed Reconstruction, supported paying off the national debt in gold, and defended black suffrage in the South; the Democrats condemned Reconstruction as tantamount to a military dictatorship, favored soft money wanting to keep the millions of dollars in Civil War greenbacks in circulation, and hoped to win votes from whites who felt that blacks were benefiting too much from Reconstruction. Although Grant easily won the electoral vote over his relatively unknown Democratic challenger, Horatio Seymour, the popular vote was much closer than anticipated. Freedmen in the South, casting their ballots for the first time, provided Grant with the margin of victory. Foreign policy and domestic issues. After the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867, some government officials looked for other opportunities to expand beyond the continental United States. Although Congress had rejected buying the Virgin Islands, Grant looked toward the Caribbean again in 1868. His treaty to annex Santo Domingo the Dominican Republic, however, did not even have the support of his cabinet, and the Senate refused to ratify it. Corruption at local levels gained national attention at the same time. William Marcy Tweed, the political boss of New York City, and a group of associates known as the Tweed Ring purloined millions from the municipal coffers through kickbacks from city contractors and billing for work never done. Greeley, who had strongly favored full emancipation during the war, supported an immediate end to Reconstruction during his campaign. The Liberal Republicans also advocated civil service reform and an end to the granting of public land to railroads. Despite all the problems in his administration, Grant was reelected by even wider margins in the electoral and popular votes than in 1868. The panic of 1873 During his second term, Grant was still unable to curb the graft in his administration. Secretary of War William Belknap was impeached by the House, and he resigned in disgrace for taking bribes from dishonest Indian agents. A much more pressing concern though was the state of the economy. In 1873, overspeculation in railroad stocks led to a major economic panic. Much of the problem was related to the use of greenbacks for currency. He recommended and the Congress enacted legislation in providing for the redemption of greenbacks in gold. Because the Treasury needed time to build up its gold reserves, redemption did not go into effect for another four years, by which time the longest depression in American history had come to an end. The end of Reconstruction. In 1875, Congress passed the General Amnesty Act, which removed all restrictions against former Confederate officials. Congress prohibited discrimination based on race in public places and guaranteed the right of blacks to serve on juries through the Civil Rights Act of 1875. The legislation "really the last hurrah for the Radical Republicans" was not enforced, however. The election of 1876 In 1876, the Republicans looked for a presidential candidate untouched by the scandals of the Grant administration and chose Ohio governor Rutherford B. Tilden, the crusading governor of New York, who had taken on the Tweed Ring and the political bosses in his state, was the Democratic nominee. There was little difference between the two men. Both supported hard money, both promised reforms in the way government did business, and both were considered moderates on Reconstruction. The election turned out to be the most controversial in American history. Although earning three hundred thousand more popular votes than Hayes, Tilden won just electoral votes, one short of the majority needed for election. Twenty electoral votes from Florida, Louisiana, Oregon, and South Carolina were in dispute, as both sides traded charges of ballot fraud. The Constitution offered no

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guidance on how to resolve the matter. In January , Congress appointed a special commission made up of seven Republicans, seven Democrats, and one independent to investigate the contested electoral votes. In return for an end to Reconstruction, the southern Democrats would abandon Tilden. The Compromise of made Hayes president in return for a Republican pledge to remove federal troops from Louisiana and South Carolina, an action that would bring to a close the last vestige of military occupation of the South. Hayes made David Key of Tennessee postmaster general, then a cabinet post that was a rich source of patronage. With the end of Reconstruction, the Republicans effectively abandoned southern blacks. The years ahead saw segregation institutionalized and the civil rights of African Americans sharply curtailed by state law, particularly the right to vote.

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Chapter 4 : Was Reconstruction in America a failure? : history

Though, like many things in life, it did come to an end, and the resulting outcome has been labeled both a success and a failure. When Reconstruction began in , a broken America had just finished fighting the Civil War.

Hire Writer Was Reconstruction a failure? As the bloody Civil War drew to a close, the period of reconstruction began to take shape across the states. There were many questions aroused following the war regarding the physical re-building of the nation, demobilisation and most importantly what was to replace the pre-war norm of slavery? This essay will look at therefore the attempt at creating an increasingly harmonious nation with the interruption of unstoppable de facto discrimination that made reconstruction a void period. Primarily it was an opportunity for Afro-Americans to prove their capability and ability to be disciplined; this allowed them to be seen as equals, as equal as possible as the time. Learning from the military integration and following the passing of the 13th Amendment in saw the true beginning of the reconstruction period and as a result there was an increase of active participation of African-Americans in society. Elliott of South Carolina and John R. Both were speakers of their state House of Representatives and were members of the U. This shows that had the 14th amendment seen to be too radical then the importance of the Civil Rights Act had not been thoroughly enforced or accepted. Planters had no desire to further economic democracy, white or black, and no confidence that freedman could farm successfully independent of whites. Quite a profound contribution to the failure of the reconstruction period was none the less than the president at the time, Andrew Jackson. Following the assassination of Lincoln was the beginning of the end for the Reconstruction period as Jackson's interpretation of reconstruction was a reflection of his southern prejudices. Although the Civil Rights Act did eventually get passed this was with no thanks to President Johnson, who during what was meant to be the restoration period vetoed it twice meaning its eventual passing through congress was due to an overall majority vote from his cabinet. As previously mentioned, Afro-Americans were increasingly getting involved in positions and society; however this was not true to everyone and was definitely not on the increase. Cleveland County, North Carolina, counted black members of biracial Methodist churches in , ten in , and none five years later. Under President Ulysses S. This shows the executives turning a blind eye towards the violence and discrimination that prevailed throughout the reconstruction period. Not only was there negligence towards imposing protection for the emancipated slaves, but there were further restrictions implemented on their freedom such as the Black Codes; Sec. The fact the white man had control over the emancipated slave made freed life sometimes harder than the days of slavery. Additionally although the 15th amendment was passed with the intention of enabling the emancipated the privilege of the vote, it was not long followed by the restrictive Jim Crow laws which had further implication into the post-Reconstruction period and into the twentieth century. The Crow laws not only made it impossible for makes to ascertain suffrage due to the Grandfather Clause, but enabled de facto segregation. There were many empty promises directed at the liberated slaves, however liberated is not the correct term to use. The emancipated slaves saw little to no improvement in their lives, and not only were the reconstruction a failure with regards improving relations between North and South; it was a failure with repairing relations between the slave and the citizen. The fact the reconstruction period was so short and its ending reverted back to previous times renders the reconstruction period a failure. Additionally these intentions derived from a handful of just minded thinkers such as Lincoln, however there were too many, with great power who were not yet ready to accept the equality that was preached to clearly in the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th amendment. Therefore as there was such little actual change when reflected against how much legislative change at Washington makes the Reconstruction period a failure as perception, treatment and understanding of a different race did not improve. Following the civil war the South was very much damaged both physically

â€¦ Failures of Reconstruction Essay Pages: Slavery by Another Name IV. Anger resultant of Af. Some northerners wanted to punish the South for causing the Civil War.

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Chapter 5 : Grant Administration; Reconstruction Ends

PERIOD 1, US HISTORY ACC. Question: To what extent was the Reconstruction a failure? Reconstruction was the period directly after the end of the Civil War (). This era was a necessary time for the United States to restore the divided nation.

The original Northern objective in the Civil War was the preservation of the Union—a war aim with which virtually everybody in the free states agreed. As the fighting progressed, the Lincoln government Origins of Reconstruction The national debate over Reconstruction began during the Civil War. In December , less than a year after he issued the Emancipation Proclamation , Pres. To Lincoln, the plan was an attempt to weaken the Confederacy rather than a blueprint for the postwar South. It was put into operation in parts of the Union-occupied Confederacy, but none of the new governments achieved broad local support. In Congress enacted and Lincoln pocket vetoed the Wade-Davis Bill , which proposed to delay the formation of new Southern governments until a majority of voters had taken a loyalty oath. Johnson offered a pardon to all Southern whites except Confederate leaders and wealthy planters although most of these subsequently received individual pardons , restoring their political rights and all property except slaves. He also outlined how new state governments would be created. Apart from the requirement that they abolish slavery, repudiate secession, and abrogate the Confederate debt, these governments were granted a free hand in managing their affairs. Andrew Johnson, photographed by Mathew Brady. Library of Congress, Washington, D. Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania and Sen. Charles Sumner from Massachusetts called for the establishment of new Southern governments based on equality before the law and universal male suffrage. But the more numerous moderate Republicans hoped to work with Johnson while modifying his program. The first extended the life of an agency Congress had created in to oversee the transition from slavery to freedom. The second defined all persons born in the United States as national citizens, who were to enjoy equality before the law. Thaddeus Stevens, photo by Mathew Brady. Arguably the most important addition to the Constitution other than the Bill of Rights , the amendment constituted a profound change in federal-state relations. Congress decided to begin Reconstruction anew. The Reconstruction Acts of divided the South into five military districts and outlined how new governments, based on manhood suffrage without regard to race, were to be established. Thus began the period of Radical or Congressional Reconstruction, which lasted until the end of the last Southern Republican governments in Three groups made up Southern Republicanism. The second large group, scalawags , or native-born white Republicans, included some businessmen and planters, but most were nonslaveholding small farmers from the Southern up-country. Loyal to the Union during the Civil War, they saw the Republican Party as a means of keeping Confederates from regaining power in the South. In every state, African Americans formed the overwhelming majority of Southern Republican voters. From the beginning of Reconstruction, black conventions and newspapers throughout the South had called for the extension of full civil and political rights to African Americans. Composed of those who had been free before the Civil War plus slave ministers, artisans, and Civil War veterans, the black political leadership pressed for the elimination of the racial caste system and the economic uplifting of the former slaves. Bruce in the U. Senate—more than in state legislatures, and hundreds more in local offices from sheriff to justice of the peace scattered across the South. Turner of Alabama, Josiah T. Walls of Florida, and Joseph H. Delarge of South Carolina and Jefferson H. Bruce, senator from Mississippi. But the economic program spawned corruption and rising taxes, alienating increasing numbers of white voters. Meanwhile, the social and economic transformation of the South proceeded apace. To blacks, freedom meant independence from white control. Reconstruction provided the opportunity for African Americans to solidify their family ties and to create independent religious institutions, which became centres of community life that survived long after Reconstruction ended. The former slaves also demanded economic independence. But President Johnson in the summer of ordered land in federal hands to be returned to its former owners. Lacking land, most former

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slaves had little economic alternative other than resuming work on plantations owned by whites. Some worked for wages, others as sharecroppers, who divided the crop with the owner at the end of the year. Neither status offered much hope for economic mobility. For decades, most Southern blacks remained propertyless and poor. Nonetheless, the political revolution of Reconstruction spawned increasingly violent opposition from white Southerners. White supremacist organizations that committed terrorist acts, such as the Ku Klux Klan, targeted local Republican leaders for beatings or assassination. African Americans who asserted their rights in dealings with white employers, teachers, ministers, and others seeking to assist the former slaves also became targets. At Colfax, Louisiana, in 1873, scores of black militiamen were killed after surrendering to armed whites intent on seizing control of local government. Increasingly, the new Southern governments looked to Washington, D. C. for support. Depiction of the secret societies that terrorized African Americans during Reconstruction. By 1869, the Republican Party was firmly in control of all three branches of the federal government. After attempting to remove Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, in violation of the new Tenure of Office Act, Johnson had been impeached by the House of Representatives in 1868. Grant was elected president that fall see United States presidential election of 1868. Soon afterward, Congress approved the Fifteenth Amendment, prohibiting states from restricting the right to vote because of race. Then it enacted a series of Enforcement Acts authorizing national action to suppress political violence. In 1870, the administration launched a legal and military offensive that destroyed the Klan. Grant was reelected in 1872 in the most peaceful election of the period. The end of Reconstruction Nonetheless, Reconstruction soon began to wane. During the 1870s, many Republicans retreated from both the racial egalitarianism and the broad definition of federal power spawned by the Civil War. As Northern Republicans became more conservative, Reconstruction came to symbolize a misguided attempt to uplift the lower classes of society. Reflecting the shifting mood, a series of Supreme Court decisions, beginning with the Slaughterhouse Cases in 1875, severely limited the scope of Reconstruction laws and constitutional amendments. Caught in a Trap, a cartoon from c. 1875. Hayes and Democrat Samuel J. Tilden hinged on disputed returns from these states. Negotiations between Southern political leaders and representatives of Hayes produced a bargain: Hayes would recognize Democratic control of the remaining Southern states, and Democrats would not block the certification of his election by Congress see United States presidential election of 1876. Hayes was inaugurated; federal troops returned to their barracks; and as an era when the federal government accepted the responsibility for protecting the rights of the former slaves, Reconstruction came to an end. By the turn of the century, a new racial system had been put in place in the South, resting on the disenfranchisement of black voters, a rigid system of racial segregation, the relegation of African Americans to low-wage agricultural and domestic employment, and legal and extralegal violence to punish those who challenged the new order. Nonetheless, while flagrantly violated, the Reconstruction amendments remained in the Constitution, sleeping giants, as Charles Sumner called them, to be awakened by subsequent generations who sought to redeem the promise of genuine freedom for the descendants of slavery.

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Chapter 6 : The Legacy of Reconstruction | CourseNotes

Reconstruction was a failure. Reconstruction was a success. At the end of Reconstruction, former slaves the dreams inspired by emancipation or the.

Writing Assignment double-spaced typed pages. Assume you live in a southern state chose a state and create an identity for yourself and the year is Some commentators and politicians are proclaiming that the work of Reconstruction is done. The South now has a free-labor economy, the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments have given former slaves new rights, and it is time to move on, they say. You have been given the task of writing an editorial for your local newspaper assessing Reconstruction--that is, what it has accomplished or failed to accomplish for African-Americans in the southern states. Newly-freed people had hoped to be emancipated--legally, politically, economically and socially. To what extent, in your opinion, had they become so in the Reconstruction years? In your editorial, be sure to consider the following issues: What positive developments have occurred since the end of the Civil War for African-Americans in the South? Conversely, what are the shortcomings of Reconstruction policies and legislation? Consider the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution and what each of these amendments mean, both in theory legally and in practice in real life for freed African-American men and women. Why is Reconstruction coming to an end? Should it come to an end? If you conclude that Reconstruction has been to some degree a failure, think about where the problem lies. Could things have turned out differently? If so, how so? What would it have taken to make Reconstruction more successful in terms of providing a greater degree of advancement for freed people? You must use specific examples from these primary sources and be as factual and informative as possible. Do not simply take on the voice of a windy moralizer. Rather, demonstrate that you have closely examined these sources and that you understand the key issues legal, economic, political. Use evidence from the sources you have examined to make your points. Supplemental Sources Should you wish to read more about the era, or clarify some issues you are unsure about, here are some helpful and informative websites on this era that you may consult. This site is an exhibit based on the work of the well-known scholar of Reconstruction, Eric Foner. This site has a useful Visual Timeline found under "additional resources" , and here there are documents, lithographs and other visual images too. Reports on Black America contains a wide variety of articles, illustrations and political cartoons from the Reconstruction era. This site has some interesting primary sources as well as short Video Clips from the PBS series on Reconstruction on topics such as suffrage or sharecropping. Also check out The Myths of Reconstruction as discussed by historians. In addition to the audio recordings , this site contains thousands of interviews with former slaves who speak of their experiences during and after slavery and the civil war. History including Reconstruction as well as some brief overviews of the period. A Quest for Full Citizenship. This site is a museum-like exhibit that offers documents, images, maps and artifacts relating to African-American history from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. The exhibit on Reconstruction contains everything from Thomas Nast images and prints of various African-American leaders to plantation account books and church pamphlets. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. This site is devoted to the global study of Black culture-- the collection emphasizes the Americas, the Caribbean and, Sub- Saharan Africa. Nice collection of visual sources from the Reconstruction years. The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson. Nice primary and secondary source material surrounding the impeachment. University of North Carolina: Documenting the American South. Especially interesting is the "First-Person Narratives of the American South"-- a collection of diaries, autobiographies, memoirs, travel accounts, and ex-slave narratives written by Southerners. This site, a joint project sponsored by the American Social History Project with George Mason University, is an extremely useful site for exploring primary source documents in all of American History. Great set of links to all major U. Alternative Assignments Exhibition Review: Go to the website African American Odyssey: A Quest for Full Citizenship , and under "exhibit sections" click the link to "Reconstruction. Take notes on the following questions. How does this exhibit shape

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your view of the impact of emancipation and Reconstruction on newly-freed African-American people? In other words, what overall impression does this site give you about the Reconstruction years? How did the lives of newly-freed men and women change during Reconstruction era, given what you have seen on this site? In your answer, identify five examples of changes that this website has called to your attention and briefly describe the nature of the changes. What are the strengths and limitations of a virtual exhibition like this? Is there anything significant in the "story" of Reconstruction that is left out in this exhibit? If you were to add other artifacts or documents to this exhibit, what would they be, and how would they give a different feel to the exhibit? This exercise could be done 1 in the form of a BB posting, 2 as an in-class group assignment with or without a writing component, or 3 as an essay. In short, it is easy for students to criticize and catalogue the failures of Reconstruction; it is much harder to analyze the policy debates and problems that Radical Republicans faced as they attempted to bring meaningful change to the south. There are so many great primary sources relating to Reconstruction that I had to eliminate here in order to make this assignment more manageable. We agreed to emphasize the WPA narratives because they give the students such an unforgettable experience especially the audio recording of Fountain Hughes. These narratives are rather challenging to "teach" in any formal sense and instructors may find that they must provide more than the usual help in guiding students through them. With the goal of exposing students to these sources without bogging them down with too much instructor-commentary all too often, I think, we tend to give excessive amounts of instructions on these assignments, which in the end turn the students off , I have sacrificed more specific questions, notations, and background for each source. I assume that instructors will, at their discretion, fill-in some of the blanks wherever they see fit. For example, the opening warm-up exercise could be given as a take-home BB posting assignment though I find that analysis of illustrations works better when students are in groups, where they can collectively brainstorm on interpretation. Given that Reconstruction is often the first topic of the semester in the second half of a US History survey sequence, some instructors could find it problematic to give an essay assignment so soon in the semester.

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Chapter 7 : Reconstruction | Definition, Summary, & Facts | calendrierdelascience.com

Lincoln enacts soft reconstruction: Ex slaves would not have rights for twenty years until after the war ends to keep ex slaves from voting for members who would attempt to punish whites, attempting to end the circle of hate.

In recent decades most historians follow Foner in dating the Reconstruction of the south as starting in with Emancipation and the Port Royal experiment rather than Army, President Abraham Lincoln set up reconstructed governments in Tennessee , Arkansas , and Louisiana during the war. He experimented by giving land to blacks in South Carolina. By fall , the new President Andrew Johnson declared the war goals of national unity and the ending of slavery achieved and reconstruction completed. In ten states, [10] coalitions of freedmen, recent black and white arrivals from the North carpetbaggers , and white Southerners who supported Reconstruction scalawags cooperated to form Republican biracial state governments. They introduced various reconstruction programs including: Conservative opponents called the Republican regimes corrupt and instigated violence toward freedmen and whites who supported Reconstruction. Most of the violence was carried out by members of the Ku Klux Klan KKK , a secretive terrorist organization closely allied with the southern Democratic Party. Klan members attacked and intimidated blacks seeking to exercise their new civil rights, as well as Republican politicians in the south favoring those civil rights. One such politician murdered by the Klan on the eve of the presidential election was Republican Congressman James M. Widespread violence in the south led to federal intervention by President Ulysses S. Grant in , which suppressed the Klan. Nevertheless, white Democrats , calling themselves " Redeemers ", regained control of the south state by state, sometimes using fraud and violence to control state elections. A deep national economic depression following the Panic of led to major Democratic gains in the North, the collapse of many railroad schemes in the South, and a growing sense of frustration in the North. The end of Reconstruction was a staggered process, and the period of Republican control ended at different times in different states. With the Compromise of , military intervention in Southern politics ceased and Republican control collapsed in the last three state governments in the South. This was followed by a period which white Southerners labeled "Redemption", during which white-dominated state legislatures enacted Jim Crow laws and, beginning in , disenfranchised most blacks and many poor whites through a combination of constitutional amendments and electoral laws. Intense controversy erupted throughout the South over these issues. By the s, Reconstruction had officially provided freedmen with equal rights under the constitution, and blacks were voting and taking political office. Republican legislatures, coalitions of whites and blacks, established the first public school systems and numerous charitable institutions in the South. White paramilitary organizations , especially the Ku Klux Klan and also the White League and Red Shirts formed with the political aim of driving out the Republicans. They also disrupted political organizing and terrorized blacks to bar them from the polls. From to , conservative whites calling themselves " Redeemers " regained power in the Southern states. They joined the Bourbon wing of the national Democratic Party. In the s and s the terms "radical" and "conservative" had distinctive meanings. Leaders who had been Whigs were committed to economic modernization, built around railroads, factories, banks and cities. Passage of the 13th , 14th , and 15th Amendments is the constitutional legacy of Reconstruction. These Reconstruction Amendments established the rights that led to Supreme Court rulings in the midth century that struck down school segregation. A "Second Reconstruction", sparked by the Civil Rights Movement , led to civil rights laws in and that ended segregation and re-opened the polls to blacks. Material devastation of the South in [edit] Further information: Broad Street, Reconstruction played out against an economy in ruin. The Confederacy in had towns and cities with a total population of , people; of these with , people were at one point occupied by Union forces. The rate of damage in smaller towns was much lower—only 45 courthouses were burned out of a total of By , the Confederate dollar was worthless due to high inflation, and people in the South had to resort to bartering services for goods, or else use scarce Union dollars. With the emancipation of the southern slaves, the entire economy of the South had to be rebuilt.

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Having lost their enormous investment in slaves, white planters had minimal capital to pay freedmen workers to bring in crops. As a result, a system of sharecropping was developed where landowners broke up large plantations and rented small lots to the freedmen and their families. The main feature of the Southern economy changed from an elite minority of landed gentry slaveholders into a tenant farming agriculture system. Men worked as rail workers, rolling and lumber mills workers, and hotel workers. The large population of slave artisans during the antebellum period had not been translated into a large number of freemen artisans during Reconstruction. Others worked in hotels. A large number became laundresses. The dislocations had a severe negative impact on the black population, with a large amount of sickness and death. By the end of the 19th century and well into the 20th century, the South was locked into a system of poverty. How much of this failure was caused by the war and by previous reliance on agriculture remains the subject of debate among economists and historians. Take it quietly Uncle Abe and I will draw it closer than ever. A few more stitches Andy and the good old Union will be mended. During the Civil War, the Radical Republican leaders argued that slavery and the Slave Power had to be permanently destroyed. Moderates said this could be easily accomplished as soon as Confederate armies surrendered and the Southern states repealed secession and accepted the 13th Amendment – most of which happened by December Lincoln formally began Reconstruction in late with his Ten percent plan , which went into operation in several states but which Radical Republicans opposed. White reactions included outbreaks of mob violence against blacks, such as the Memphis riots of and the New Orleans riot. Radical Republicans demanded a prompt and strong federal response to protect freed-people and curb southern racism. Sumner argued that secession had destroyed statehood but the Constitution still extended its authority and its protection over individuals, as in existing U. Stevens and his followers viewed secession as having left the states in a status like new territories. The Republicans sought to prevent Southern politicians from "restoring the historic subordination of Negroes". Since slavery was abolished, the three-fifths compromise no longer applied to counting the population of blacks. After the census, the South would gain numerous additional representatives in Congress, based on the population of freedmen. Johnson rejected the Radical program of Reconstruction and instead appointed his own governors and tried to finish reconstruction by the end of The foundations of their institutions Congress decided it had the primary authority to decide how Reconstruction should proceed, because the Constitution stated the United States had to guarantee each state a republican form of government. The Radicals insisted that meant Congress decided how Reconstruction should be achieved. The issues were multiple: How should republicanism operate in the South? What was the status of the former Confederate states? What was the citizenship status of the leaders of the Confederacy? What was the citizenship and suffrage status of freedmen? They moved to impeach Johnson because of his constant attempts to thwart Radical Reconstruction measures, by using the Tenure of Office Act. Johnson was acquitted by one vote, but he lost the influence to shape Reconstruction policy. Congress temporarily suspended the ability to vote of approximately 10, to 15, former Confederate officials and senior officers, while constitutional amendments gave full citizenship to all African Americans, and suffrage to the adult men. While many slaves were illiterate, educated blacks including escaped slaves moved down from the North to aid them, and natural leaders also stepped forward. They elected white and black men to represent them in constitutional conventions. A Republican coalition of freedmen, southerners supportive of the Union derisively called scalawags by white Democrats , and northerners who had migrated to the South derisively called carpetbaggers – some of whom were returning natives, but were mostly Union veterans – organized to create constitutional conventions. They created new state constitutions to set new directions for southern states. The bill required voters to take the " ironclad oath ", swearing they had never supported the Confederacy or been one of its soldiers. Pursuing a policy of "malice toward none" announced in his second inaugural address, [37] Lincoln asked voters only to support the Union. Suffrage[edit] Monument in honor of the Grand Army of the Republic, organized after the war Congress had to consider how to restore to full status and representation within the Union those southern states that had declared their independence from the United States and had withdrawn their representation. Suffrage for

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former Confederates was one of two main concerns. A decision needed to be made whether to allow just some or all former Confederates to vote and to hold office. The moderates in Congress wanted virtually all of them to vote, but the Radicals resisted. They repeatedly imposed the ironclad oath, which would effectively have allowed no former Confederates to vote. Historian Harold Hyman says that in Congressmen "described the oath as the last bulwark against the return of ex-rebels to power, the barrier behind which Southern Unionists and Negroes protected themselves. The compromise that was reached disenfranchised many Confederate civil and military leaders. No one knows how many temporarily lost the vote, but one estimate was that it was as high as 10, to 15, out of a total white population of roughly eight million. The issue was how to receive the four million Freedmen as citizens. If they were to be fully counted as citizens, some sort of representation for apportionment of seats in Congress had to be determined. Before the war, the population of slaves had been counted as three-fifths of a corresponding number of free whites. By having four million freedmen counted as full citizens, the South would gain additional seats in Congress. If blacks were denied the vote and the right to hold office, then only whites would represent them. Many conservatives, including most white southerners, northern Democrats, and some northern Republicans, opposed black voting. Some northern states that had referenda on the subject limited the ability of their own small populations of blacks to vote. Lincoln had supported a middle position to allow some black men to vote, especially army veterans. Johnson also believed that such service should be rewarded with citizenship. Lincoln proposed giving the vote to "the very intelligent, and especially those who have fought gallantly in our ranks. Sumner preferred at first impartial requirements that would have imposed literacy restrictions on blacks and whites. He believed that he would not succeed in passing legislation to disfranchise illiterate whites who already had the vote.

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The Failure of Reconstruction Essay Sample. In , the Emancipation Proclamation gave freedom to all of the blacks. However, the road to freedom for the blacks was still going to be a long one and would not start until after the end of the Civil War.

Get Full Essay Get access to this section to get all help you need with your essay and educational issues. However, the road to freedom for the blacks was still going to be a long one and would not start until after the end of the Civil War. At the beginning, the Bureau was allotted a certain amount of money by Congress to help the blacks. The blacks had been slaves for so long that they just did not know what to do now, since they had received their freedom. At first, the goal of the Bureau was to give each black family between forty and sixty acres, some food, clothing, and an education. However the money that they had been given soon ran out and when it was taken back to President Johnson, he refused to give them more money. That gave a small number of blacks a head start on the others and that head start would be noticeable for years and years to come. Because of the illiteracy of the blacks, they had a hard time finding jobs and holding government positions. If the Bureau had been given more money, it might have been a big help to the backs, but as it was, it did not help very much and the majority of the blacks were still illiterate. Another failure of Reconstruction was that most of the blacks were kept from voting. The blacks in the south had a real hard time trying to vote. The whites just would not let them. The national government finally said that if they were not going to let the blacks vote, then some of their representation in Congress would be taken away. This made the whites change their ways and find more sly ways of preventing the blacks from voting. There were three main ways they stopped the blacks from voting. The first one was called the Grandfathers Clause. It stated that in order for one to vote, their grandfather had to have been able to vote. The next one was poll tax. Last of all, there was the literacy test. For this one, voters had to answer a question in order to vote. Last of all, the blacks were treated very unfairly. If by chance a black was elected to a government position, such as a mayor, then the KKK would focus their cruelty on that person. However, not only the KKK was so cruel to the blacks. It was very hard for the newly freed slaves to find work. For this reason, they would walk down the streets trying to find a job. While looking for a job, they would be picked up off the street and arrested for vagrancy or loitering. The punishments for such a crime were outrageous. They would be sentenced to work for a certain amount of time. Most of the time they were sent to their old owners to do labor for them. During this time, they were paid very little, if at all. It was definitely unfair for the blacks. Since blacks were so poorly educated then, they still do not hold as many high positions in government or business today. Even since the blacks have become more and more equal to whites it will probably still be many years until there is a black President of the United States. More essays like this:

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