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Chapter 1 : Reconstruction Era Essays: Examples, Topics, Titles, & Outlines

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The plan stipulated that each secessionist state had to redraft its constitution and could reenter the Union only after 10 percent of its eligible voters pledged an oath of allegiance to the United States. Under the bill, states could be readmitted to the Union only after 50 percent of voters took an oath of allegiance to the Union. Lincoln pocket-vetoed the bill, however, effectively killing it by refusing to sign it before Congress went into recess. While Congress was in recess, Johnson approved new state constitutions for secessionist states—many written by ex-Confederate officials—and declared Reconstruction complete in December. They also passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which granted newly emancipated blacks the right to sue, the right to serve on juries, and several other legal rights. Although Johnson vetoed this bill as well, Congress was able to muster enough votes to override it. The Radical Republicans also passed the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery, and the Fourteenth Amendment, which made freed slaves U. Radical Reconstruction The Congress that convened in 1867, which was far more radical than the previous one, wasted no time executing its own plan for the Radical Reconstruction of the South. The First Reconstruction Act in 1867 divided the South into five conquered districts, each of which would be governed by the U. Republicans also specified that states would have to enfranchise former slaves before readmission to the Union. To enforce this order, Congress passed the Second Reconstruction Act, putting the military in charge of southern voter registration. They also passed the Fifteenth Amendment, giving all American men—including former slaves—the right to vote. Radicals took this measure in an attempt to protect Secretary of War Edwin M. After a tense trial, the Senate voted to acquit the president by a margin of only one vote. The Black Codes and Ku Klux Klan Despite sweeping rights legislation by Radical Republicans in Congress, southern whites did everything in their power to limit the rights of their former slaves. During Presidential Reconstruction, white supremacist Congressmen passed a series of laws called the black codes, which denied blacks the right to make contracts, testify against whites, marry white women, be unemployed, and even loiter in public places. Carpetbaggers, Scalawags, and Sharecroppers Countless carpetbaggers northerners who moved to the South after the war and scalawags white Unionists and Republicans in the South flocked to the South during Reconstruction and exerted significant influence there. Although in many respects they achieved their goals of modernizing and Republicanizing the South, they eventually were driven out by Democratic state politicians in the mids. Most former slaves in the South, meanwhile, became sharecroppers during the Reconstruction period, leasing plots of land from their former masters in exchange for a percentage of the crop yield. By 1880, more than 80 percent of southern blacks had become sharecroppers. Grant was elected president. Because Grant had difficulty saying no, many of his cabinet posts and appointments ended up being filled by corrupt, incompetent men who were no more than spoils-seekers. In 1872, reporters uncovered a scheme by millionaires Jim Fisk and Jay Gould to corner the gold market by artificially inflating gold prices. The president lost even more credibility during his second term, when his personal secretary helped embezzle millions of dollars from the U. Treasury as a member of the Whiskey Ring. Liberal Republicans and the Election of 1876 The discovery of new scandals split the Republican Party in 1876, as reform-minded Liberal Republicans broke from the ranks of moderates and radicals. The Liberal Republicans wanted to institute reform, downsize the federal government, and bring a swift end to Reconstruction. Though already marred by scandal, Grant easily defeated Greeley by more than electoral votes and 3 million popular votes. The Depression of 1893 In 1893, the postwar economic bubble in the United States finally burst. Overspeculation in the railroad industry, manufacturing, and a flood of Americans taking out bad bank loans slid the economy into the worst depression in American history. Millions lost their jobs, and unemployment climbed as high as 15 percent. Many blacks, landless whites, and immigrants from both North and South suffered greatly, demanding relief from the federal government. Republicans, refusing to give in to

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demands to print more paper money, instead withdrew money from the economy by passing the Resumption Act of 1869 to curb skyrocketing inflation. This power play by Republicans prompted northerners to vote Democrat in the midterm elections of 1868, effectively ending Radical Reconstruction. Striking Down Radical Reconstruction By the mids, Democrats had retaken the South, reseating themselves in southern legislatures by driving blacks and white Unionists away from the polls and employing violence and other unethical tactics to win state elections. Most northerners looked the other way during this period, consumed by their own economic hardships. In the late 1860s and early 1870s, a conservative Supreme Court also struck down much of the civil rights legislation that Radical Republicans had passed. In 1869, the Court ruled in *United States v. Cruikshank* that only states and their courts—not the federal government—could prosecute Ku Klux Klan members under the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1868. Tilden campaigned for restoration of the Union and an end to government corruption. The Republican Party, on the other hand, chose the virtually unknown Rutherford B. Many Northern voters, tired of Reconstruction and hoping for more federal relief because of the depression, voted Democrat. Ultimately, Tilden received 1,099,456 more popular votes than Hayes, and 254 of the electoral votes needed to become president. The Compromise of 1877 With the election result hanging in the balance, Congress passed the Electoral Count Act in early 1877, creating a fifteen-man commission—eight Republicans and seven Democrats—to recount disputed votes in South Carolina, Louisiana, and Florida. Not surprisingly, the commission determined by an eight-to-seven vote that Republican Rutherford B. Hayes had carried all three states. Resentment and political deadlock threatened to divide the country, but both parties were able to avoid division and strike a deal with the Compromise of 1877. Democrats agreed to concede the presidency to the Republicans in exchange for the complete withdrawal of federal troops from the South. Hayes became president, withdrew the troops, and ended Reconstruction.

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Chapter 2 : An Outline of the Reconstruction Era

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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 3 : Reconstruction | CourseNotes

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An Introduction to the History of the Science of Politics by Frederick Pollock.

In several instances, Union officers confiscated the lands of confederates and distributed them to former slaves. The most notable instances of this took place in New Orleans and in the Sea Islands of South Carolina and Georgia, which the Union had captured in Sherman, allocated land for the Freedmen. As a result, forty thousand Freedmen settled in the Sea Islands in the belief that the federal government was providing them with land. In Washington, a debate began about what to do with the former confederate states. Should they be returned as they had been before the War? Should they be reformed into new States? Who would be in charge--Congress, or the President? In Lincoln announced a tentative proposal called the "ten percent plan. In part, they were mollified by the fact that Lincoln had finally endorsed emancipation of the slaves. By , former "rebel" leaders had been reelected to Congress, including, for example, Alexander Stephens, who had been Vice President of the Confederacy. In Johnson signed a proclamation insisted that all confiscated land should be returned to its former owners, reversing grants of land made by Union Generals in several places, including the Sea Islands. In addition, each of the southern states passed what were called "black codes" --laws designed specifically to limit the freedoms and options of the former slaves. They declared the southern states "unreconstructed," refused to seat the newly elected congressmen and senators, and began impeachment proceedings against Andrew Johnson. The Radical Republicans passed the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments , which abolished slavery and established that citizenship, and the right to vote, could not be limited on the basis of race. Most of the leading radicals had been active abolitionists for many years before the war. At their most idealistic, Radicals like Thaddeus Stevens imagined using economic and military force to "break the backs" of the slave holding class and bring about genuine racial equality. Stevens argued repeatedly that the property of former slave owners should be given to their former slaves. This would crush slave owning aristocrats and establish a solid economic basis for citizenship. Like Lincoln, he believed that a virtuous democracy should be composed of free, independent small, producers and farmers. African Americans wanted land , votes, and access to education, things which had been denied them for two centuries. They had a keen sense of what slavery had taken from them, and of the fact that their labor had made the plantations profitable. They argued that they had already paid for plantation land with their labor and with their service to the Union, and they expected the Federal government to provide them with "forty acres and a mule" in recognition of the labor that slavery had stolen from them. From about through , African Americans experienced a remarkable increase in political power, and elected African American officials at the Federal, State, and local levels. But led by ex-confederates like Nathan Bedford Forrest, who founded the Ku Klux Klan in , white supremacists began a terrorist counterattack against racial equality and African American political gains. They denounced northern "carpetbaggers" who they said had come south "to fatten on our misfortune. The generation of abolitionists who led the Radical Republicans--Thaddeus Stevens, Charles Sumner, Wendell Phillips--either died or lost political power. Increasingly, northerners began to lose the will to implement reconstruction policies. Most had never favored racial equality and now regarded the elevation of former slaves as a mistake. The financial panic of made the expenses of military occupation of the South harder to argue for politically. By , reconstruction was over in all but name. Most African Americans had been reduced to agricultural laborers or sharecroppers. By , African American voting had almost entirely ceased.

Chapter 4 : Reconstruction - HISTORY

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Chapter 8 : SparkNotes: Reconstruction (â€“): Brief Overview

Reconstruction of the South following the American Civil War lasted from under three presidents. It wasn't welcomed by Southerners, and there were many problems throughout this process.

Chapter 9 : Study outline in the problems of the reconstruction period. - CORE

During the Reconstruction Era, African-Americans in the South gained a number of civil rights, including the right to vote and to hold office, however, when Reconstruction ended in , white landowners initiated racial segregation that resulted in vigilante violence, including lynchings (African pp).