

Black Codes & Radical Republicans

PowerPoint Presentation

Part of the
Reconstruction Unit
Lesson 3 of 5

ZoopDog



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VOCABULARY

Civil Rights Act –

Black Codes –

Joint Committee on Reconstruction –

Radical Republicans –

Fourteenth Amendment –

First Reconstruction Act –

Impeach –



"FAREWELL, A LONG FAREWELL, TO ALL MY GREATNESS!"

Today's Thinking Focus

Why did Congress try to
remove President Johnson
from office?

And the story continues . . .

- In March, 1864, Grant orders his army to lay siege to Petersburg. Nine months later, with no supplies or reinforcements, Petersburg falls to the Union. The next day Richmond is seized. Shortly thereafter, the South is defeated ending the Civil War.
- As the Civil War drew to a close, President Lincoln created the Ten Percent Plan to unite the nation. Congress proposed the Wade-Davis Bill which was much harsher. Lincoln also supported the creation of the Freedmen's Bureau to help freed African Americans with food, jobs and education. Many Southern white men did not agree with giving "handouts" to former black slaves using taxpayer money.
- President Lincoln is assassinated by John Wilkes Booth and Andrew Johnson becomes president. Radical Republicans want Johnson to deliver a harsh Reconstruction plan to the South, instead he delivers a mild version that does not force the South to give African Americans rights.

Freedmen's Basic Rights?



- President Johnson's Reconstruction plan included all Southern states ratify the 13th Amendment. Most Southern states complied and banned slavery.
- Although the 13th Amendment outlawed slavery across the land, it did not give basic rights to African Americans.
- Instead, Southern states begin passing **Black Codes** – laws that severely limited the rights of freedmen.

Black Codes

Black Codes did not allow African Americans to:



Work in any profession except as servants or farm laborers. Some states required freedmen to sign contracts for a year's worth of work. Those without contracts would be arrested and sentenced to work on a plantation.



Serve on juries or testify against whites.



Vote in any election



Own guns or use a gun for self-defense.



A young African American is punished for violating a Black Code law.

- Black Codes also allowed African Americans some rights they didn't have as slaves.
- Freedmen were allowed to own property in certain rural areas. They were also permitted to marry legally.
- Still, African Americans living under Black Codes were in constant fear of violating the law for even the most minor offenses.

Think About It!

- Black Codes were passed for no other purpose than to keep freedmen from gaining basic political and economic freedoms.

BUT WHY?

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➤ No Education

➤ No Money

➤ No Voice

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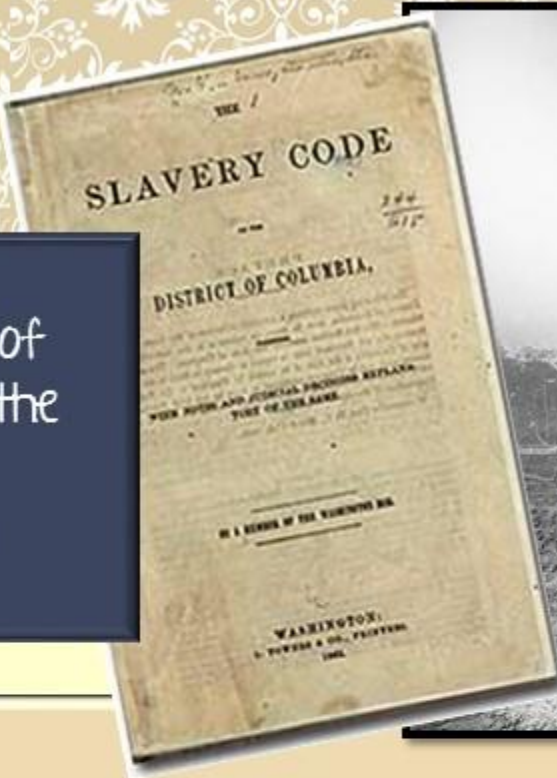
**POWERLESS
IN SOCIETY**

Others can control you!

These reports confirmed what many Republicans had suspected. "The rebellion has not ended," declared one angry Republican. "It has only changed its weapons."



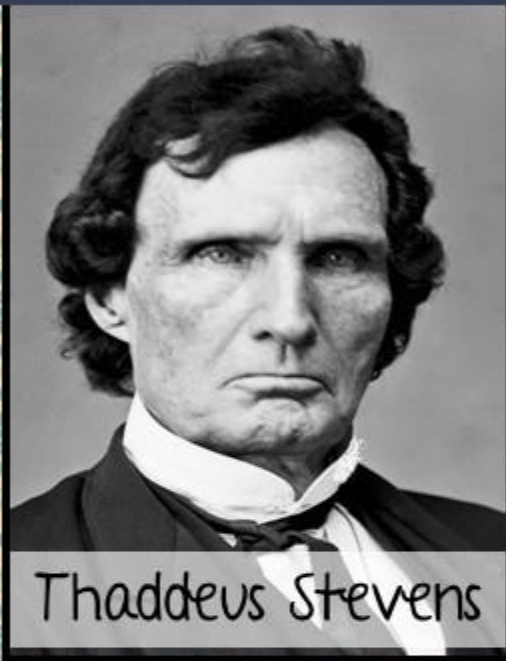
- In December 1865, Republicans formed a **Joint Committee on Reconstruction** to draw up new plans for rebuilding the South.
- Congress was angered by the Black Codes being passed in the South and of reports of peddlers openly selling Confederate flags.
- Republicans thought President Johnson's Presidential Reconstruction plan was weak and did not punish the Southern states enough.



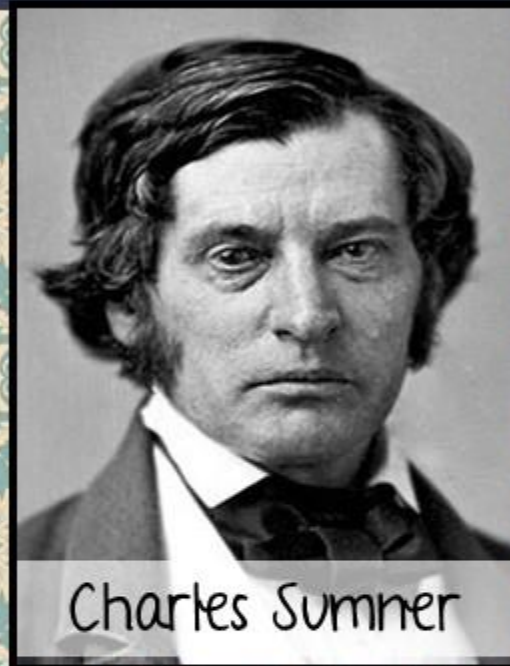
Was the South preserving a form of slavery by passing the Slave Codes? The Radical Republicans thought so!

- The Joint Committee on Reconstruction sent President Johnson a report detailing how they believed the South was trying to **“preserve slavery in its original form as much and as long as possible.”**
- Johnson did nothing with the report which infuriated members of Congress even further.
- Many Congressmen vowed to take Reconstruction out of the President’s hands.

Radical Republicans



Thaddeus Stevens



Charles Sumner

- Those that were most outraged and led the opposition to President Johnson were called **Radical Republicans (Radicals)** – **Congressmen who wanted to make drastic changes to the South.**
- **Thaddeus Stevens** of Pennsylvania led the Radicals in the House of Representatives.
- **Charles Sumner** of Massachusetts led the Radicals in the Senate.

The Radical's Main Goals

Radical Republicans
wanted to punish the
Southern aristocrat.



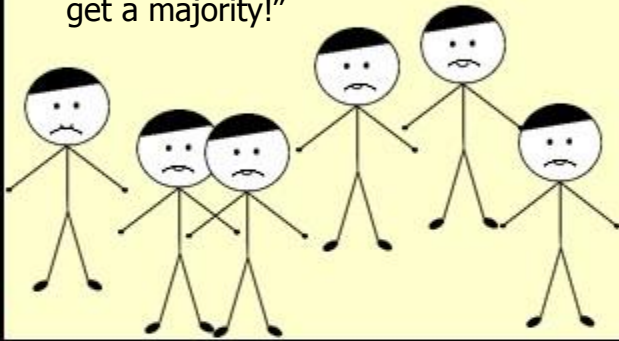
The Radical Republican's had two main goals with regard to reconstructing the South.

1. **Break the power of wealthy planters.** These “aristocrats” had ruled the South for generations with their money and influence. They also had kept the most slaves on their plantations.
2. **Ensure all freedmen had the right to vote** (suffrage).

Getting the Votes Needed!

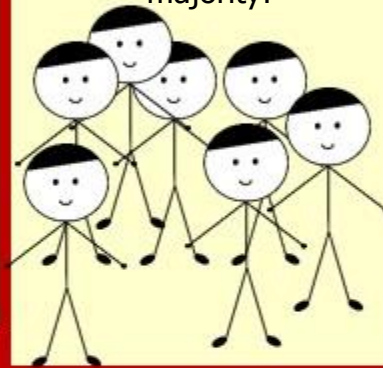
Radical Republicans

"There aren't enough of us to get a majority!"



Radical Republicans

"If we vote with the Republicans we will have a majority!"



Republicans

"Yes!
We will vote together on Reconstruction!"



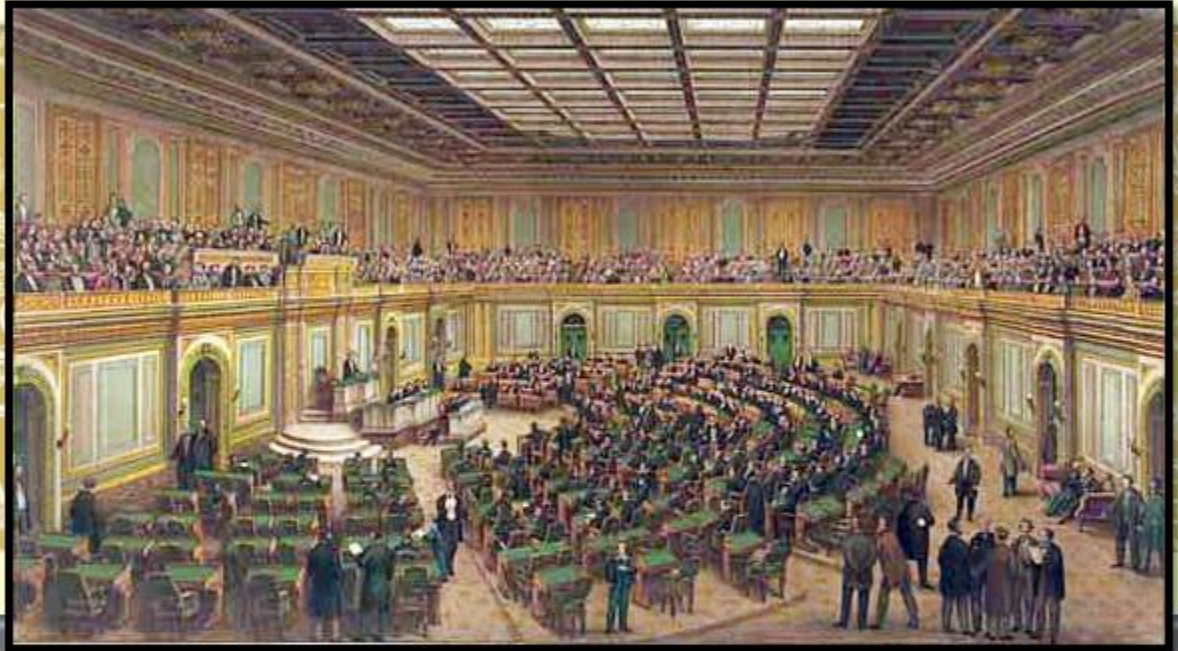
- In order for Radical Republicans to pass any of their Reconstruction goals, they needed more votes in Congress.
- Radical Republicans did not control Congress, they were small in numbers. They needed the support of moderate Republicans, the largest group in Congress.
- Moderates and Radicals disagreed on many issues, but on the issue of passing strict laws to punish the South, they both agreed.

Keeping Southern Democrats Out!

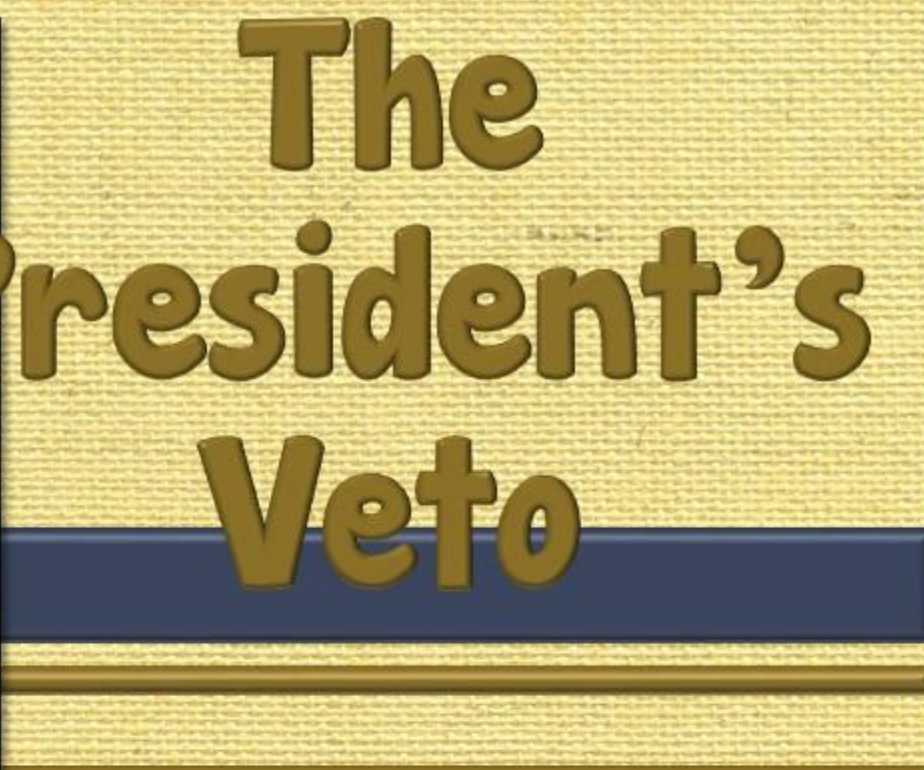
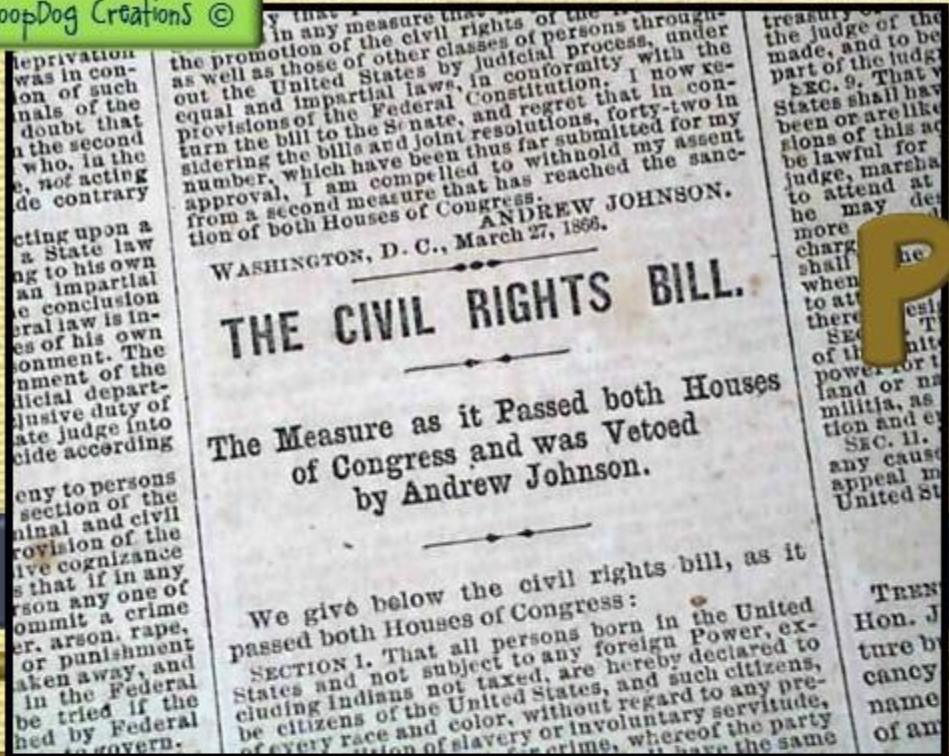
39th Congress

38 Democrats

136 Republicans

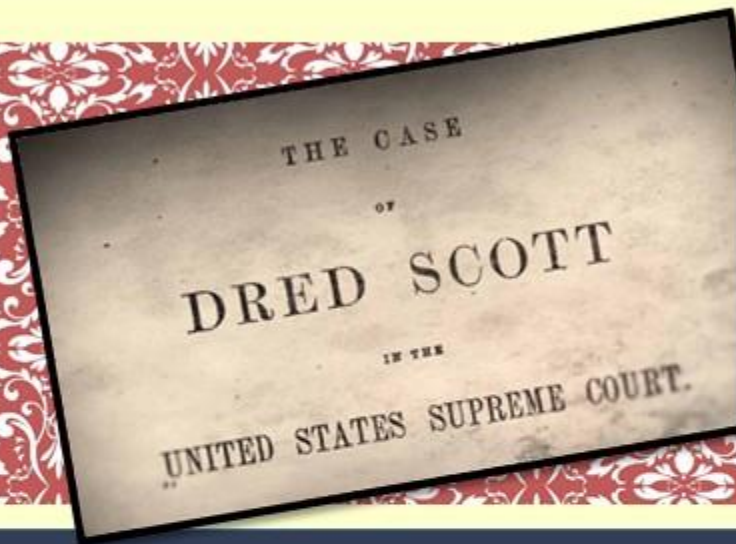


- Most Southerners were Democrats. When Southern states elected their representatives to Congress, Republicans would not allow them to enter the chamber!
- With most Democrats barred from participating in Congress, Republicans easily controlled both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

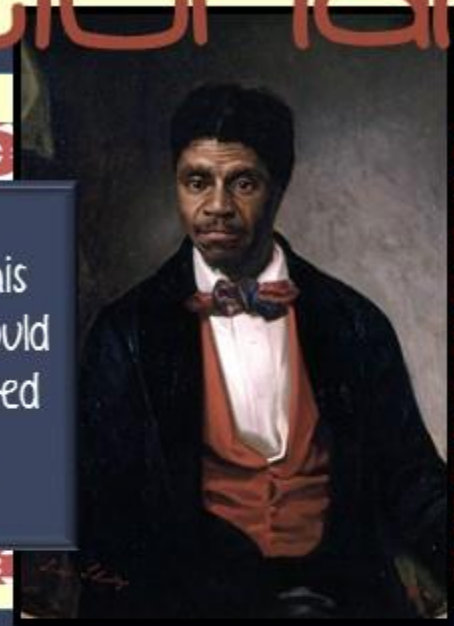


- In April 1866, Congress passed the **Civil Rights Act** which gave **African Americans citizenship rights**.
- The Republican led Congress hoped that by passing the Civil Rights Act, it would stop the Black Codes and secure basic rights for African Americans.
- President Johnson vetoed the bill.
- Congress had the votes to override the veto allowing the Civil Rights Act to become law.

Unconstitutional?



A freed slave named Dred Scott sued for his freedom in 1857. Would the court's ruling be used to overturn the Civil Rights Act?



- Republicans in Congress worried that their Civil Rights Act would be declared unconstitutional.
- In 1857, a freed slave named Dred Scott sued the United States for his freedom. The Supreme Court ruled against Scott and proclaimed that African Americans were not citizens.
- The Republicans worried this ruling would be used to overturn their Civil Rights Act. This pushed them to propose the **Fourteenth Amendment.**

I was born in the United States, so I'm officially a U.S. citizen.

I'm also a stick which makes me different from you, but you can't use that to discriminate against me!



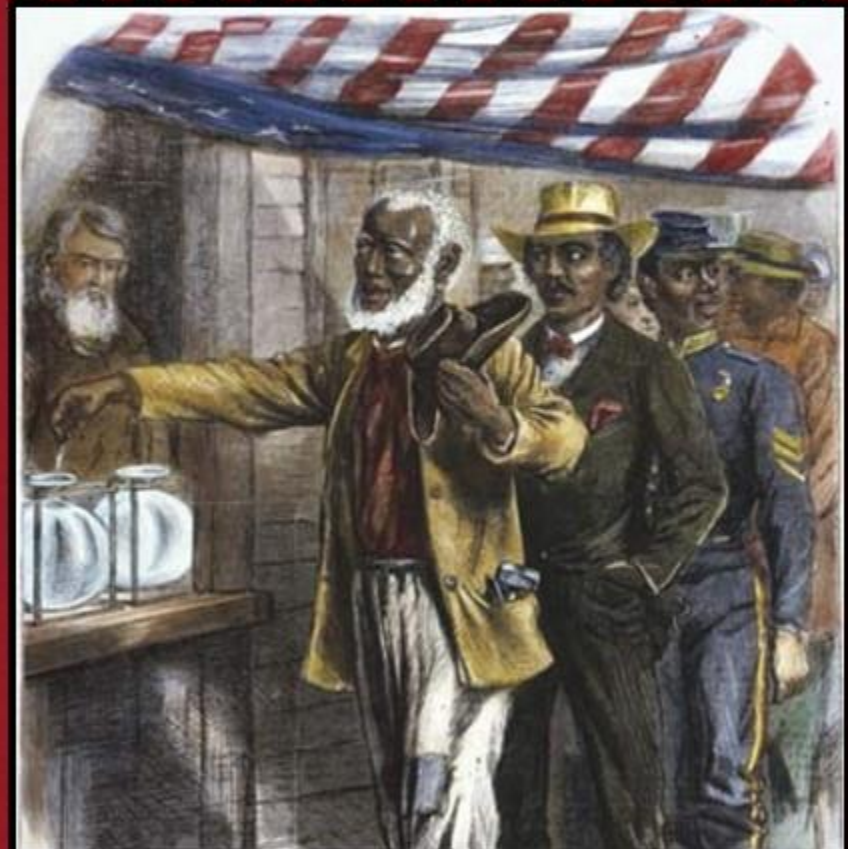
Fourteenth Amendment

Equal Protection Under the Law

- The Fourteenth Amendment granted citizenship to all persons born in the United States, which included most African Americans.
- The amendment also made it illegal for states to discriminate against an individual for something such as skin color.
- It guaranteed all citizens “equal protection of the laws” and states that no state could “**deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of the law.**”

The Right to Vote

- Since the Fourteenth Amendment made it illegal to discriminate against an individual, states now had to grant African Americans the right to vote.
- The amendment warns that if any state denies this right to African Americans, that state's representatives in Congress will be reduced. (This will decrease that state's voting power in Congress).



African American men voting for the first time.

Make A Prediction.

- Republicans who worked hard to pass the Fourteenth Amendment in Congress hoped that it would secure basic political rights for African Americans in the South.
- Congress believed now that freedmen had the right to vote, they would use their voting power to defend their rights against discriminatory white Southerners.

Do you think the Southern states will ratify the Fourteenth Amendment and allow freedmen to vote equally with whites? Predict how you think the South will react to the 14th Amendment.

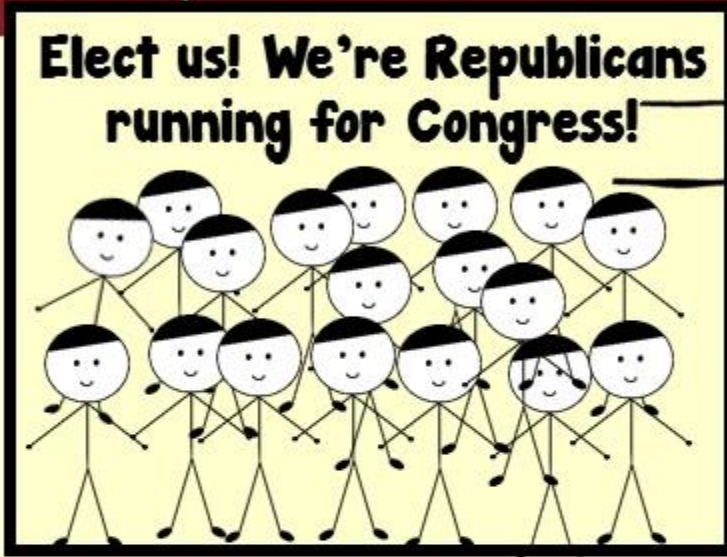
The Election of 1866

An example of a racist flier for the 1866 Pennsylvania race for governor. Geary is made to look like an African American because of his pro-14th Amendment stance.



- Andrew Johnson urged the Southern states to reject the Fourteenth Amendment, and they wholeheartedly agreed.
- As the Congressional elections of 1866 drew near, Johnson traveled to many Northern towns campaigning. He called on voters to reject the Radical Republicans.
- Many of the audiences disagreed with the President and criticized him for acting in an undignified manner.

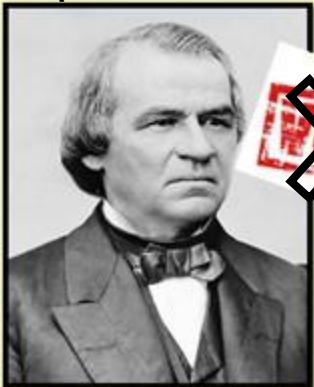
Why were the Congressional elections of 1866 so important?



Congress needed more Republicans elected to have a MAJORITY in BOTH the House of Representatives and the Senate.



If the Radical Republicans could secure a majority in both houses they would have the votes necessary to override any of Johnson's veto's.



If the Radical Republicans could override Johnson's veto power, they could essentially pass any reconstruction bill they wanted without the President interfering.

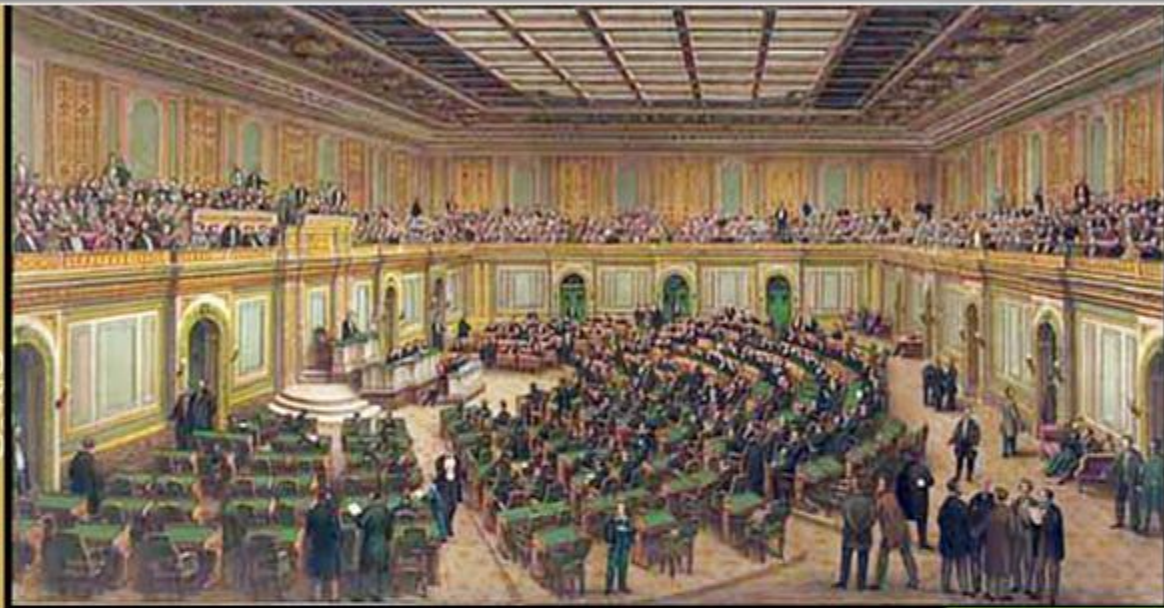


The Election Results

40th Congress

47 Democrats

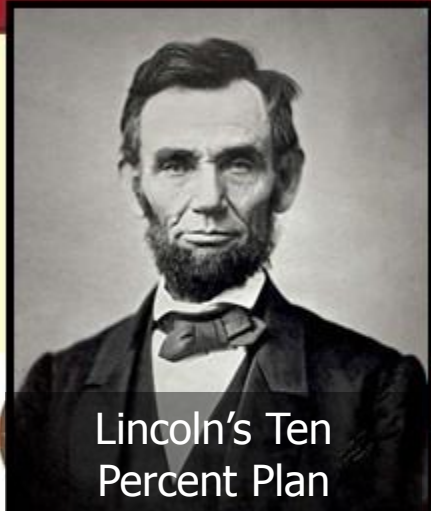
175 Republicans



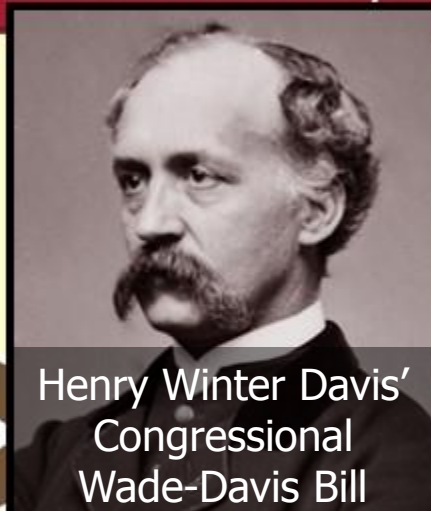
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- When all the ballots were counted, it proved an enormous victory for the Republicans, and a disaster for President Johnson.
- Republicans ended up winning a decisive majority and took control of **BOTH** houses of Congress.
- Republicans also gained control of every state legislature in the North.

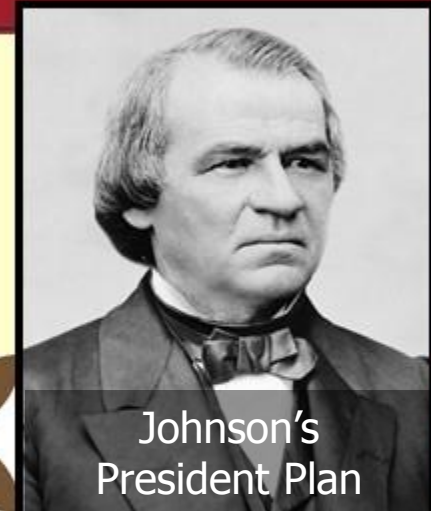
Hasn't there been a lot of Reconstruction Plans? Why hasn't the South been readmitted into the Union yet?



Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan



Henry Winter Davis' Congressional Wade-Davis Bill



Johnson's President Plan

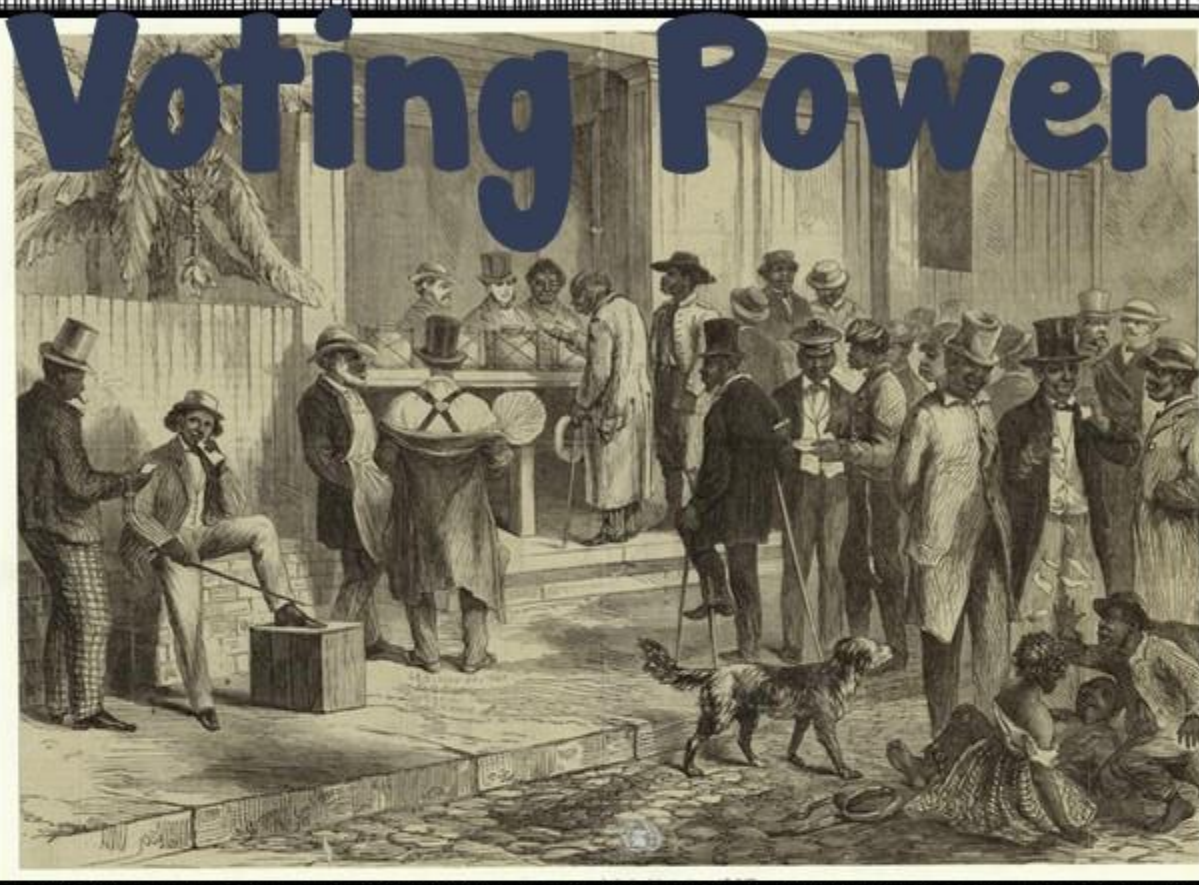
- By 1866, the former Confederate states still had not **officially** been allowed to rejoin the Union. Although many Reconstruction plans had been created **none of these plans had made it through Congress without a veto.**
- Congress now had the majority of votes to override any Presidential veto! With no one left to stop the Republicans, not even the President, the Republicans went forward with their strict Reconstruction policies.

First Reconstruction Act

In March 1867, Congress passed the first Reconstruction Act. President Johnson vetoed it. Congress overrode his veto.

The First Reconstruction Act required:

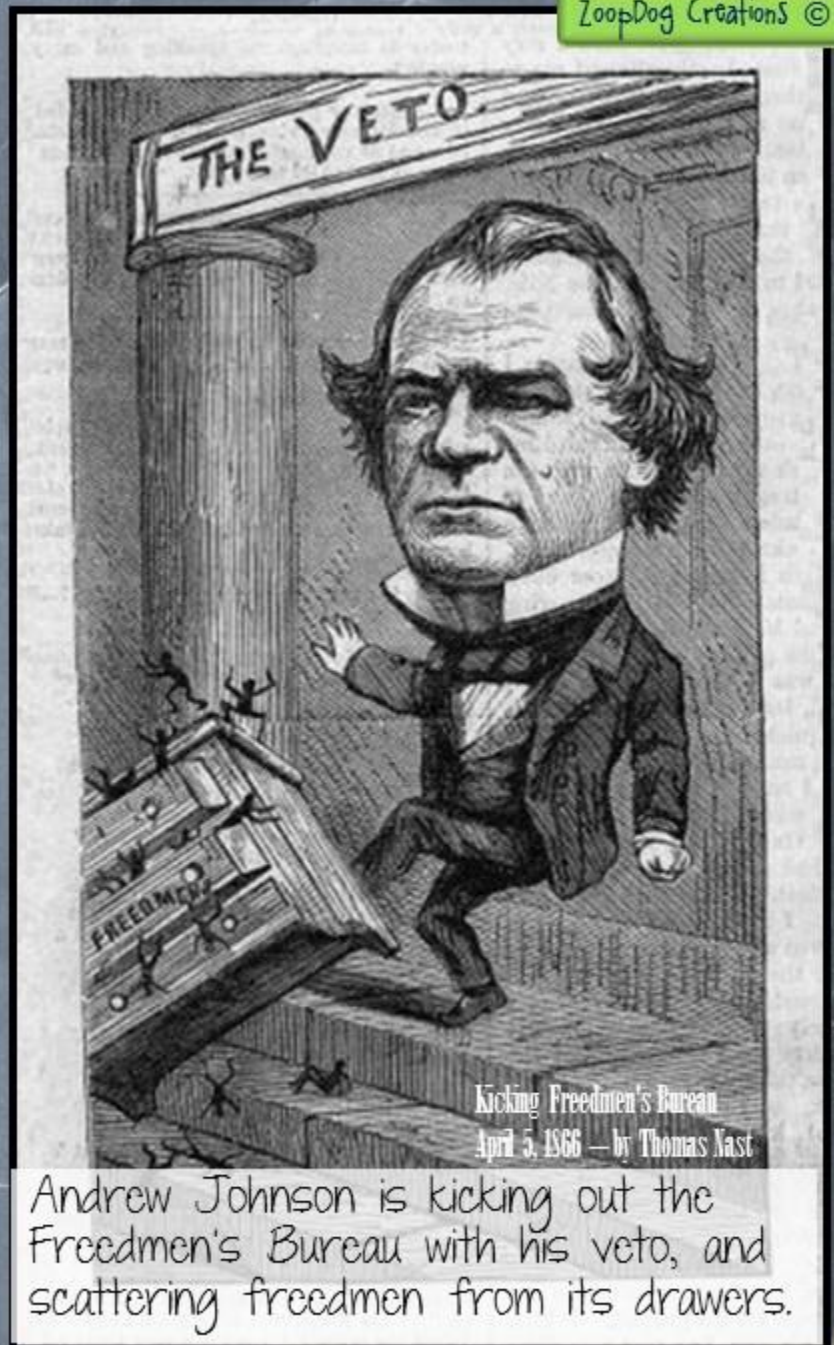
1. Southern state governments had to disband.
2. Southern state governments had to write new constitutions.
3. Southern state governments had to ratify (pass) the Fourteenth Amendment.
4. Southern state governments must allow African Americans the right to vote.



- Once the Southern states created their new constitutions, they were allowed to hold state elections to fill their vacant government seats.
- Many Southern men were so disgusted by Radical Republican politics that they refused to vote.
- Freedmen exercised their new right and turned out to cast their votes. As a result, Republicans gained control of all of the new Southern state governments.

JOHNSON'S VETO

- The duty of the President of the United States is to enforce the laws passed by Congress.
- President Johnson strongly disagreed with the Reconstruction laws Congress had passed (he had vetoed every one of them).
- Many Republicans feared Johnson would not enforce the new laws. They decided to remove him from office.





The House of Representatives brings formal charges against a President.



The Senate takes the charges and holds a trial.

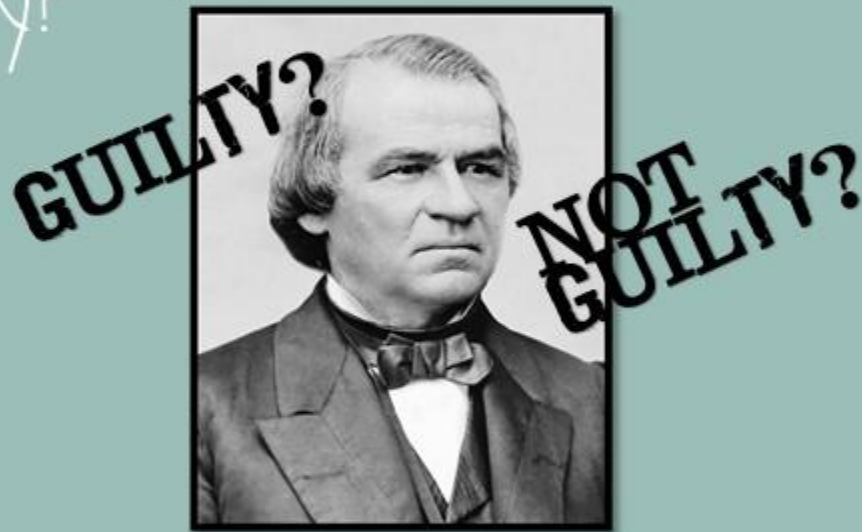


The President is removed from office if found guilty by 2/3s of the Senators.

- On February 24, 1868, the House of Representatives voted to **impeach** President Johnson – **to bring formal charges of wrongdoing against an elected official.**
- The Constitution states that the House of Representatives can impeach the President only for “high crimes and misdemeanors.”
- The Senate is in charge of trying the case. The President is removed from office only if found guilty by two-thirds of the senators.

What Do You Think?

Do you believe the House of Representatives had reason to put President Johnson on trial? Why?

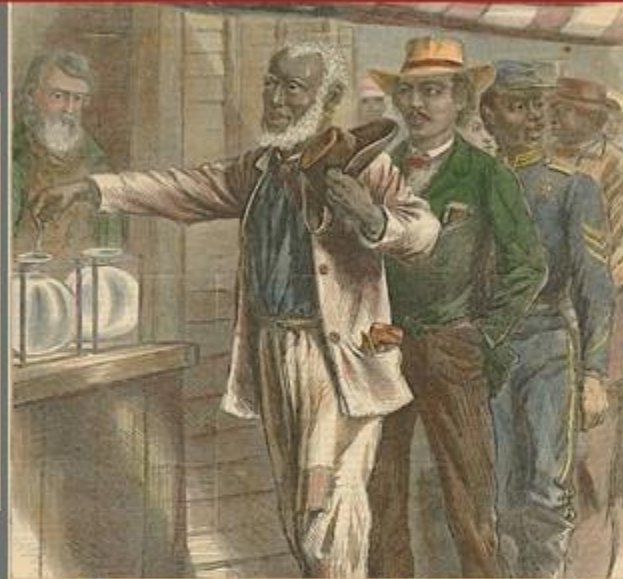


Was President Johnson guilty of "high crimes and misdemeanors" for not supporting the Reconstruction laws Congress passed? Explain your answer.

What did President Johnson believe?

The United States government should make laws on citizenship and suffrage that all states must abide by.

Who decides if African Americans get basic rights?



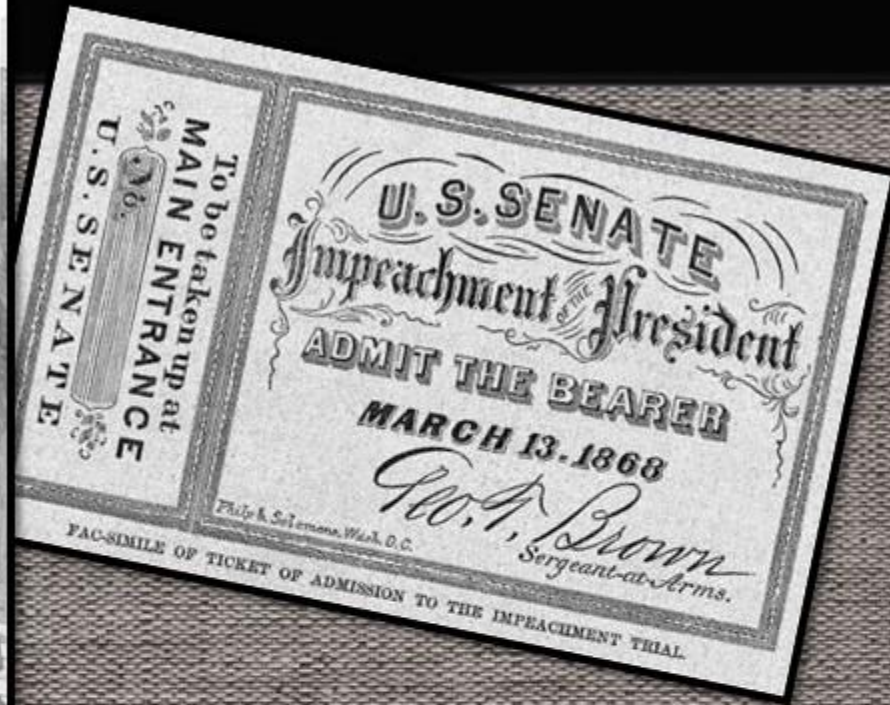
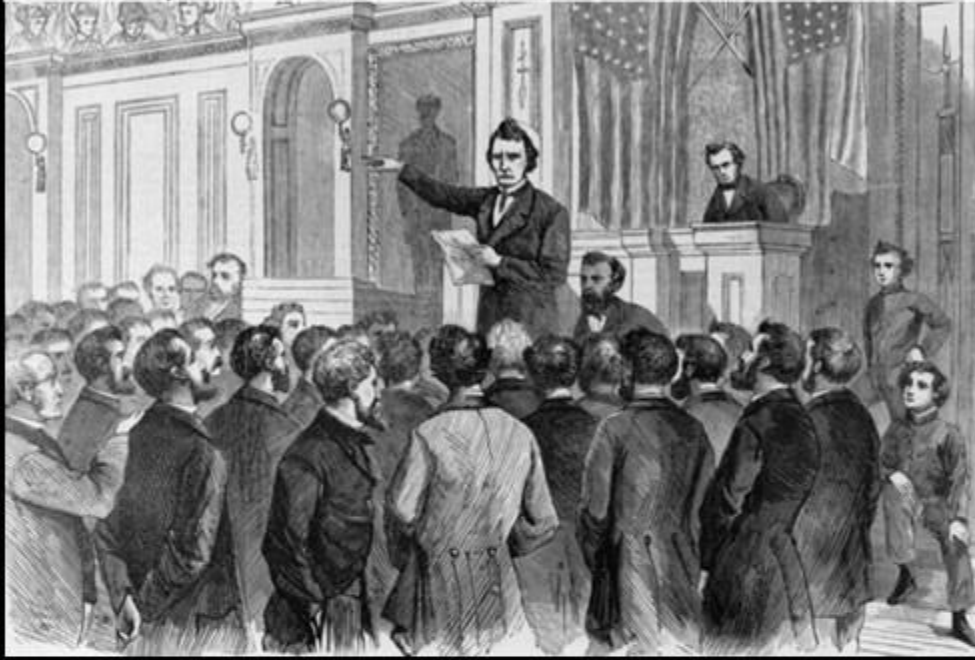
Black suffrage?



Each state should make their own laws on citizenship and suffrage.

- Radical Republicans wanted the President to insist that Southern states give basic rights including suffrage (the right to vote) to freedmen as a condition of rejoining the Union.
- But Johnson believed giving freedmen rights was a state matter, not a federal one.

The impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson



- During Johnson's trial, many could see that the President was not guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors.
- Even the President's biggest critic, Charles Sumner, could see the charges were, "political in character."
- In the end, seven Republicans refused to vote for conviction. The Constitution, they believed, did not allow a President to be removed from office simply because he disagreed with Congress.

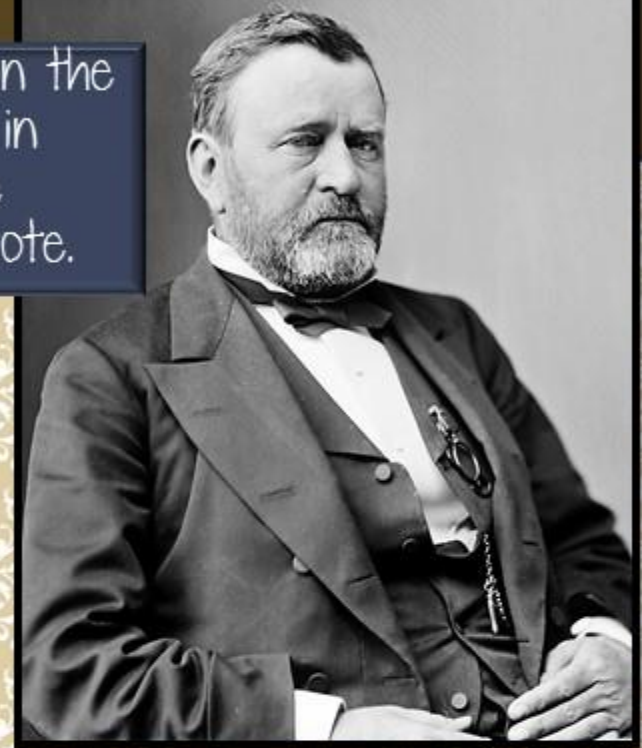


- The Senate vote was 35 for and 19 against impeachment – one vote short of a two-thirds majority needed to remove the President from office.
- Johnson served out the remaining few months of his term.
- In 1868, Republicans nominated General Ulysses S. Grant as their Presidential candidate. Grant was the North's greatest war hero who had led the Union to a Civil War victory.

African Americans voting in an election.



Ulysses S. Grant won the Presidential election in part because of the African American vote.



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- By election day, most Southern states had rejoined the Union. As had been demanded of them, Southern governments allowed African Americans to vote.
- About 500,000 blacks cast their votes for Republican nominee, Ulysses S. Grant.
- Ulysses S. Grant easily defeated his Democratic opponent, and became the 18th President of the United States.



"FAREWELL, A LONG FAREWELL, TO ALL MY GREATNESS!"

Today's
Thinking
Focus

Why did Congress try to
remove President Johnson
from office?