

Freedmen's Bureau

PowerPoint Presentation

Part of the
Reconstruction Unit
Lesson 1 of 5



Reconstruction Unit

The Freedmen's Bureau – PowerPoint #1

VOCABULARY

Freedmen –

Reconstruction –

Ten Percent Plan –

Amnesty –

Wade-Davis Bill –

Freedmen's Bureau –

Today's Thinking Focus



What was President Lincoln's
plan for reuniting the nation?

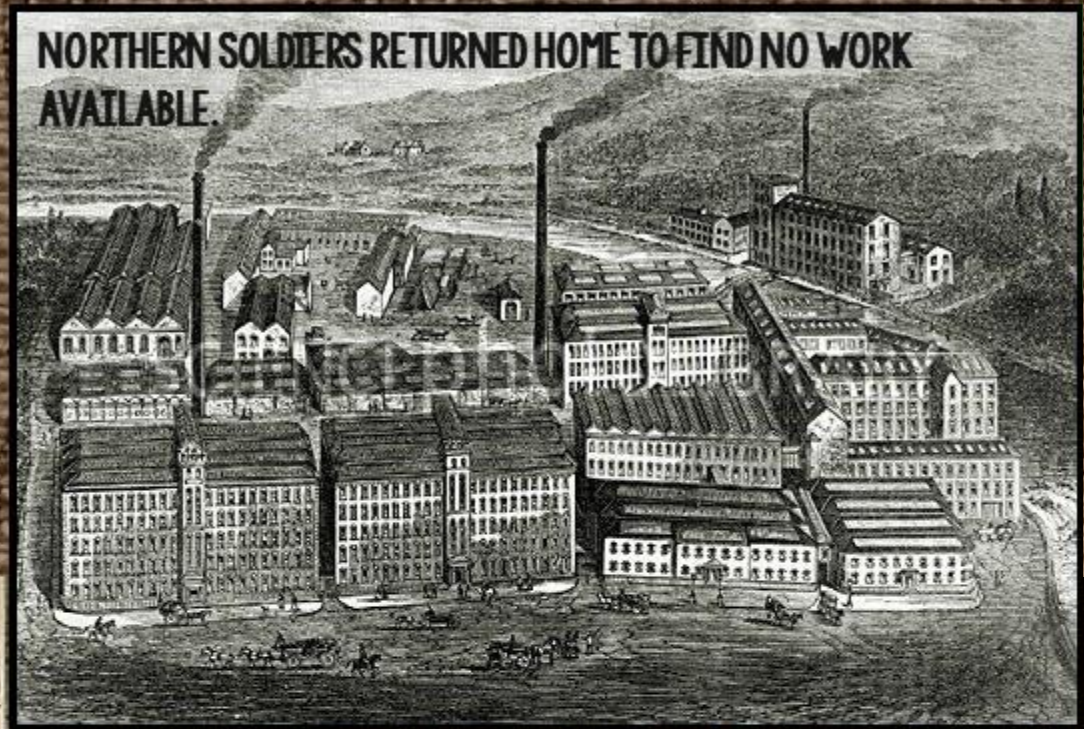
And the story continues . . .

- After capturing New Orleans and Memphis Ulysses S. Grant surrounds Vicksburg. After a 6-week siege Vicksburg falls to the Union giving the North control of the Mississippi River.
- General Lee turns his sights east toward Washington D.C. but is met by Union forces at a small town called Gettysburg. The battle that ensues kills or wounds over 40,000 soldiers.
- President Lincoln gives the Gettysburg Address to dedicate the Gettysburg cemetery. Although not famous at the time, it becomes a profound statement of American ideals.
- Ulysses S. Grant wages Total War on the South. He orders General Sheridan to destroy the Shenandoah Valley and General Sherman to destroy everything from Atlanta to Savannah.
- 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.



- After the Civil War ended, both Northerners and Southerners had to adjust to a nation that was no longer what it was four years earlier.
- The North would face tough economic times, while the South was left to rebuild its cities and way of life.

The NORTH



- Although the North was victorious, it still had its share of problems after the Civil War.
- Over 800,000 returning Union soldiers arrived home to find no available jobs.
- During the height of the war the government needed factories and farms to produce goods for the war effort. After the war, factories began laying off workers.



New York after the Civil War.



Atlanta, Georgia after the Civil War.

- Of the many battles that occurred during the Civil War all except for Gettysburg and Antietam occurred on Southern soil.
- Northern farms and cities were hardly touched. One Union soldier remarked, **“It seemed . . . as if I had been away only a day or two, and had just taken up . . . where I had left off.”**

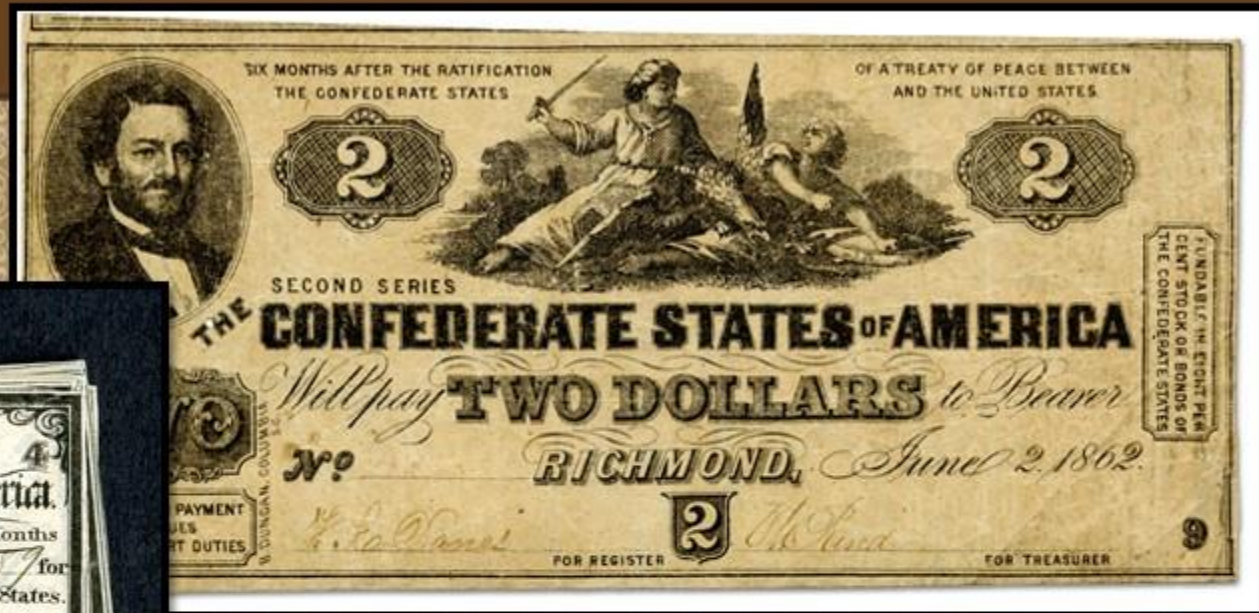
The South

"The fine houses have fallen to decay or been burnt down," reported one witness, "the grounds neglected and grown over with weeds."



Southern home in ruin after the war.

- Southern soldiers returning home found some areas where every house had been destroyed.
- Two-thirds of the South's railroad tracks had been twisted and burned into piles of metal scraps.
- The cities of Columbia, Richmond, and Atlanta had been leveled.



- As the Confederate government dissolved with a Northern victory, so too did the South's financial system.
- After the war, Confederate money was worthless. People who lent money to the Confederate cause were never repaid.
- Southern banks closed. The court system and police services closed.

What DO YOU Think?



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If you were a Southern plantation owner who had lost everything in the war, how do you think you would feel toward the United States government?

Would you support your state rejoining the Union? Explain your answer.

Southern Society



- Southern society was forever changed by the war. No longer did white owners own black slaves.
- Almost four million **freedmen – men and women who had been slaves** – lived in the South.
- Freedmen had no land and no jobs. The slave laws that ruled the South for many years had prohibited black slaves from owning property and learning to read.

Reconstruction



- Even before the war had ended, President Lincoln had begun planning for the rebuilding of the South. He outlined a Reconstruction plan. **Reconstruction refers to the rebuilding of the South after the Civil War.**
- Lincoln believed the only way to save the nation was to allow the South an easy way to rejoin the Union. Once the nation was whole then the South could rebuild.

Ten Percent Plan



10 % OATH OF LOYALTY



- Lincoln's plan for Reconstruction was called the **Ten Percent Plan**. Under this plan, a Southern state could form a new government after 10 percent of its voters from the 1860 election swore an oath of loyalty to the United States and abide by emancipation.
- Once the new state government was formed, it had to abolish slavery forever in order to begin electing members to Congress - then they could once again take part in the national government.

AMNESTY

United States of America.

I, *Montgomery S. Coase*, of the
County of *Alexandria* State of *Virginia*, do
solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the
United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign; that I will bear true faith, allegiance,
and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or laws of any State, Convention, or Legislature,
to the contrary notwithstanding; and further, that I will faithfully perform all the duties which
may be required of me by the laws of the United States; and I take this oath freely and voluntarily,
without any mental reservation or evasion whatever.

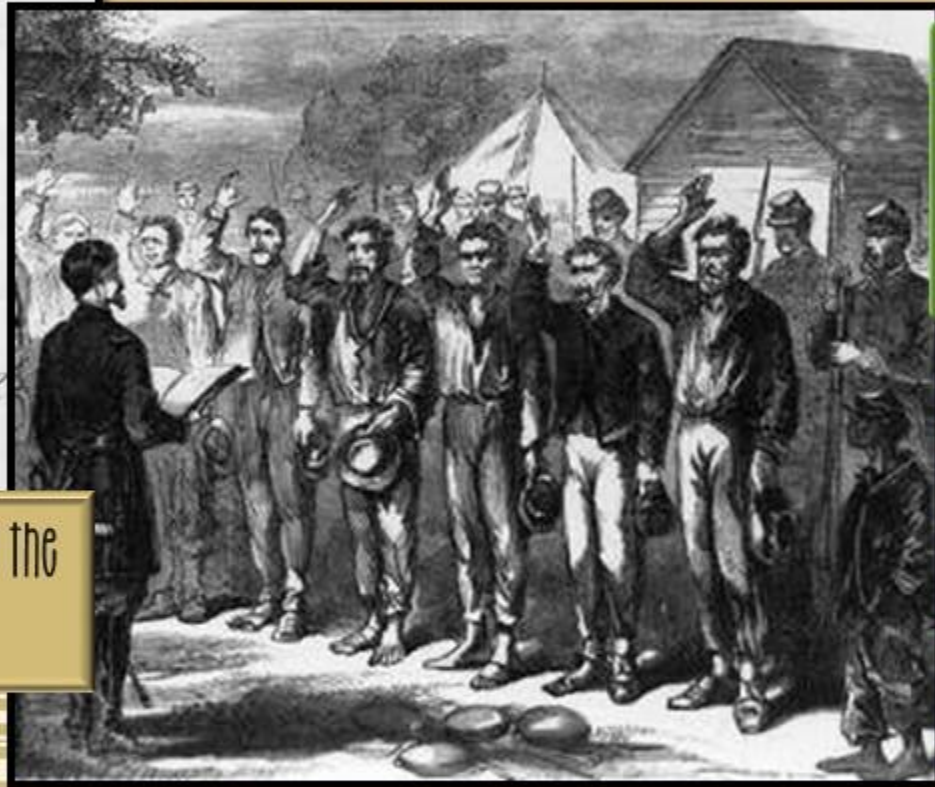
M. S. Coase

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this *24th* day of *July*
A. D. 186*5*.

The above-named has *dark* complexion, *brown* hair, and *hazel* eyes;
and is *5* feet *5 1/2* inches high.

(U. S. G. P. No. 4)

Southern voters had to take an oath of loyalty to the United States to receive amnesty.



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- Part of Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan also offered **amnesty** – a government pardon [forgiveness], to Confederates who swore loyalty to the Union.
- Confederate officers and officials were not granted amnesty.

WADE-DAVIS BILL



MAJORITY OF WHITE MEN



- Republican Congressmen felt that Lincoln's plan was too generous toward the South.
- In 1864, Congress passed a rival plan for Reconstruction called the **Wade-Davis Bill**. It required a majority of white men in each Southern state to swear loyalty to the Union.
- It also denied the right to vote or hold office to anyone who had volunteered to fight for the confederacy.



- Most Republicans in Congress supported the president's Ten Percent Plan. They wanted to bring a quick end to the war.
- But other Republicans felt that Lincoln's plan did not punish the wealthy plantation owner enough and would lead to African Americans eventually being forced back into slavery.
- Lincoln also feared punishing the South would anger Democrats and lead to his defeat in the presidential election of 1864.
- If a popular Democrat became president Lincoln worried his Emancipation Proclamation might be overturned.

WHAT DO YOU THINK

Which Reconstruction plan do you think is best for reuniting the country? Why?

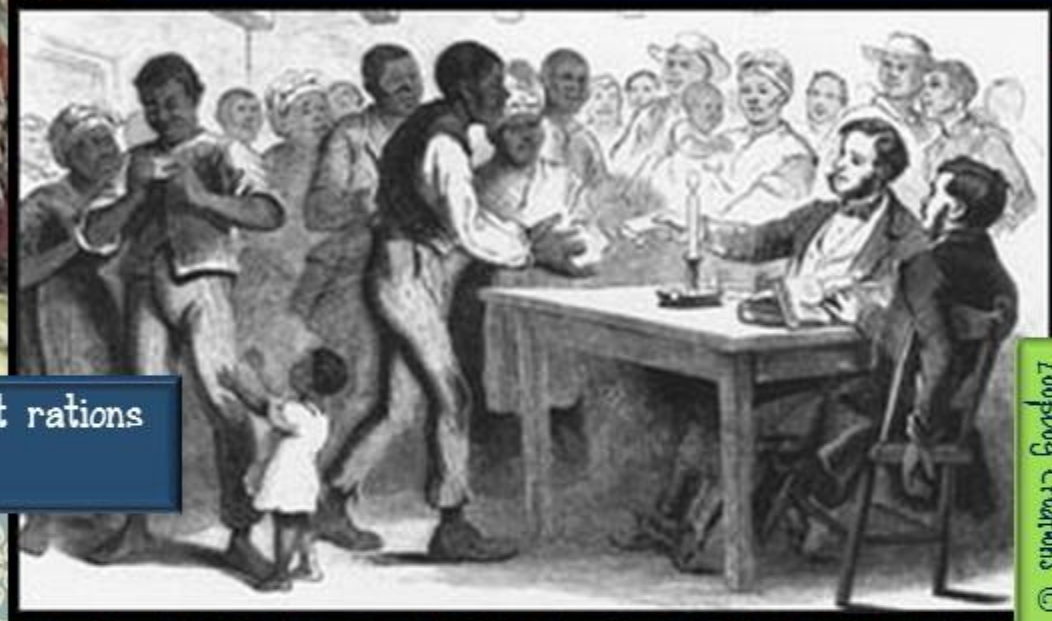
The Ten
Percent
Plan

THE
WADE-
DAVIS
BILL

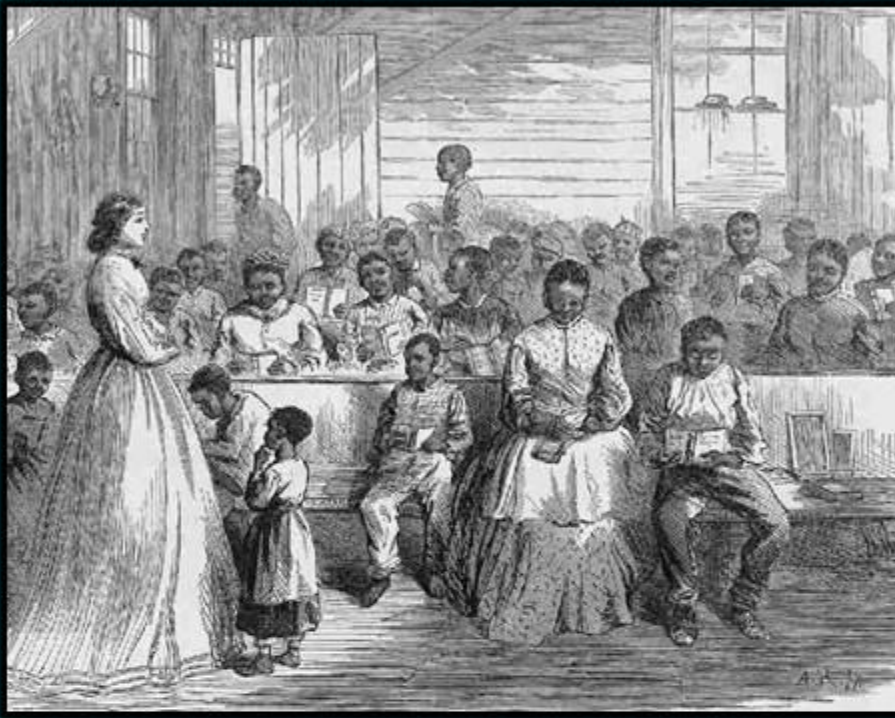
Freedmen's Bureau



Freedmen's Bureau office handing out rations for food and clothing.



- Lincoln refused to sign the Wade-Davis Bill because he felt it was too harsh.
- Congress and Lincoln may not have agreed on how to unite the country but they did agree on a bill which created the **Freedmen's Bureau**.
- The Freedmen's Bureau gave food, clothing, jobs and healthcare to former slaves and poor whites.



- The Bureau's most noble task was to set up schools for freed slaves in the South. By 1869, about 300,000 African Americans attended Bureau schools.
- Most of the teachers were women who volunteered from the North.
- Many freedmen of all ages were eager to learn. It was not uncommon to see parents sitting beside their children in the classroom learning to read and write.

Bureau Schools

- One bureau agent in South Carolina observed that freedmen **“will starve themselves, and go without clothes, in order to send their children to school.”**
- The Freedmen’s Bureau laid the foundation for the South’s public school system including black colleges.
- By the 1870s educated African Americans were teaching in grade schools across the South.



Charlotte Forten, an African American woman from Philadelphia, came south as a volunteer teacher.

She wrote of her students:

"I never before saw children so eager to learn It is wonderful how a people who have been so long crushed to the earth . . . can have so great a desire for knowledge, and such a capacity for attaining it."

THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU!

AN AGENCY TO KEEP THE **NEGRO** IN IDLENESS AT THE **EXPENSE** OF THE WHITE MAN.
 TWICE VETOED BY THE **PRESIDENT**, AND MADE A LAW BY **CONGRESS**.
SUPPORT CONGRESS & YOU SUPPORT THE NEGRO. SUSTAIN THE PRESIDENT & YOU PROTECT THE WHITE MAN

Historical Note:

The president this flier is referring to is Andrew Johnson who became President after Lincoln was assassinated in 1865 and did not support the Freeman's Bureau

IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE SHALT THOU EAT THY BREAD

Freedman's Bureau! Negro Estimate of Freedom!

NEGRO TROOPS \$300 Each as a Bounty

WHITE Veterans \$100 Each as a Bounty

What is the use for 'em to work, as long as they make done appropriations.

THE NEGRO GETS 25% OF THE MONEY EXPENDED, WHICH IS ALL OF THE WHITE MAN'S MONEY EXPENDED 25% YEARLY, AND OF THE 25% WHICH IS PAID THEM.

APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS, JULY, 1865.

To Support the Freedman's Bureau \$6,044,500

Commissioners and Clerks for Negroes	1,700,000
Printing for Negroes	50,000
Books and Stationery	50,000
Travelling	50,000
Printing for Negroes	1,700,000
Fuel for Negroes	1,000,000
Wages for Negroes	100,000
Expenses for Negroes	1,000,000
Salaries of Agents & Clerks	500,000
Money for Negroes	1,000,000
TOTAL	26,800,000

APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS, JULY, 1865.

AGENTS, BARRACKS, HARD LABOR

For 1864 and 1865, the FREEDMAN'S BUREAU cost the Tax-payers of the Nation, at least TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. For 1866, THE SHARE of the Tax-payers of Pennsylvania will be about ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND OF DOLLARS. **GEAR!** is FOR the Freedman's Bureau. **CLYMER** is OPPOSED to it.

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- Not everyone agreed with the creation of the Freedmen's Bureau. Many Southern white men disagreed with taxpayer money being used to provide housing, food and education to freed African Americans.

Today's Thinking Focus



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