

## Objectives

- Explore how Congress and the President clashed over Reconstruction.
- Describe the impact of Reconstruction on the South.
- Explain how Reconstruction came to an end.



## Terms and People

- **Reconstruction** – program implemented by the federal government between 1865 and 1877 to repair damage to the South caused by the Civil War and restore the southern states to the Union
- **Freedmen's Bureau** – federal agency designed to aid freed slaves in the South after the Civil War
- **Andrew Johnson** – Lincoln's Vice President; became President after Lincoln was assassinated; was impeached and nearly removed from office

## Terms and People (continued)

- **Thirteenth Amendment** – 1865 constitutional amendment that abolished slavery
- **Radical Republicans** – congressmen who advocated full citizenship rights for African Americans along with a harsh Reconstruction policy toward the South
- **impeachment** – accusation against a public official of wrong-doing in office

## Terms and People (continued)

- **Fourteenth Amendment** – 1868 constitutional amendment which defined citizenship and guaranteed citizens equal protection under the law
- **Fifteenth Amendment** – 1870 constitutional amendment that guaranteed voting rights regardless of race or previous condition of servitude
- **Ku Klux Klan** – secret organization that terrorized African Americans in the South after the Civil War
- **de jure segregation** – legal separation of the races



## What were the immediate and long-term effects of Reconstruction?

Reconstruction helped **reunite the nation**, and political decisions made during its brief existence **helped shape the modern South**.

Constitutional amendments ratified during Reconstruction **redefined American notions of citizenship and civil rights**.

## Forgiveness vs. Punishment

Lincoln favored **Reconstruction** policies which would "bind up the nation's wounds."

**Radical Republicans** favored harsh terms and sought to punish the South.



To assist freed slaves in the South, Congress set up the **Freedmen's Bureau**, which:

- delivered food and healthcare.

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- developed a public school system.

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- reunited families separated by slavery.

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- negotiated fair labor contracts with white landowners on behalf of formerly enslaved African Americans.

**On April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.**

**Andrew Johnson**, his successor, favored a moderate Reconstruction plan and promised to uphold states' rights over federal regulations.

Southerners had to:

- swear allegiance to the United States.
- accept the **Thirteenth Amendment**, which ended slavery.



The **Radical Republicans** objected to Johnson's plan, instead favoring:



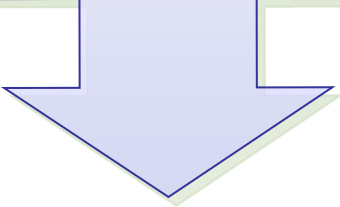
- harsh **reorganization** for the South.
- **full citizens' rights** for African Americans.
- **supremacy of federal law** over states' laws.



**Southern whites found ways to resist Reconstruction.**

Secret societies such as the **Ku Klux Klan** used terror and violence against African Americans, primarily to keep them from voting.

Johnson and the Radicals in Congress clashed repeatedly, and in 1868 Congress voted to **impeach** Johnson.



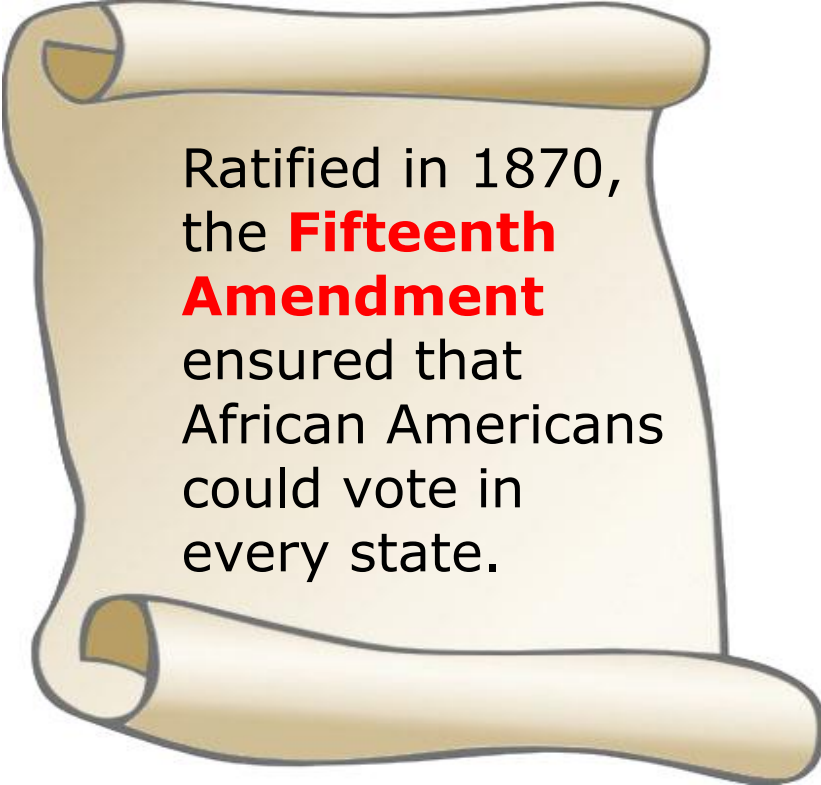
**The Senate narrowly voted against removing Johnson from office, but during the process Congress gained control of Reconstruction.**

A few months later, Civil War hero **Ulysses S. Grant** was elected President.

## Radical Reconstruction Arrives

<b>Military Districts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The South was divided into <b>five military districts</b> under the command of Union generals.</li></ul>
<b>Rights for African Americans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Southern states had to <b>grant the vote to African American men</b>.</li><li>• Congress passed the <b>Fourteenth Amendment</b>, which made African Americans full citizens.</li></ul>

**By 1868, many southern states had African American elected officials and were dominated by a strong Republican Party.**



Ratified in 1870, the **Fifteenth Amendment** ensured that African Americans could vote in every state.

It guaranteed the right to vote regardless of “race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”



## **Southern white Democrats devised a strategy to regain political power.**

They criticized Republican programs for **raising taxes**.

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They portrayed African American office holders as **corrupt and incompetent**.

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**Threats and violence** prevented many African Americans from voting.

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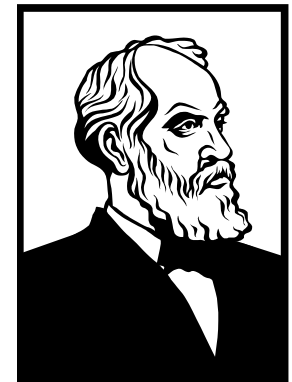
Southern states **elected white men** as governors and congressmen.



## The 1876 election officially ended Reconstruction.

Democrat Samuel Tilden won the popular vote, but there was a dispute over the electoral votes.

A congressional committee declared Republican Rutherford B. Hayes the winner after he promised to pull the remaining troops from the South.



## The End of Reconstruction

<b>The North Focuses on Other Problems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A series of bank failures sparked a <b>severe economic downturn</b>.</li><li>• A series of political scandals in the Grant administration <b>damaged the Radical Republicans</b>.</li></ul>
<b>Effects on the South</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beginning in 1871, the federal government quietly <b>withdrew troops from the South</b>.</li><li>• In 1872, Congress <b>dissolved the Freedmen's Bureau</b>.</li></ul>

## Was Reconstruction a...

### success?

- The rebuilding of the South began.
- The U.S. was permanently united.
- Constitutional amendments aided a later civil rights movement.

### failure?

- African Americans lost many rights, including voting rights.
- **De jure segregation** became the law in all southern states.