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| CHAPTER 2 SECTION 4 | Section Summary THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA |
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READING CHECK

Which amendment ended slavery?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *status* in the underlined sentence. What does *status* mean? Circle any words or phrases in the surrounding sentences that help you figure out the meaning of the word.

READING SKILL

Categorize Which aspects of Reconstruction were unsuccessful?

During the Civil War, politicians in the North debated how to bring the South back into the Union. President Lincoln had a moderate plan for **Reconstruction**. He helped create the **Freedmen’s Bureau** to aid freed slaves and meet the South’s immediate needs. On April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated. Vice President **Andrew Johnson** became President.

Johnson wanted southerners to both swear allegiance to the United States and accept the **Thirteenth Amendment**, which ended slavery. **Radical Republicans** wanted full rights for African Americans. Johnson and the Radical Republicans clashed repeatedly. In 1868, Congress began **impeachment** proceedings against Johnson. Although he kept his office, Johnson was not reelected.

Radical Republicans divided the South into five military districts. States had to give African American men the right to vote in order to be readmitted to the Union. In 1868, Congress passed the **Fourteenth Amendment**. This amendment guaranteed full citizenship status and rights to every person born in the United States. In 1870, Congress passed the **Fifteenth Amendment**, which guaranteed male citizens the right to vote.

Many black and white farmers began working under a system called **sharecropping**. Landowners advanced sharecroppers the materials to plant a crop. At harvest, the sharecroppers had to pay back a share of the crop’s value. Meanwhile, organized secret societies, such as the **Ku Klux Klan**, used terror and violence to keep African Americans from voting.

Republican Rutherford B. Hayes won the disputed presidential election in 1876. He agreed to withdraw federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction. The nation was reunited and the South was being rebuilt, but Reconstruction was not completely successful. Voting rights were taken away from African Americans. **Segregation**, or legal separation of the races, became the law in all southern states.

Review Questions

1. Why was the Freedmen’s Bureau created?

2. Why did President Johnson and the Radical Republicans clash repeatedly?
