

# Reconstruction: Aftermath of war

American History Before 1877

## Aftermath of the Civil War

Union celebration

The Grand Review of Union Troops in Victory

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Union celebration

Scars from a long, bloody, destructive war

- The North mourns its last casualty

Lincoln's funeral procession, Pennsylvania Ave.

Lines at City Hall, New York

## Aftermath of the Civil War

Union celebration

Scars from a long, bloody, destructive war

- The North mourns its last casualty

- The South in ruins

- Economic chaos

- Capital destroyed

- Occupied by Union troops

Everywhere, scarred and maimed veterans

## Remembering the War

Monuments to the fallen in every village and town

- First Memorial Day, 1866

## Religious Impact of the Civil War

Protestantism loses much self-confidence

- Religion could not prevent the tragedy
- Both sides suffered terribly
- What did God mean by the Civil War?

Cynicism: certainty caused the war?

Materialistic society; idealism suspect

- Mark Twain: *The Gilded Age* (1873)

Rise of agnosticism

- Effect of war, and Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* (1859)
- Robert G. Ingersoll, Union veteran, popular speaker & writer

## Unfulfilled promises

After slavery

- "Forty acres and a mule"
- Testing freedom
  - Traveling
  - Creating own institutions
  - Getting married
- Search for a new racial-labor system
  - Wage labor
  - Sharecropping and tenancy
  - Debt peonage