

Reconstruction: A New Birth of Freedom?

American History Before 1877

Reconstructing the South

Wartime Reconstruction

- Abraham Lincoln's 10% Plan, 1863
- Deadlock with Congress
 - Lincoln's plan rejected as too lenient
 - Wade-Davis Bill: Harsher 50% plan blocked by Lincoln, 1864

President Andrew Johnson's plan, 1865

- "Get tough" approach
- The problem of pardons...
- The Black Codes
 - Restricted owning or leasing property, conduct business, move in public, work (vagrancy laws)
 - Rise of convict leasing system

Congressional Reconstruction

Congress takes over, 1866

- Freedman's Bureau extended
 - Black schools, health care, labor agency
- Founding black colleges: Howard, Fisk, Morehouse, etc.
- Civil Rights Acts of 1866
 - Overrides Black Codes
- Fourteenth Amendment
 - Made blacks citizens
 - Protected rights

Congressional Reconstruction

Overwhelming radical Republican victory, 1866

Military Reconstruction Act of 1867

- South divided into military districts
- 15th Amendment passed
- Southern states must accept 14th and 15th Amendments
- Reconstruction proceeds fairly quickly

Johnson obstructs and Congress impeaches

- Tried and acquitted by one vote, 1868

“Redemption” of the South

The Republican Reconstruction coalition

- Blacks, Northerners, sympathetic Southerners
 - Unstable coalition: racial and sectional tensions

Terrorism: the Ku Klux Klan

- Northern troops the only protection
- Grant elected President, 1868
 - Suppresses KKK, 1871
 - Battles with armed White Leagues, 1874-76
 - Assassinations of Republicans, massacres of blacks
 - Worst: Colfax Massacre, 1873: 280 blacks killed

End of Reconstruction

Depression of 1873 hurts Republicans

Election of 1876

- Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, anti-corruption N.Y. governor
- Republican Rutherford B. Hayes, Union veteran, OH governor

Tilden wins popular vote

Four states have disputed electoral votes

Congressional commission deadlocks on party lines

Republicans agree to end Reconstruction

◦ Two days before inauguration day, March 2, 1877