

# CIVIL WAR - IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH



# Purpose of Reconstruction

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Intense controversy erupted throughout the South over these issues.

# CONSTITUTION CHANGES

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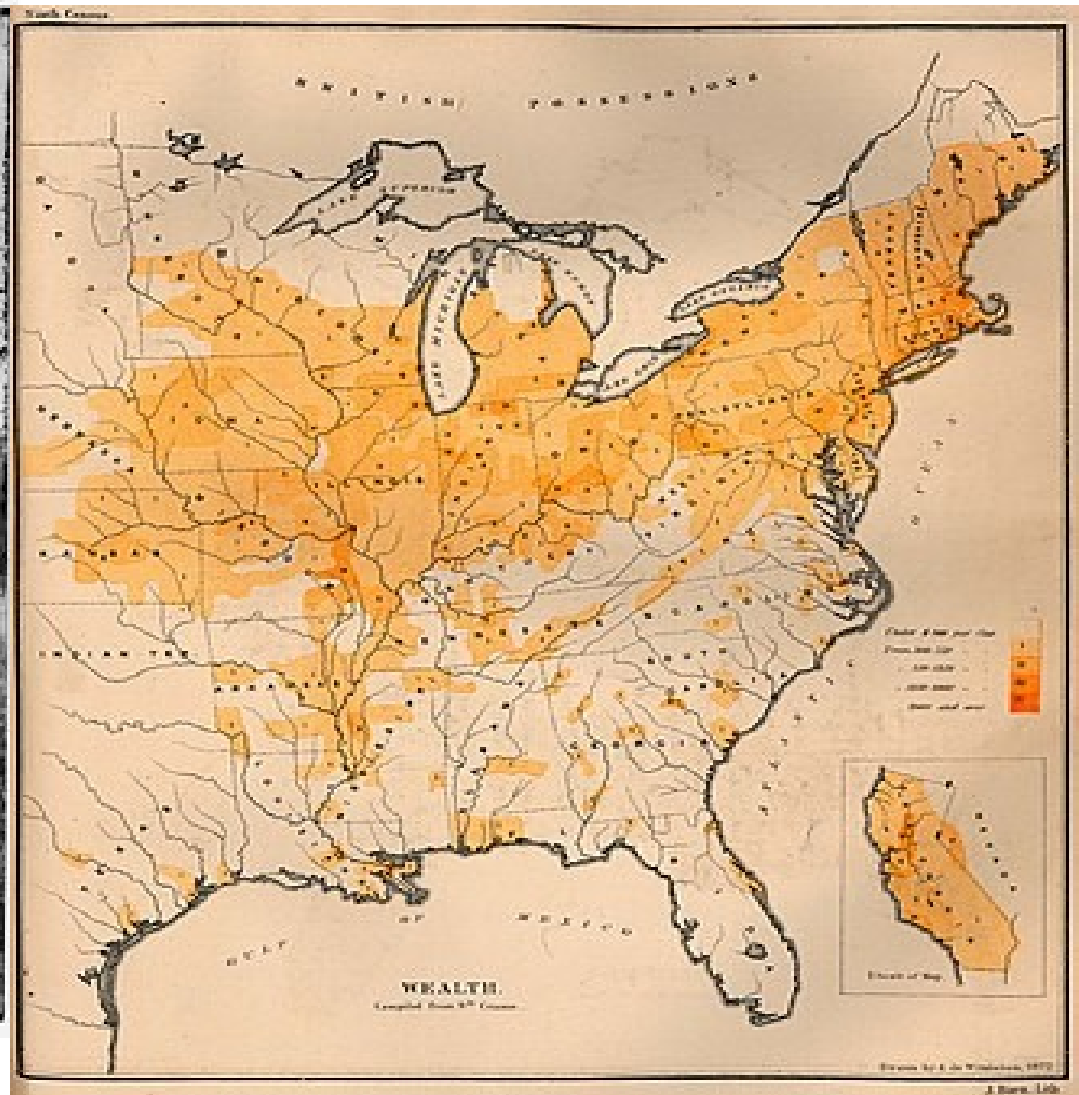
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# Devastation of the South



# Freedmen (Bureau)

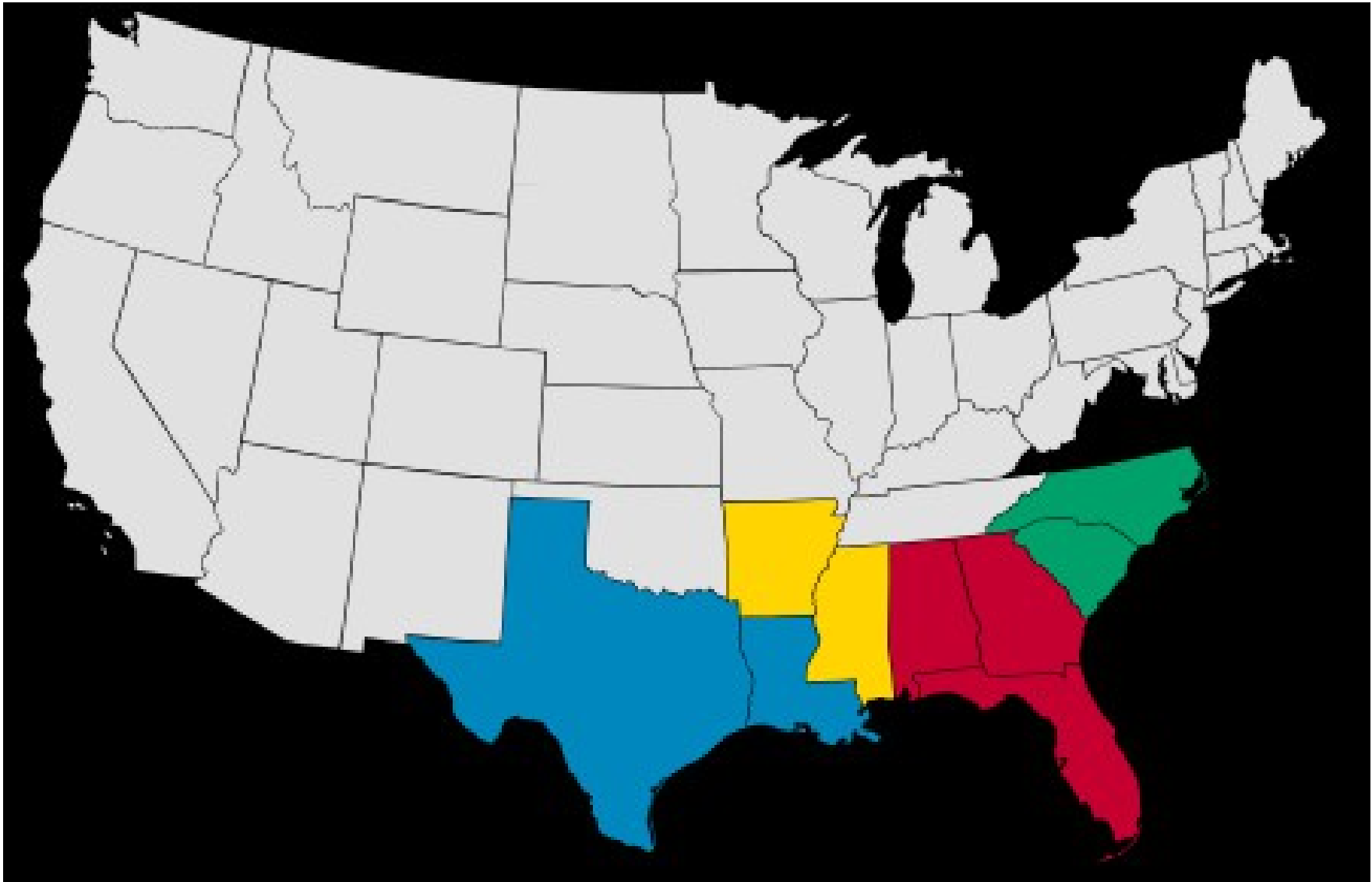




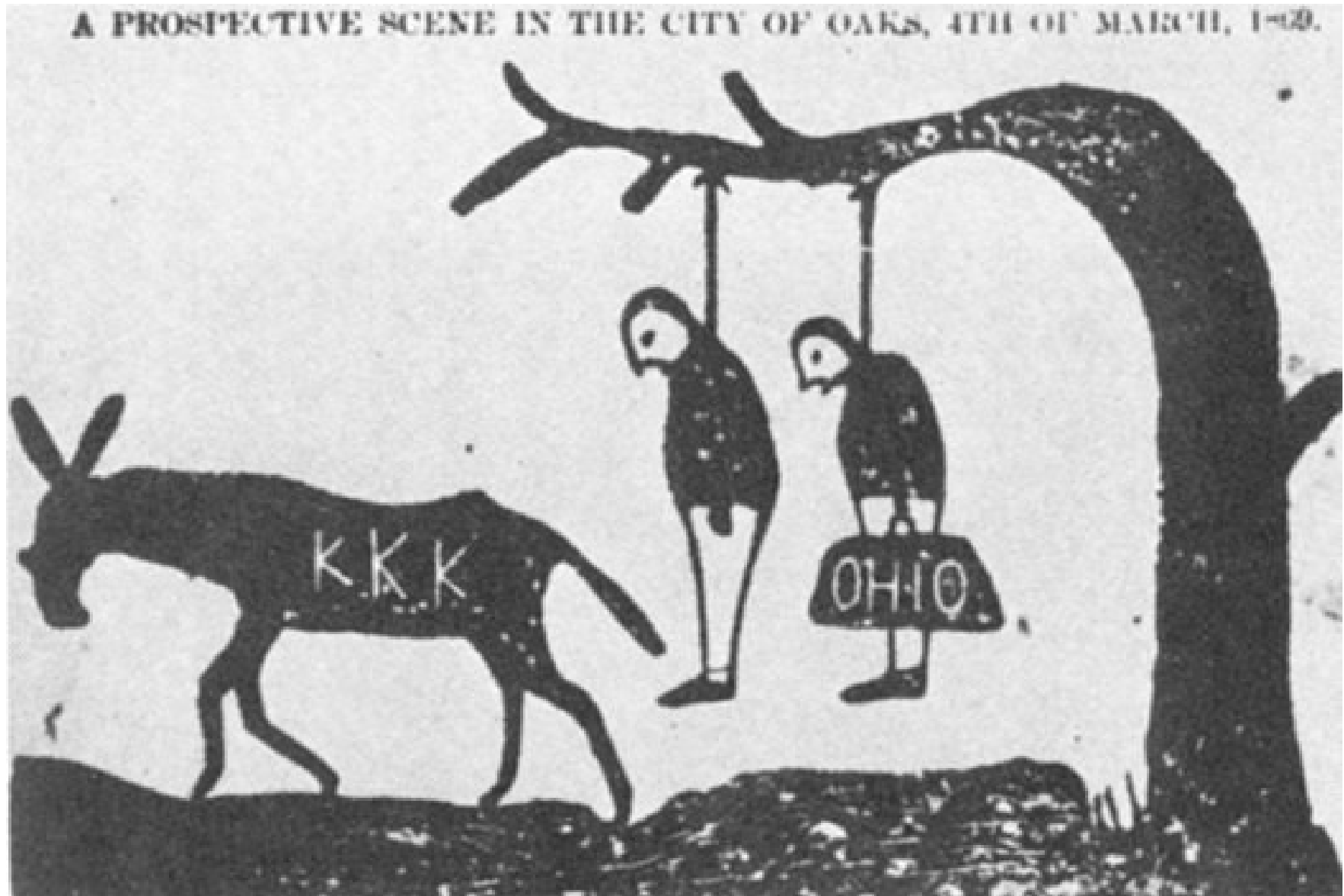
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# Military Districts



# Carpetbaggers & Scalawags





# Grant's Presidential Reconstruction

- Effective Civil Rights Exec.
- Last 4 States re-admitted
- Dept. of Justice Created
- '70-'71 Enforcement Acts
- Countered Election Fraud
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# African American Officeholders

## Race of Delegates to State Constitutional Conventions in '67

- White 662
- Black 251
- Percentage White 72.5

White Proportion of Populations between 40% & 70%

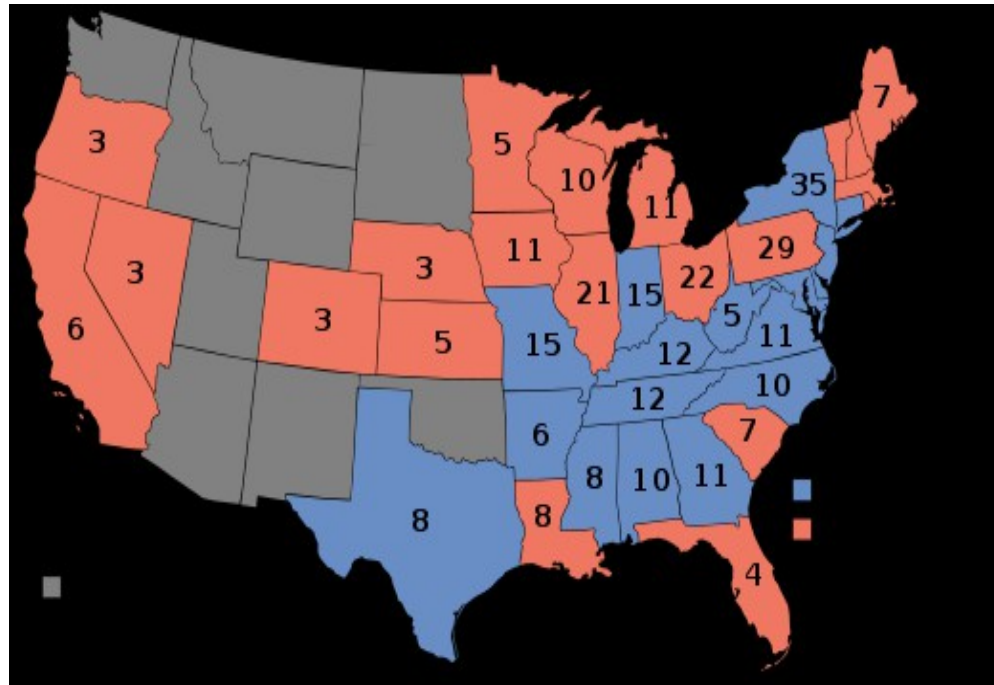
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# The End of the Reconstruction Era

- Republican Splits
- Southern Democrats and “Redeemers”
- New Departure
- Panic of 1873
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- 1876 Presidential Election
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# 1876 Presidential Election



369 members of the Electoral College  
185 electoral votes needed to win  
Turnout 81.8%

	<b>Rutherford B. Hayes</b>	<b>Samuel J. Tilden</b>
Party	Republican	Democrat
Electoral vote	165	184
States carried	21	17
Popular vote	4,846,436	5,300,145
Percentage	47%	51.4%

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*The ruins of Richmond, Virginia, capital. Newly-freed African Americans voting for the first time in 1867. Office of the Freedmen's Bureau in Memphis, Tennessee; Memphis riots of 1866*

Called “The Reconstruction Era”- from 1865 to 1877.

Began & ended at different times in different States,

Some date the start with the “Emancipation Declaration” of Jan '63, which declared all slaves free in all the Rebel States, but most date it from the end of the War, generally felt to be Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomatox Court House, April 9<sup>th</sup>, '65.

It ended with the “Compromise of 1877” whereby Republican Rutherford Hayes was named President over Democrat Samuel Tilden and triggered start of withdrawal of all remaining Federal troops from Southern States.

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- By the 1870s, Reconstruction had officially provided freedmen with equal rights under the Constitution, and Blacks were voting and taking political office. Republican legislatures, coalitions of Whites and Blacks, established the first public school systems and numerous charitable institutions in the South.
- White paramilitary organizations, the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) as well as the White League and Red Shirts, formed with the political aim of driving out the Republicans. They also disrupted political organizing and terrorized Blacks to bar them from the polls. President Grant used federal power to effectively shut down the KKK in the early 1870s, though the other, smaller groups continued to operate.
- From 1873 to 1877, conservative Whites (calling themselves "Redeemers") regained power in the Southern states. They constituted the Bourbon wing of the national Democratic Party.
- In the 1860s and 1870s, leaders who had been Whigs were committed to economic modernization, built around railroads, factories, banks, and cities.
- Most of the "Radical" Republicans in the North were men who believed in integrating African Americans by providing them civil rights as citizens, along with free enterprise; most were also modernizers and former Whigs.
- The "Liberal Republicans" of 1872 shared the same outlook except that they were especially opposed to the corruption they saw around President Grant, and believed that the goals of the Civil War had been achieved, and that the federal military intervention could now end.



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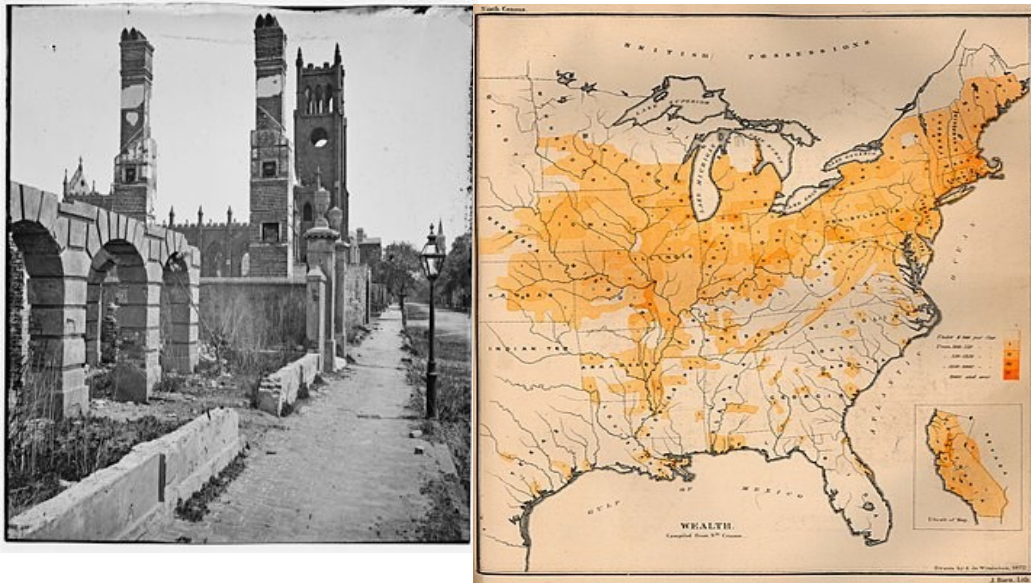
Following his Emancipation Proclamation (Sep '62), 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was Instigated by Lincoln & passed by Congress 1/1/65, but ratified only after his successor Andrew Johnson encouraged the “reconstructed” States of Alabama, Nth. Carolina & Georgia, thus getting the number to 27 of 36 States. Most unpopular in the South, but rarely challenged in courts since.

14<sup>th</sup> Amendment was drafted by the Congressional Joint Committee on Reconstruction (whose job was to ascertain whether/when Southern States were fit to be represented again in either House) Coming after the Civil Rights Act 1866, proposed in '65, rejected by Andrew Johnson (one reason was it discriminated against Whites!), but he was over-ridden & it became law April '66. Amendment was itself amended a number of times before being passed by both Houses Jun '66. Ratification was refused by all Confederate States except Tennessee, which led to the Reconstruction Acts, which imposed Military Govt. on them all. A further law followed making ratification of 14<sup>th</sup> a condition of returning to Congress. Used in Litigations to this day (Trump 'Jan '21), it was not ratified by some States until 1976! It was railroaded through!

15<sup>th</sup> Amendment drafted in '68/9, gave voter rights to all (but not women!). Ratified gradually (Tennessee 1997). Does not specifically prevent States from imposing conditions on voters (poll taxes, literacy tests). Subsequently this allowed Southern States to pass Jim Crow Laws etc.

*(These Reconstruction Amendments established the rights that led to Supreme Court rulings in the mid-20th century that struck down school segregation. A "Second Reconstruction", sparked by the civil rights movement, led to civil-rights laws in 1964 and 1965 that ended legal segregation and re-opened the polls to Blacks.)*

# Devastation of the South



*Charleston, South Carolina, 1865, Wealth per capita, 1872.*

Reconstruction played out against a background of economic devastation:

- 14% of urban South (116k people, 1% of total pop.) destroyed or severely damaged by Union troops.
- 40% of livestock killed, & same proportion of farm machinery destroyed
- Transport Infrastructure ruined (most rail was in rural areas that had been overrun by Union troops, rest had been unmaintained by South)
- Direct cost of war \$3.3billion, currency worthless (barter re-emerged), loss of investment in slaves, led to “sharecropping” and to the “crop-lien” system
- Main feature of South Economy changed from elite minority of landed gentry into a Tenant Farmer system.
- Export market for cotton disappeared (GB got its cotton from Egypt & India)
- Large migration of newly freed peoples to cities (mostly in the North), where they became low-priced, largely unskilled labour.
- Over a quarter of Southern White men of military age—the backbone of the South's White workforce—died during the war, leaving many families destitute.
- Per capita income for White Southerners declined from \$125 in 1857 to a low of \$80 in 1879. By the end of the 19th century and well into the 20th century, the South was locked into a system of poverty.

# Freedmen (Bureau)



*“Freedmen” voting New Orleans '67 and Northern Teachers educating the Freed.*

Freedmen's Bureau created March '65 to provide food, clothing, fuel and contract-making advice. Could also lease confiscated land to make available to both Freedmen and White refugees. (“40 acres and a mule”).

It, and the Civil Rights Act of '66, ensured that the Black Codes (racial segregation), instituted by the Southern States, had to be abandoned.

The bureau helped the recently freed slaves to begin voting, form political parties, and assume the control of labour in many areas. The bureau helped to start a change of power in the South that drew national attention from the Republicans in the North to the conservative Democrats in the South. This is especially evident in the election between Grant and Seymour (Johnson did not get the Democratic nomination), where almost 700,000 Black voters voted and swayed the election 300,000 votes in Grant's favour.

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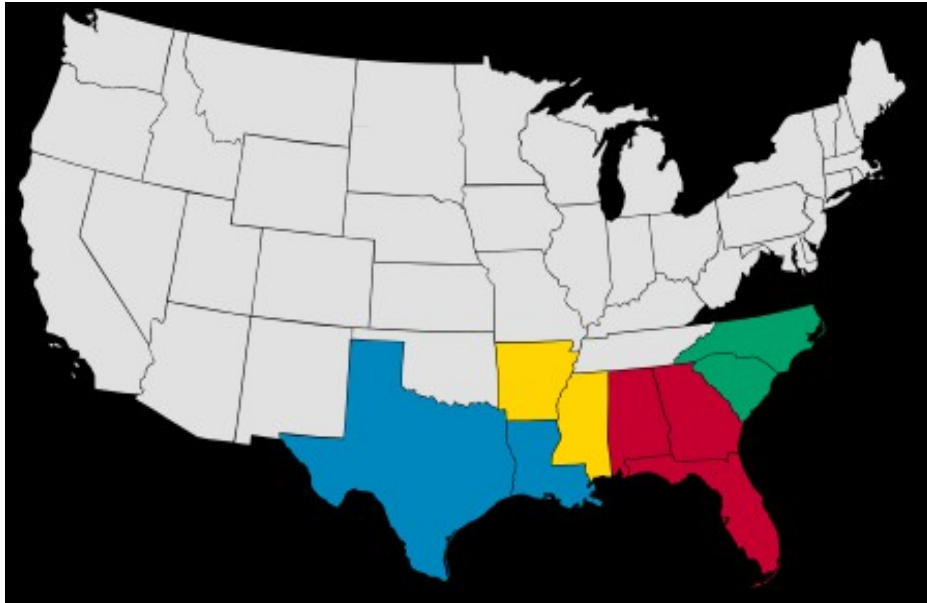
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# Military Districts



Radical Republicans, fed up with Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction Policies, which they saw as allowing too many ex-Confederates in public office, where they obstructed the civil rights of Freedmen.

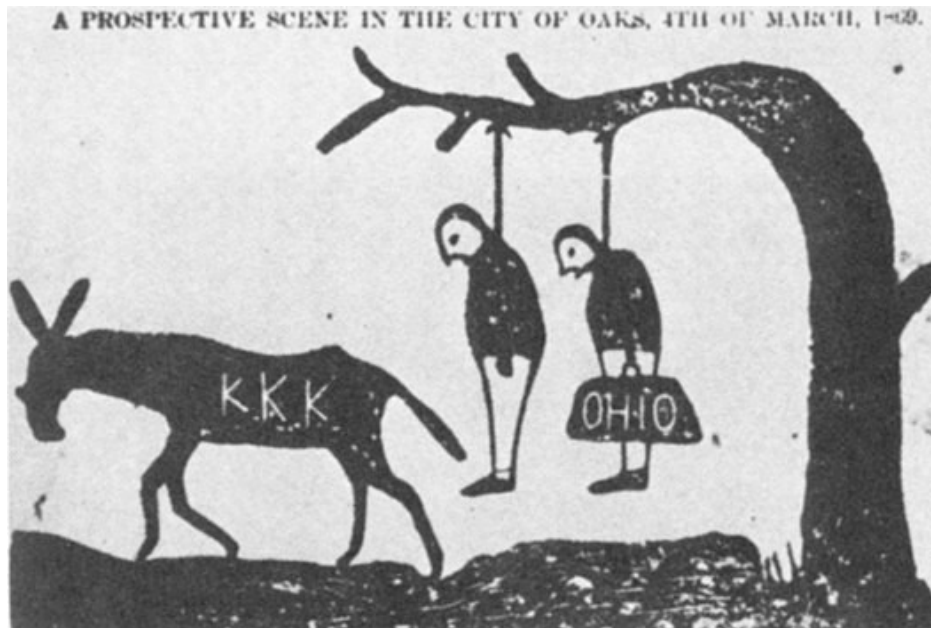
In response, Congressional Republicans passed a multitude of bills furthering strict Reconstruction policies known as the Reconstruction Acts, the most important of which being the Act to Provide for the More Efficient Government of the Rebel States. This act, passed on March 2, 1867, divided the former Confederate States (except for Tennessee, after it ratified the 14th Amendment)[3] into five separate military districts. The Reconstruction Acts required that each former Confederate state hold a Constitutional Convention, adopt a new State Constitution, and ratify the 14th Amendment before rejoining the Union.

Each of these districts fell under the command of former Union Army general officers to supervise the replacement of undesirable former Confederate officials and use military force to guarantee the safety of liberated African Americans and maintain peace.

1 <sup>st</sup> Military District	Virginia	Ended Jan '70
2 <sup>nd</sup> Military District	Nth & Sth Carolina.	Ended Jul '68
3 <sup>rd</sup> Military District	Georgia, Florida, Alabama	Ended Jul '70
4 <sup>th</sup> Military District	Arkansas & Mississippi	Ended Mar '70
5 <sup>th</sup> Military District	Louisiana & Texas	Ended mid '70

More than 20000 troops were involved in enforcing these Reconstruction Acts.

## Carpetbaggers & Scalawags



*From Alabama's "Independent Monitor" Sept .68 showing what KKK would do (ie: lynch scalawags & carpetbaggers) when Democrat Horatio Seymour won the forthcoming Presidential election.*

**Carpetbagger:** Southern term for Northerners who came South to exploit the local populace for their own gain (Fin. Pol. Soc.).

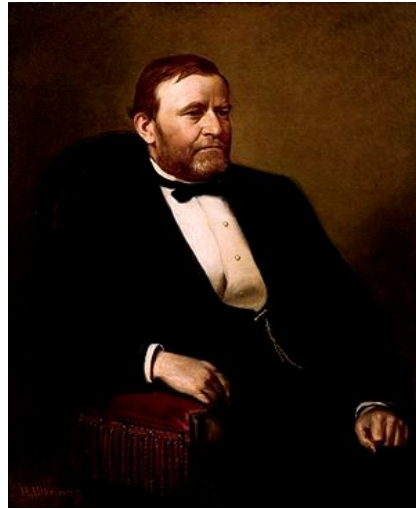
**Scalawag:** White Southerners who supported Republicans and their Reconstruction policies.

It didn't come to pass – Grant won the Presidency.



# Grant's Presidential Reconstruction

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**Met with** prominent black leaders for consultation and signed a bill into law, on March 18, 1869, that guaranteed equal rights to both blacks and whites, to serve on juries, and hold office. In 1870 Grant signed into law a Naturalization Act that gave foreign blacks citizenship.

**Senators** from the four remaining states—Mississippi, Virginia, Texas and lastly Georgia, were seated in Congress, with all the former Confederate states represented.

**Created DoJ** in '70. Allowed Federal intervention in State Affairs to protect citizenship rights.

**Enforcement Acts** (3) to protect blacks and the Reconstruction Govts. Criminal codes protected right to vote etc. The KKK Act allowed suspension of Habeas Corpus and imposition of Martial Law by the President.

**Election Fraud** Sent in troops to protect voters, notably NYC in '70 and Petersburg VA in '76. Democrat fraud was countered by federal marshals & troops in both Nth & Sth.

**Prosecuted KKK** starting in '71, hundreds of Clan members prosecuted. Clan destroyed by '72 (but other groups survived). Clan revived as '70s wore on.

**May '72 Amnesty Act** restored political rights to former Confederates (except a few hundred officers). Wanted people to practise free speech despite their "views, colour or nativity".

**Mar '75 Civil Rights Act** outlawed discrimination of blacks in many areas. Weakly enforceable, but it spread fear among whites and was overturned by Supreme Court in '83. Many of its provisions went into the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**Decline of Support** His support from Congress and the nation declined in later years due to scandals within his administration and the political resurgence of the Democrats in the North and South. Even by 1870, most Republicans felt the war goals had been achieved, and they turned their attention to other issues such as economic policies.

# African American Officeholders

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Republicans took control of all Southern state governorships and state legislatures, except for Virginia & elected numerous African Americans to local, state, and national offices; though they did not dominate any electoral offices, Black men as representatives voting in state and federal legislatures marked a drastic social change. At the beginning of 1867, no African American in the South held political office, but within three or four years c 15% of the officeholders in the South were Black—a larger proportion than in 1990!. Most of those offices were at the local level.

In 1860, Blacks constituted the majority of the population in Mississippi and South Carolina, 47% in Louisiana, 45% in Alabama, and 44% in Georgia and Florida, so their political influence was still far less than their percentage of the population.

About 137 Black officeholders had lived outside the South before the Civil War. Some had escaped from slavery to the North, become educated returned to help the South advance in the postbellum era. Others were Free people of colour before the war, who had achieved education and positions of leadership elsewhere. Other African American men elected to office were already leaders in their communities, including a number of preachers.

There were few African Americans elected or appointed to national office. African Americans voted for both White and Black candidates. The Fifteenth Amendment guaranteed only that voting could not be restricted on the basis of race, colour, or previous condition of servitude. From 1868 on, campaigns and elections were surrounded by violence as White insurgents and paramilitaries tried to suppress the Black vote, and fraud was rampant. Many congressional elections in the South were contested. Even states with majority-African-American populations often elected only one or two African American representatives to Congress. An exception was Sth Carolina, where in '77, most of its Congressmen were black.

# The End of the Reconstruction Era

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- Southern Democrats and “Redeemers”
- New Departure
- Panic of 1873
- Increasing Violence
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*Republicans both North & South became split in the '70s.*

War was over, other matters more important (economic), Grant's admin's corruption, his use of federal troops to prop up Southern Republican regimes, wearied of violence by whites. - Result was weakening of Republicans, inc. loss of support (even by Blacks) to Democrats.

*Southern Democrats & “Redeemers”.*

White Democrats opposed to Civil Rights, Formed State Political Parties, supported (tolerated) the White League (Louisiana) & Red Shirts (Miss. & Carolinas), as well as KKK. “Redeemers” formed from planters, businessmen & professionals, came to dominate Southern Politics 1870 to 1910.

*“New Departure”.*

Democrats in '70 thought that by ending their opposition to Reconstruction they could move on to more important matters than re-fighting the war every election. Lost out to the Redeemers.

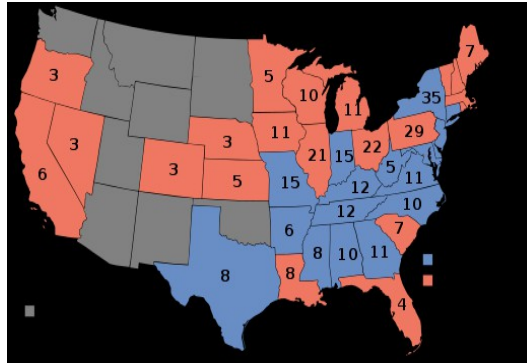
*Panic of 1873.*

A Depression, hit South very hard, particularly the middle class (small farmers, merchants etc). Republicans lost support, both South & North, with Grant taking blame (Republicans lost 96 seats in '74 elections).

*Increasing Violence.*

Many instances, White League invaded New Orleans in '74 with 5000 men to oust Republican Governor by force. White League & Red Shirts became military arm of Democrat Party. Operating in open, shot enough Blacks in Miss. In '75 to decide election for Dems. North increasingly wanted to wash their hands of the South.

# 1876 Presidential Election



369 members of the Electoral College  
185 electoral votes needed to win  
Turnout 81.8%

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Party	Republican	Democrat
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20 electoral votes queried. In the “Compromise of 1877” (a corrupt deal) Dems allowed them to be awarded to Hayes on condition he removed all Fed. Troops from South.

Hayes duly removed last Fed Troops from capitals of Louisiana & Sth Carolina in Mar '77 (Grant had already removed them from Florida earlier that year).

Shorn of Federal protection, “Exodusters” left in large numbers for Kansas. AAs were still in office in some States, notably Virginia which was run by the Readjuster Party.

Democrats now had control of the Senate and Congress, as well as most of the South's State Legislatures.

Thus ended Reconstruction and quite quickly any chance of AAs achieving equality. "Jim Crow" Laws etc soon followed.