Chapter 16 - Reconstruction

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Rebuilding the South

The Big Idea
The nation faced many problems in rebuilding the Union.

Main Ideas
• President Lincoln and Congress differed in their views as Reconstruction began.
• The end of the Civil War meant freedom for African Americans in the South.
• President Johnson’s plan began the process of Reconstruction.
Main Idea 1: President Lincoln and Congress differed in their views as Reconstruction began.

- **Reconstruction**: the process of readmitting the former Confederate states to the Union; lasted from 1865 to 1877
- The South had been severely damaged by war—cities, towns, and farms had been ruined.
- Many southerners faced starvation.
- Banks failed, and merchants went bankrupt.
Reconstruction Plans

**Lincoln’s Plan**
- The **Ten Percent Plan** offered amnesty, or official pardon, to southerners.
- Southerners had to swear allegiance to the Union and agree that slavery was illegal.
- New state governments could be formed once 10 percent of voters had made these pledges.
- Lincoln wanted to restore order quickly.

**Wade-Davis Bill**
- Congressional Republicans’ alternative to Lincoln’s plan.
- To be readmitted, a state had to ban slavery, and a majority of adult males had to take a loyalty oath.
- Only southerners who swore they had never supported the Confederacy could vote or hold office.
- Lincoln refused to sign the bill into law.
Main Idea 2:
The end of the Civil War meant freedom for African Americans in the South.

- One thing Republicans agreed on was abolishing slavery.
- Lincoln urged Congress to propose the Thirteenth Amendment.
- Made slavery illegal in the United States
- The amendment was ratified, and took effect on December 16, 1865.
Freedom Brought Changes

- Newly freed slaves faced many changes.
  - Married couples could legalize their marriages.
  - Families searched for members who had been sold away.
  - Many moved from mostly white counties to places with more African Americans.

- Freed people demanded same economic and political rights as white citizens.
  - Many former slaves wanted their own land to farm.
  - Many white planters refused to surrender their land.
  - The U.S. government returned land to its original owners.
Freedmen’s Bureau

- Established by Congress in 1865
- Provided relief for freed people and certain poor people in the South
- Distributed food and provided education and legal help
- Established 3,000 schools and several universities
Main Idea 3: President Johnson’s plan began the process of Reconstruction.

A New President

- President Lincoln was assassinated in April 1865.
- Vice president Andrew Johnson became president.

Reconstruction

- Johnson’s Reconstruction plan was similar to Lincoln’s, but included the need for wealthy southerners and former Confederate officials to receive presidential pardons in order to receive amnesty.
New State Governments

- Johnson appointed a temporary governor to lead each state.
- States were required to revise their constitutions and declare that secession was illegal.
- States had to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment and refuse to pay Confederate debts.
- All southern states except Texas had created new governments by 1865.
- Johnson declared the Union to be restored, but Congress refused to readmit southern states into the Union because too many newly elected representatives had been leaders of the Confederacy.
The Fight over Reconstruction

The Big Idea
The return to power of the pre-war southern leadership led Republicans in Congress to take control of Reconstruction.

Main Ideas
- Black Codes led to opposition to President Johnson’s plan for Reconstruction.
- The Fourteenth Amendment ensured citizenship for African Americans.
- Radical Republicans in Congress took charge of Reconstruction.
- The Fifteenth Amendment gave African Americans the right to vote.
Main Idea 1: Black Codes led to opposition to President Johnson’s plan for Reconstruction.

- New state legislatures approved by President Johnson began passing laws to deny civil rights to African Americans.
- Every southern state passed **Black Codes**, laws that greatly limited the freedom of African Americans.
- African Americans organized to oppose the codes.
Radical Republicans

- Black Codes angered many Republicans, who felt the South was returning to its old ways.
  - Most Republicans were moderates who hoped the South would not have to be forced into following the laws.

- **Radical Republicans** took a harsher stance, wanting the government to force change in the South.
  - Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania and Charles Sumner of Massachusetts were leaders.
  - Radical Republicans, like the moderate Republicans, believed the Black Codes were cruel.
  - Unlike the moderates, they wanted the federal government to be more involved in Reconstruction.
Main Idea 2:
The Fourteenth Amendment ensured citizenship for African Americans.

- Radicals urged Congress to pass a bill giving the Freedmen’s Bureau more power.
  - Johnson vetoed the bill because he said Congress could not pass laws until all southern states were back in Congress.
- Republicans passed the **Civil Rights Act of 1866**.
  - Johnson again used his veto power.
  - Congress overrode Johnson’s veto.
  - Republicans feared that the Act might be overturned.
- Republicans then proposed the **Fourteenth Amendment** in 1866.
The Fourteenth Amendment

- Defined all people born or naturalized in United States, except Native Americans, as citizens
- Guaranteed citizens equal protection under the law.
- Said states could not “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law”
- Banned many former Confederate officials from holding state or federal offices
- Made state laws subject to federal court review
- Gave Congress the power to pass any laws needed to enforce the amendment
- The amendment was a key issue in the 1866 congressional elections. Riots and violence occurred. The Republicans won a commanding two-thirds majority in the House and Senate, giving them the power to override any presidential veto.
Main Idea 3:
Radical Republicans in Congress took charge of Reconstruction.

- The elections of 1866 gave Republicans a two-thirds majority in Congress.
- They passed the first of several Reconstruction Acts in 1867.
- The laws divided the South into five military districts with a military commander in control of each.
- The military would remain in control of the South until southern states rejoined the Union.
Impeachment

- Johnson opposed Republican Reconstruction.
- Congress passed laws limiting his power.
- Johnson broke the law when he fired Secretary of War Edwin Stanton.
- The House of Representatives voted to impeach the president. **Impeachment** is the process used by the legislative body to bring charges of wrongdoing against a public official.
- The Senate did not convict Johnson, but his power was greatly reduced.
- Johnson decided not to run for reelection in 1868.
Election of 1868

- The war hero General Ulysses S. Grant was elected president.
- He appealed to northern voters. His slogan was “Let Us Have Peace.”
- Hundreds of thousands of African Americans also voted for Grant since he was from the “party of Lincoln.”
- African American votes helped Grant win a narrow victory.
Main Idea 4: The Fifteenth Amendment gave African Americans the right to vote.

Radical Republicans in Control

• Wanted to protect their Reconstruction plan as more southern states rejoined the Union
• Proposed the Fifteenth Amendment in 1869

Fifteenth Amendment

• Went into effect in 1870
• Guaranteed African American men the right to vote
Reconstruction in the South

The Big Idea

As Reconstruction ended, African Americans faced new hurdles and the South attempted to rebuild.

Main Ideas

- Reconstruction governments helped reform the South.
- The Ku Klux Klan was organized as African Americans moved into positions of power.
- As Reconstruction ended, the rights of African Americans were restricted.
- Southern business leaders relied on industry to rebuild the South.
Main Idea 1: Reconstruction governments helped reform the South.

- Republicans controlled most southern governments but were unpopular with white southerners.
  - Northern-born Republicans who moved south after the war were called carpetbaggers.
  - White southern Republicans were called scalawags.
- African Americans: largest group of southern Republican voters
  - Hiram Revels was first African American in U.S. Senate
- Reconstruction state governments provided money for many new programs.
  - Helped establish public schools; built hospitals; passed laws against discrimination; constructed railroads and bridges
Ku Klux Klan

- Created by group of white southerners in Tennessee in 1866
- Secret society opposed to civil rights, particularly suffrage, for African Americans
- Used violence and terror against African Americans
- Local governments did little to stop the violence, so Congress passed laws that made it a federal crime to interfere with elections or to deny citizens equal protection under the law.

Main Idea 2:
The Ku Klux Klan was organized as African Americans moved into positions of power.
Main Idea 3:
As Reconstruction ended, the rights of African Americans were restricted.

Republicans were losing power in southern states and in the North, and were being blamed for the severe economic downturn called the Panic of 1873.

The close election of 1876 appeared to have been won by Democrat Samuel Tilden but was challenged by supporters of Republican Rutherford B. Hayes.

The **Compromise of 1877** gave the election to Hayes, while agreeing to Democrats’ request to remove federal troops from the South.

Democrats then regained control of governments in the South, and were called Redeemers by southerners.
Rights of African Americans were restricted.

**Redeemer Governments**
- Set up poll tax to deny African Americans the vote
- Introduced legal segregation, the forced separation of whites and African Americans in public places, through Jim Crow laws

**Supreme Court**
- Ruled that Civil Rights Act of 1875 was unconstitutional
- *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruled that segregation was allowed if “separate-but-equal” facilities were provided.

**Sharecropping**
- Few African Americans could afford to buy or rent farms.
- Became part of sharecropping system, providing labor to landowners and sharing their crops with them
- Sharecroppers faced debt.
Main Idea 4: Southern business leaders relied on industry to rebuild the South.

- The southern economy suffered cycles of good and bad years, as cotton prices went up and down.
- Business leaders hoped industry would strengthen the southern economy and create a New South.
- The most successful industrial development was textile mills.
  - Work appealed to rural families
  - African Americans not allowed to work in mills
  - Long hours, dangerous working conditions, low wages