

Chapter 16

Reconstruction and the New South

(1863–1896)

What You Will Learn

As the Civil War ended, disagreements over Reconstruction led to conflict, and African Americans lost many of the rights they had gained.

Chapter 16 Focus Question

As you read through this chapter, keep this question in mind: **What were the short-term and long-term effects of the Civil War?**

Section 1

Rebuilding the Nation

Section 1 Focus Question

How did the government try to solve key problems facing the nation after the Civil War? To begin answering this question,

- Explore the challenges of preparing for reunion.
- Learn about the services of the Freedmen’s Bureau.
- Find out about Abraham Lincoln’s assassination and its aftermath.

Summary

As the Civil War ended, the country faced the challenge of reuniting the nation. With President Lincoln’s assassination, hopes of a lenient Reconstruction policy faded away.

Preparing for Reunion

As the Civil War came to a close, much of the South lay in ruins, the homeless needed food and shelter, and many in the North and the South had hard feelings toward each other. The process of bringing the North and the South back together again, known as Reconstruction, would occupy the nation for years to come.

Abraham Lincoln and some fellow Republicans thought a lenient Reconstruction policy would strengthen the Republican Party in the South. The Radical Republicans

Key Events

1863

President Lincoln proposes a mild Reconstruction plan.

1867

Radical Reconstruction begins.

1870

The 15th Amendment is ratified by the states.

1896

Supreme Court rules to permit separate facilities for blacks and whites.

Reading Strategy

Reread the bracketed paragraph. There are several challenges stated. Underline the challenges and circle the nation’s reaction.



disagreed and claimed only a “hard,” or strict, Reconstruction policy would keep the South from rising again.

| Reconstruction | |
|---|---|
| Lenient | Strict |
| <p>Lincoln: Ten Percent Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - loyalty oath from 10% of state’s voters needed to create new state government - abolition of slavery by state government - former Confederates who swear loyalty pardoned | <p>Radical Republicans: Wade-Davis Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - loyalty oath from 50% of state’s voters needed before reentering Union - abolition of slavery by state government - Confederate volunteers barred from voting and holding office |



The Freedmen’s Bureau

Congress created the Freedmen’s Bureau to help **freedmen**, or enslaved people who had been freed by the war, as well as other war refugees. The bureau’s first duty was to provide emergency relief to people displaced by war. It also set up schools for African Americans, helped freedmen find jobs, and settled disputes between blacks and whites. ✓

Lincoln Is Murdered

As the war drew to a close, President Lincoln hoped for a peaceful Reconstruction. But Lincoln had no chance to put his plans into practice. He was shot on April 14, 1865, by **John Wilkes Booth**, a Confederate sympathizer. Lincoln died hours later.

Lincoln’s successor was Andrew Johnson from Tennessee. A southern Democrat who had remained loyal to the Union, Johnson had expressed bitterness toward the Confederates, and many expected him to take a hard line on Reconstruction. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. What was one major difference between the Ten Percent Plan and the Wade-Davis Bill?

2. How did the Freedmen’s Bureau help former states?

Vocabulary Builder

If *strict* is the opposite of *lenient*, what do you think *lenient* means?

✓ Checkpoint

List two problems that faced the nation during Reconstruction.

✓ Checkpoint

What was the main purpose of the Freedmen’s Bureau?

✓ Checkpoint

Name the person who succeeded Abraham Lincoln as President.

Section 2

The Battle Over Reconstruction

Section 2 Focus Question

How did disagreements over Reconstruction lead to conflict in government and in the South? To begin to answer this question,

- Learn how conflict grew between the President and Congress during Reconstruction.
- Discover the significance of the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Understand the policies of Radical Reconstruction.

Summary

During the Johnson presidency, there were many clashes over Reconstruction. The Radical Republicans took hold of Congress, and African Americans made strides into politics for the first time.

A Growing Conflict

Like President Lincoln, **Andrew Johnson** wanted to restore the Union quickly and easily, so he proposed a lenient plan for Reconstruction. Johnson's plan required southern states to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment, which banned slavery and forced labor. His plan also offered amnesty to most Confederates and allowed southern states to form new governments and to elect representatives to Congress.

Congress rejected Johnson's plan and appointed a committee to form a new plan for the South. The committee learned that some southern states passed **black codes**, or laws to control African Americans. In response, Congress adopted a harder line against the South. The Radical Republicans took the hardest stance. They wanted to prevent former Confederates from regaining control of southern politics and to make sure freedmen had the right to vote. ✓

The Fourteenth Amendment

The struggle for Reconstruction continued in 1866. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866. President Johnson vetoed it and another bill extending the Freedmen's Bureau. Congress then voted to overturn the vetoes.

Congress also drew up the Fourteenth Amendment. It declared all people born or naturalized in the United States to be citizens. It also barred the states from passing laws to take away a citizen's rights. The Fourteenth Amendment

Key Events

1863

President Lincoln proposes a mild Reconstruction plan.

1867

Radical Reconstruction begins.

1870

The 15th Amendment is ratified by the states.

1896

Supreme Court rules to permit separate facilities for blacks and whites.

✓ Checkpoint

List two goals of the Radical Republicans.

✓ Checkpoint

Name two elements of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Reading Strategy

In the bracketed paragraph, underline the topic sentence. Circle the result of Congress's actions.



Vocabulary Builder

Servitude comes from the Latin word *servus*, which means “slave.” What do you think *servitude* means?

✓ Checkpoint

List two effects of the Reconstruction Act of 1867.

also stopped states from taking away property or liberty “without due process of law.” Despite opposition from President Johnson, the amendment was ratified in 1868. ✓

Radical Reconstruction

Violence directed at African Americans pushed Congress to adopt a stricter form of Reconstruction called Radical Reconstruction. The Reconstruction Act of 1867 threw out the governments of all states that refused to adopt the Fourteenth Amendment, and it imposed military rule on these states. By June of 1868, all of these states had ratified the Fourteenth Amendment and written new constitutions.

For the first time, African Americans in the South played an important role in politics. Some other accomplishments of Radical Reconstruction included public schools in southern states, even taxation, and property rights for women.

Meanwhile, the Radical Republicans tried to remove President Johnson from office by **impeachment**. Impeachment means formally bringing charges against a public official. Johnson escaped removal by one vote in the Senate.

Ulysses S. Grant won the presidential election for the Republicans in 1868. Grant was a war hero and a moderate with support from many northern business owners. Radicals then began to lose their grip on the Republican Party.

Over Democratic opposition, Congress approved the Fifteenth Amendment in 1869. It barred all states from denying the right to vote “on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

Angry at being shut out of power, some whites resorted to violence against African Americans and their white allies. The most feared secret society was the Ku Klux Klan. In the face of terrorism from the Klan and other groups, voting by African Americans declined. The stage was set for the end of Reconstruction. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. What were the main features of Andrew Johnson's plan for Reconstruction?

2. List three accomplishments of Reconstruction.

Section 3

The End of Reconstruction

Key Events

1863

President Lincoln proposes a mild Reconstruction plan.

1867

Radical Reconstruction begins.

1870

The 15th Amendment is ratified by the states.

1896

Supreme Court rules to permit separate facilities for blacks and whites.

✓ Checkpoint

List two reasons that Reconstruction came to an end.

Reading Strategy

Reread the bracketed paragraph. Underline the main idea. Circle two measures taken by southerners that support the main idea.



Section 3 Focus Question

What were the effects of Reconstruction? To begin to answer this question,

- Understand Reconstruction's conclusion.
- Learn how African Americans lost many rights with the end of Reconstruction.
- Discover how many freedmen and whites became locked in a cycle of poverty.
- Understand how the end of Reconstruction marked a time of industrial growth in the South.

Summary

Support for Radical Republicans declined. Reconstruction came to a halt with the election of 1876. Southern African Americans gradually lost their rights and fell into a cycle of poverty. Meanwhile, the South's economy flourished.

Reconstruction's Conclusion

Support for Radical Republicans declined as many northerners lost faith in the Republicans and their policies. The Grant presidency suffered from controversy and corruption. Meanwhile, many northerners and southerners alike were calling for the withdrawal of federal troops and amnesty for former Confederates. Beginning in 1869, Democrats regained power in the South state by state.

The end of Reconstruction was finalized with the election of Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876. Although he was a Republican, Hayes vowed to end Reconstruction. He removed all federal troops from the South. ✓

African Americans Lose Rights

With the end of Reconstruction, African Americans began losing their remaining political and civil rights in the South. Southern whites passed a number of laws to prevent blacks from voting without technically violating the Fifteenth Amendment. A **poll tax**, or a tax to be paid before voting, kept many blacks and poor whites from voting. Another law required voters to pass a **literacy test**, or a test to see if a person could read or write, before voting. Most southern blacks had not been educated and could not pass the test.

Southern states created laws, known as Jim Crow laws, requiring **segregation**, or enforced separation of races. In the *Plessy v. Ferguson* case, the Supreme Court ruled that law could require “separate” facilities as long as they were “equal.” The “separate but equal” rule was in effect until the 1950s. However, the facilities for African Americans were rarely equal. ✓

A Cycle of Poverty

At emancipation, most freedmen were very poor. Most in rural areas became sharecroppers. A **sharecropper** is a farmer who rents land and pays a share of each year’s crop as rent. Sharecroppers hoped to save money and eventually buy land of their own. But weather conditions and the ups and downs of crop prices often caused sharecroppers to lose money and become locked in a cycle of debt. They would then become poorer and poorer each year. Opportunities also dwindled for African Americans in southern cities and towns. Most urban African Americans had to take whatever **menial** jobs they could find. ✓

Industrial Growth

During Reconstruction, the South’s economy slowly began to recover. By the 1880s, new industries appeared. Agriculture was the first industry to recover, with cotton production setting new records by 1875.

Industries that turn raw materials into finished products, such as the textile industry, came to play an important role in the South’s economy. New mills and factories also grew to use the South’s natural resources such as iron, timber, and oil. By 1900, the South was no longer dependent on “King Cotton.” A “New South” based on manufacturing was emerging. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. How did the rights of African Americans change after the end of Radical Reconstruction?

2. What led to southern industrial growth in the 1880s?

✓ Checkpoint

Name two ways that southern African Americans were prevented from voting.

Vocabulary Builder

Use the context clues in the bracketed paragraph to write a definition of the word *menial*.

✓ Checkpoint

List two reasons that sharecropping was not profitable.

✓ Checkpoint

Name three industries that contributed to the South’s economic recovery.
