



**Reconstruction
1865-1877**

Key Questions



1. How do we bring the South back into the Union?

2. How do we rebuild the South after its destruction during the war?

3. How do we integrate and protect newly-emancipated black freedmen?

4. What branch of government should control the process of Reconstruction?

Reconstruction is the era from 1865 to 1877 when the U.S. government attempted to rebuild the nation after the Civil War

During Reconstruction, the government had to readmit the seceded Southern states back into the Union

End slavery and protect newly emancipated slaves

Rebuild the South after more than four years of fighting

[Reconstruction Video](#)



Freedmen's Bureau: March 1865

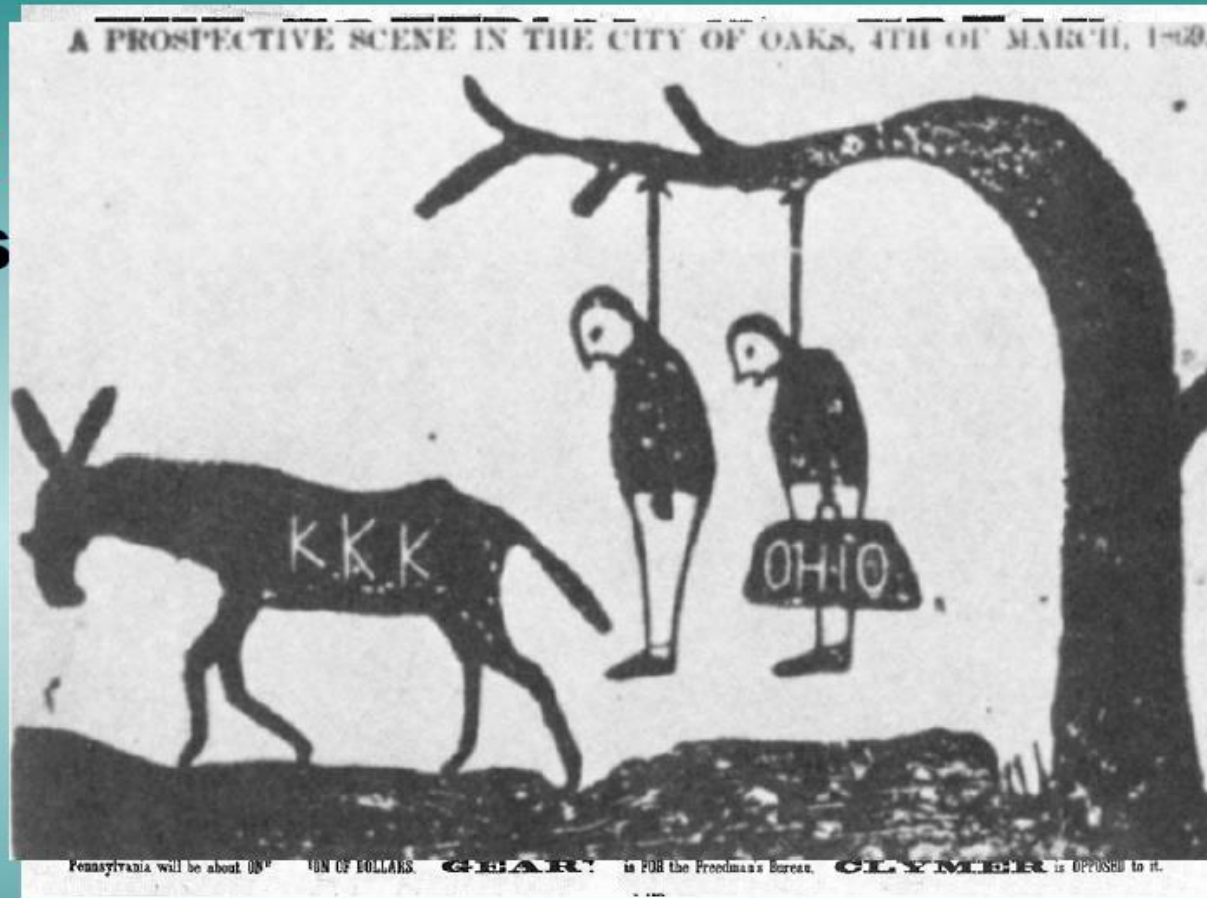
- Purpose: **Help former slaves and poor southern whites**
- Greatest success was in **education**
 - Freedmen's Bureau taught an estimated 200,000 African Americans **how to read**
- “Forty acres and a mule”
 - **Confiscated land** to be given to former slaves
 - Almost never happened
 - Problem: **Economically vulnerable**

40 acres + MULE



SOUTHERN REACTION

- The white south **resented** the Freedmen's Bureau as a **meddlesome federal agency**
- Many former northern abolitionist risked their lives to help southern freedmen



THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU!

AN AGENCY TO KEEP THE **NEGRO** IN IDLENESS AT THE **EXPENSE** OF THE WHITE MAN.
 TWICE VETOED BY THE **PRESIDENT**, AND MADE A LAW BY **CONGRESS**.
SUPPORT CONGRESS & YOU SUPPORT THE NEGRO. SUSTAIN THE PRESIDENT & YOU PROTECT THE WHITE MAN

IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE SHALT THOU EAT THY BREAD

Freedman's Bureau! **Negro Estimate of Freedom!**

CONGRESS, IN JULY, 1865, VOTES THE **NEGRO TROOPS \$300** Each as a Bounty

THE SAME CONGRESS, IN JUNE, 1864, VOTES THE **WHITE Veterans of WAR A \$100** Each as a Bounty.

THE NEGRO GETS 1000 - THE WHITE SOLDIER, 1000 - IN ALL AS OF THE WHITE. BOUNTY OF 1000 TIMES THE - BOUNTY OF THE NEGROES AND TWO TIMES.

APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS, JULY, 1865, **To Support the Freedman's Bureau \$6,944,500**

Contributions and Charities for Negroes	1,100,000
Printing for Negroes	60,000
Stores and Wood for Negroes	15,000
Clothing for Negroes	1,750,000
Food for Negroes	3,000,000
Medicine for Negroes	1,000,000
Recreation for Negroes	1,000,000
Subsidy Western & School	500,000
Miscellaneous for Negroes	500,000
TOTAL	12,000,000

APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS, FOR THE WHITE MAN, **HEAVY TAXES, HARD LABOR**

What is the use for 'em to work, as long as dey make these appropriations.

THE WHITE MAN MUST WORK TO KEEP HIS CHILDREN AND PAY HIS TAXES

For 1864 and 1865, the **FREEDMAN'S BUREAU** cost the Tax-payers of the Nation, at least **SEVENTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.**

TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

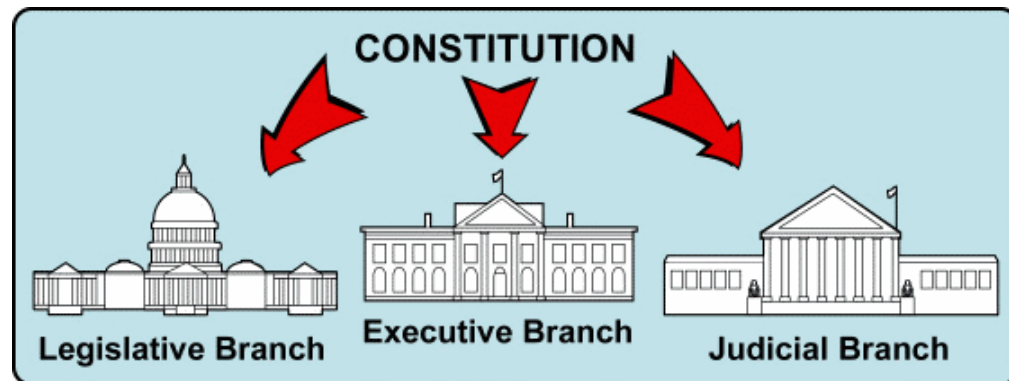
For 1866, **THE SHARE** of the Tax-payers of the

is **FOR** the Freedman's Bureau. **CLYMER** is **OPPOSED** to it.

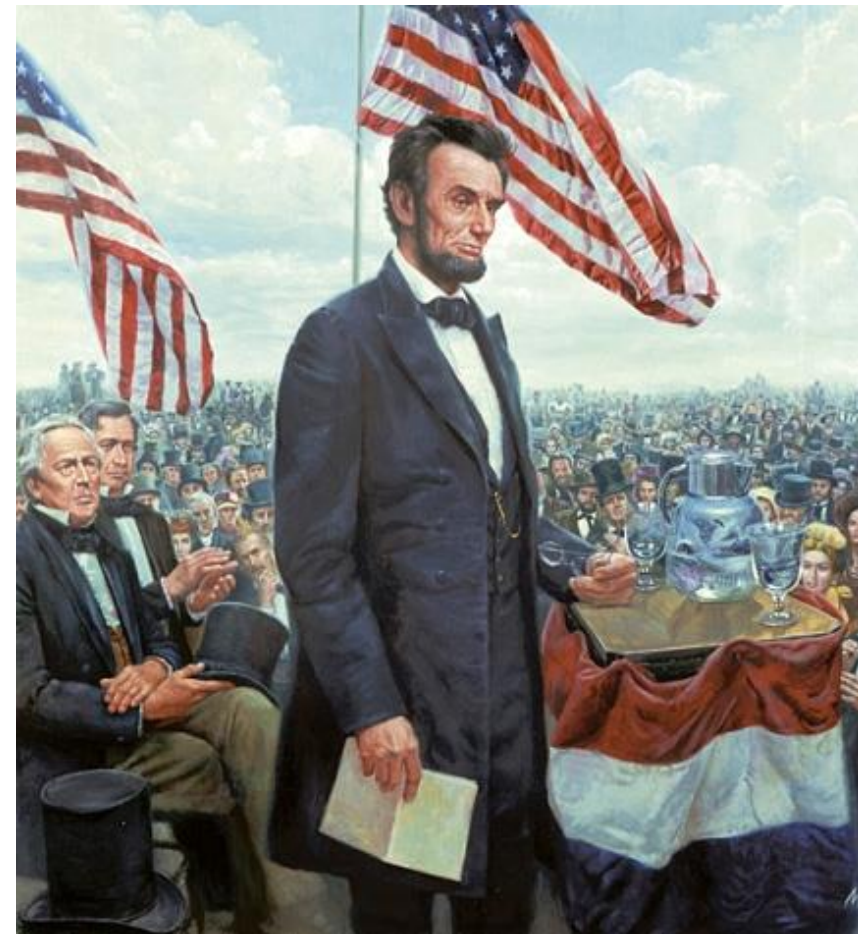
As the Civil War was ending, President Lincoln promised a Reconstruction Plan for the Union with *“malice towards none and charity for all”*

But, the Constitution gave no guidelines on how to readmit states to the Union

The President and Congress disagreed over how to treat the Southern states

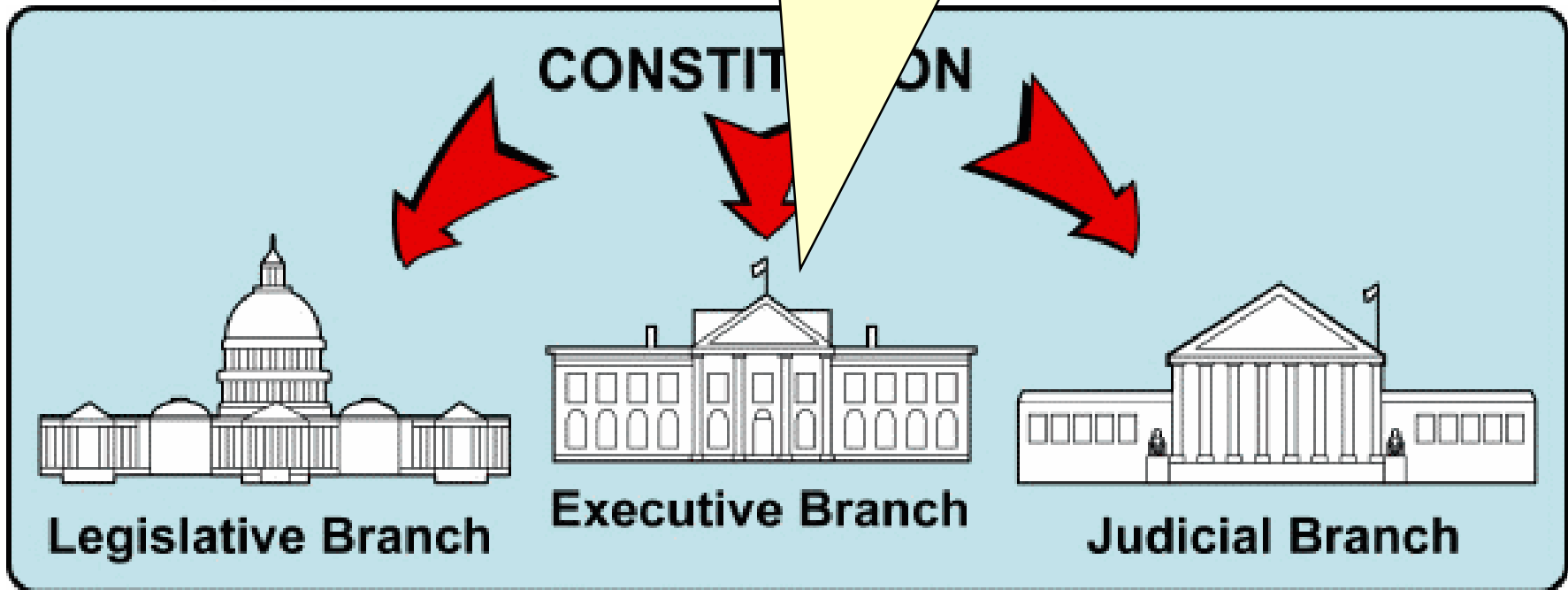


Abraham Lincoln's
Second Inaugural Address





Lincoln favored a plan that would quickly re-admit the Confederate states once 10% of the people swore an oath of loyalty and states ratified the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery in America



“Radical Republicans” in Congress rejected Lincoln’s plan because it was too lenient on ex-Confederates



They favored a plan that protected blacks, required 50% of state citizens to swear a loyalty oath, and banned ex-Confederate leaders from serving in gov’t
(Wade-Davis Bill)

UTION

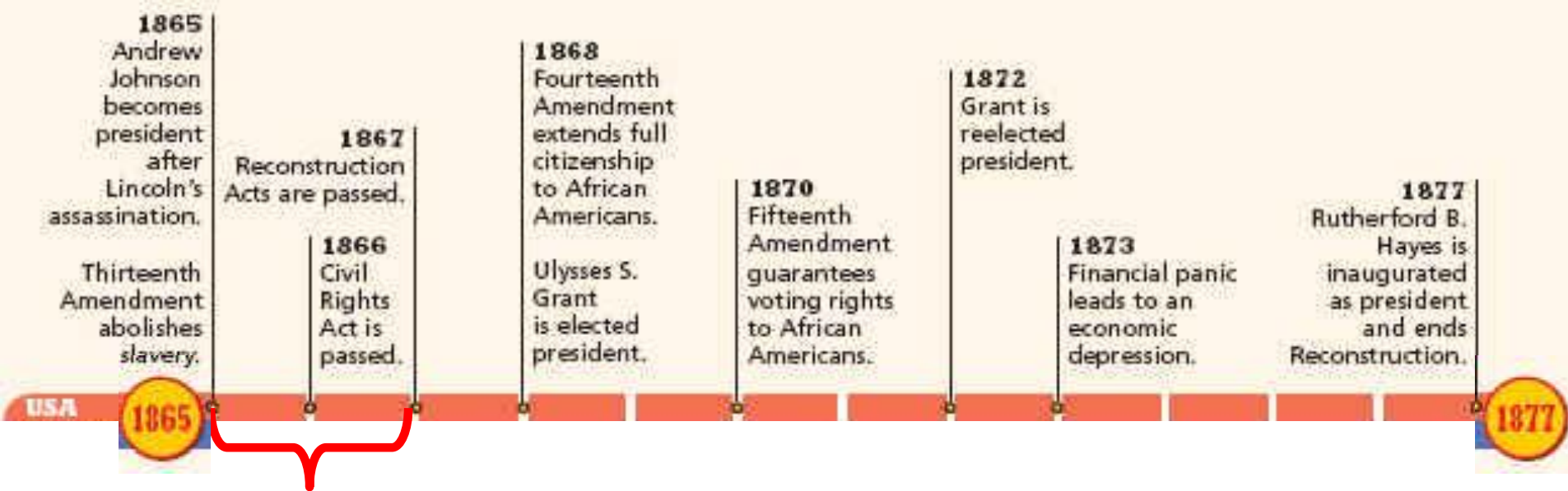
When the Civil War ended and Lincoln was assassinated, the government did not have a Reconstruction Plan in place



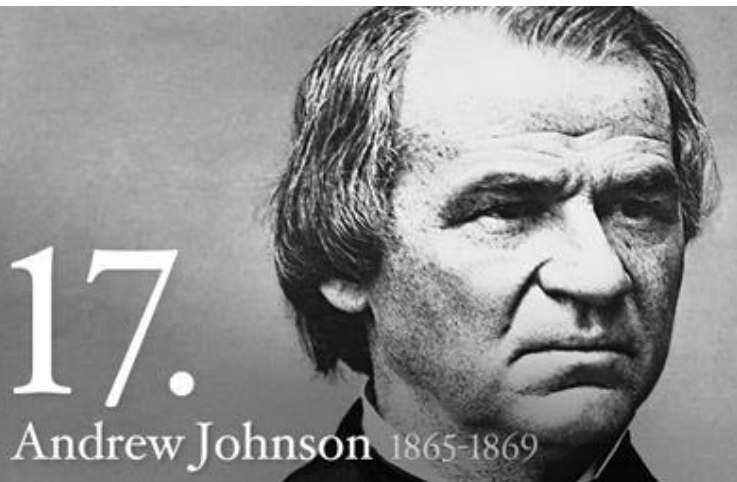
Legislative Branch



Judicial Branch



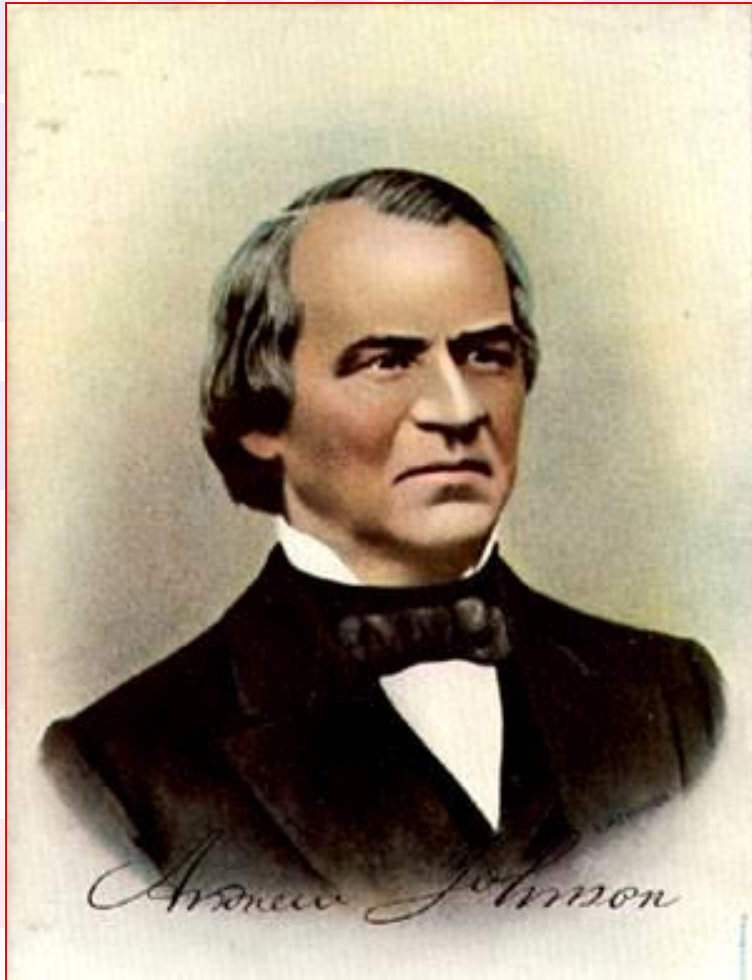
After Lincoln was assassinated in 1865, VP Andrew Johnson created a plan known as **Presidential Reconstruction** (1865-1867)



Johnson's plan was lenient on Confederate states because he wanted the South to rejoin the United States quickly

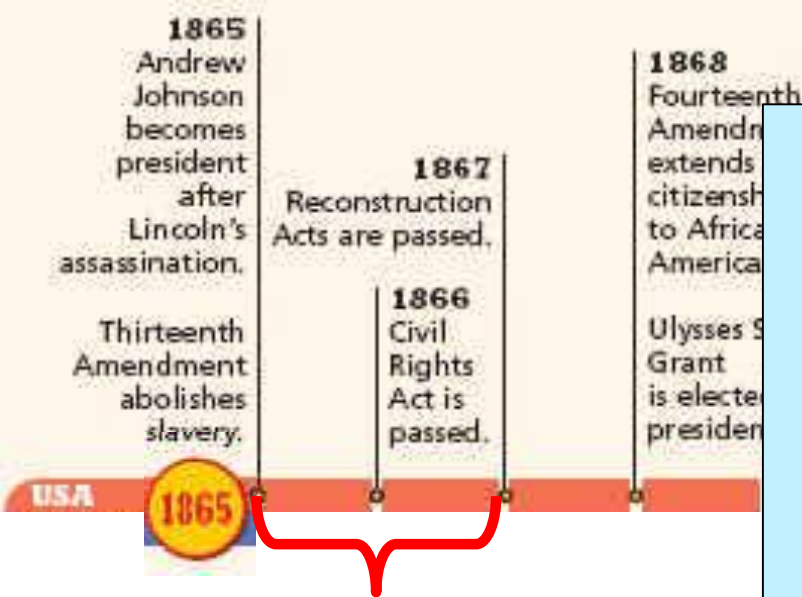


President Andrew Johnson



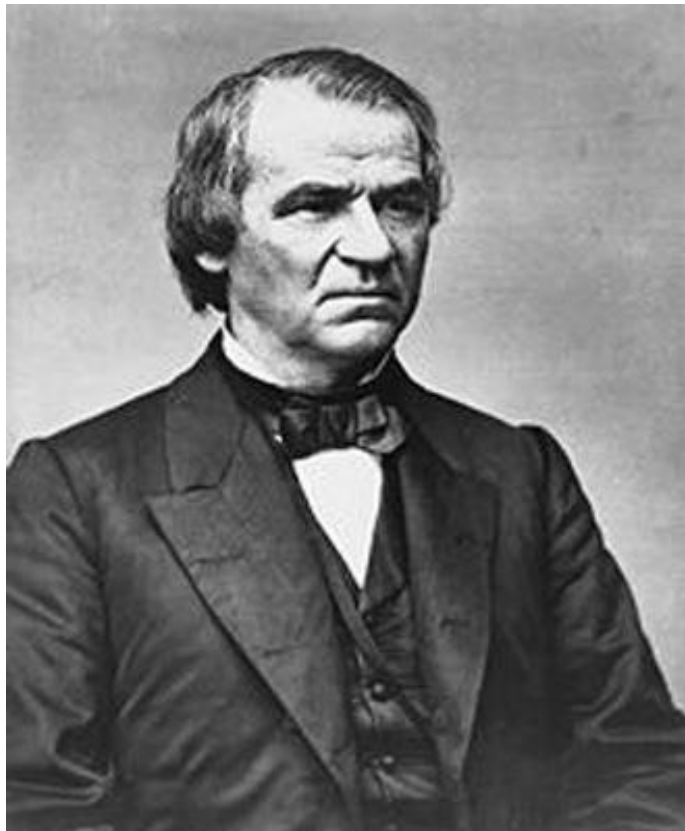
- ★ Jacksonian Democrat
- ★ Anti-Aristocrat
 - ★ Disliked planter elites in the South
- ★ White Supremacist.
 - ★ Didn't believe in extending equal rights to African-Americans
- ★ Agreed with Lincoln that states had never legally left the Union

Damn the negroes! I am fighting these traitorous aristocrats, their masters!



Ex-Confederate states could rejoin the USA once 10% of voters took an oath of loyalty, they ratified the 13th Amendment.

Wealthy planters/Confederate officials could regain rights by petitioning Johnson personally



A graphic featuring a yellow background with a document titled 'We the People Article I' and 'Amendment XIII'. Two raised fists in black and orange are shown in the center, with silver handcuffs on their wrists. Below the document, the text of Amendment XIII is listed.

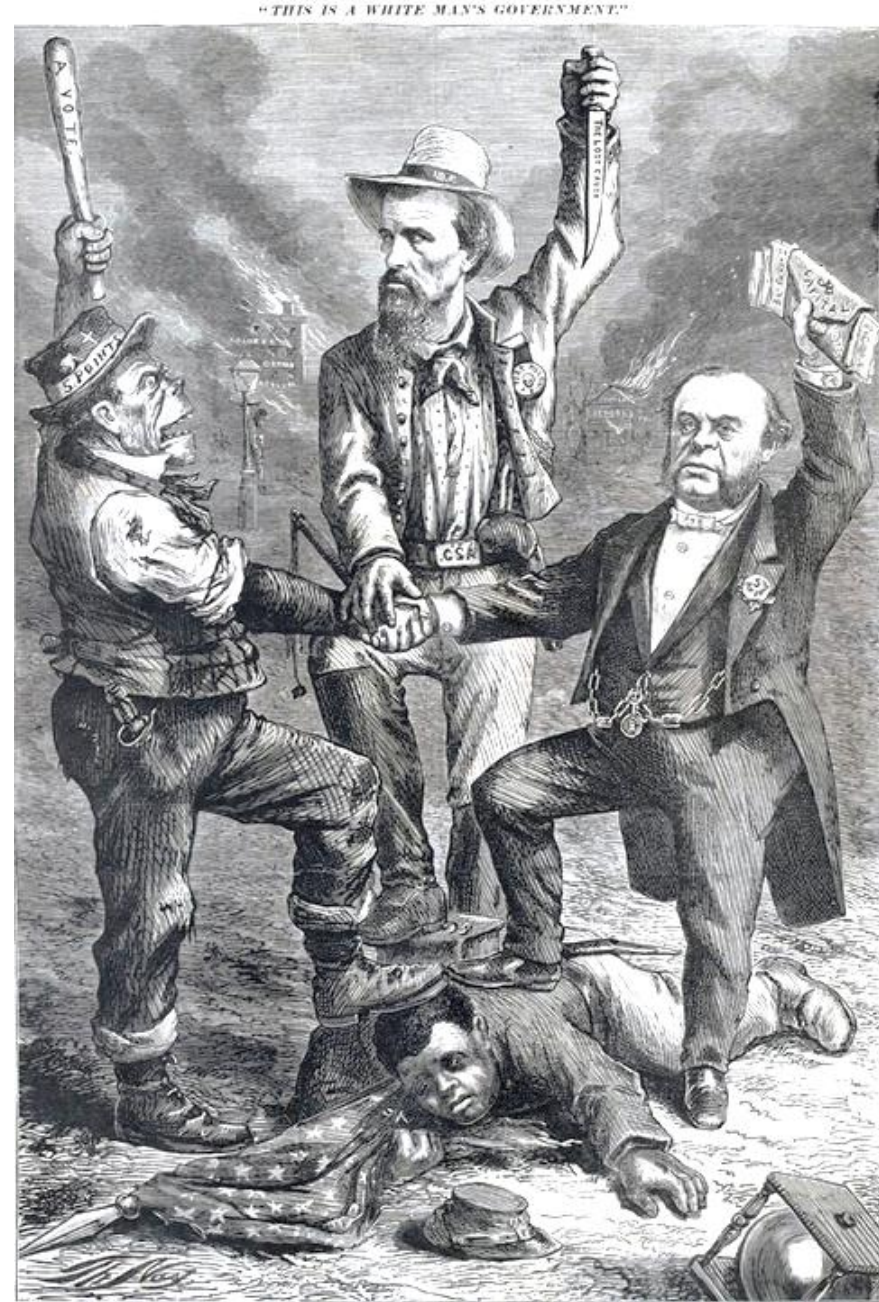
Amendment XIII -

1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.
2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation

Presidential Reconstruction did not require Southern state governments to protect former slaves

Johnson pardoned many ex-Confederates, allowing them to return to power in the southern states

Southern states passed **black codes** to keep African Americans from gaining land, jobs, and protection under the law



SOUTHERN DEFIANCE: BLACK CODES

- **Black Codes:** Purpose was to guarantee a **stable labor supply** now that blacks were emancipated
- Southerners hope to **restore pre-emancipation system of race relations**
- **Examples:**
 - Prohibited African Americans from renting land or borrowing money to buy land
 - African Americans forced to sign labor contracts
 - Penalty for leaving before contract expired
 - African Americans cant serve on a jury or vote
- Many African Americans were forced to become **sharecroppers**
 - Allowed to use land in exchange for giving a percent of crop to the owner of the land



Black Codes

- issued by all southern states during the Presidential Reconstruction phase (1865-1867)
- laws that sought to limit the rights of African Americans and keep them as landless workers
- African Americans could only work in a limited number of occupations: servants or farm laborers
- Angered Republicans in Congress

Black Code Examples

Curfew - Generally, black people could not gather after sunset.

Vagrancy laws - Freedmen convicted of vagrancy (not having a job) could be fined, whipped, or sold for a year's labor.

Labor contracts - Freedmen had to sign agreements in January for a year of work. Those who quit in the middle of a contract often lost all that wages they had earned.

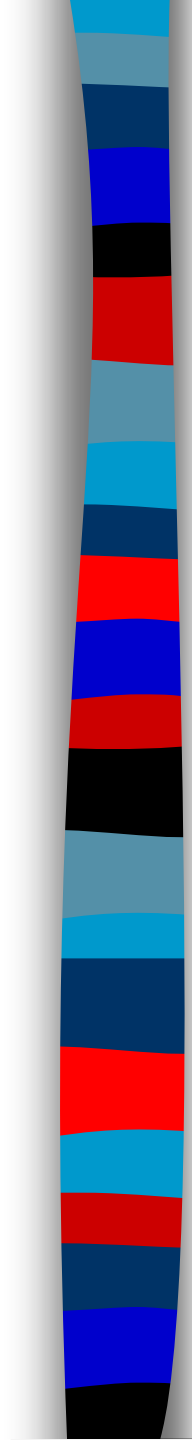
Limits on women's rights - Mothers who wanted to stay home and care for their families were forced instead to do farm labor.

Land restrictions - Freed people could rent land or homes only in rural areas.



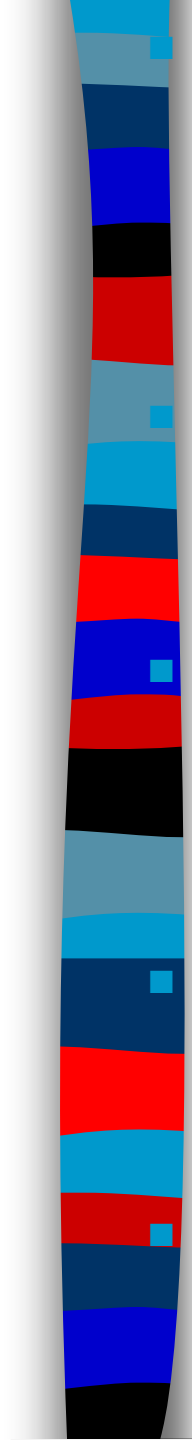
Some common elements of Black Codes were:

- Race was defined by blood; the presence of any amount of black blood made one black.
- Employment was required of all freedmen; violators faced vagrancy charges.
- Freedmen could not assemble without the presence of a white person.

- 
- Freedmen were assumed to be agricultural workers and their duties and hours were tightly regulated.
 - Freedmen were not to be taught to read or write.
 - Public facilities were segregated.
 - Violators of these laws were subject to being whipped or branded.

Louisiana Black Codes Examples

- Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the police jury of the parish of St. Landry, That no negro shall be allowed to pass within the limits of said parish without special permit in writing from his employer. Whoever shall violate this provision shall pay a fine of two dollars and fifty cents, or in default thereof shall be forced to work four days on the public road, or suffer corporeal punishment as provided hereinafter. . . .
- Sec. 3. . . . No negro shall be permitted to rent or keep a house within said parish. Any negro violating this provision shall be immediately ejected and compelled to find an employer; and any person who shall rent, or give the use of any house to any negro, in violation of this section, shall pay a fine of five dollars for each offence.
- Sec. 4. . . . Every negro is required to be in the regular service of some white person, or former owner, who shall be held responsible for the conduct of said negro. But said employer or former owner may permit said negro to hire his own time by special permission in writing, which permission shall not extend over seven days at any one time. . . .



Sec. 5. . . . No public meetings or congregations of negroes shall be allowed within said parish after sunset; but such public meetings and congregations may be held between the hours of sunrise and sunset, by the special permission in writing of the captain of patrol, within whose beat such meetings shall take place. . . .

Sec. 6. . . . No negro shall be permitted to preach, exhort, or otherwise declaim to congregations of colored people, without a special permission in writing from the president of the police jury. . . .

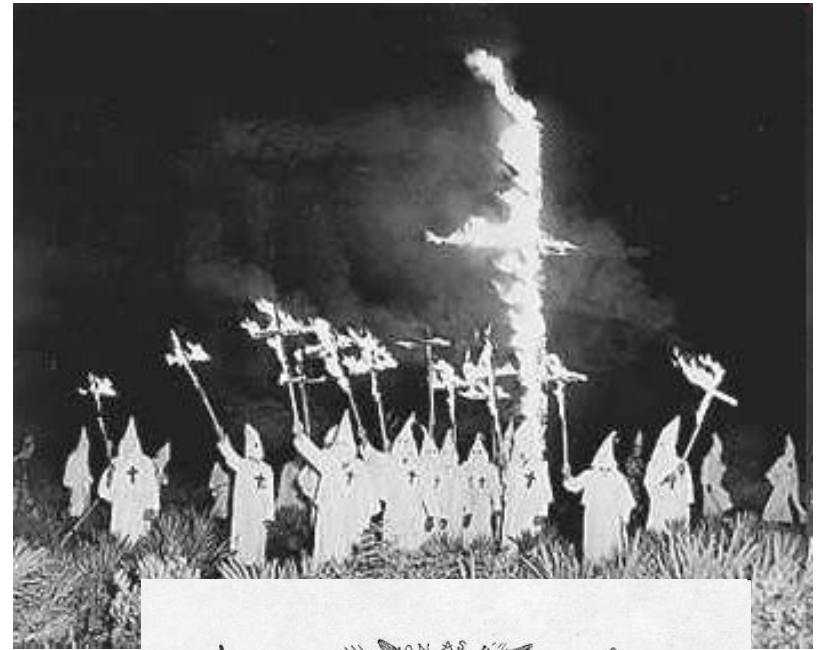
Sec. 7. . . . No negro who is not in the military service shall be allowed to carry fire-arms, or any kind of weapons, within the parish, without the special written permission of his employers, approved and indorsed by the nearest and most convenient chief of patrol. . . .

Sec. 8. . . . No negro shall sell, barter, or exchange any articles of merchandise or traffic within said parish without the special written permission of his employer, specifying the article of sale, barter or traffic. . . .

Sec. 9. . . . Any negro found drunk, within the said parish shall pay a fine of five dollars, or in default thereof work five days on the public road, or suffer corporeal punishment as hereinafter provided.

Ku Klux Klan

- Formed in Tennessee in 1866
- Burned homes, schools, and churches, and beat, maimed, or killed African Americans and their white allies
- Dressed in white robes and hoods
- Goals: scare freed people from voting



The Civil War ended slavery, but African-Americans had little job training or money for farm land

With few other options, most ex-slaves returned to the plantation to work



After the Civil War, slavery was replaced by sharecropping, also known as the tenant farming

The Sharecropper Cycle of Poverty



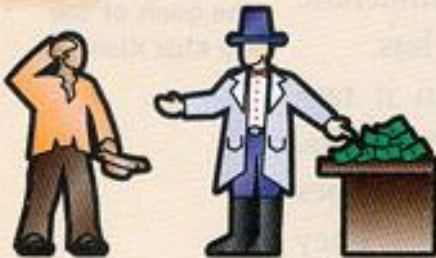
1 Sharecropper is provided land and seed. In exchange, he promises landowner half the crop.



2 Sharecropper buys food and clothing on credit from landowner's store.

6 To pay debt, sharecropper must promise landowner a greater share of next year's crop.

By the time sharecroppers had shared their crops and paid their debts, they rarely had any money left. Often they were uneducated and could not argue with landowners or merchants who cheated them. A sharecropper frequently became tied to one plantation, having no choice but to work until his debts were paid.



5 When settling up, landowner says that sharecropper owes more than he has earned.



4 Sharecropper gives landowner crop to sell. Sharecropper will get half the earnings, minus the cost of his purchases for the year.



3 Sharecropper plants and harvests crop.

White land owners would rent parcels of their fields to blacks and poor whites in exchange for $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cotton they produced

The Sharecropper Cycle of Poverty



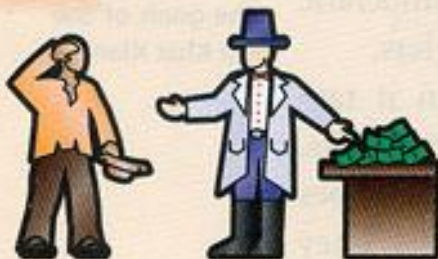
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But, tenants had no money for tools or seeds so they used lines of credit from the land owner in exchange for more of their cotton (crop lien system)

The Sharecropper Cycle of Poverty



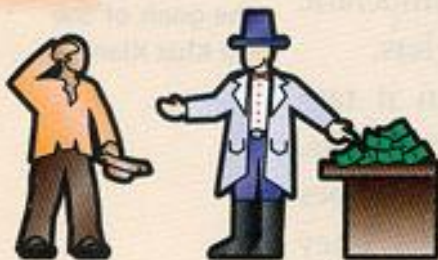
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By the end of 1865, most freedmen had returned to work on the same plantations on which they were previously enslaved



Sharecropping remained in place until late in the 20th century

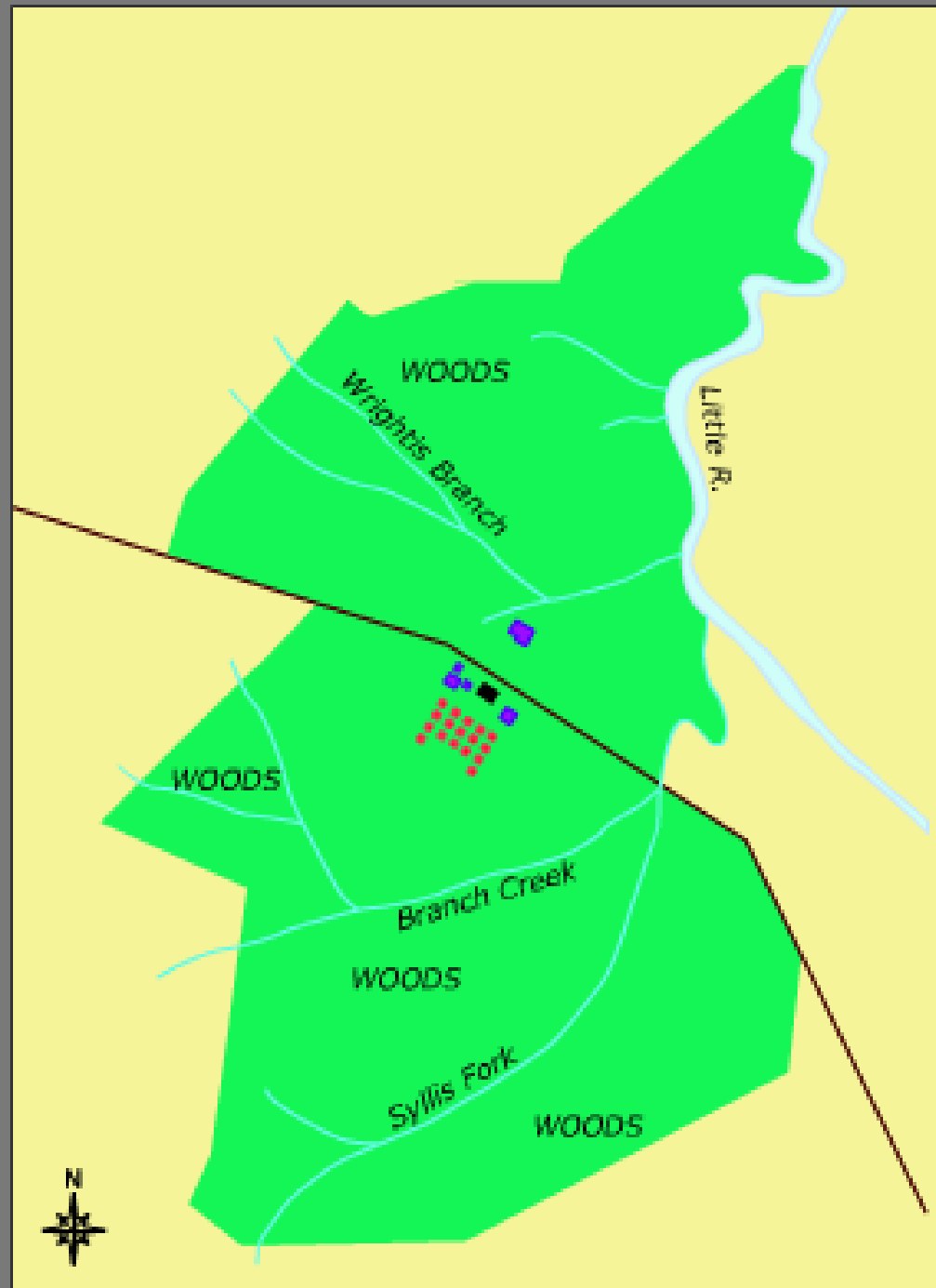


The Barrow Plantation

- Before Emancipation, 1861
- Residents after Emancipation

- Landlord's House
- Service and farm buildings
- Former Barrow slaves' houses
- Other ex-slaves' houses
- 🏫 School 🏛️ Church — Road

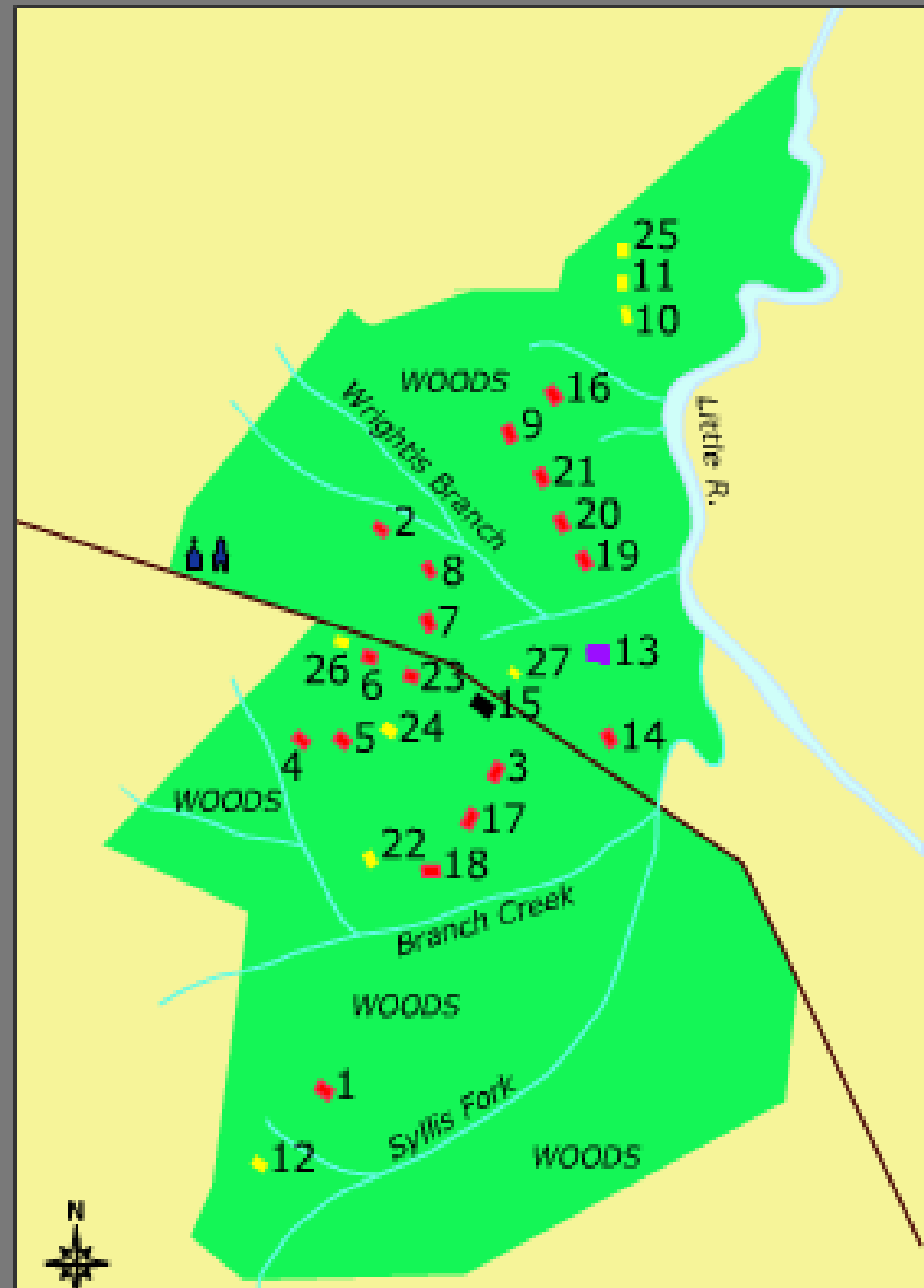
RESET



The Barrow Plantation

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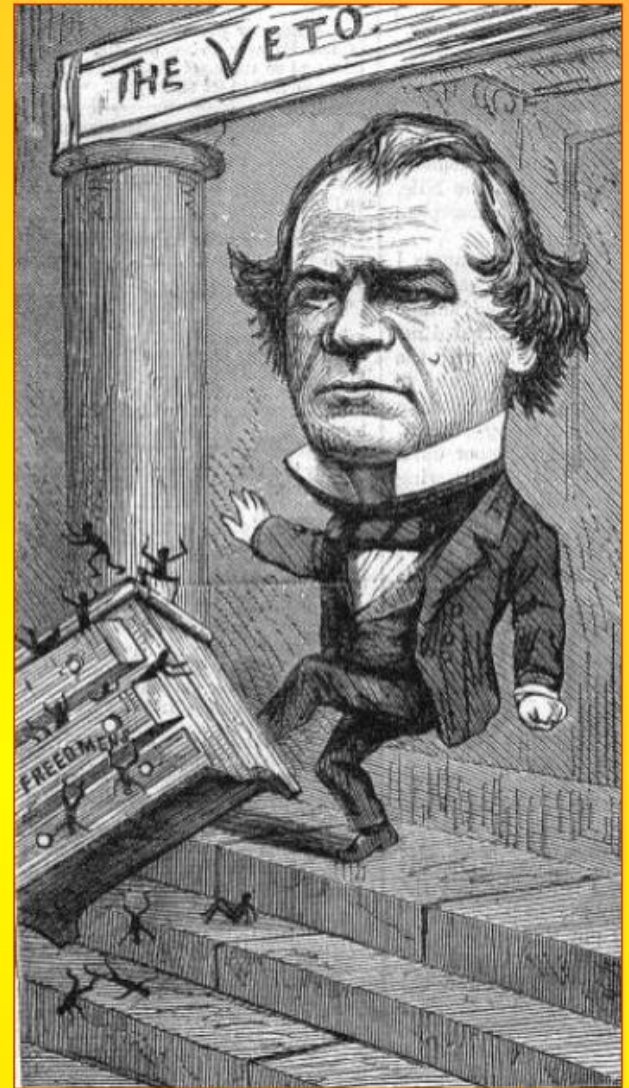


President Johnson vs. Congress

- By 1866 Northern Republicans in Congress are angry when former Southern Confederate officials are returned to office.
 - Calls for a **stricter version of Reconstruction (Congressional Reconstruction)**
- Important to know **transition of Reconstruction policy** between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

Congress Breaks with the President

- Congress prevents Southern Congressional delegates from coming back.
- Feb 1866: President Johnson vetoed the **Freedmen's Bureau extension** – Congress passes!
- Republican controlled Congress passes **Civil Rights Bill 1866:**
 - **Gave citizenship** to African Americans and sought to get rid of the **Black Codes**
 - **Johnson vetoes**



❖ Congress passed both bills over Johnson's vetoes → **1st in U. S. history!!**

Congress: How to prevent southern states from overturning laws passed during Reconstruction?

Civil Rights Bill 1866

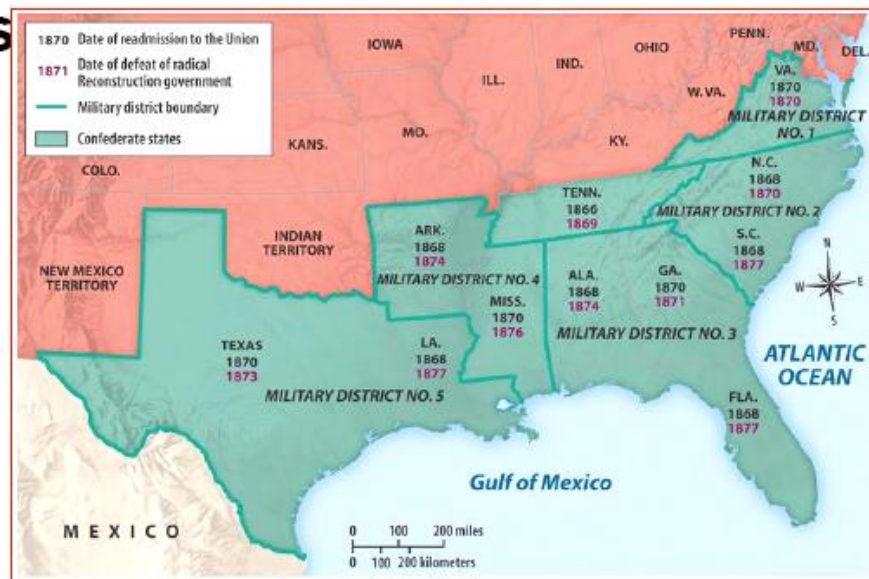


14th AMENDMENT

- **Declared all persons born in the U.S. are citizens of the US (including African Americans-- big F-U to Dred Scott)**
- **States must protect rights and provide “equal protection of the law” & “due process”**
- **Prevented former Confederates political officials from holding political office**
- **Southern states would be punished for denying the right to vote to black citizens!**

CONGRESSIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

- Republican controlled Congress now controls Reconstruction policy. **Radicals vs. Moderates**
- Reconstruction Act of 1867 divided the south into **5 military districts** controlled by Union generals
- **Disenfranchisement** of former Confederates & **invalidate state govts** of Lincoln & Johnson (10%)
- To be readmitted: Required **new state constitutions**, including **black suffrage** and ratification of the **13th and 14th Amendments**.



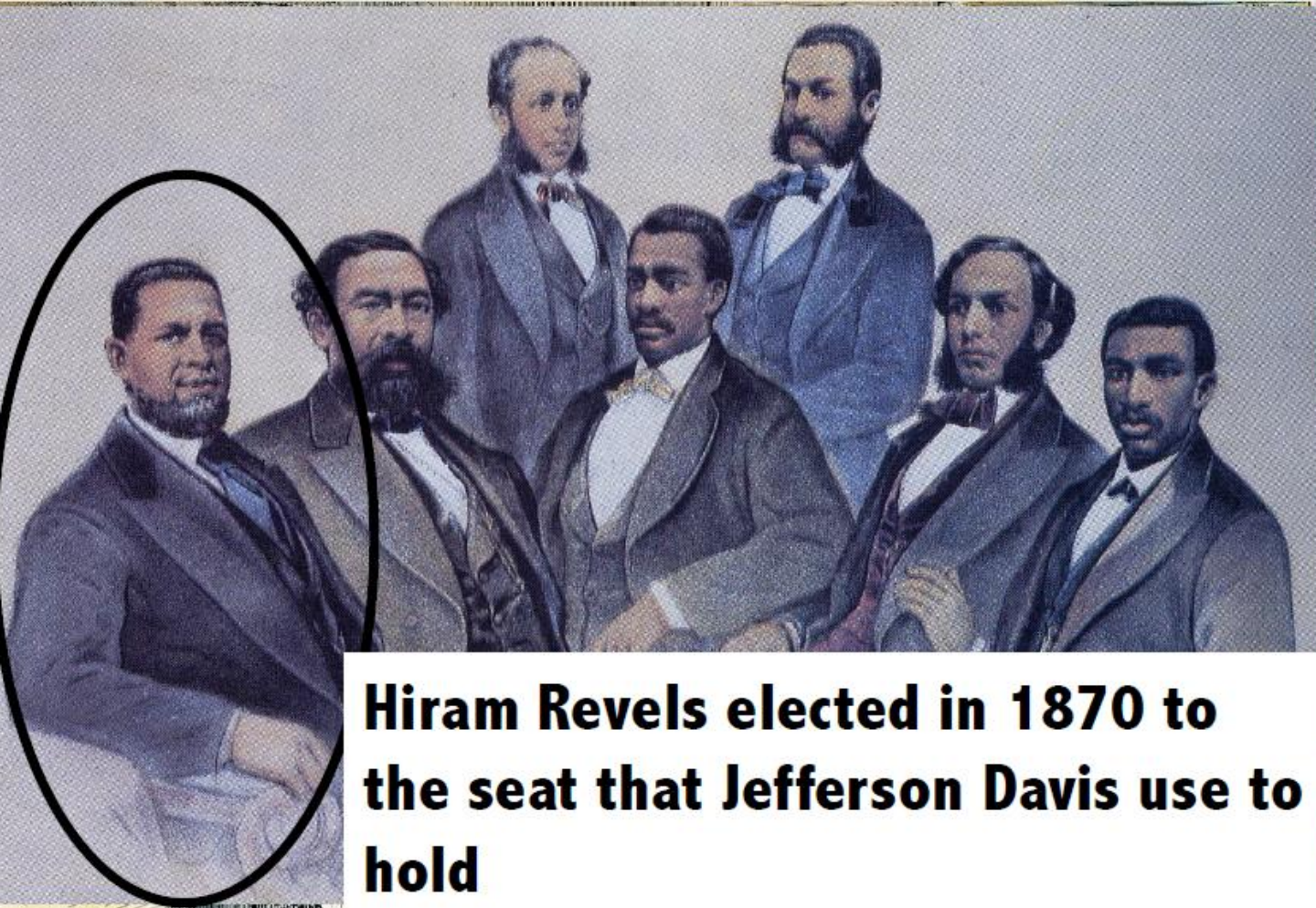
President Johnson Impeached

- ❖ 1867 Congress passed **Tenure of Office Act** in order to **reduce Presidential power** & protect Republican Reconstruction cabinet members
- ❖ **The Senate must approve** any presidential dismissal of a cabinet official or general.
- ❖ President Johnson **removed Sec of War Stanton** in 1868
- ❖ The House immediately votes to **impeach President Johnson**
- ❖ One vote short of 2/3's required

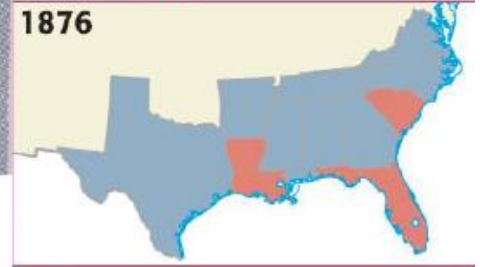
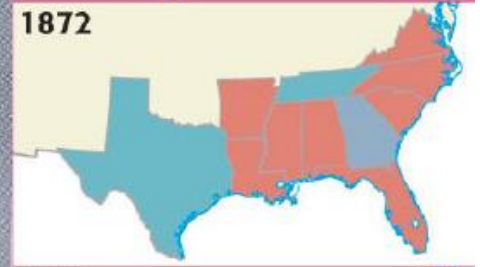
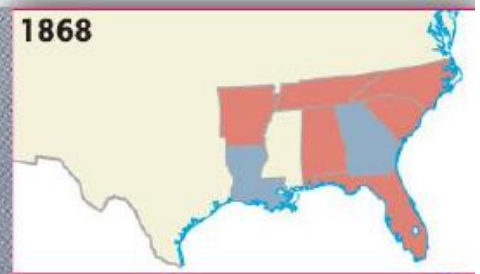


RECONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS

- **13th = freedom. Abolished slavery**
- **14th = citizenship granted. Protection of rights of citizens with “equal protection of the laws” and “due process.”**
- **15th = universal male suffrage. Right to vote could not be denied “on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”**



Hiram Revels elected in 1870 to the seat that Jefferson Davis use to hold



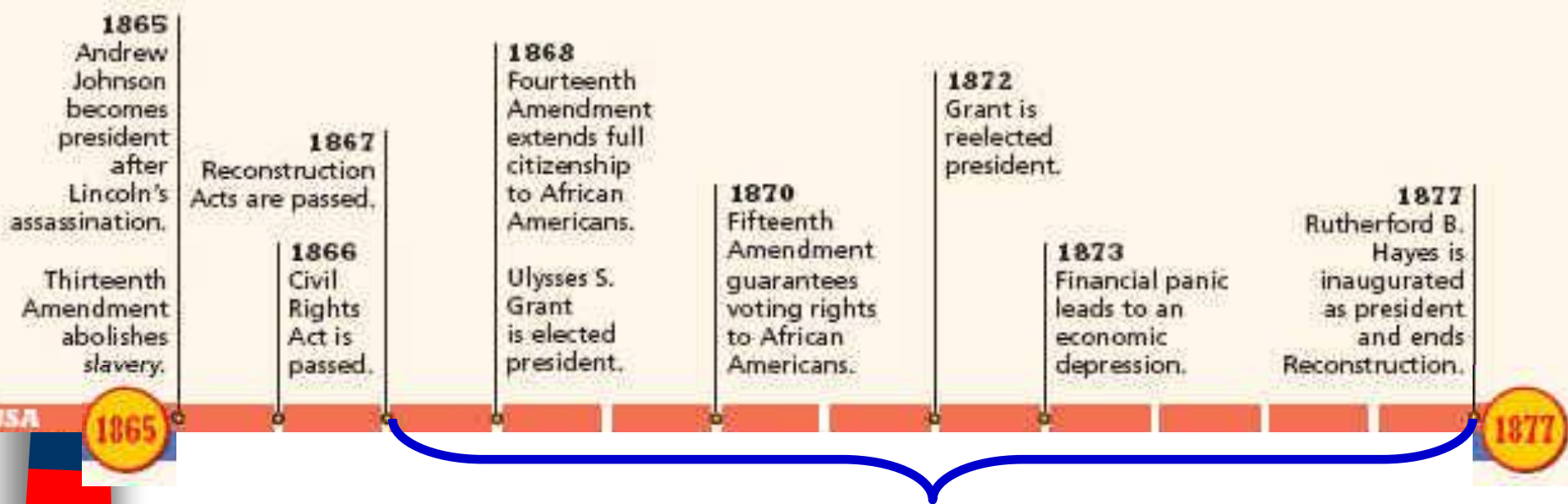
Presidential electoral vote by party
Independent Democratic
Republican
Democratic

The south temporarily experienced a social and political revolution.

RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNMENTS

- **New electorate** in the South as a result of the **15th Amendment** and **Congressional Reconstruction**
- **Republican coalition**
 - African American male voters
 - **Scalawags**: cooperating southern whites
 - **Carpetbaggers**: northerners who went south
 - Some looking to profit and others wanted to help out



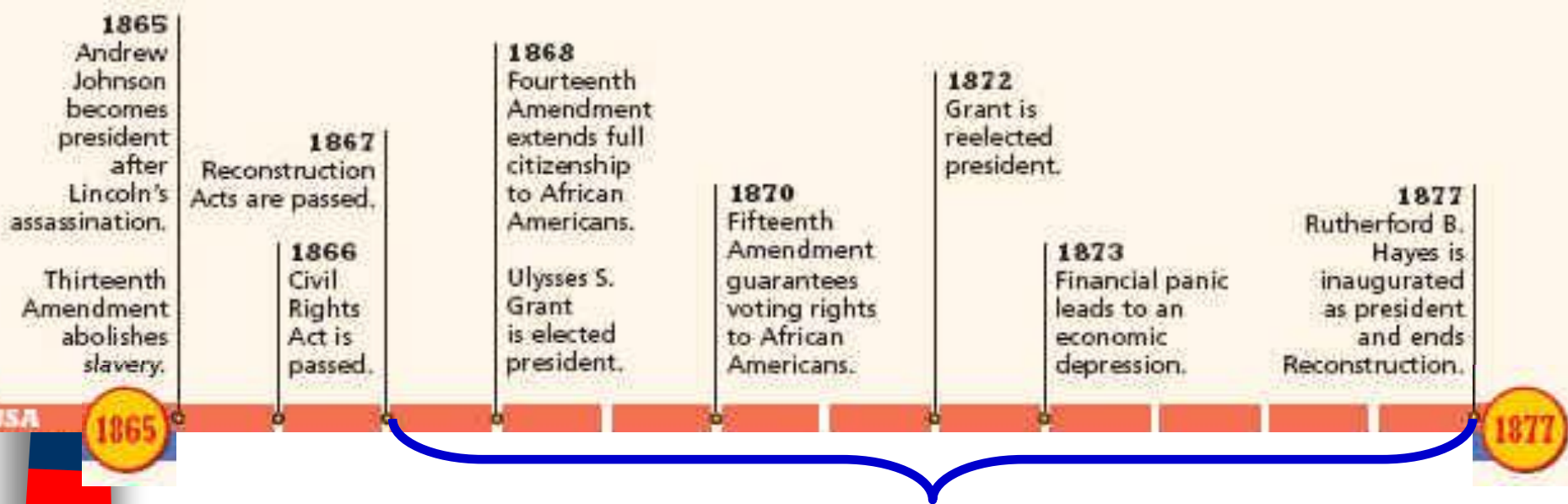


During Congressional Reconstruction, African Americans experienced unprecedented rights

The 15th Amendment gave black men the right to vote in 1870

The 1st black politicians were elected to state and national offices





During Congressional Reconstruction, African Americans experienced unprecedented rights



Literacy and education increased among blacks

Black families were reunited, marriages were legally recognized, and black workers could make their own money



Reconstruction brought economic changes to the South

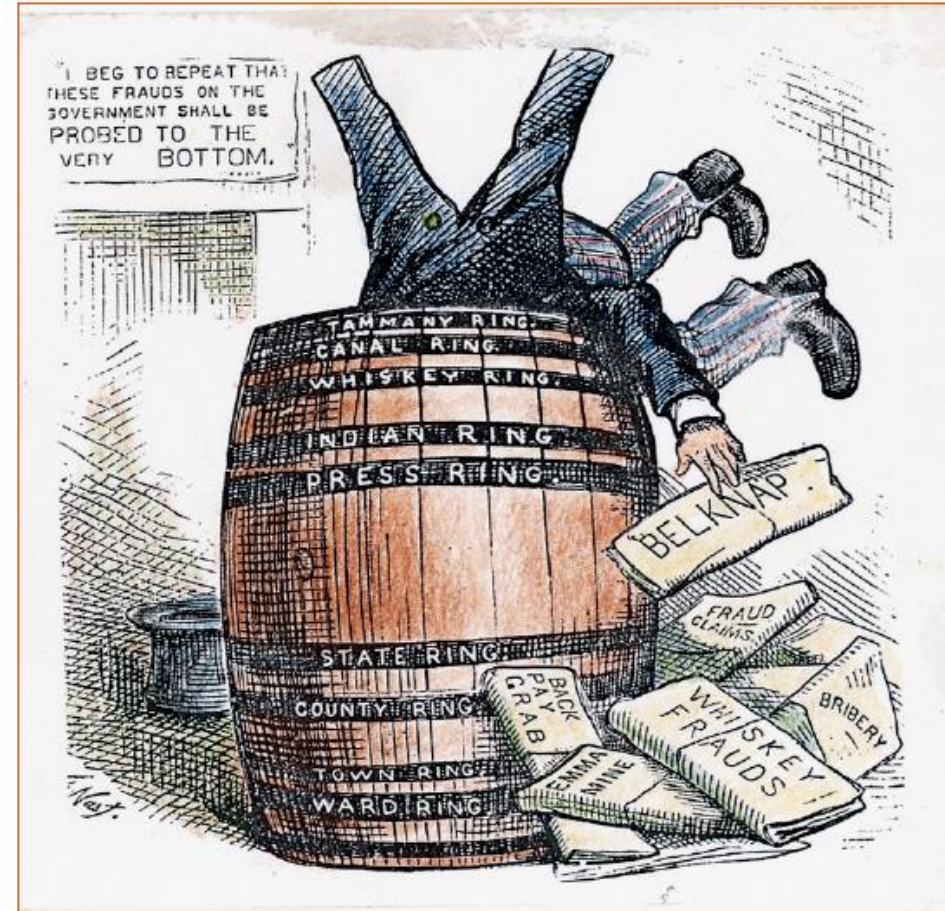
After the Civil War, the Southern economy became more diverse with new iron, steel, and textile mills

The new industrial economy required hired workers

The government built railroads and helped repair the South

President Grant (1868-1876)

- Civil War hero **Ulysses S. Grant** wins the Presidency for the **Republican party** in 1868
 - Temporary social and political revolution- **black voters** vote for Republican candidates
- Corruption during the Grant administration
 - **Credit Mobilier affair**: VP & members of Congress involved in RR stock scandal
 - **Whiskey Ring**: 1875-Private Secretary of Grant helped steal 3 million from the fed govt in a tax corruption scheme.
 - “**Grantism**”- term used to describe corruption in politics



PANIC OF 1873

- Severe **economic collapse** further distracts the nation from enforcing Reconstruction
- Causes: 1) **Overproduction** in industries such as factories, railroad, and mining. 2) **Over speculation** by bankers: too much money loaned out
- Hard times inflicted the worst effects on debtors
- Debtors advocate for relaxation of **tight money policies**
 - Debate between **“hard currency”** vs. **“greenbacks”**
 - Agrarian and debtor groups want “cheap money”
 - want **greenbacks** issued



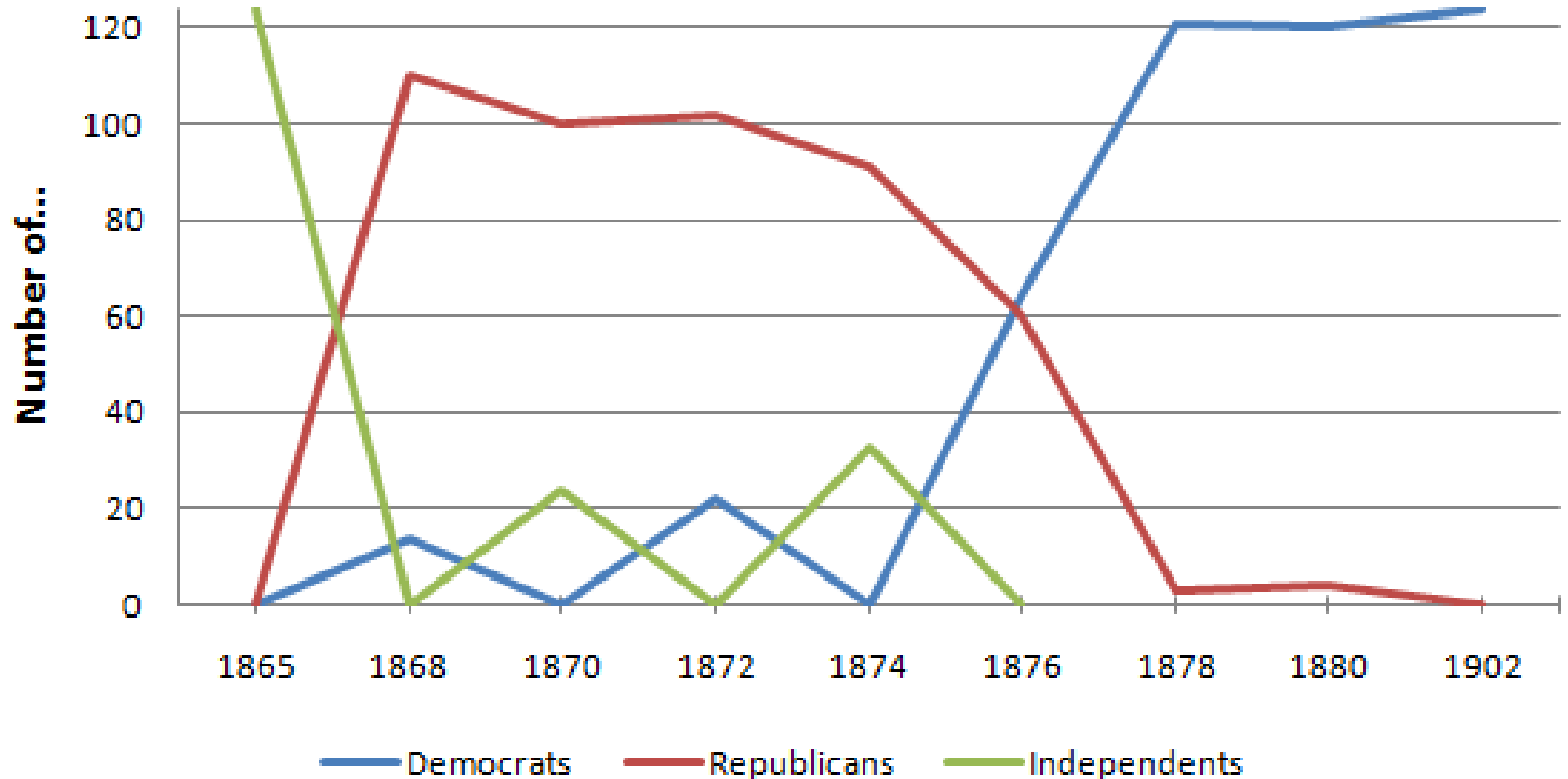
RECONSTRUCTION FALLS APART

- **Ku Klux Klan** established to **secure white supremacy** and resist Reconstruction govt.
- **Force Acts** of 1870 & 1871 intended to **stop resistance** to Reconstruction
 - Federal troops sent in to stop the KKK
- **Civil Rights Act of 1875:** guaranteed **equal access** to **public places**. Protect right to serve on **juries**.
- **Rarely enforced** and eventually overturned by the **Supreme Court** in 1883
- By 1870s Congress & President Grant would be **unwilling to use federal government** to monitor Southern society



These “Redeemer Democrats”
hoped to restore the “Old South”

South Carolina House of Representatives

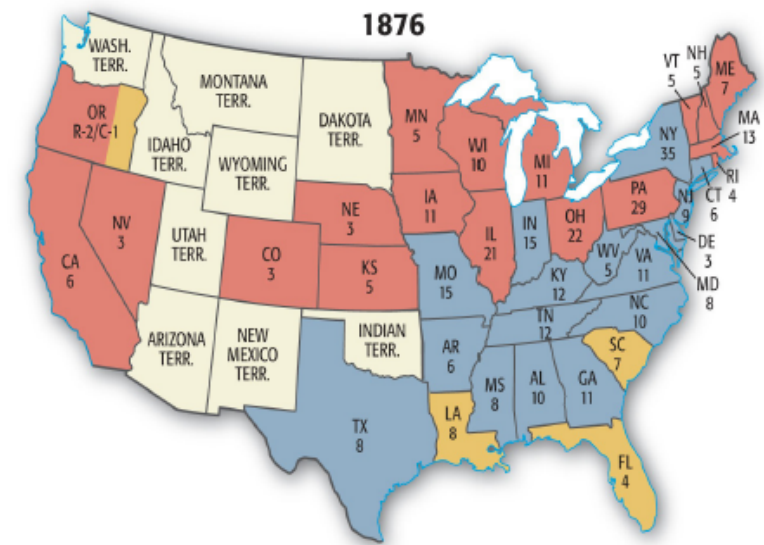


Election of 1876

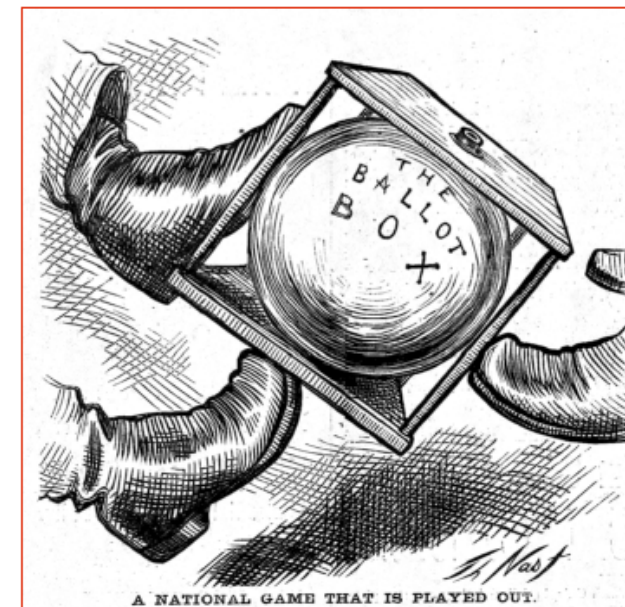
- Republican Rutherford **Hayes** vs. Democrat Samuel **Tilden**
- Political controversy as **results** in 3 southern states were **contested**

Compromise of 1877

- South/Democrats would recognize **Hayes as President**
- Hayes would pull federal **troops out** of the South and **end Reconstruction**
- Hayes to provide **south political positions (patronage)** and federal **aid for a transcontinental RR** for the south



Candidate (Party)	Uncontested Electoral Vote	Electoral Vote	Popular Vote
Hayes (Republican)	165	185 50%	4,034,311 48.0%
Tilden (Democrat)	184	184 50%	4,288,546 51.0%
Contested			
Territories			

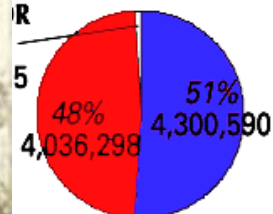


In the 1876 election, neither Democrat Tilden nor Republican Hayes won a majority of electoral vote

Republicans and Democrats in Congress agreed to the “Compromise of 1877” in which Democrats agreed to vote for Hayes as president if federal troops were removed from the South



ELECTORAL VOTE
TOTAL: 369



POPULAR VOTE
TOTAL: 8,430,783

Hayes)



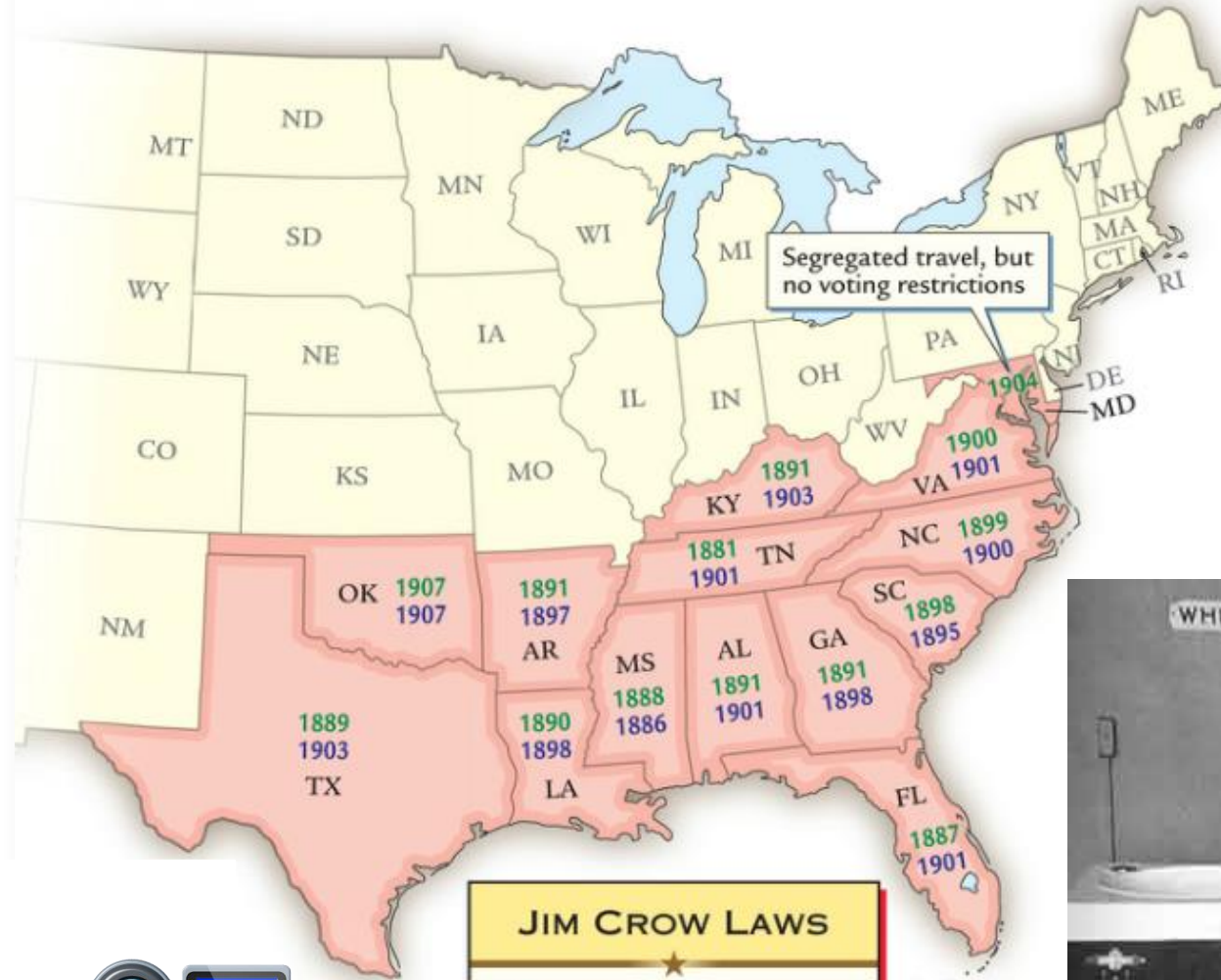
Tilden)



Territories

When Reconstruction ended, the Jim Crow era began (1877-1954)

Jim Crow laws segregated Southern society and restricted blacks from voting with poll taxes and literacy tests



JIM CROW LAWS

- State with Jim Crow laws
- 1891 Year when trains and streetcars are segregated
- 1903 Year when black voting rights are restricted

