

# **Reconstruction 1863-1877**

# Major Questions to be answered after the War:

- How is the South's society going to be rebuilt?
- Where/ How do free African Americans fit into this new society?
- To what extent was the federal government responsible for aiding the freedmen?
- Who had the authority in Reconstruction, the president or congress?
- How does the government deal with the continued sectionalism after the war?

# I. Reconstruction Plans of Lincoln and Johnson

## A. Lincoln's policies

- Lincoln believed that it was illegal to secede from the U.S., but he wanted **leniency** so he required a minimum test of loyalty.
- **Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction (1863)**
  - **Full pardon for and restoration of property to all engaged** in the rebellion with the exception of the highest Confederate officials and military leaders.
  - **New state government** to be formed when **10 percent of the eligible voters** had taken an oath of allegiance to the United States.
  - Southern states admitted in this fashion were encouraged to enact plans to deal with the freed slaves so long as their freedom was not compromised. **(Have to accept 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment)**
- Lincoln's plan was designed to **shorten the war** and give weight to the **Emancipation Proclamation**.

# I. Reconstruction Plans of Lincoln and Johnson

1. Full presidential pardons for Confederates who: (**10% Plan**)

a. Took an oath of allegiance to the Union and to the U.S. Constitution

b. Accepted emancipation of slaves (new state constitutions would HAVE to ratify the 13th Amendment)

2. 10% of the population had to take the oath before the state would be recognized.

\* Lincoln's plan was designed to shorten the war and give weight to the Emancipation Proclamation.

# I. Reconstruction Plans of Lincoln and Johnson

- **Wade-Davis Bill (1864)**

- \* Congress believed Lincoln's 10% Plan would be easily overpowered by secessionists, they proposed the Wade-Davis Bill

- 1. 50% of voters would take the oath of loyalty

- 2. Only non-Confederates could vote for the new state constitutions

- \* Vetoed by Lincoln

# I. Reconstruction Plans of Lincoln and Johnson

## Freedmen's Bureau

\* Early welfare agency that provided food, shelter, medical aid, helped settle African Americans, and established education (greatest contribution)

# I. Reconstruction Plans of Lincoln and Johnson

## B. Johnson and Reconstruction

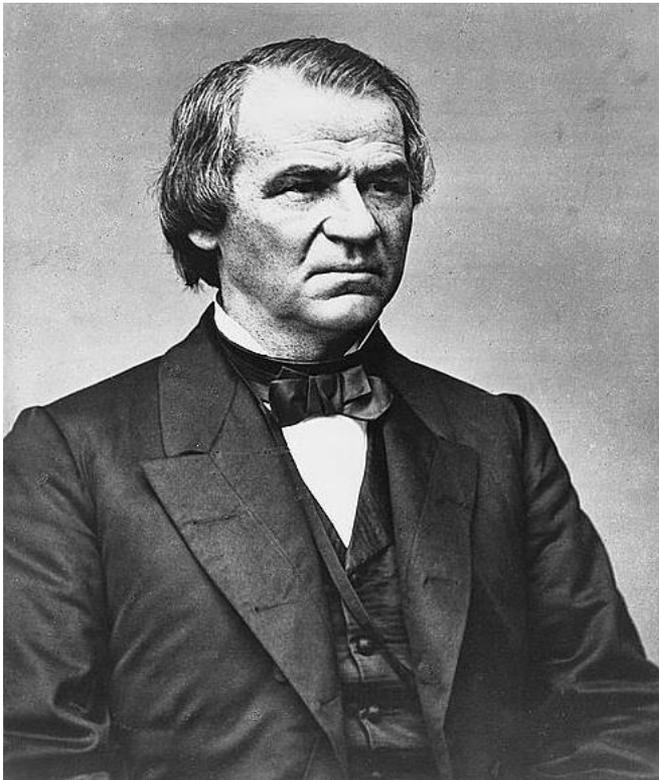
- Reconstruction Policy—Proclamation of Amnesty

- \* Added to Lincoln's terms

1. Disfranchisement for all Confederates with \$20,000 of taxable property AND all former leaders and officeholders of the CSA.

- President could grant pardons through a clause in the law, many were back in office by fall 1865

- Southern Governments of 1865—8 months after the end of the war, all 11 states had been recognized, but none extended the right to vote to freedmen.



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- **Black Codes—**

- \* Restricted the movements of freedmen through:

1. Not allowing blacks to rent land, or borrow money to buy land

2. Requiring blacks to sign labor contracts (much like slavery)

3. Not allowing blacks to testify against whites in court

- \* Johnson (a white supremacist) did nothing to stop the codes and this created a rift between Congress and the president

# I. Reconstruction Plans of Lincoln and Johnson

- Johnson's vetoes alienated moderate Republicans when he vetoes an extension of the freedmen's bureau and a civil rights bill that nullified black codes and would grant citizenship and the right to vote to freedmen. This marked the end of presidential reconstruction.

# 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 SHALL THOU EAT THY BREAD

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

NEGRO TRUANTS  
**\$300**  
 Each as a Bounty

WHITE Veterans  
**\$100**  
 Each as a Bounty

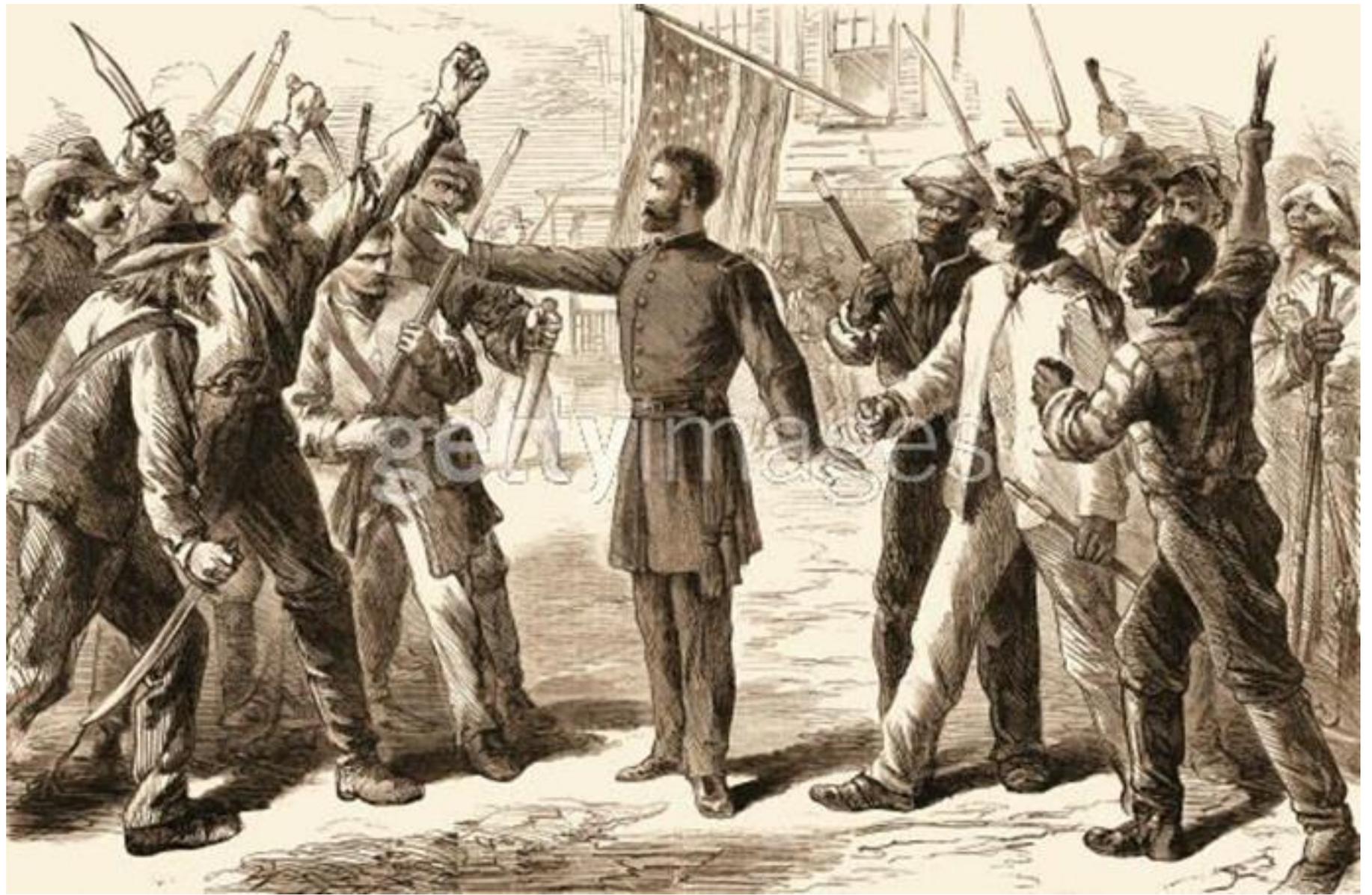
What do the tax payers do with the money so they can't make their appropriations?

TO SUPPORT THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU  
**\$6,944,500**

EXPENSES OF THE BUREAU  
 Salary of Agents, \$1,000,000  
 Printing of Reports, 50,000  
 Stationery and Office, 50,000  
 Travel, 1,000,000  
 Fuel for Agents, 1,000,000  
 Medical for Agents, 100,000  
 General Expenses of Bureau, 1,000,000  
 Total, \$6,944,500

APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS,  
 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
**MAY 1865, MARCH 1866.**

For 1864 and 1865, the **FREEDMAN'S BUREAU** cost the Tax-payers of the Nation, at least **TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS**. For 1866, THE SHARE of the Tax-payers of Pennsylvania will be about **ONE MILLION OF DOLLARS**. **GEAR!** is FOR the Freedman's Bureau. **CLYMER** is OPPOSED to it.



# II. Congressional Reconstruction

- Policies were harsher on whites and protective of freedmen

## A. Radical Republicans

- Congress was split between radical Republicans (goal was equal rights for blacks) and moderates (whose goals were to help the white middle class)
- Radicals such as **Charles Sumner** and **Thaddeus Stevens** wanted to revolutionize Southern society by sending in the military to protect African-Americans civil rights
- **Civil Rights Act 1866**—overrode Johnson's vetoes and made all African-American citizens and weakened the black codes

# II. Congressional Reconstruction

- 14th Amendment—

1. Declared all persons born in the U.S. (or naturalized) were citizens
2. States had to respect the federal rights of citizens and grant them equal protection and due process of law
3. Penalized states for preventing men from voting by reducing their representation in the House and the electoral college.
4. Disqualified formers Confederate political leaders from holding state and federal offices

# II. Congressional Reconstruction

- **Report of the Joint Committee** (June 1866) - rejected presidential reconstruction, refused to seat any congressmen from the South and substituted their own plan for reconstruction based on the 14th Amendment.
- **Reconstruction Acts**—these 3 Acts placed the South under military occupation and divided the South into 5 military districts. In order for states to be readmitted, they would also have to ratify the 14th amendment and guarantee the right to vote for all male citizens under new constitutions.

# II. Congressional Reconstruction

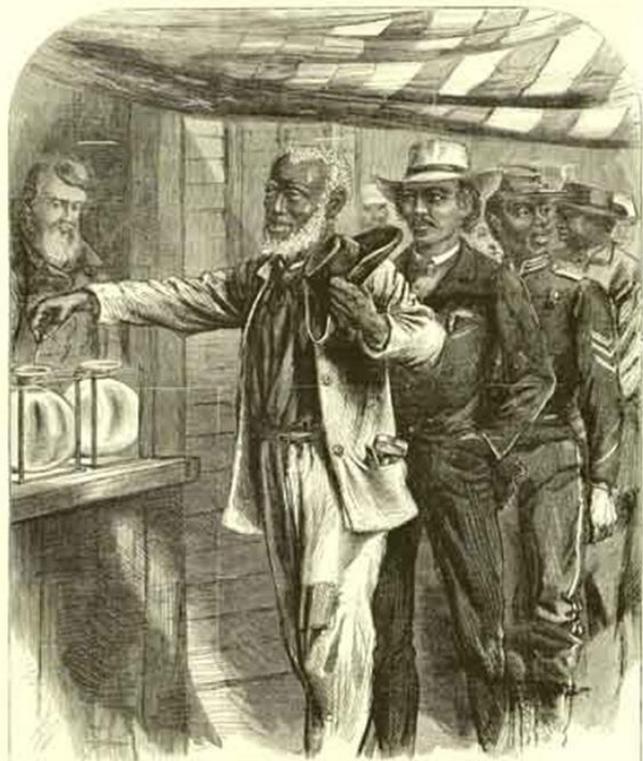
## B. Impeachment of Andrew Johnson

- Congress passed the Tenure of Office Act (1867) over Johnson's veto. (Republicans had 2/3 majority) - the act prohibited the president from removing a federal official without the consent of Congress.— this was politically motivated to protect radicals in Johnson's cabinet.
- Johnson fired Secretary of War Edwin Stanton—the House impeached the president but the Senate did not convict (1868)

# II. Congressional Reconstruction

## HARPER'S WEEKLY. A JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION

Vol. XI.—No. 464. NEW YORK, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1867.



### C. Reforms after Grant's Election

(elected 1868 thanks to black voters)

- **Fifteenth Amendment**—1869—prohibits any state from denying its male citizens the right to vote.

- **Civil Rights Act 1875**—required equal accommodation's in public places and prohibited courts from excluding blacks from juries—poorly enforced

# III. Reconstruction in the South

- Republicans dominated politics in the South
  - A. Composition of Reconstructed Governments**
  - Whites were typically the majority
  - **Scalawags** (Southern Republicans—non-slave owning Unionists) and **Carpetbaggers** (Northerners who moved South)
  - **African-American Legislators**— most who held office were property owners and moderate. There were 2 Senators and a dozen Representatives

# III. Reconstruction in the South

**B. Evaluating the Republican Record** - Did they abuse power or govern responsibly?

- Accomplishments—

- \* Liberalized state constitutions (male suffrage), granted property rights for women, provided debt relief, instituted modern penal codes, promoted the growth of railroads and other internal improvements, established state institutions such as hospitals, asylums, care for the disabled, established state public education systems and overhauled the tax system

# III. Reconstruction in the South

- **Failures—**

- \* There was a lot of graft, wasteful spending, some took kickbacks and bribes from contractors but this occurred everywhere.

# III. Reconstruction in the South

## C. African Americans Adjusting to Freedom

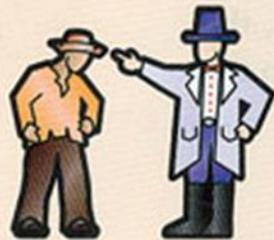
- Building black communities—focused on reuniting families, education, migration to cities, most wanted independence from white control (which they found in establishing their own churches) Some even left the South and went west like the Exodusters.

# III. Reconstruction in the South

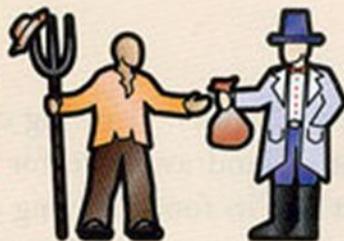
- **Sharecropping—**

- \* Whites tried to force labor through contracts but soon established tenancy and sharecropping
- \* The landlord would provide seed and land and the tenant would give 50% of their harvest to the landlord
- \* This did give the poor the ability to work for themselves BUT left them in a constant cycle of debt
- \* By 1880, only 5% of blacks in the South owned land

## 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.

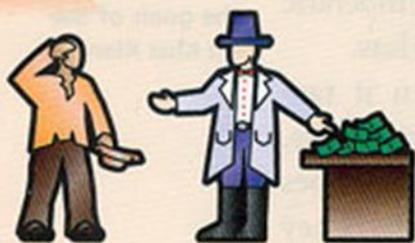


- 3 Sharecropper plants and harvests crop.

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.



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



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

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

# IV. The North During Reconstruction

## A. Greed and Corruption

- **Rise of the Spoilsmen**—leadership passed from reformers to political manipulators and masters of patronage
- **Corruption in Business and Government**
  - \* Some sought to enrich themselves at the public's expense like **Jay Gould** and **James Fisk** who tried to corner the gold market

# IV. The North During Reconstruction

## · Corruption in Business and Government

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\* **Credit Mobilier**— insiders gave stock to Congressmen to avoid investigation of profits (348%) from government subsidies for building the Transcontinental Railroad

\* **Whiskey Ring**—federal revenue agents conspired with the liquor industry to defraud the government of millions— tarnished Grant's presidency

\* Local politics—**William Tweed** (NYC) participated in graft but was exposed by NY Time cartoonist Thomas Nast and eventually sentenced to prison in 1871

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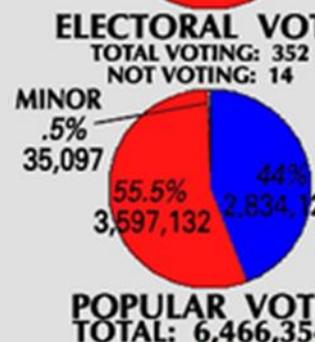
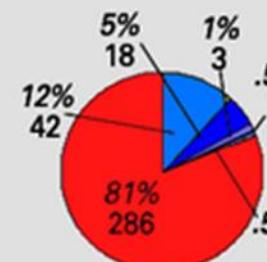
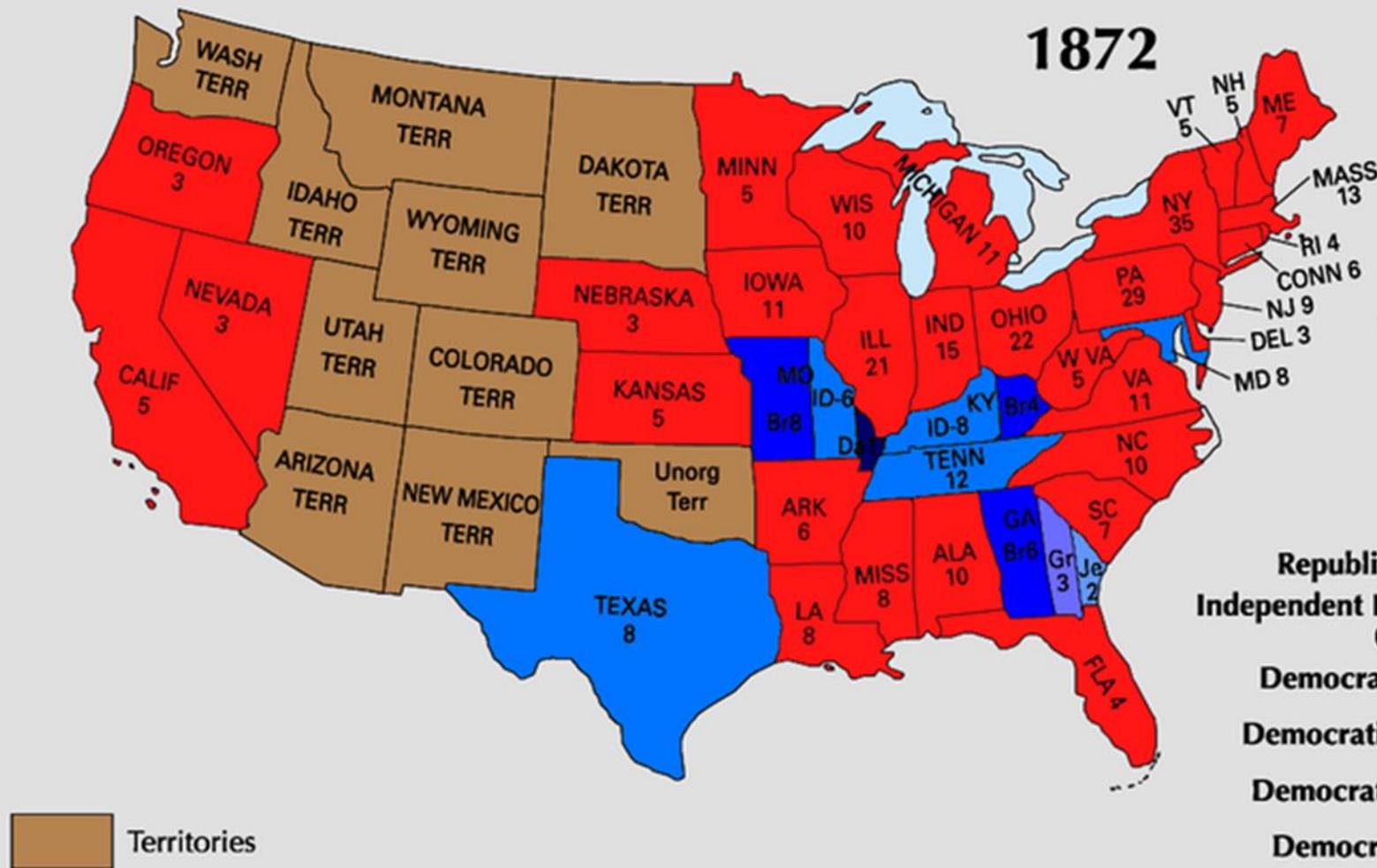
## • Election of 1872

- \* Republicans– Grant—“Waved the bloody shirt” and he was re-elected
- \* Some Republicans split because of scandals and they nominated Horace Greely—**platform:** civil service reform (curb patronage), end RR subsidies, withdraw troops from the South, and reduce tariffs to promote free trade.

## • Panic of 1873

- \* Caused by over speculation by financiers, overbuilding of RRs and industry, and business failures
- \* Led to high unemployment and homelessness
- \* Debtors on farms and in cities called for greenbacks but Grant vetoed a bill that would have allowed it.

# 1872



- Republican (Grant) [Red]
- Independent Democratic (Hendricks) [Light Blue]
- Democratic (Brown) [Dark Blue]
- Democratic (Greeley) [Medium Blue]
- Democratic (Jenkins) [Lightest Blue]
- Democratic (Davis) [Darkest Blue]

Territories

# V. The End of Reconstruction

- Redeemers (Southern Democrats) took control of state governments by 1877, they wanted state's rights, reduced taxes, to cut social programs, and were white supremacists

## A. White Supremacy and the KKK

- Whites created secret societies to intimidate blacks and white reformers
- KKK was created by **Nathan Bedford Forrest (1867)**
- The "invisible empire" murdered and harassed freedmen and kept them from voting,
- Congress passed the Force Acts in 1870-71 to try to stop the KKK

# V. The End of Reconstruction

## B. Amnesty Act of 1872

- 1872—removed restrictions on Confederates except for top leaders
- The Southern Democrats could vote and regain the state legislatures

## C. Election of 1876—

- Republicans—**Rutherford B. Hayes**
- Democrats—**Samuel J. Tilden**
- Both parties agreed that federal authority needed to be relaxed in the South
- Democrats had the clear majority of popular votes but not electoral votes.
- There were three disputed states in the South, Hayes won them

# V. The End of Reconstruction

## D. The Compromise of 1877

- Informal deal that allowed Hayes to become president in exchange for
  - 1. End federal support for the Republicans in the South
  - 2. Withdraw remaining troops from the South
  - 3. Support the building of a transcontinental RR through the South
- A series of Supreme Court cases (**Slaughterhouse cases**) in the 1880s and 90s struck down one Reconstruction law after another
  - \* After Reconstruction ended, the protections of African Americans' civil rights were slowly chipped away
- The "**New South**" promised a future of industrial development but most remained poor and fell behind the rest of the nation.

- Henry W. Grady
  - "There was a South of slavery and secession - that South is dead. There is now a South of union and freedom- that South, thank God, is living, breathing, and growing every hour," (1886)
  - "the supremacy of the white race of the South must be maintained forever, and the domination of the negro race resisted at all points and at all hazards, because the white race is the superior race... [This declaration] shall run forever with the blood that feeds Anglo-Saxon hearts." (1888)

