

# Legacy and Reconstruction

*Civil War and Reconstruction*  
*(1850–1877)*



Legacy of the Civil War

**Reconstruction**

The end of Reconstruction

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will know about the important policies in the following stages of Reconstruction, and the following key events:

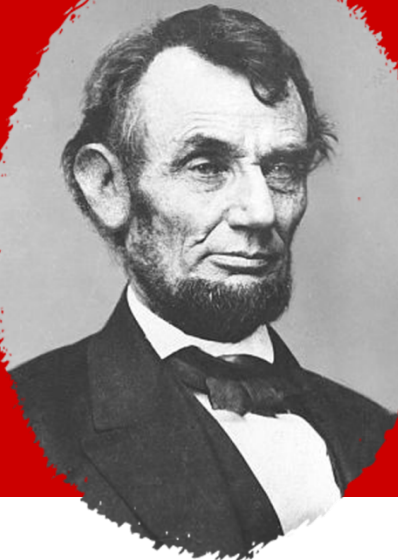
- Lincoln's Ten-Percent Plan
- Presidential Reconstruction
- Radical Reconstruction
- the impeachment of President Johnson
- the Election of 1868
- racial terrorism and the Enforcement Acts.



# Lincoln's Ten-Percent Plan



In 1863, Lincoln had issued the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, popularly known as the **Ten-Percent Plan**.



It stated that when the war ended, Confederate states could be readmitted to the Union after ten percent of their registered voters swore an oath of allegiance to the United States.

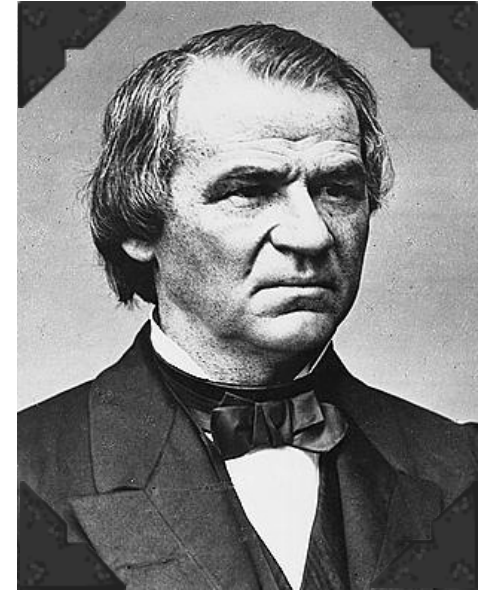
The plan outraged **Radical Republicans**, who wanted to exclude former secessionists from political office and ensure that blacks were given the right to vote.



When Johnson came to office, Radical Republicans hoped that he would create harsher terms for Reconstruction.

They were soon disappointed. Johnson's **Presidential Reconstruction** was hardly different from Lincoln's, although it did require readmitted states to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment.

Johnson also required Confederates with over \$20,000 to apply for individual pardons.



Johnson's priority was to destroy the slaveholding class that had ruled the South, allowing yeoman farmers to take over. He had little sympathy for the condition of freed slaves.



Presidential Reconstruction created a South run mainly by former Confederate officials who had opposed secession.

These men agreed to abolition, but had no intention of granting equality to the freedmen.

They created the **black codes**: state laws that seriously limited the freedom of blacks in the South.



Among other things, the codes forbade blacks from carrying weapons, testifying in court, or even traveling without a permit. In essence, they replaced the tyranny of slavery with the tyranny of state law.





# The Civil Rights Act of 1866



In 1866, Congress extended the powers of the Freedmen's Bureau and passed the **Civil Rights Act of 1866**.

## The Civil Rights Act:

- defined all persons born in the U.S. (except Native Americans) as national citizens with fundamental rights
- declared that no state or individual could deprive a citizen of these rights.

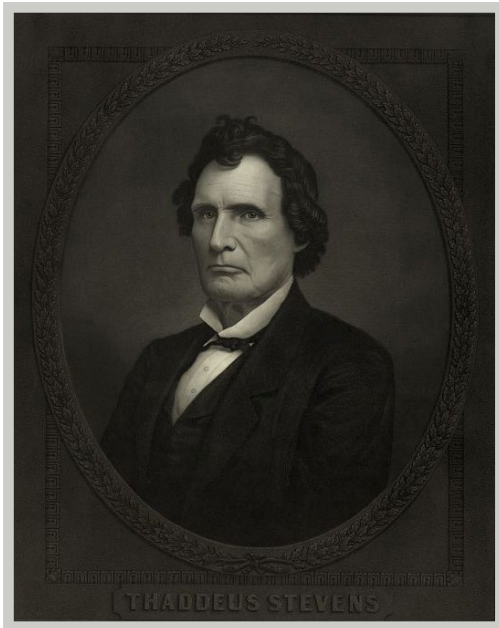
## President Johnson vetoed the Act.

This alienated moderate Republicans in Congress. They joined forces with Radicals to pass the Act over Johnson's veto. A new era of Reconstruction had begun.





Republicans used their majority in Congress to begin a period of congressional Reconstruction, also known as **Radical Reconstruction**.



Led by Rep. **Thaddeus Stevens** and Sen. **Charles Sumner**, Congress created the **Fourteenth Amendment**.

The Amendment stated that “all persons born or naturalized in the United States” were citizens and had a right to the full protection of the law.

It also said that any state that denied male citizens the right to vote would have its representation proportionally reduced.





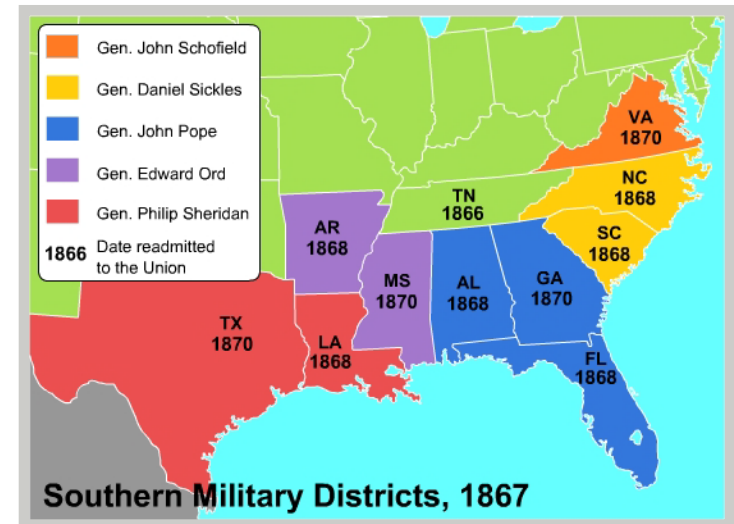
# The Reconstruction Act of 1867

Tennessee was the only Southern state to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment. Congress responded by drafting the **Reconstruction Act of 1867**.

The Act divided the South into five military districts, each run by an ex-Union general. These generals were authorized to use military force to protect the life and property of all citizens.

Once a state ratified the Fourteenth Amendment, it would be readmitted to the Union.

Johnson vetoed the Act, but Congress overruled him.





# Which policy?

Different leaders had very different visions  
for Reconstruction.

Sort the policies into the correct sections  
based on whether they were part of  
Lincoln's plan, Presidential Reconstruction  
or Radical Reconstruction.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



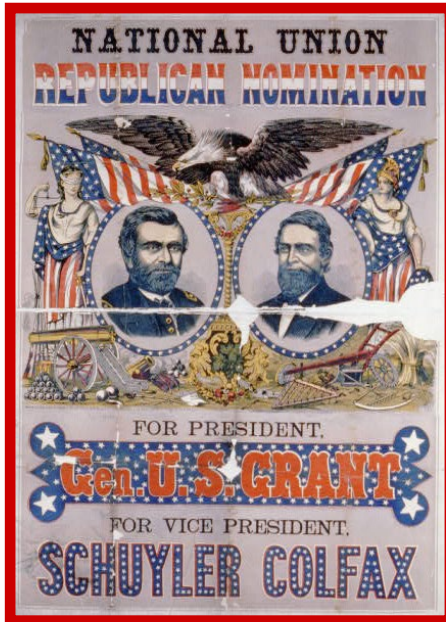


# The impeachment crisis



Frustrated with President Johnson's leadership, Radical Republicans **impeached** him in 1868.

Johnson's impeachment was a result of hostility between the President and Congress, rather than a serious crime. The case against Johnson was weak, and he was acquitted.



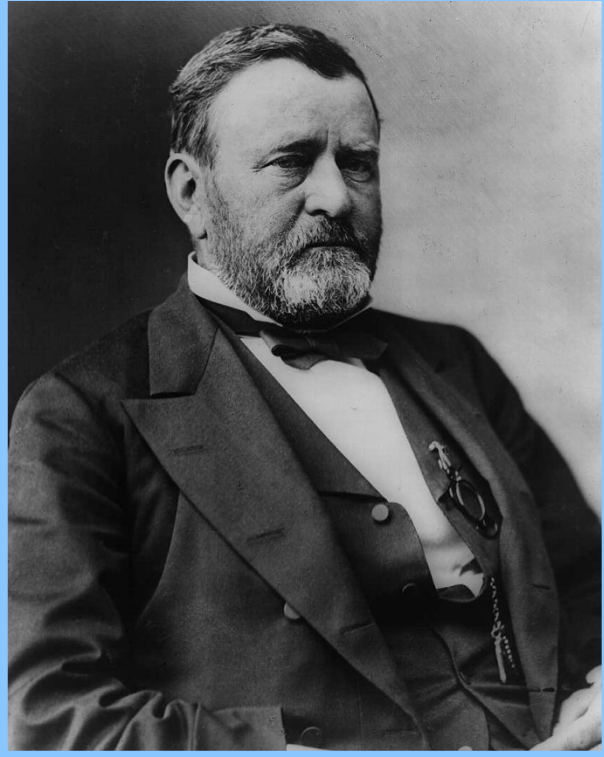
It was clear Johnson could not win the 1868 election.

Instead, Democrats nominated Horatio Seymour, a former governor of New York. His Republican opponent was Civil War hero **Ulysses S. Grant**.





Grant won the popular vote by only 306,592 votes.



While Grant's victory guaranteed that Reconstruction would continue, it signaled a decline in public support.

Moderate backlash, coupled with the death of Thaddeus Stevens and the aging of other Radical leaders, had resulted in the weakening of Radical power in government.

The weary nation was eager to resolve Reconstruction and move on.





# The Fifteenth Amendment

Many suspected that Grant's narrow victory was only made possible by the 500,000 black voters in the 1868 election.



To protect these votes, Radicals drafted the **Fifteenth Amendment**.

The Amendment prohibits anyone from depriving male citizens the right to vote based on “race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

The Amendment was ratified in 1870. Most moderate Republicans saw it as the final step toward securing the political rights of blacks.





Reconstruction required many pieces of legislation in order to succeed. Can you match these key pieces of Reconstruction legislation with their descriptions?

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





Many Northerners moved South to develop infrastructure for moral purposes or financial gain. Some Southerners wanted to modernize the South and felt Reconstruction was the best way to do it. Both groups were viewed with deep hostility by many Southern whites, who called them **carpetbaggers** and **scalawags**.

Can you sort the descriptions of each group?

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





# The “New South”

After the election, many so-called carpetbaggers and scalawags focused on repairing the weakened Southern economy.

Republican state governments rebuilt bridges and railroads and created new public schools in an effort to promote Southern recovery.



The cost of these developments led to hugely increased taxes for a population already teetering on the brink of poverty. To make matters worse, some would-be reformers were corrupt and misused public funds.







# Terrorism in the South

Anger and prejudice led some to form paramilitary groups that asserted white supremacy and racial subordination.

Organizations like the **Ku Klux Klan (KKK)** spread across the South. Their members terrorized blacks.

The goal of these groups was to destroy the Republican Party, keep blacks from voting and restore racial subordination in the South.

Between 1868 and 1871, terrorist groups murdered thousands of men, women and children to scare blacks away from the polls.





In response to these atrocities, Congress passed the **Enforcement Acts** between 1870 and 1871.

These Acts required state governments to protect the rights of black citizens. If they failed, federal troops could be sent to restore order.



Under these Acts, hundreds of Klansmen were tried and jailed. Others were fined and some fled prosecution. By 1872, terrorism in the South had mostly ceased.

Do you think Congress did enough to protect the rights of blacks after the war?



# Key events in Reconstruction



Reconstruction was a complex period of rapid change in the United States.  
Drag these key events in Reconstruction into the correct order from earliest to latest.  
Press **start** to begin.

**start**

