

Legacy and Reconstruction

Part Two



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.



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 not allow former secessionists into political office and ensure that black people were given the right to vote.

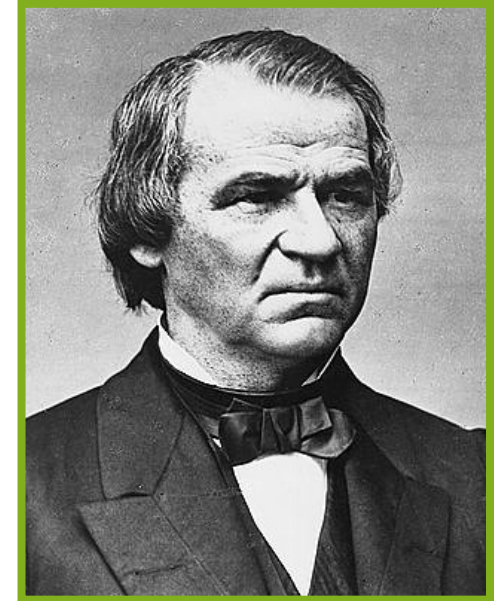




When Johnson came to office, Radical Republicans hoped that he would create harsher terms for Reconstruction.

They were soon disappointed. Johnson's **Presidential Reconstruction** was hardly different from Lincoln's.

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**. These were State laws that seriously limited the freedom of black people in the South.



The codes stopped black people from carrying weapons, testifying in court, or even traveling without a permit. 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:

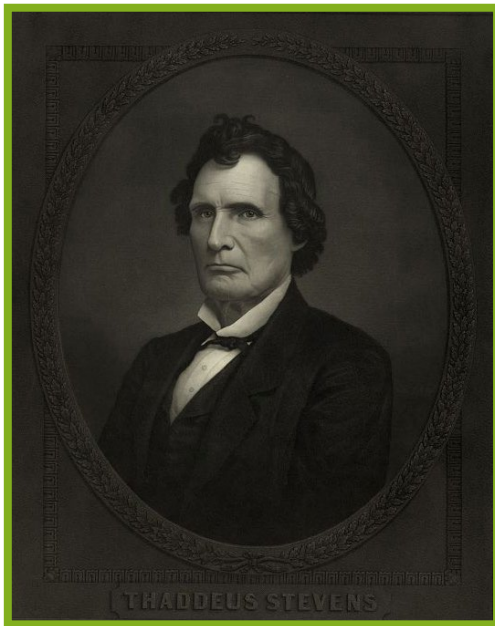
- defined all persons born in the U.S. (except Native Americans) as national citizens with fundamental rights
- declared that no state or individual could deprive a citizen of these rights.

President Johnson vetoed the Act.

Both moderate and radical Republicans joined forces 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.

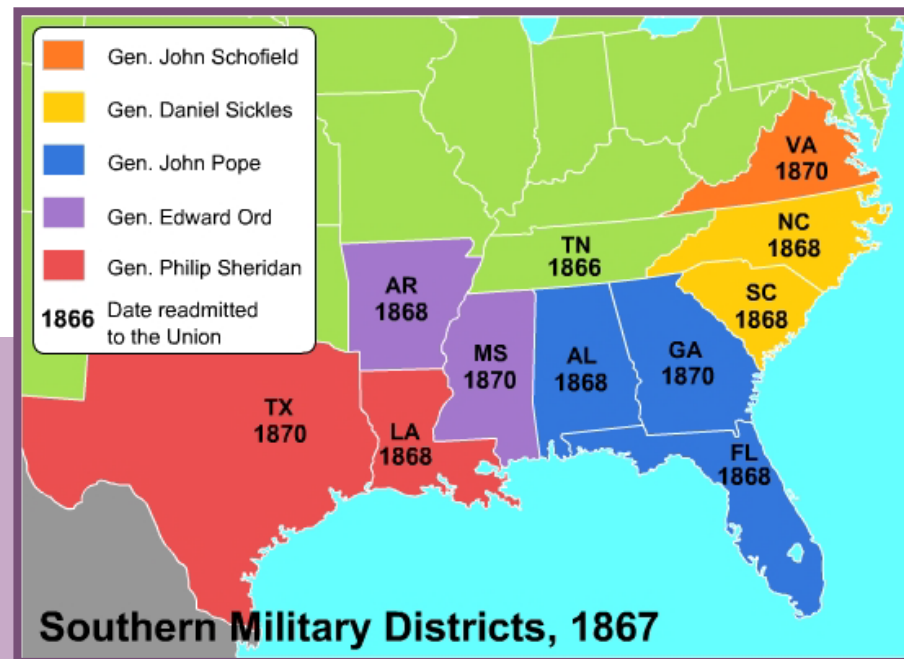


The Reconstruction Act of 1867

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

The Act divided the South into five military districts, each run by an ex-Union general.

Once a state ratified the Fourteenth Amendment, it would be added back into the Union.



Johnson vetoed the Act, but Congress overruled him.



Which policy?





The impeachment crisis



Frustrated with President Johnson's leadership, Radical Republicans brought a formal challenge, otherwise known as **impeachment**, against him in 1868.

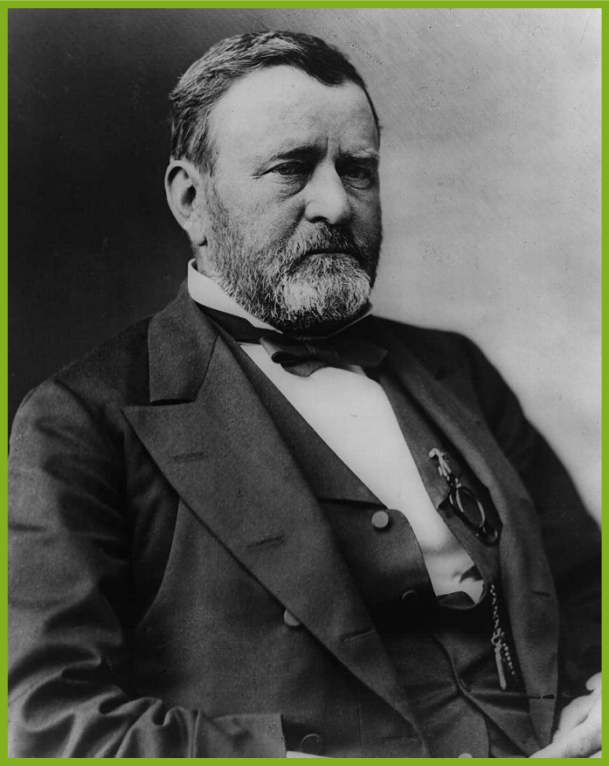
Johnson's impeachment was a result of hostility between the President and Congress, rather than a serious crime. The case against Johnson was weak, and he was acquitted. This meant he was not removed from office.



However, 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 made sure 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.



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.



