

**The Reconstruction Era:
Political, Social, & Economic Outcomes (Powerpoint)**

“The first war was ‘bout freedom and the war right after it was [about] equalization.”

MEANING WHAT?

HOW LONG DID THE 2ND WAR LAST? _____

I. Social Changes (positives)

a. Once slavery was banned, newly freed slaves...

i.

ii.

iii.

b. **Freedmen’s Bureau** was formed to aid African-Americans in their transition to freedom. Served a number of purposes:

i. Located family members

ii. Started schools

iii. Acted as an employment agency & negotiated labor contracts

iv. Filed legal charges against employers

II. Political Changes (positives)

a. Reconstruction Amendments:

i. **13th Amendment:** 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.

MEANING? _____

- ii. **14th Amendment:** All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

MEANING?

Part I: _____

Part II: _____

Part III: _____

- iii. **15th Amendment:** The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

MEANING? _____

- b. Once African-Americans were given the right to vote (15th amendment), they enthusiastically embraced political participation.
 - i. More than 70% of eligible black men voted in every state in 1867. (By 1910, black men had been denied the right to vote in practically every southern state.)
 - ii. Blacks were typically Republican.
 - iii. African-Americans held office in the South during Reconstruction (percentage of African-Americans population was small though)
 - iv. Held positions in high state offices, federal & state legislatures, sheriffs, lieutenant governors, etc.
 - 1. Achievements while in office (LIST 3)

III. Economic Changes (The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly)

a. Tuskegee Institute

- i. All-black college located in Tuskegee, Alabama
- ii. Founded in 1881 by **Booker T. Washington**.
- iii. Purpose?

b. After the Civil War, newly freed slaves needed work to survive. Many former slaves went back to work for former owners (for pay).

c. Rise of new economic system:

i. Sharecropping: _____

ii. Tenant farming: _____

d. Many people (black and white) got stuck in sharecropping/tenancy.

IV. Social Changes (negatives)

a. **Black Codes**: restricted/regulated the civil and legal life of African-Americans. Left African-Americans with few rights.

- i. Included restrictions on (LIST 3-4 EXAMPLES):

b. Rise of the **Ku Klux Klan**:

- i. Started in _____ in Tennessee as a social club by 6 Confederate veterans. In the beginning, the Klan was a secret fraternity rather than a terrorist organization.
- ii. The Klan quickly spread beyond Tennessee to every state in the South and included mayors, judges, and sheriffs as well as common criminals.

iii. Goals:

iv. Tactics:

V. Political Changes (negatives) - White Response to African-American Freedom

a. Criticism of African-Americans in Government (2 EXAMPLES?)

b. The South figured out ways to stop blacks from voting.

i. By 1890, black people ceased to vote in the South. However, because of the 15th amendment, states cannot ban voting on the basis of race. They must find other reasons to disqualify African-Americans.

ii. States come up with creative ways to exclude blacks from voting:

1. Grandfather clause:

2. Literacy tests:

3. Poll tax:

4. 8-box system:

iii. Williams v. Mississippi: the Supreme Court agreed that the South's methods of voter restriction (tests, etc.) were constitutional.

c. **The Failure of Reconstruction – Political Failures**

- i. Radical Republicans almost lost national power in the 1872 election. Thereafter, they abandoned the principles of equality for all in the interest of focusing on winning elections.
- ii. Presidential Election of 1876:
 - 1. Rutherford B. Hayes (Rep.)
 - 2. Samuel Tilden (Dem.)
- iii. Hayes lost the popular vote. Problem with electoral votes – both claim to have won. Congressional committee set up to investigate.
- iv. **Compromise of 1877:**

d. **The South After the Compromise of 1877**

- i. In a series of acts, the Supreme Court dealt a blow to black rights:
 - 1. Racist court
 - 2. Declared the Civil Rights Act of 1875 illegal – WHY?
 - 3. **Plessy v. Ferguson** (1896): Homer Plessy attempted to challenge segregation laws on the RR. The Supreme Court ruled that...

Gives the green light to pass more Jim Crow laws.

VI. Social Conditions in the Post-Reconstruction Era (more negatives)

a. Rise of **Jim Crow** (DEFINE) _____

b. In the 1880s-1890s, roughly 100 black people were lynched each year.

i. Hanging was most common form of **lynching**. (DEFINE) _____

ii. Most common reason was rape of a white woman. (Other reasons included murder and theft.)

VII. **In the post-Reconstruction Era, a number of African-Americans emerged to speak out against the abuse of African-Americans.**

a. Booker T. Washington was just one voice.

b. **W.E.B. Du Bois** was another. 1st black person to get a PhD (Harvard).

i. HE BELIEVED WHAT?

ii. He helped start the Niagara Movement (1905), which later became the NAACP (1910).
Sought economic opportunity, integration, equality before the law.

c. Anti-Lynching Campaign: **Ida B. Wells**

i. *Arthur Raper, Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching (1933): "3,724 people were lynched in the United States from 1889 through to 1930. Over four-fifths of these were Negroes, less than one-sixth of whom were accused of rape. Practically all of the lynchers were native whites. The fact that a number of the victims were tortured, mutilated, dragged, or burned suggests the presence of sadistic tendencies among the lynchers. Of the tens of thousands of lynchers and onlookers, only 49 were indicted and only 4 have been sentenced."*

*"Negro suffrage ended a civil war by beginning a race feud."
- W.E.B. Du Bois (Souls of Black Folks, 1903)*

• What did Du Bois mean?
