

Era of Reconstruction Notes
(105 pt. Test over Two Days)

Day One- (50 pt's.)

1. Define: Reconstruction- 2 parts: * make sure to include the years!
 - a. time period following the Civil War from the years 1865 to 1877, in which Americans attempted to reunite the shattered nation. (5 pt's.)
 - b. process used by the federal government to readmit the Confederate States. (3 pt's.)
2. For what two reasons is the Era of Reconstruction an important period of U.S. history to understand? (2 pt's.)
It produced great bitterness and enduring controversy.
3. Compare and contrast the viewpoints on Reconstruction efforts between white Southerners and the Northern defenders of it. * *sentence form!* (6 pt's.)

To many white Southerners reconstruction was thought of as a vicious and destructive process in which vindictive Northerners inflicted humiliation and revenge on the South. In contrast, many Northerners believed that the policies of reconstruction were the only way to prevent unrepentant Confederates from restoring the antebellum southern culture.

4. What belief did the Radical Republicans have that was so "Radical" and why? * *sentence form!* (2 pt's.)
The Radical Republicans supported African American suffrage, a truly "radical" idea as no other country that had abolished slavery had ever given former slaves the right to vote.
5. What rights did each of these amendments address on behalf of African Americans. (3 pt's.)
 - a. 13th Amendment- **the abolishment of slavery**
 - b. 14th Amendment- **makes citizens of all persons born or naturalized in U.S.**
 - c. 15th Amendment- **no one can be kept from voting because of race, color, or previous servitude**
6. What form of media made famous by figures such as Thomas Nast becomes prevalent during Reconstruction as a means of communicating political messages to the public? (1 pt.) **Cartoons.**
7. Who was the first U.S. president to be charged with impeachment? why? what was the outcome? (3 pt's.)
a. Andrew Johnson b. Congress wanted control of Reconstruction c. Vote fell one short of conviction
8. Scalwags and Carpetbaggers- Provide the following for each term:
 - a. definition
 - b. negative stereotype indicated by the Southern political label

Scalwags (2 pt's.)

 - a. **Southerners who joined the Republican Party.**
 - b. **Belief they just wanted to gain political position to enrich themselves.**

Carpetbaggers (2 pt's.)

 - a. **Northerners who went to the South with so little belongings that everything could fit in a carpet bag.**
 - b. **The belief that they were all dishonest businesspeople who wanted to exploit the South for profit.**
9. What institution became a crucial part of African American culture as it was one of the few they could totally control, what effect would this have on the future, and who was a famous civil rights leader that was a product of this institution. (3 pt's.)
 - a. **Black Churches**
 - b. **produced future leaders of the black community**
 - c. **Martin Luther King**

10. What were the primary economic outcomes of both the sharecropper and tenant farming systems for African Americans and how was this made possible? * sentence form! (3 pt's.)
Southern white land owners manipulated the use of credit by African Americans which kept them in an economic cycle of poverty and allowed the landowners to maintain their control over southern society.
11. Topic: Denial of African American Civil Rights
Respond to questions concerning aspects of Southern opposition utilized to deny black rights.

Black Codes

a. Provide three examples of the various components of the Black Codes. (3 pt's.)

- **Must be in the service of a white person**
- **can only work as a domestic servant or in agriculture**
- **Illegal to: live in towns and cities/ meet together w/o permission or after dark/ serve on juries or testify vs whites/ vote/ possess firearms/ trade merchandise w/o white permission**

Jim Crow Laws

b. Provide three methods utilized to deny blacks the vote without making it "officially" illegal! (3 pt's.)

1. had to be a landowner
2. pass a literacy test
3. pay a poll tax

c. Explain the concept and provide two outcomes of segregation related to "separate but equal" as determined by the 1896 Plessy vs Ferguson Supreme Ct. ruling.

Concept- Separation of races in public accommodations was ruled to be legal, as long as the facilities provided "equal" service. (2 pt's.)

Outcomes- (2 pt's.) a. this ruling permitted legalized racial segregation for 60 years.

b. the black facilities were rarely equal- usually inferior

KKK

Question- Provide the primary goal, method, and tactic utilized by the KKK organization. (3 pt's.)

- **Goal: restore white supremacy**
- **Method: prevent African Americans from exercising their political rights**
- **Tactic: Terrorism**

(Ex's.- 1000's of freedmen and sympathizers (white, teachers, women, children, aged, crippled) were victims of: threats, torture, rape, beatings, whippings, murder/ executions in various forms without mercy, warning, or appeal (shot, stabbed, hanged, drowned, disemboweled), burned houses/ schools/ churches)

12. Identify the key differences between the following civil rights terms: (4 pt's.)

- Segregation- separation of the races
- Racism- one's own race is superior
- Prejudice- hostile attitude toward another race
- Discrimination- negative treatment based on the race a person belongs to

13. List the six factors that contributed to the collapse of Reconstruction. (3 pt's.)

- Opposition-** Black Codes, Jim Crow Laws, KKK
- Scandals-** President Grant's administration has constant fraud and bribery issues
- Economic Turmoil-** Economic Panic of 1873, greenback vs gold standard controversy
- Lack of Judicial Support-** Supreme Ct. decisions reduce federal gov't. power to enforce amendments
- Lack of Popular Support-** Northern support fades and becomes indifferent as attention shifts to national economic concerns, grows weary of the Negro Question, and desires reconciliation with South
- Southern Democrats-** Compromise of 1877, Redemption, Home Rule, Solid South

Day Two- (55 pt's.)

14. **Investigate "Causes and Effects" of Significant Events in US History- (sentence/ paragraph form!)**

Discuss the causes of political conflict related to the effort to reunite the country after the Civil War.

* **a. Must identify the four groups, along with any key leaders (7 pt's.) and**

* **b. provide a quality summation, 4 separate paragraphs- (4 pt's.), containing three aspects related to each of the four group positions. (12 pt's.)**

a. group- **Moderate Republicans/ Presidents Lincoln and Johnson**

position- **saved the union at all costs, now want to quickly establish peace and order and reunite the country by showing political leniency and mercy on the South, assist in rebuilding a diversified Southern economy, and provide limited support for black suffrage.**

b. group- **Radical Republicans/ Thaddeus Stevens**

position- **won the war and are proud of it, now want to politically punish the South and prove the federal gov't. should be more powerful than the states, justify the war by remaking Southern society in the image of the North, destroy the power of slaveholders to make sure they can never rebel again, and support full freedom and rights of African Americans- including suffrage and equal economic opportunity.**

c. group- **Southern Democrats**

position- **lost the war and now must decide to make peace with the North but will resist in every way possible through both legal and illegal means as want to regain wealth- property-political power, are prejudiced against and fear black freedom, want to change as little as possible and return to Antebellum way of life- including plantation crop-based economy with blacks as cheap labor force, and reimpose social order based on paternalistic race relationship.**

d. group- **Freedman**

position- **former slaves who rejoice as slavery is finally over, but now must face the unknown life of freedom and find their place in politics, the economy, and society. Seek physical protection, economic independence through land ownership and equal access to jobs, education, equal civil rights, and political participation through the right to vote.**

15. **Analyze the "Complexity" of Events in US History- (sentence/ paragraph form!)**

Select one of the following two challenges faced by the country as it came to grips with the aftermath of the civil war, **Devastated South or Meeting the Rights and Needs of Freedman**, and provide a. **three elements of the challenge (3 pt's.)**, b. **descriptions related to each element (3 pt's.)**, and c. **three solutions instituted in response to the challenge. (3pt's.)** * sentence/ paragraph form- (1 pt.)

* **Bonus- up to 10 pt's. possible- respond to both challenges! Second challenge discussed considered bonus.**

Challenge #1- Devastated South

Elements- Descriptions

a. **Physical-** 1/ 5 of southern white males are dead, many others maimed for life.

b. **Economic-** infrastructure lies in ruins. (Railways, bridges, plantations, factories)
confederate bonds are worthless
free labor system of slavery is gone

c. **Emotional-** pride hurt, sadness, anger, violence, fear

Solution

Republicans:

1. **built roads, bridges, and railroads.**

2. **established orphanages and institutions for the mentally ill and disabled.**

3. **created first public school system most southern states ever had.**

Challenge #2- Meeting the Rights and Needs of Freedman

Elements and Description

1. **Money-** broke, no savings, no possessions
2. **Education-** literacy, trade skills
3. **Jobs-** earn living, build pride/ independence, provide for self/family
4. **Land-** housing, farming
5. **Protection-** support rights, safety from violence

Solution

1. **Freedman's Bureau, 13-14-15 Amendments, Federal Troops**
2. **Northerners-** some felt obligation to help. (teachers, ministers, Freedmen's Bureau's agents)
3. **Northerners-** some wanted to buy land or start new industry

16. *Examine and Evaluate Issues of "Unity and Diversity" from Reconstruction to Present!*

Evaluate how the hopes of African Americans were both raised and denied during the Era of Reconstruction and beyond by responding to the following prompt:

Reconstruction was a success in helping African Americans achieve equal rights!

- a. List three points for each of the following four categories: (12 pt's.)
 - *Hopes Raised/ Hopes Denied/ Pros/ Cons*
- b. Write a Persuasive Argument with supporting points for your position and recognition of opposing views. (1 pt.- decision/ 4 pt's.- paragraph response/ 5 pt's.-supporting points and opposing viewpoints)

Hopes Raised (3 pt's.)

- **Free to move, work for wages, reunite with family members, serve in politics.**
- **Amendments 13, 14, 15**
- **Freedmen's Bureau Acts-** offered assistance to freed slaves. (food, shelter, clothing, education, etc.)
- **Civil Rights Acts-** granted citizenship and equal protection.
- **Reconstruction Act of 1867-** Divided confederate states into military zones with federal troops
- **Enforcement Act-** punish those who deny the rights of African Americans

Hopes Denied (3 pt's.)

- **ability to vote and hold office is restricted**
- **sharecropping economic labor system creates cycle of debt**
- **southern white leadership regains control of state governments**
- **Black Codes, Jim Crow Laws, KKK**

Evaluation

Pro's (3 pt's.)

- **black participation in gov't.**
- **blacks able to establish institutions- churches, schools**
- **plantation system broken and some land redistributed**
- **amendments passed which laid the groundwork for full civil rights in the 20th century**

Con's (3 pt's.)

- **had to wait 100 years to attain full civil rights**
- **blacks never receive the economic resources needed to break the cycle of poverty**
- **blacks once again found themselves in a subordinate position in southern society**
- **Supreme Ct. decisions undermine the power of the amendments**
- **Racial bias is a national problem and the north loses interest in black problems**