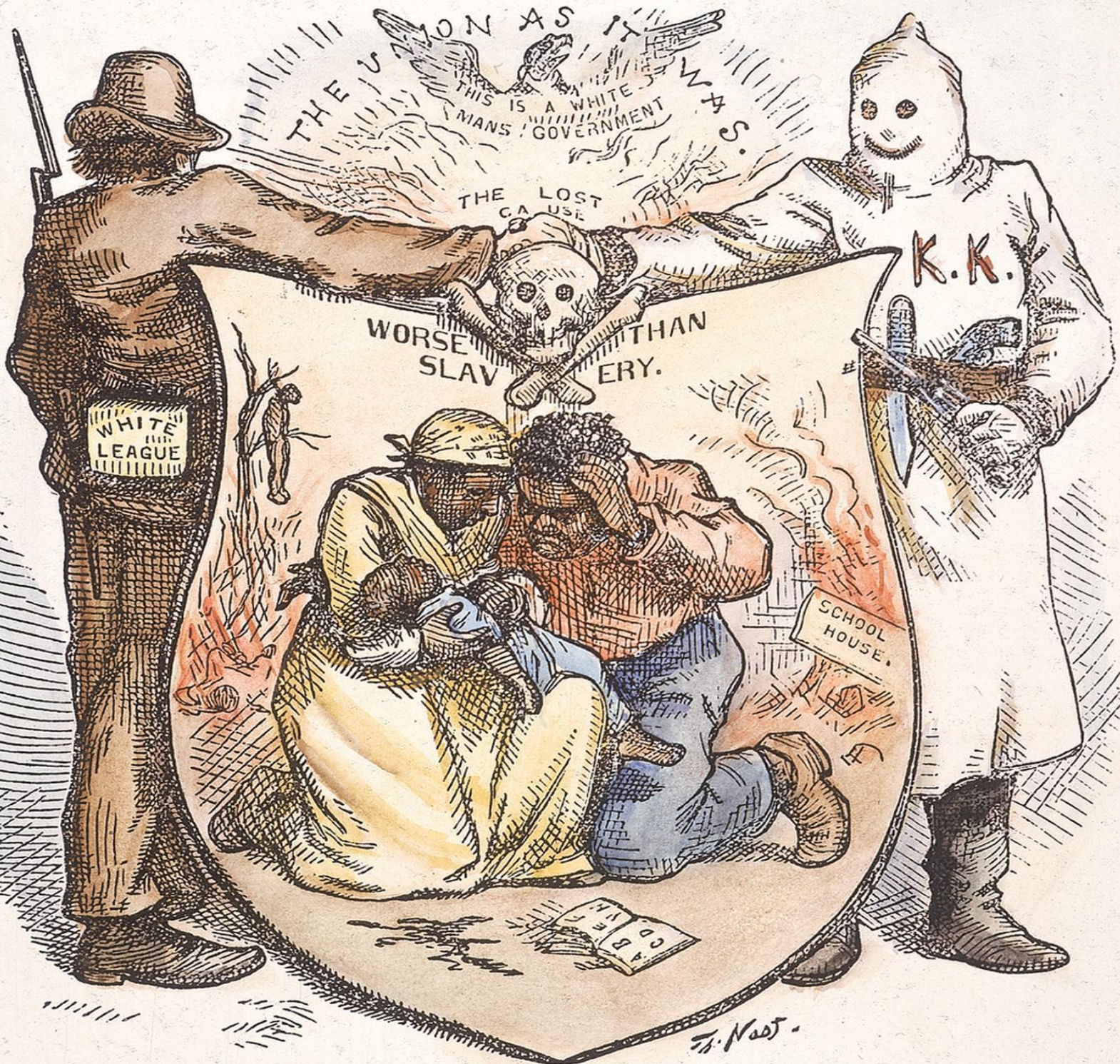


RECONSTRUCTION

AMERICA AFTER THE CIVIL WAR



RECONSTRUCTION

After the Civil War, the period of **Reconstruction** (1865-1877) was one of reuniting the country, completing the transition from slavery to freedom, and rebuilding the economically devastated South. The Reconstruction era had enormous challenges that continued long after the end of the period.

Major Questions after the Civil War

The South had sustained immense damage after the Civil War. Entire cities lay in ruins. Many plantations and fields had been burned and homes had been gutted. Train tracks were blown up and many bridges were destroyed. Rivers were not navigable and needed to be dredged due to boats that had sunk in them. Write these questions on the back of your notes.

1. How should the South be rebuilt?
2. What should be done to those Southern state governments who fought against the U.S. (for example, should they be punished?)
3. How would freed people be treated in the Southern states (for example, would they be allowed to vote?)

Lincoln's second inaugural address

March 4, 1865

With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

From this statement, what do you think Lincoln's attitude was toward reconstructing the nation?

PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION

Lincoln's plan, called the **Ten Percent Plan**, offered Southerners amnesty (a pardon), but southerners had to do two things:

- (1) Swear an oath of loyalty to the United States and agree slavery was illegal.
- (2) Once 10 percent of voters in a southern state made these pledges, the state could form a new government, and be readmitted into the Union.

assassination

Five days after General Lee surrendered to General Grant and the war officially ended, President Abraham Lincoln was shot and killed by a Southern sympathizer named John Wilkes Booth.

The President was assassinated while attending a play at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C.

The nation that was already in ruins from a long, violent Civil War, was now mourning the death of the President and they would never have the chance to know how Lincoln planned on rebuilding the war-torn country.

Assassinate

April 14th 1865 - five days after the war ended, John Wilkes Booth shot and killed President Lincoln.



Presidential Reconstruction



Andrew Johnson
Became president when Lincoln was assassinated. Began Presidential Reconstruction.

Vice President Andrew Johnson became President after Lincoln's death in April of 1865.

President Johnson felt it was the job of the president to carry out the work of Reconstruction to reunite the United States and rebuild the South after the Civil War.

Johnson was a southerner from Tennessee and had a racist streak. His idea of Reconstruction was aimed at getting white Southern farmers back in business. He was less concerned about the millions of blacks who had few skills and education and now needed jobs.

Presidential Reconstruction

President Johnson issued a proclamation granting amnesty (pardons) to all persons who had directly or indirectly taken part in the rebellion.

During his presidency, Lincoln issued 64 pardons for war-related offences. Within a little over a year after Lincoln's death, by June of 1866, there were 12,652 pardons issued.

13th amendment

President Johnson's reconstruction plan was announced in May of 1865. Former Confederate states could rejoin the Union when they had accomplished the following:

- Write a new state Constitution
- Elect a new state government
 - Repeal its act of secession
 - Cancel its war debts
- Ratify an amendment to the Constitution to abolish slavery

All former Confederate states had accomplished this by the fall of 1865, The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution officially banned slavery in every part of the United States. It was ratified in December of 1865. Once this happened, Johnson announced reconstruction was complete.



13th Amendment

Change to the Constitution to officially ban slavery in the United States. December 1865

FREEDOM!



Presidential Reconstruction

Congress disagreed with President Johnson. They felt it was the responsibility of Congress to carry out Reconstruction.

The northern Republican congressmen felt Southern states needed strong measures in place to be sure the new governments established in former slave states were based on equality.

President Johnson ignored congress regarding Reconstruction and carried out his own methods for rebuilding the nation. Congress went as far as holding impeachment hearings for the President.

Johnson escaped removal from office by just one vote.

Reconstruction:
Time when the South was rebuilt and brought back into the Union.



SHARECROPPING

Sharecropping

Poor whites and former slaves rented out land from planters to farm. Kept former slaves in poverty and debt.



While the government argued over how to implement reconstruction, Southerners were working to rebuild and begin new lives.

Newly freed slaves lacked education and skills for high paying jobs. Former slave owners needed workers to farm their land but the economic collapse of the South meant they had very little money to pay workers.

The "solution" that formed out of these circumstances is known as sharecropping. Poor whites and former slaves rented land from plantation owners to farm.

Two main problems existed in sharecropping. Former slaves were always in debt to the land owners and they still were not getting an education to improve their circumstances.

freedmen's BUREAU



Freedmen's Bureau

Provided short term aide in food and medical care and long term help in education for former slaves.



Frederick Douglass described the problems faced by former slaves, called "freedmen" after the 13th Amendment, once slavery ended.

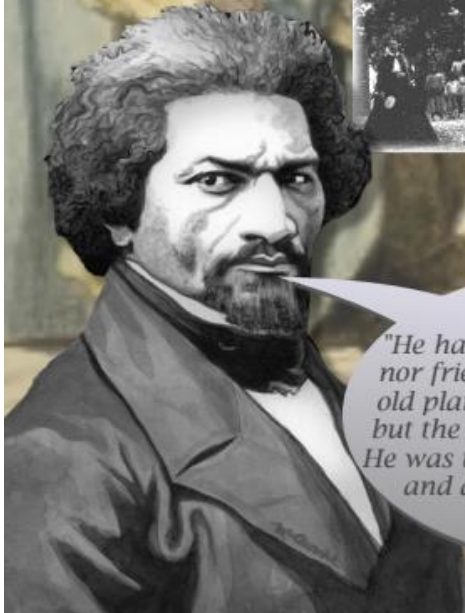
Under slavery, slave owners provided everything their slaves needed. Housing, food, and clothing were all a part of owning slaves. Once slavery ended former, slaves were left with no way to provide for their basic needs.

In response, Congress established the "Freedmen's Bureau". This agency was set up to provide short term help to former slaves with access to food and medical care. They helped arrange for wages and even helped distribute some land to get former slaves on their feet.

The longest lasting impact of the Freedmen's Bureau was with education. They opened schools to teach thousands of former slaves, young and old.



A Freedmen's Bureau school



"He had neither money, property, nor friends. He was free from the old plantation, but he had nothing but the dusty road under his feet... He was turned loose, naked, hungry, and destitute to the open sky."

Black Codes

WE SERVE WHITE'S only

Black Codes

Laws passed in former Confederate states to limit rights and freedoms of African Americans.



Segregation

Legalized separation of people in public places based on race and skin color.



It wasn't surprising when the newly elected governments in former Confederate states began to look very much like the old governments run by the same people who led the South before the war.

Once back in office, these governments began to pass legislation to restrict and control former slaves. They passed laws called "black codes" meant to limit the civil rights and freedoms of African Americans.

These laws denied former slaves voting rights. They could not serve on juries. Blacks who were unemployed could be arrested and sent to work for plantation owners. Black codes limited blacks to working low paying jobs.

States also passed laws requiring segregation of blacks and whites in public places.



14th amendment



Republicans in Congress were alarmed at the return of power to former Southern leaders. The issue remained that the Supreme Court had ruled blacks were not citizens in the Dred Scott decision less than a decade earlier. Southern states did not have to recognize citizenship of former slaves.

Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866 to declare freedmen to be full citizens with the same civil rights as whites. President Johnson vetoed the law, but an angry Congress overrode his veto.

Congress took civil rights even further by ratifying the 14th Amendment. This amendment granted citizenship to all people born or naturalized in the United States and guaranteeing equal protection of the laws. This meant Southern states had to recognize former slaves as citizens and could not pass laws to treat them differently.



Civil Rights

Rights guaranteed by the Constitution to citizens, especially equal treatment under the law.



14th Amendment

Civil Rights amendment- granted citizenship to former slaves and provided equal protection of the law.



military reconstruction

In early 1867, Congress overrode President Johnson's veto and established the Military Reconstruction Act. This plan divided the South into districts governed by a military general and supported by federal troops.

New Southern governments were no longer allowed to resemble the old Confederate governments. Only Southerners loyal to the Union would be allowed to vote. The military helped millions of former slaves register to vote.

Many Southerners felt stripped of their rights as citizens and looked for ways to restrict former slaves even further.



KU KLUX KLAN

Ku Klux Klan

Racist secret society formed in 1866. Used violence and intimidation to try and keep former slaves powerless.



Democrats tried to lure African Americans away from the Republican party. When that didn't work, they tried to pass laws from keeping former slaves from being able to vote.

In areas across the South, whites formed secret organizations to intimidate blacks and keep former slaves politically powerless. The most infamous of these secret societies was the Ku Klux Klan. Keeping their identities a secret by dressing in long, hooded white robes, the Klansmen armed with guns and swords worked to intimidate and threaten black voters. They would threaten, beat, tar and feather, and even murder blacks who did not heed their warnings.

election of 1868

Ulysses S. Grant

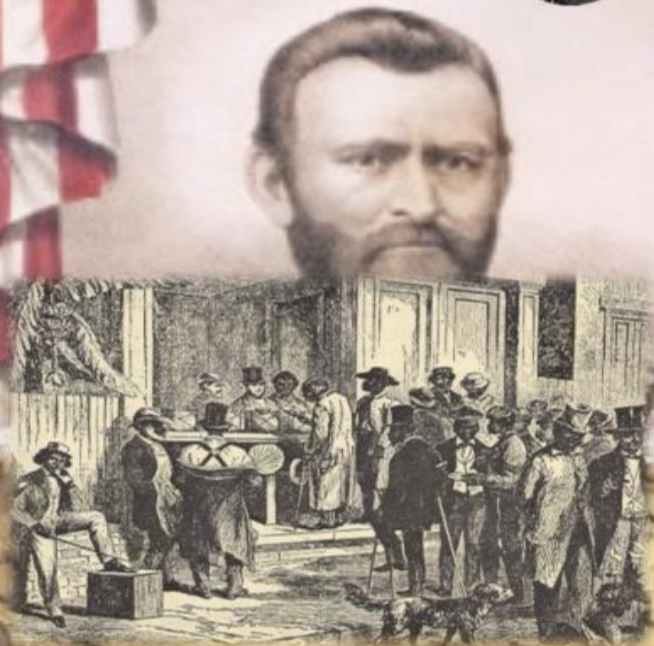
Became the 18th President in 1869. Believed Congress should enact Reconstruction.



African Americans were new voters in the election of 1868. Poor Southerners viewed the Democratic Party as the party of wealthy planters. Both of these groups of Southern voters supported the Republican Party. Wealthy Southerners viewed any white person who would support the Republican party as a traitor.

The military presence in the South had helped millions of former slaves register to vote. In response, black candidates were elected to new Republican-led state governments.

In the election of 1868, these new Southern voters helped elect Republican candidate, Ulysses S. Grant. Grant supported reconstruction and promised to protect the rights of African Americans. His opponent, Horatio Seymour, promised to end reconstruction and return power to traditional white democrat leaders.



15th amendment

President Grant encouraged Congress to pass the 15th Amendment. This change to the Constitution would make it unlawful to try and deny any person their right to vote based on their race, skin color, or former slave status.

The 15th Amendment was ratified in 1869 and Abolitionists felt they had accomplished their goals. However, even with this Constitutional amendment in place, Southern states would find ways to resist and tried to make it difficult for former slaves to vote.

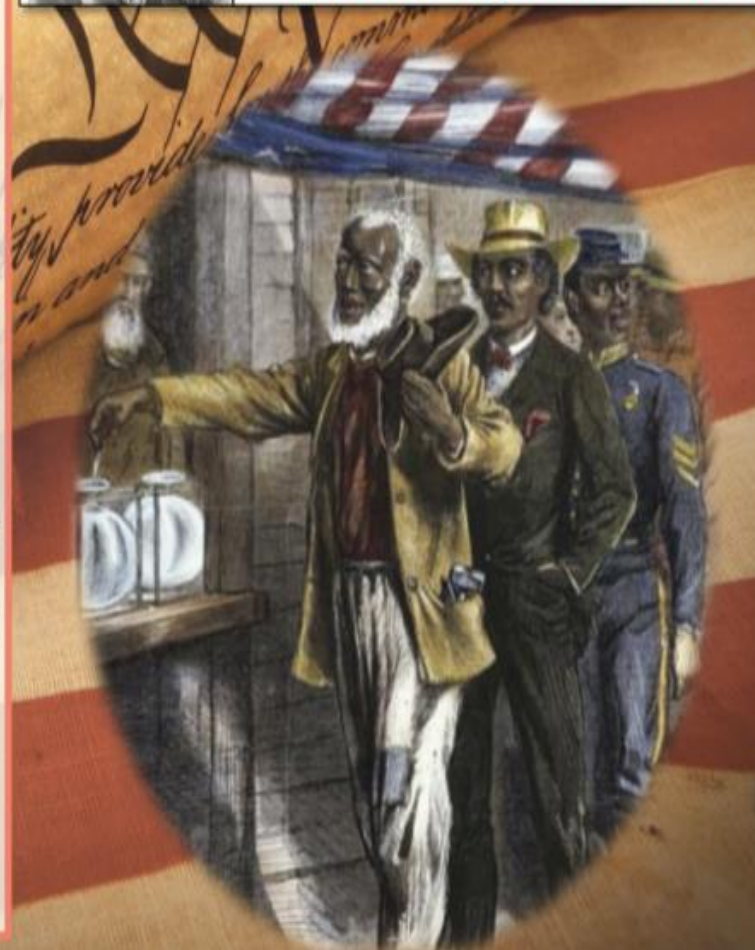
Some states required all citizens, black and white, to pay a poll tax in order to vote. This kept poor people from being able to participate in elections. Other states required citizens to pass a literacy test to prove they were educated enough to vote. This meant uneducated blacks were denied voting rights.

In spite of all the progress made, the fight for Civil Rights would continue for another century.



15th Amendment

Declared people could not be denied the right to vote based on race or color or for being a former slave.



Optional Video Links

- America Story of Us: Abraham Lincoln
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bjxbb-tjSAA>
- History Channel Blood & Glory: African Americans after the War
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnEKiw7LPvw>
- John Green Crash Course History: Reconstruction
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nowsS7pMApI>
- Reconstruction- Black Codes & 14th Amendment
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvoX97s8fhI>
- PBS 60 Second Presidents: Andrew Johnson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H11SE9M2oMY>

The End of Reconstruction

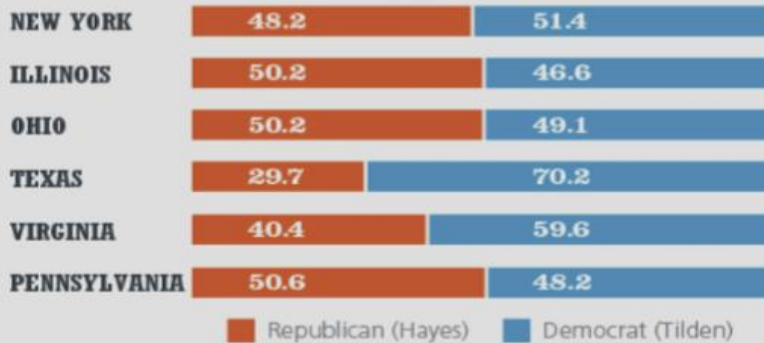
★ THE ELECTION OF 1876 ★

BREAKING DOWN THE VOTE

55% States where Hayes won the popular vote **73%** Southern states that voted for Tilden

Source: The American Presidency Project

THE BATTLE IN KEY STATES

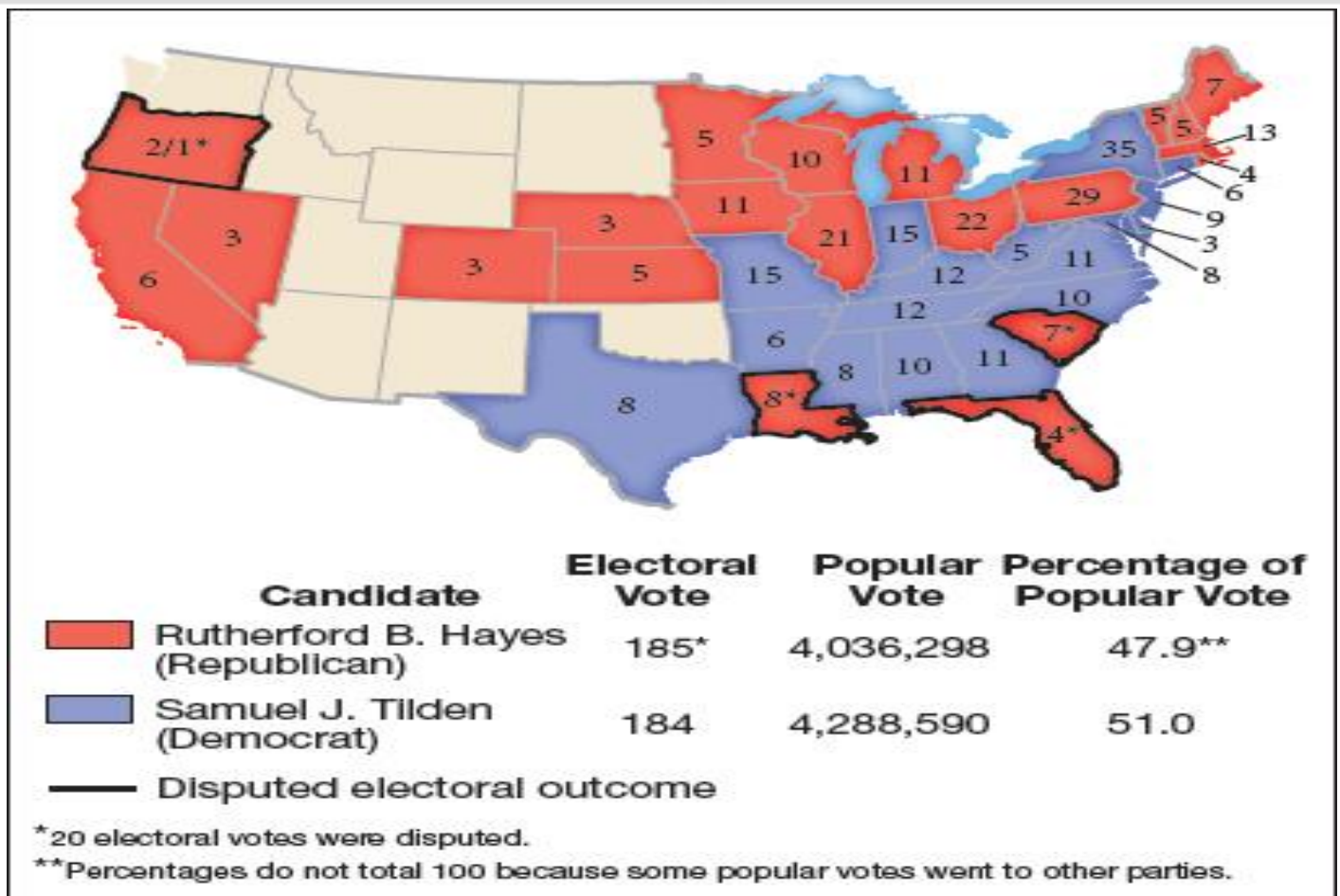


Source: The American Presidency Project

THE CONTROVERSY

- 1 Early election results showed Tilden had a **184-165** electoral vote lead
- 2 **20 remaining electoral votes** from Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Oregon in dispute
- 3 Democrats used fraud and violence to win state elections (state legislatures directed electors) in **Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina**
- 4 Republican-controlled electoral boards threw out enough Democratic votes in FL, LA, and SC to give Hayes **185 electoral votes**
- 5 Congress appointed Electoral Commission (8 Republicans, 7 Democrats); voted **8-7** to accept Hayes' electoral votes
- 6 Republicans and Democrats accused of brokering "deal" giving southern support in Congress for ratification of commission votes in exchange for ending **Reconstruction in the South**

Source: PBS

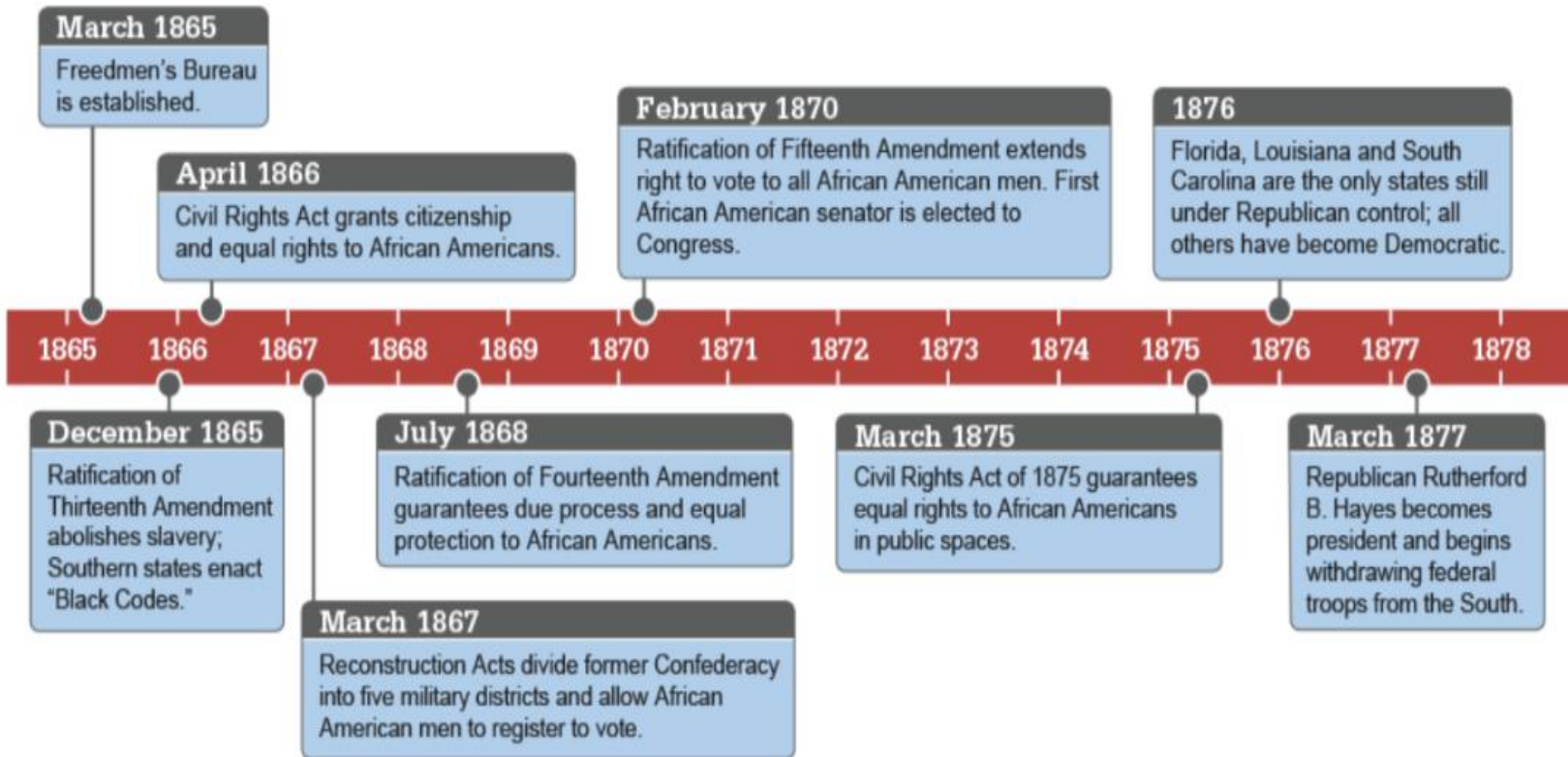


The Compromise of 1877

The two parties agreed to compromise. Democrats allowed Hayes to become president. In return, Hayes agreed to give southern states "the right to control their own affairs." Once in office, President Hayes withdrew all remaining federal troops from the South. After that, Democrats quickly took control of the last southern states. "This is a white man's country," boasted South Carolina Senator Ben Tillman, "and white men must govern it."

Reconstruction Review

Timeline of Reconstruction



Plans for Reconstruction

LINCOLN	JOHNSON	RADICAL REPUBLICAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required 10 percent of a state's voters to take an oath of loyalty to the Union in order to form a new government and rejoin the Union • Required states to accept emancipation of slaves • Offered full pardons to all former Confederates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required former Confederates with property worth \$20,000 or more to obtain presidential pardon in order to vote or hold office; gave full pardon to others • Required ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required 50 percent of a state's voters to take an oath of loyalty to the Union in order to call a constitutional convention and elect a new government • Divided South into five military districts • Required state legislatures to adopt new constitutions guaranteeing African American suffrage • Required states to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment in order to seat representatives in Congress