

RECONSTRUCTION 1863-1877



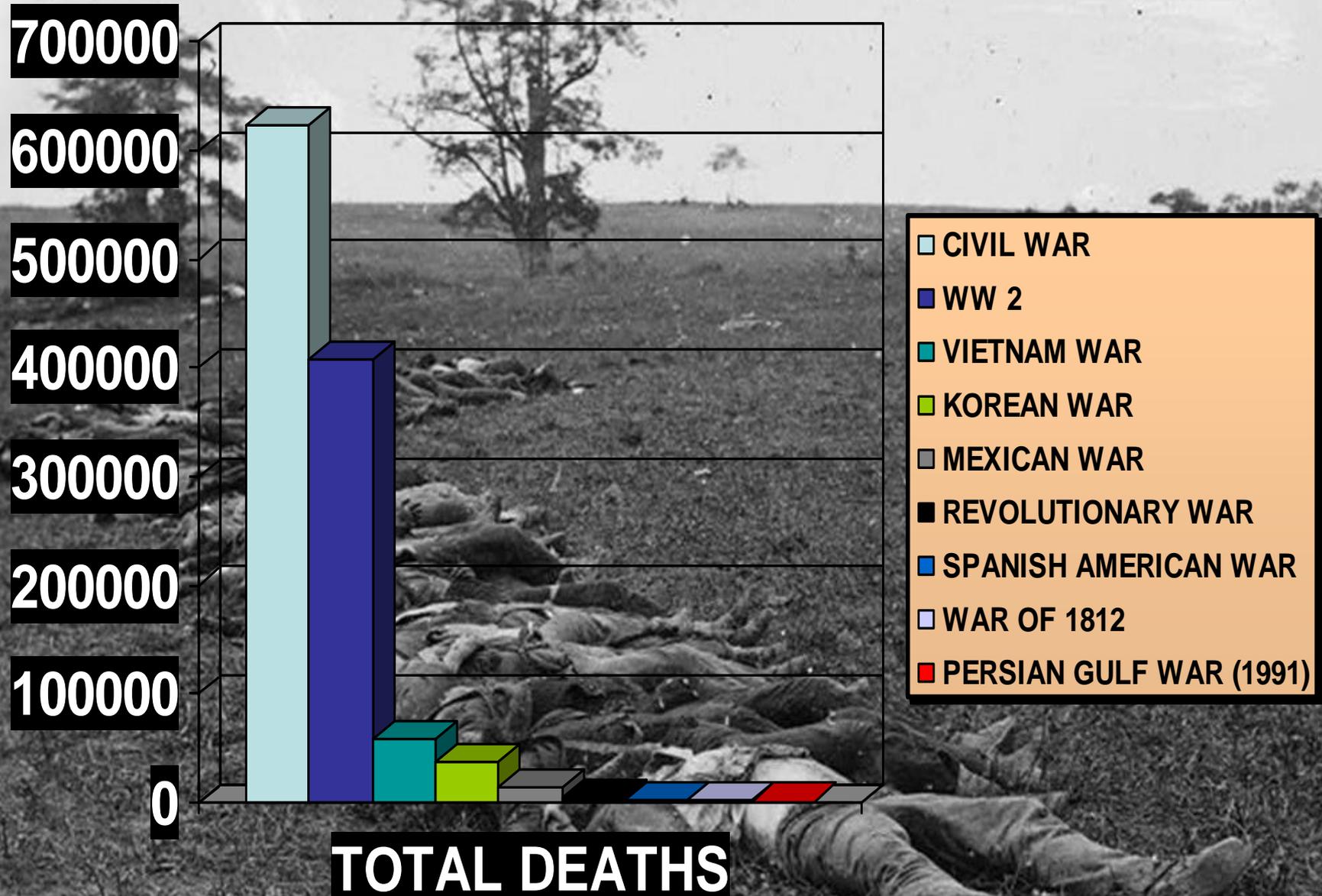
The Civil War ended in April of 1865 when Robert E. Lee surrendered the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia to Union General Ulysses S. Grant.



**General
Lee**

**General
Grant**

The Civil War saw the greatest number of deaths of any American war.



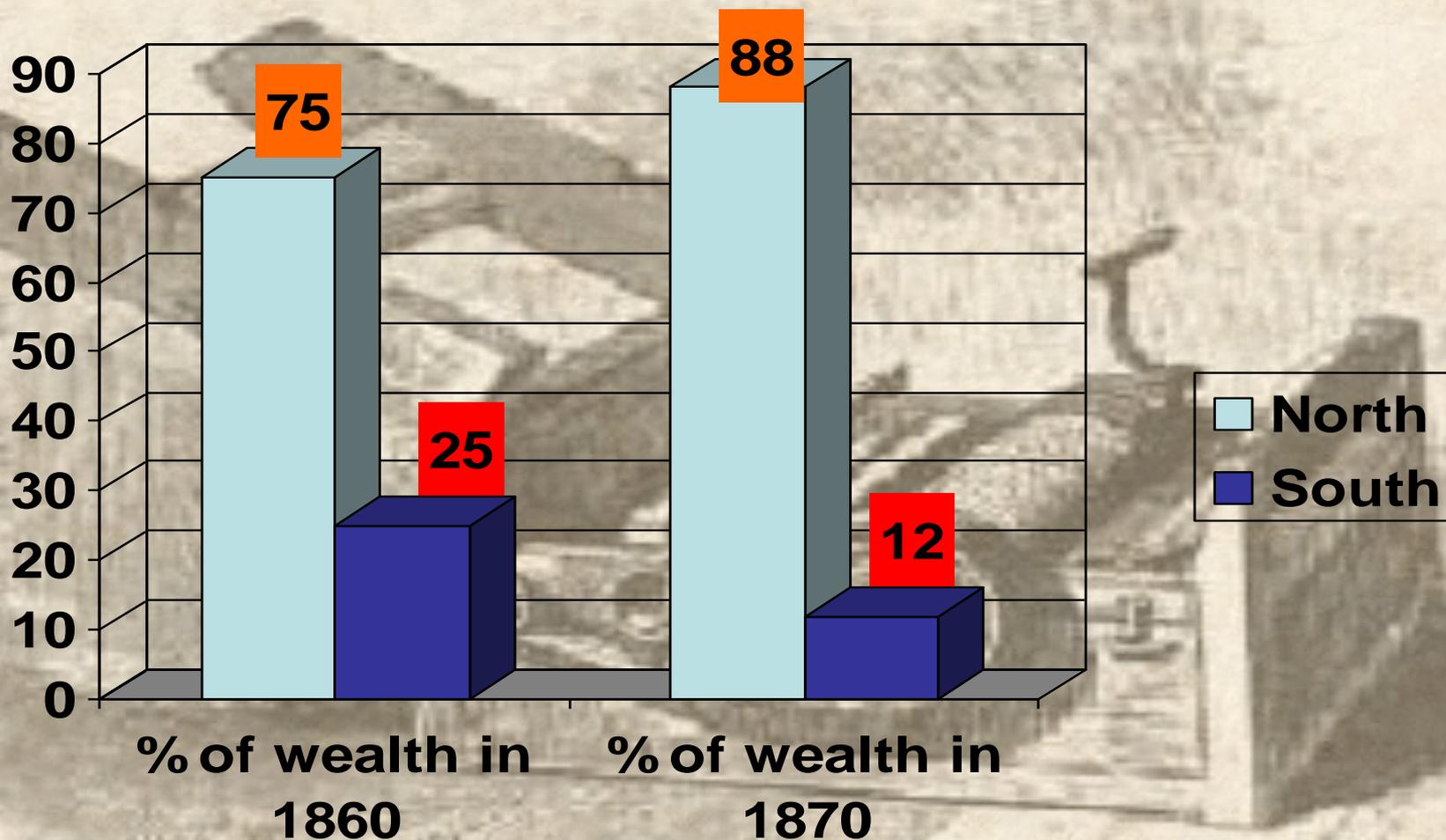


Richmond, Virginia 1865



B-112

The Civil War and its aftermath impoverished the South and dramatically decreased its share of the nation's wealth between 1860 and 1870.





OF THE PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION ABOLISHING SLAVERY FOR EVER. LES FRATERNUS. House of Rep.

**Celebration
of the
passage of
the 13th
Amendment.**

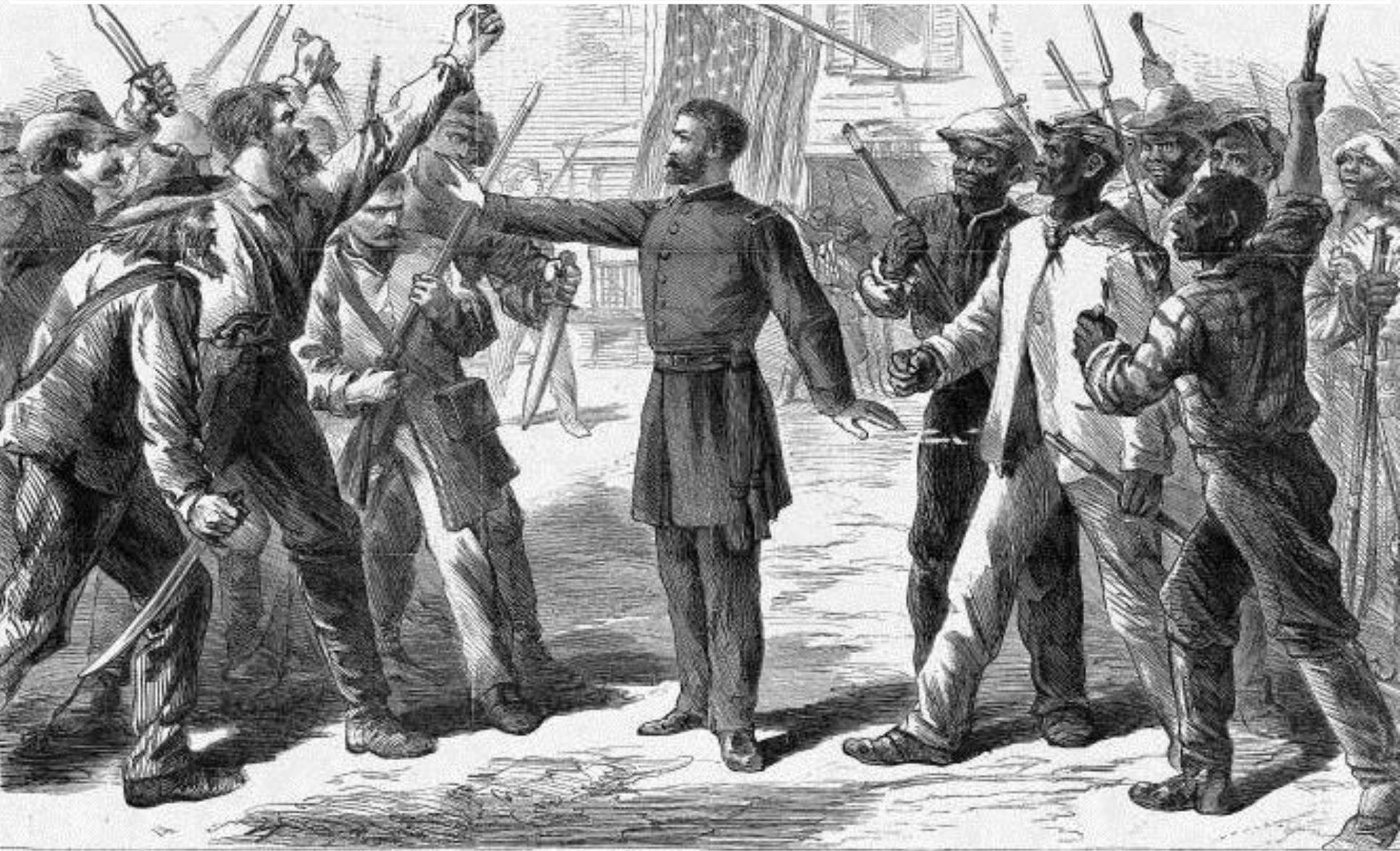
The Freedmen's Bureau was assigned the following tasks:

To aid refugees and freedmen by

- **furnishing food**
- giving medical care
- **establishing schools**
- **supervising labor contracts**
- **managing abandoned and confiscated land**
- **arbitrating in court disputes between freedmen**



Symbolic portrait of the Bureau acting as a buffer between racist whites and ex-slaves.



A Freedmen's Bureau school



President Johnson was against the Bureau and twice Congress had to override his vetoes to keep it functioning. Most Southerners hated the Bureau, seeing it as a “foreign government” forced on them by the North’s military.



By 1869, Congress had ended all the Freedmen’s Bureau’s work except for education, which ended in 1870. Black Civil War veterans received assistance until 1872.

THREE PLANS FOR RECONSTRUCTION

LINCOLN PROPOSED HIS PLAN IN 1863:

HE OFFERED A PARDON TO ALL SUPPORTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY IF THEY SWORE ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNION AND PLEDGED TO ACCEPT THE END OF SLAVERY. WHEN 10% OF THE MEN ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN 1860 DID THIS THE STATE QUALIFIED FOR REENTRY INTO THE UNION

NEW STATE CONSTITUTIONS HAD TO OUTLAW SLAVERY

NO PROTECTION FOR FREED AFRICAN AMERICANS

JOHNSON PROPOSED HIS PLAN AFTER LINCOLN WAS ASSASSINATED AND HE ASCENDED TO THE PRESIDENCY:

AMNESTY TO WHITES WHO SIGNED LOYALTY OATHS

STATES MUST ABOLISH SLAVERY
STATES MUST PAY WAR DEBTS

NO ROLE FOR FREED BLACKS

NO VOTE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

RADICAL REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS PROPOSED THEIR PLAN:

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR FREED AFRICAN AMERICANS

MILITARY OCCUPATION OF THE SOUTH TO OVERSEE CHANGES

VOTING RIGHTS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES

13TH, 14TH, 15TH AMENDMENTS

Lincoln's second inaugural address closed with these words:

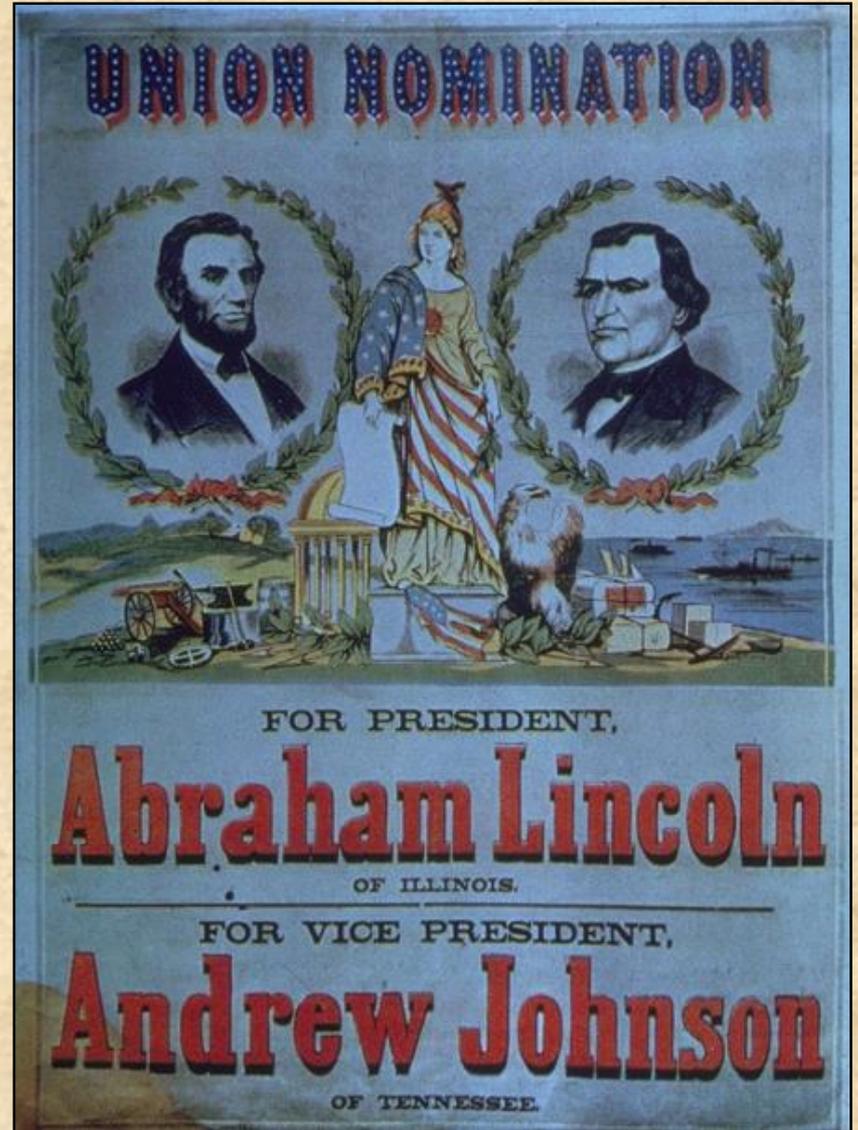
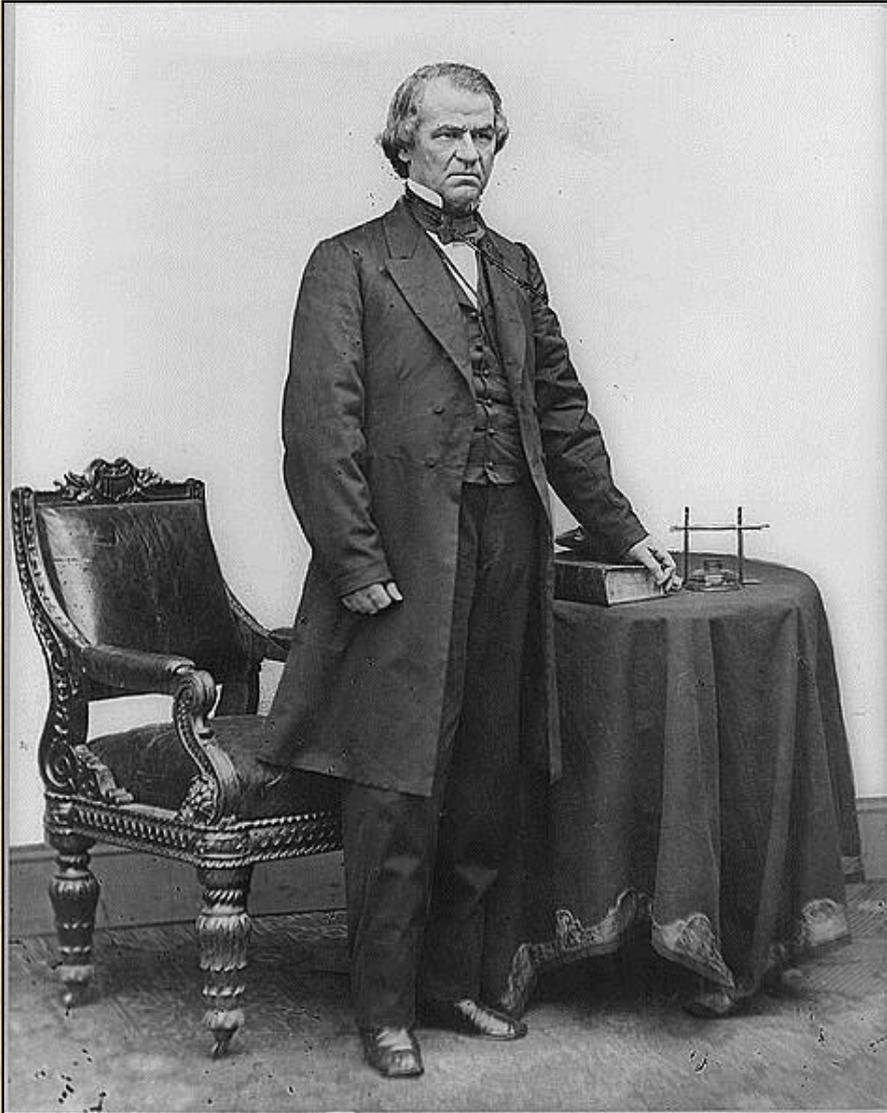
“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan...to do all which may achieve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

LINCOLN'S RECONSTRUCTION PLAN

- 1. Offered amnesty and pardons to any Confederate who would swear to support the Constitution and the Union.**
- 2. High Confederate officials and military leaders were to be temporarily excluded from the process.**

- 3. When one-tenth of the number of voters who had participated in the 1860 election had taken the oath within a particular state and abolished slavery, that state could launch a new government and elect representatives to Congress.**
- 4. Free all slaves.**

**Vice-President Andrew Johnson
assumed the presidency.**



Most of the ex-Confederate states took advantage of the Lincoln-Johnson “easy” plan.



President Johnson called his Reconstruction policy “Restoration.”



The focus of Restoration was leniency toward the former Confederate states.



When 10% of enfranchised Southerners in each former Confederate state took a loyalty oath, the state was readmitted to the Union.



Certain former Confederate leaders were temporarily disenfranchised.

Johnson's soft approach did not include oversight in the South, which led to the passage of a series of racist laws known as the Black Codes.

The Black codes were passed for two main purposes:

- 1. To control and inhibit the freedom of ex-slaves. These laws controlled almost all aspects of life for African Americans and prohibited them from exercising their freedoms that had been won in the Civil War.**
- 2. White Southerners needed a stable labor force since slavery was abolished. Although the codes differed from state to state, there were some common provisions:**
 - Blacks were required to enter into annual labor contracts, with penalties if they tried to quit early.**
 - Dependent children were forced into compulsory apprenticeships, and the use of corporal punishments by "masters" was sanctioned.**
 - Unemployed blacks and "vagrants" could be sold into private service if they could not pay designated fines.**

Examples of Black Code laws in Louisiana and Mississippi

Excerpt from a Louisiana Black Code law, 1865

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, &c., That persons who have attained the age of majority, whether in this State or any other State of the United States, or in a foreign country, may bind themselves to services to be performed in this country, for the term of five years, on such terms as they may stipulate, as domestic servants and to work on farms, plantations or in manufacturing establishments, which contracts shall be valid and binding on the parties to the same.

Excerpt from a Mississippi Black Code law, 1865

Section 10. It shall be lawful for any freedman, free negro, or mulatto, to charge any white person, freedman, free negro or mulatto by affidavit, with any criminal offense against his or her person or property, and upon such affidavit the proper process shall be issued and executed as if said affidavit was made by a white person, and it shall be lawful for any freedman, free negro, or mulatto, in any action, suit or controversy pending, or about to be instituted in any court of law equity in this State, to make all needful and lawful affidavits as shall be necessary for the institution, prosecution or defense of such suit or controversy.

Many former Confederate officials were elected to Congress and state level positions.

**4 ex-Confederate
generals elected**

**6 ex-Confederate
cabinet officers
elected**

**58 ex-Confederate
congressmen
elected**

**Former vice-
president of the
Confederacy**

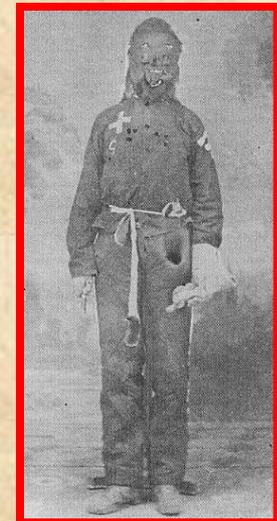


Alexander Stephenson, the former vice-president of the Confederacy, was elected to Senate from Georgia in December of 1865.

The Ku Klux Klan

In December of 1865, the same month that Congress passed the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, a group of ex-Confederate soldiers in Tennessee formed a secret society of white men, dedicated to resisting laws giving blacks the same rights as whites.

The society grew rapidly and soon the KKK and similar groups were spreading terror throughout the former Confederate states.



Examples of how African Americans were treated in 1866: the burning of a freedmen's schoolhouse and shooting down of "Negroes" on the morning of May 2, 1866, in Tennessee.



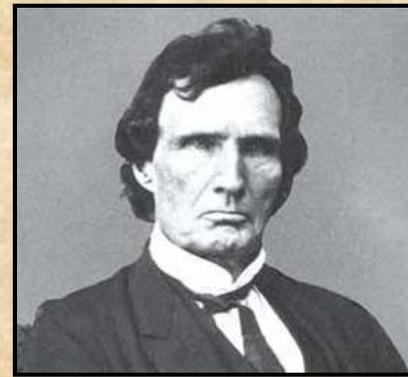
RADICAL REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS TAKE CONTROL OF RECONSTRUCTION

In the fall elections of 1866, Republicans won majorities in every northern legislature and a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress, assuring the party enough votes to override any presidential veto.

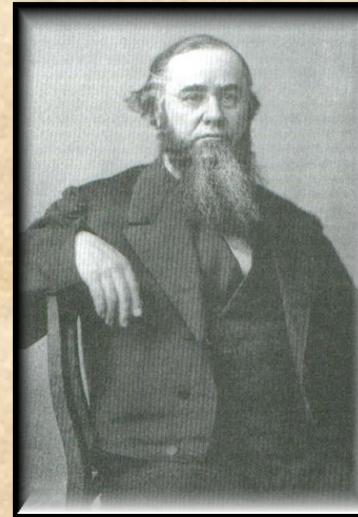
Who were the radical Republicans and what did they want?

The postwar radical Republicans were motivated by three main factors:

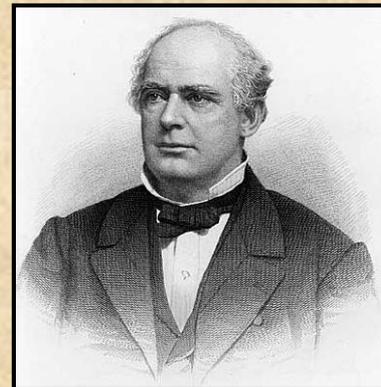
1. Revenge—a desire among some to punish the South for causing the war.
2. Concern for the freedmen — some believed that the federal government had a role to play in the transition of freedmen from slavery to freedom.
3. Political concerns —the radicals wanted to keep the Republican Party in power in both the North and the South.



**Thaddeus
Stevens**

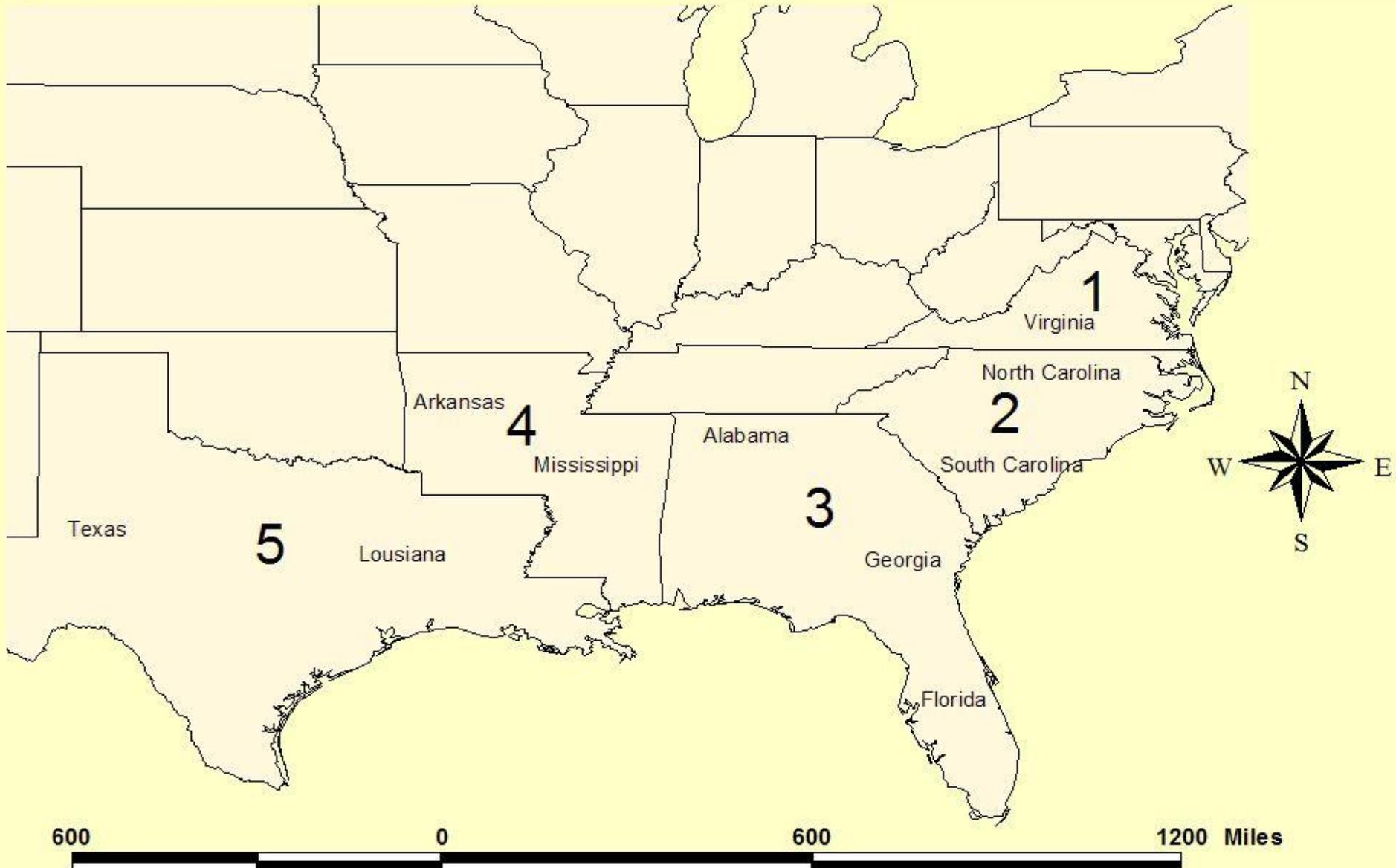


**Edwin M.
Stanton**

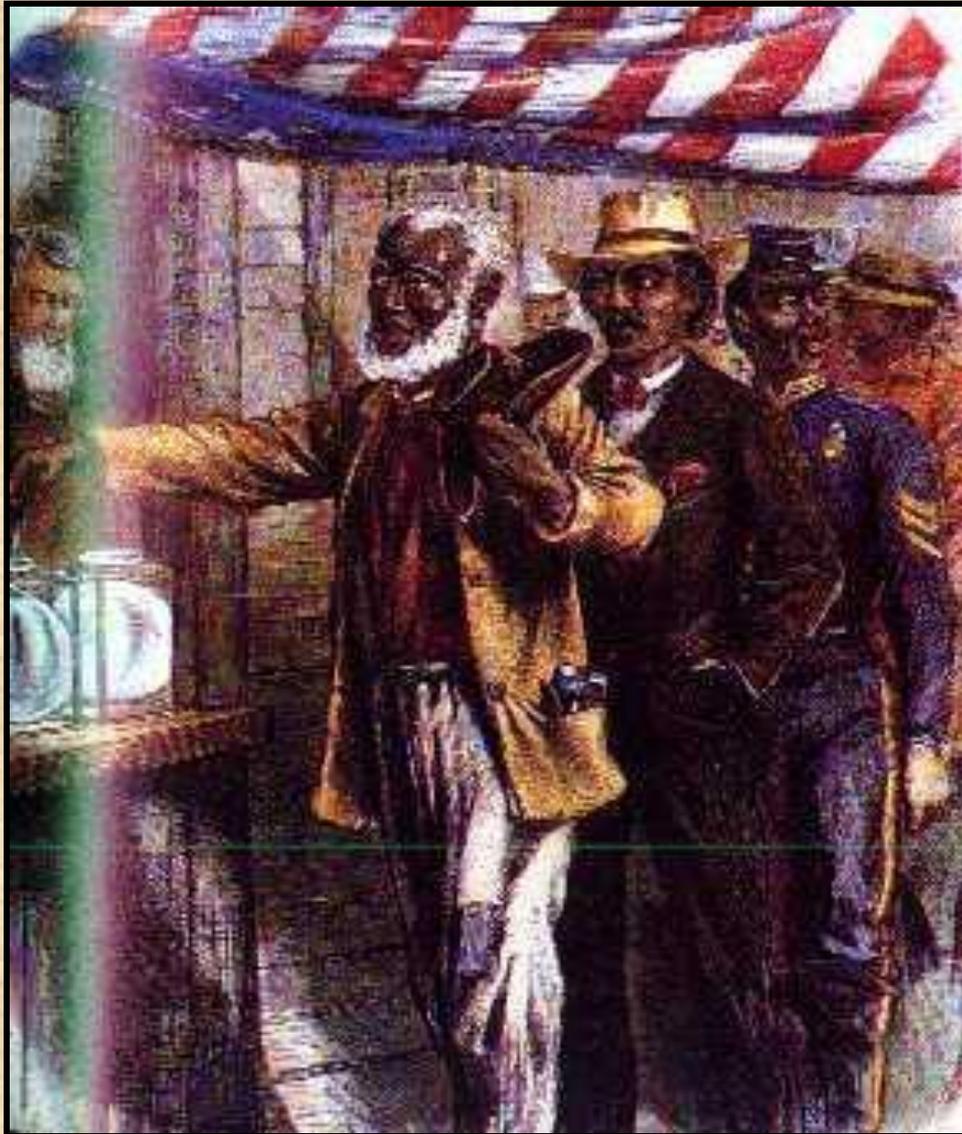


**Salmon B.
Chase**

Military Districts set up by the Reconstruction Act of 1867



Over 700,000 black men were registered to vote. In several states registered black voters were in the majority.



The impeachment of President Johnson



March 1867 Congress passed the Tenure of Office act over Johnson's veto. This act restricted presidential power.



August 1867 Johnson fired Secretary of State Edwin Stanton, deliberately violating the Tenure of Office Act.



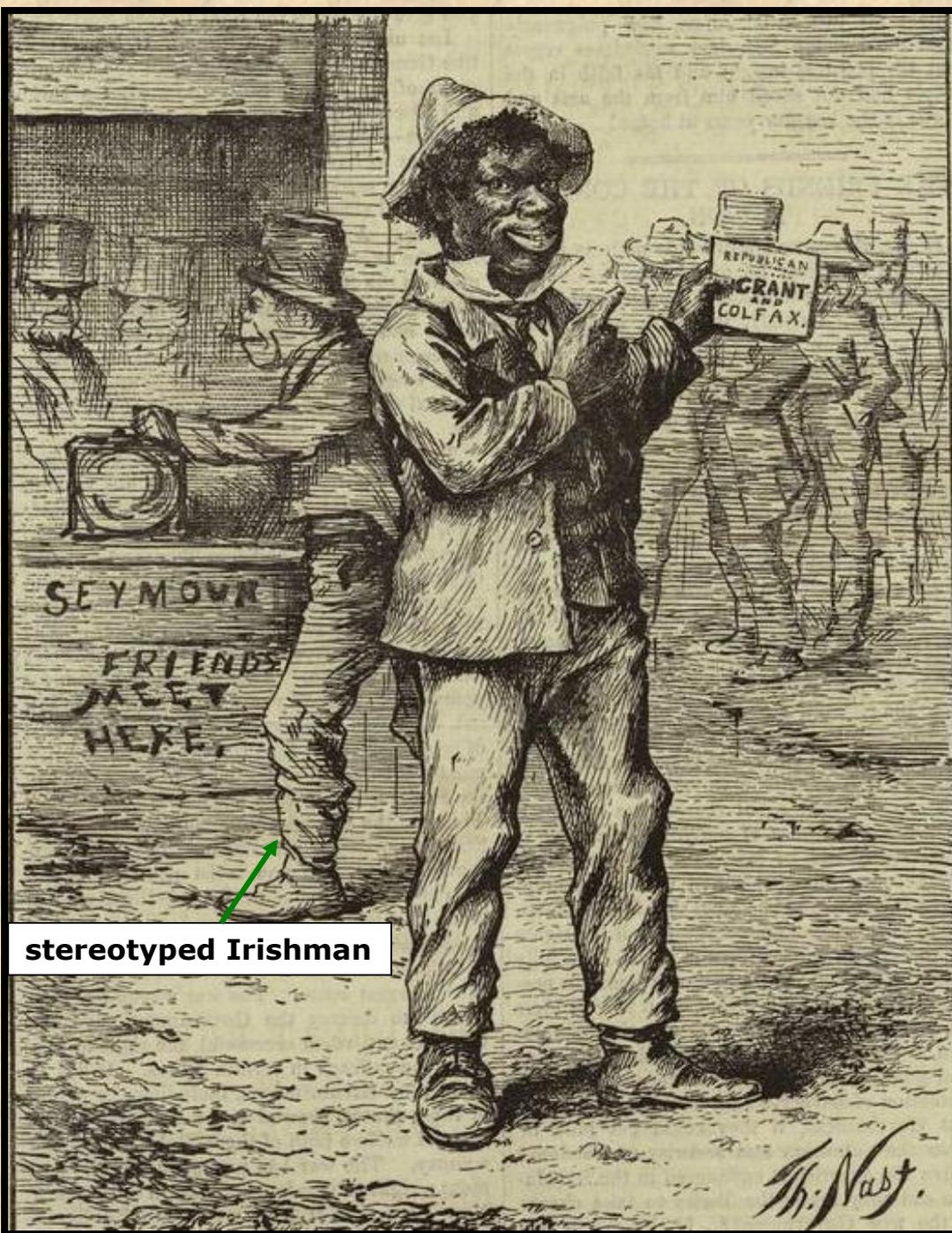
February 1868 the House voted to impeach Johnson on a 126-47 vote.



In May the Senate rejected the removal of Johnson, acquitting him by a single vote.

Actual ticket allowing admission into the Senate impeachment debate.





stereotyped Irishman

Grant won the popular vote by only 300,000. Over 700,000 votes were cast by freedmen in the former Confederate states. The conclusion was clear: Republicans needed to ensure that blacks could vote in Southern elections.

Grant's administration was marked by scandals and poor leadership. Historians agree that, although he was personally honest, many of his associates and appointees were dishonest and attempted to profit from government service.

Major scandals during Grant's two terms:

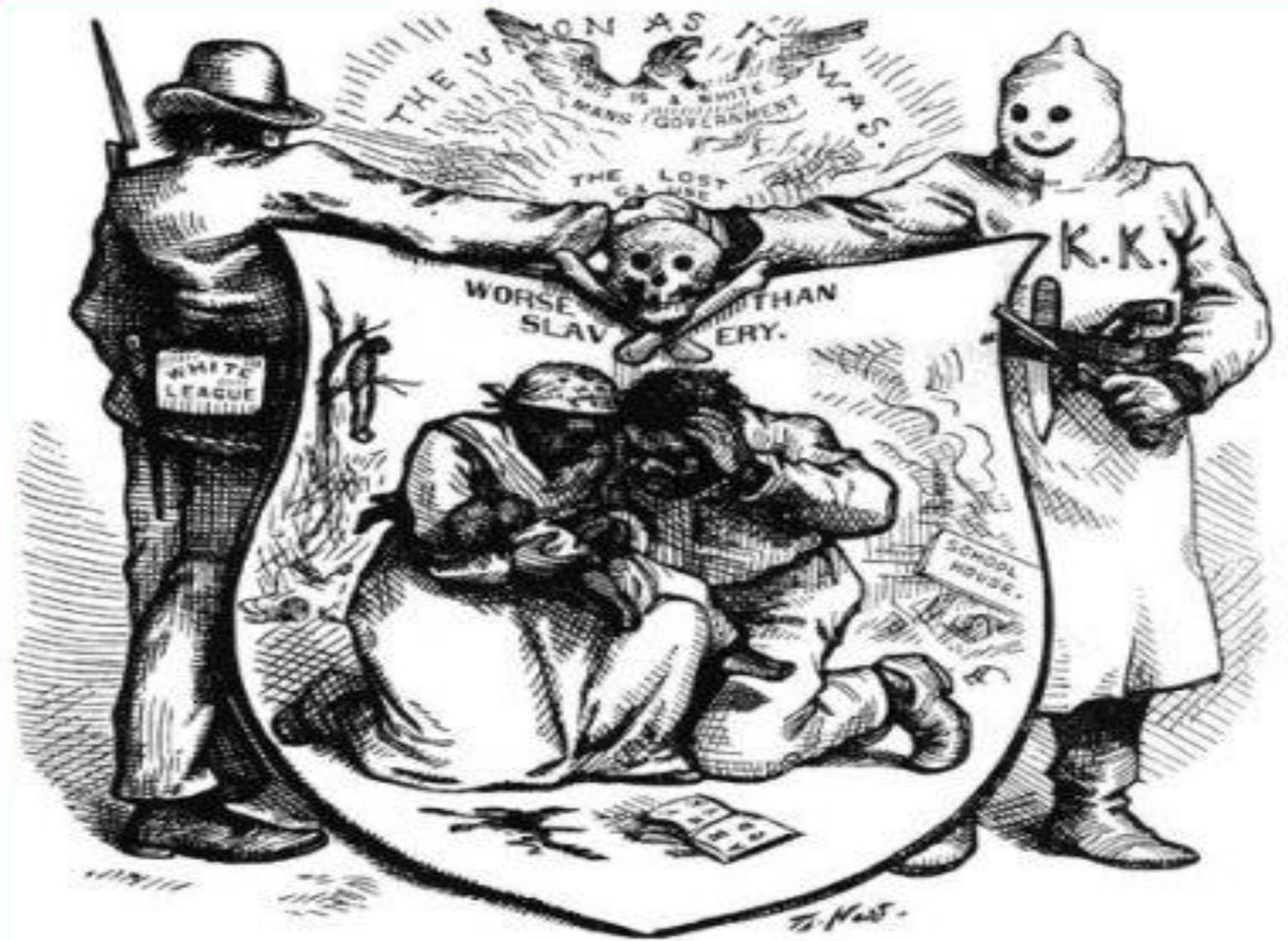
- Black Friday Scandal involving James Fisk and Jay Gould (1869)**
- Credit Mobilier Scandal (1872)**
- Whiskey Ring Scandal (1875)**
- Belknap Bribery Scandal (1876)**

Redeemer Governments

Starting in 1869, “redeemer” Democrat (party) governments were elected across the South.

These governments were characterized as being white-only, opposed to racial equality, and made up of many former Confederate supporters. They replaced the Republican state governments set up under congressional reconstruction.

Redeemer state governments essentially meant that Reconstruction was over in that state and ex-slaves could not count on the federal government for protection.



THE UNION AS IT WAS

THE LOST CAUSE

WORSER THAN SLAVERY

WHITE LEAGUE

K.K.

SCHOOL HOUSE

T. Nast.

“At the village of Cross Plains, Calhoun County, four colored men and a white school-master were put to death by hanging and shooting. They were in charge of the officers of the law at the time, but very little evidence was forthcoming against them; in fact no evidence could be produced, and it was certain they would be set at liberty. The White Faces, however, had decided they should die, and proceeded forcibly to take them from the authorities, and murdered them. This case was investigated, and nine persons were arrested, but the grand jury refused to indict a single one of them.

Teachers of colored children were warned to stop their schools, and were told that, if they should refuse, they would have to choose between shooting, hanging, or whipping to death. In Aberdeen, Monroe County, Mississippi, twenty-six schools were closed in a short time, and even the state superintendent of schools was beaten by armed men. They called upon him and said: "Our rule is, first, warning; second, whipping; third, death." They left him in a state of unconsciousness, having said they would next time call for his life. Nothing was too wicked for this society, which embraced all the Southern States, to do, and nobody who had sympathized with the North or helped the Negro in his necessity was safe.”

VISIT OF THE KU KLUX KLAN



Excerpts from the Congressional Ku Klux Klan hearings

“For instance, a colored man was placed astride of a log, and an iron staple driven through his person into the log. In another case, after a band of them had in turn violated a young negro girl, she was forced into bed with a colored man, their bodies were bound together face to face, and the fire from the hearth piled upon them. The K.K.K. rode off and left them, with shouts of laughter. Of course the bed was soon in flames, and somehow they managed to crawl out, though terribly burned and scarred. The house was burned.”

“I could give other incidents of cruelty, such as hanging up a boy of nine years old until he was nearly dead, to make him tell where his father was hidden, and beating an old negress of 103 years old with garden partings because she would not own that she was afraid of the Ku-Klux. But it is unnecessary to go into further detail. In this district I estimate their offenses as follows, in the past ten months: Twelve murders, 9 rapes, 11 arsons, 7 mutilations, ascertained and most of them on record. In some no identification could be made.”

“Four thousand or 5,000 houses have been broken open, and property or persons taken out. In all cases all arms are taken and destroyed. Seven hundred or 800 persons have been beaten or otherwise maltreated. These of course are partly persons living in the houses which were broken into.”

The federal government passed acts to stem the wave of racist violence sweeping the former Confederate states endangering the success of Reconstruction.



First Enforcement Act, May 1870, was designed to enforce the 14th and 15th Amendments. This law made the bribing, intimidation of or racial discrimination against voters a federal crime. It also outlawed conspiracies preventing the exercise of constitutional rights. A second Enforcement Act was passed in February of 1871 but had little effect in the South.



In April of 1871, at the request of President Grant, the Ku Klux Klan Act was passed. This gave the president the right to suspend habeas corpus and use the army against any group attempting to deny citizens civil rights.

Race Riots "Battle Of Liberty Place" September 14, 1874

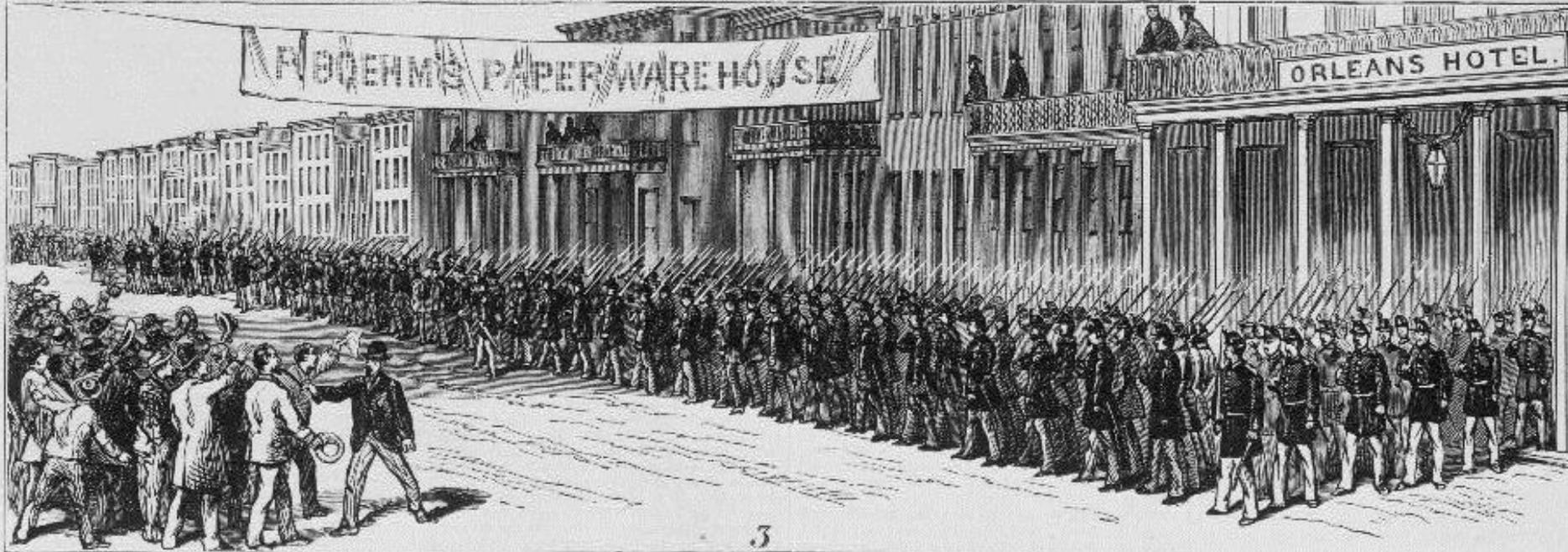
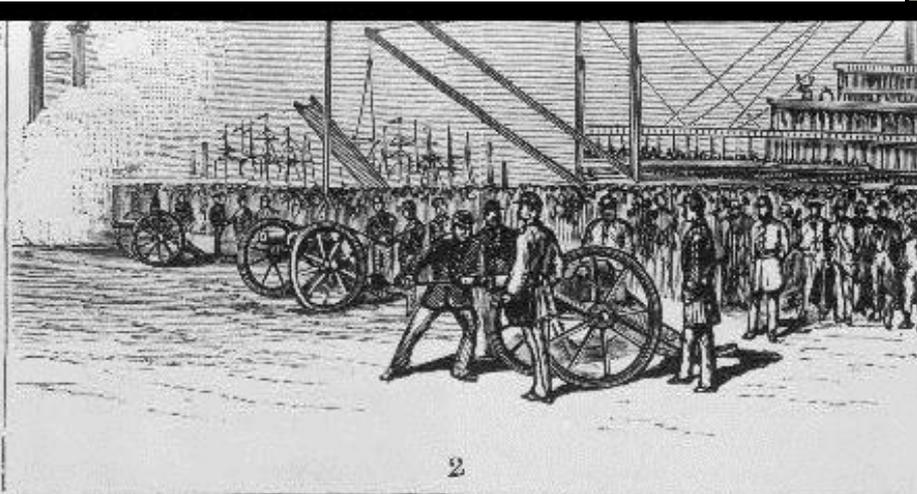
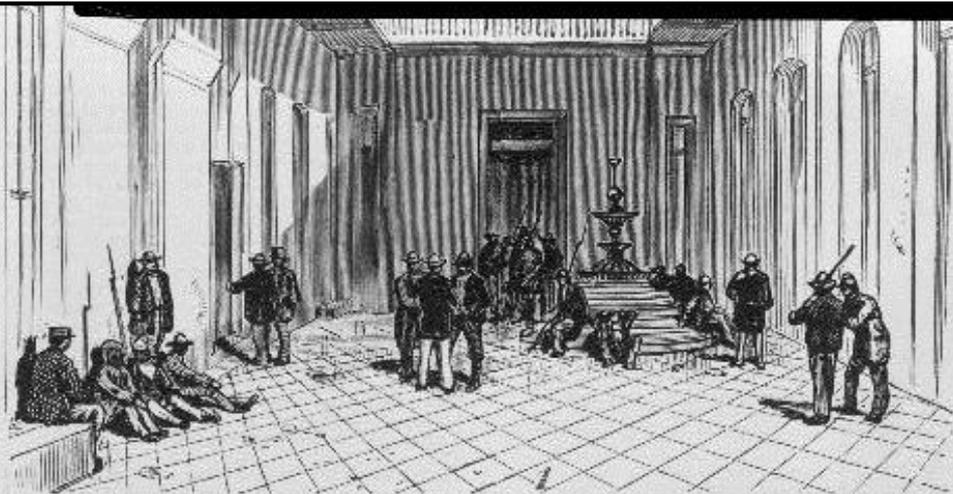
President Grant did little to end white abuse against freedmen. A vigilante group of 14,000 mostly ex-Confederate soldiers in Louisiana organized in the spring and summer of 1874. They called themselves the White League, and were dedicated to a "white man's government" and the suppression of "the insolent and barbarous African."

Emboldened by the federal hands-off policies, 3,500 armed White Leaguers assembled in New Orleans on September 14, 1874, and demanded that carpetbag Republican Gov. William Kellogg resign. Opposing the White League were 3,600 policemen and black militia troops under the command of ex-Confederate General James Longstreet. Supported by two Gatling guns and a battery of artillery, Longstreet's force formed a battle line from Jackson Square to Canal Street, guarding the Customs House, in which the governor and other Republican officials were hiding. The White Leaguers charged the line, captured Longstreet, and pushed his men to the river, where they either surrendered or fled. The attackers occupied the city hall, statehouse, and arsenal. Total casualties in the one-hour fight that has become known as the Battle of Liberty Place were 38 killed and 79 wounded.

The white supremacists deposed Kellogg, installed John McEnery as governor, and ran the state government for three days. By the end of that time, Grant ordered federal troops to New Orleans. Upon the arrival of the U.S. Army, the White Leaguers withdrew, Kellogg was reinstated as governor, and Longstreet was released.

It became clear that without the presence of the federal army, Louisiana's carpetbag government would not survive.

Newspaper scenes from the battles in New Orleans in 1874



1. "Fort Packard"—the Inner Courtyard of the State House. 2. The Salute on the Levee in Honor of the Revenation. 3. The United States Troops leaving the Orleans Hotel for Jackson Barracks.

LOUISIANA.—THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FEDERAL TROOPS FROM THE STATE HOUSE IN NEW ORLEANS, AT NOON, ON APRIL 24TH.—FROM SKETCHES BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, A. J. BENNETT.

Black American experiences during Reconstruction



Activism



Search for family members



Marriages



Southern economy



Churches



Colleges

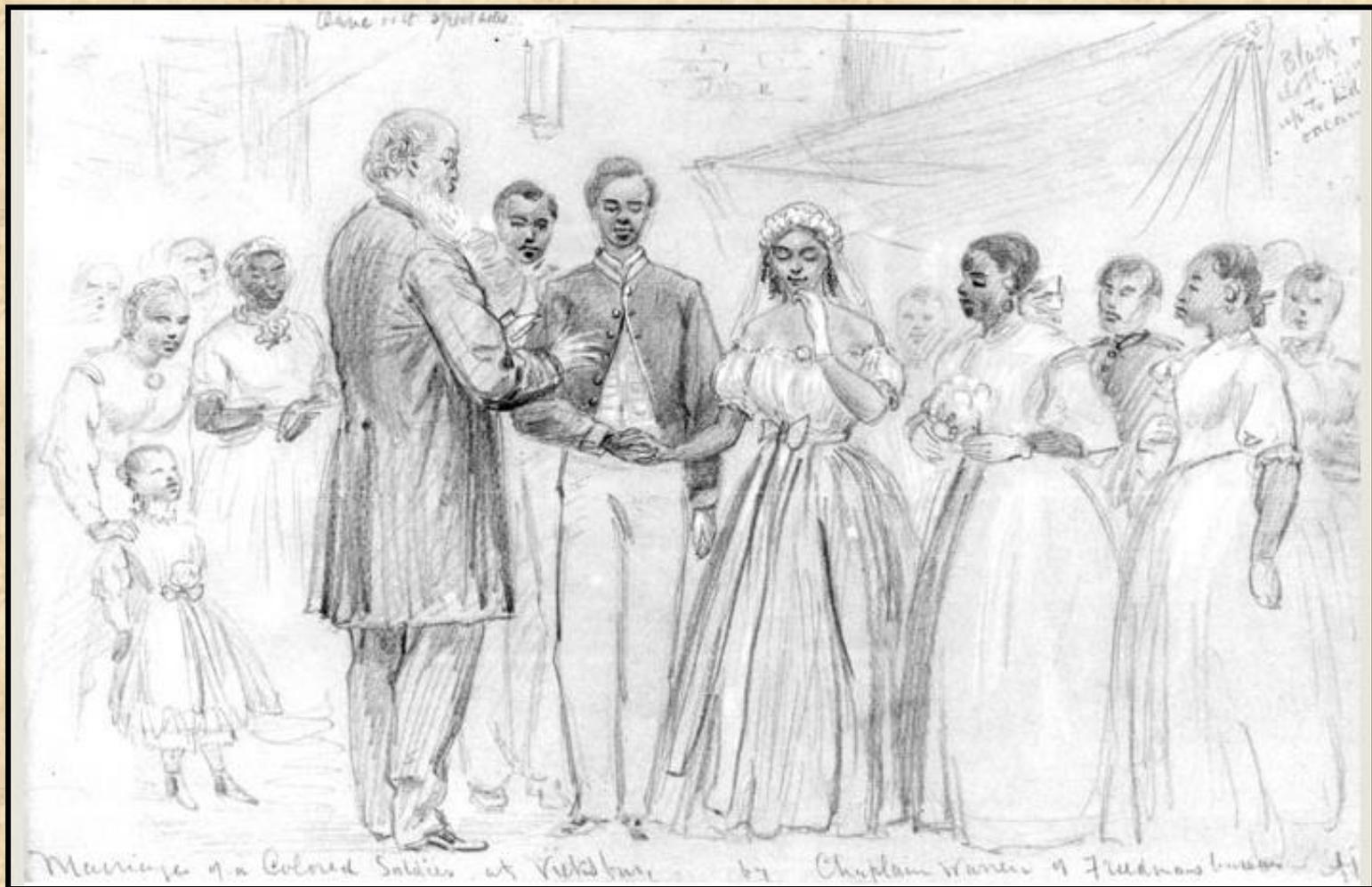


Political life



Under slavery formal marriages were not allowed. In the first days after the war thousands of African Americans married under the authority of the Freedman's Bureau.

Bureau records indicate that some marriages involved young men and women marrying for the first time, while others legalized slave unions made years before.



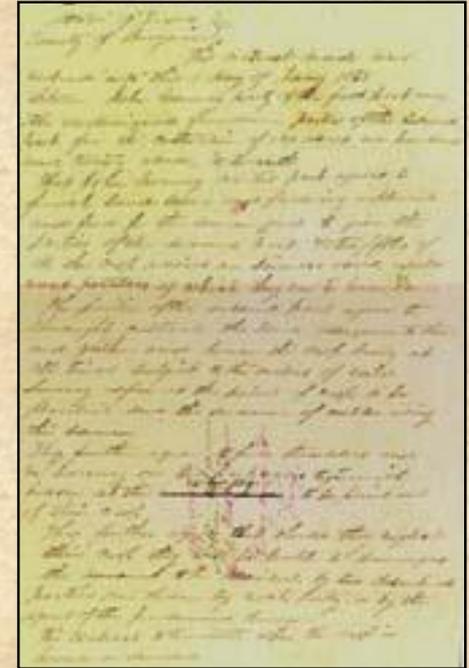
Sharecropping and tenant farming



Sharecropping gave black and poor white farmers half of the crop after the harvest. In order to pay for needed supplies, they would borrow money, leveraging their crop share as collateral.

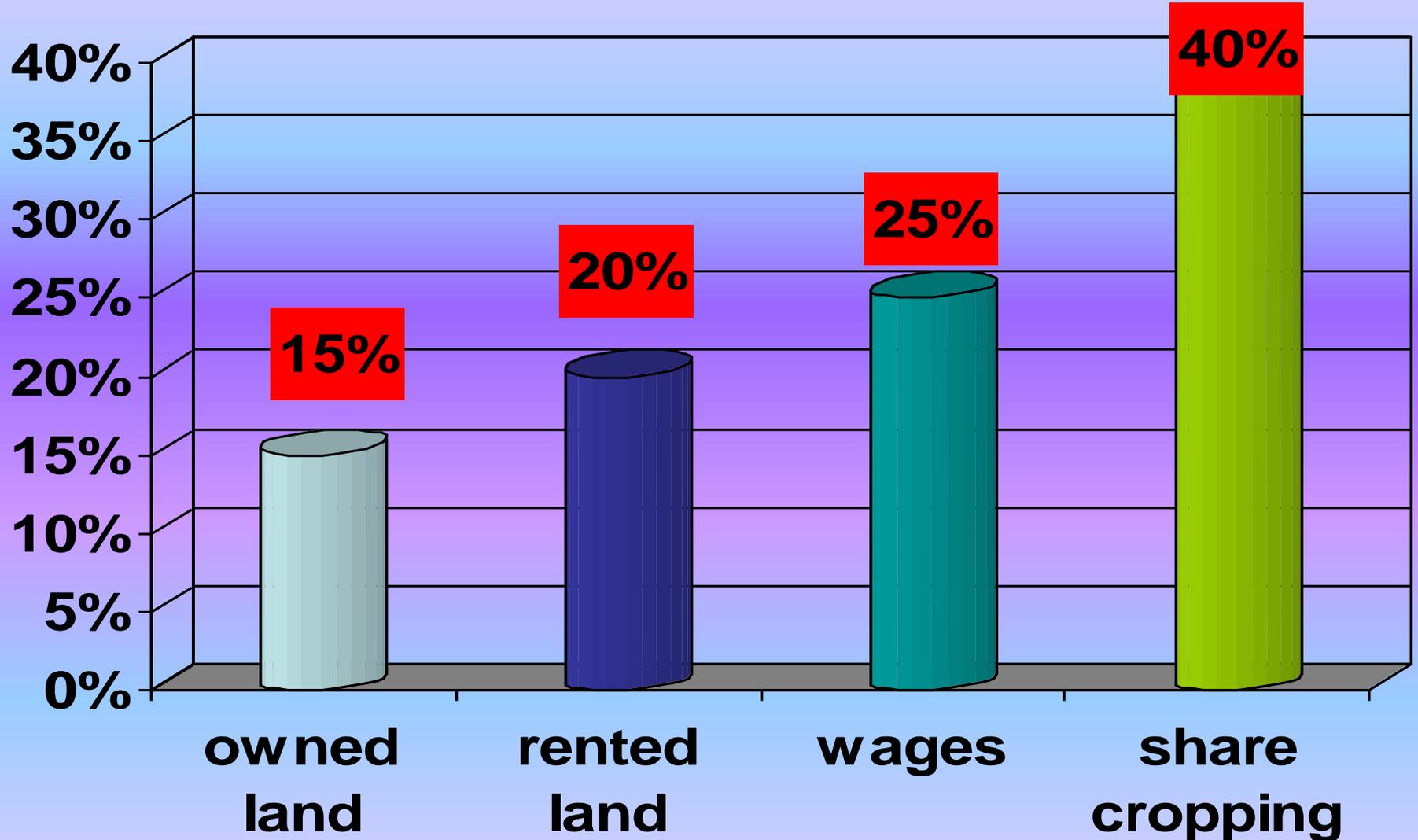
Tenant farming is similar to sharecropping but differs in that the tenant might pay the landowner rent in cash, rather than just with crops, for usage of the land.

These systems forced African Americans to rely upon the honesty of white landowners and creditors. Unstable prices also led this system to be referred to by many as "modified slavery" since it offered no real economic advancement for blacks.



An 1868 sharecropping agreement that gave the freedmen 2/5 of the crop.

In 1880 few black agricultural workers owned their own land. Most were dependent on whites for their income.



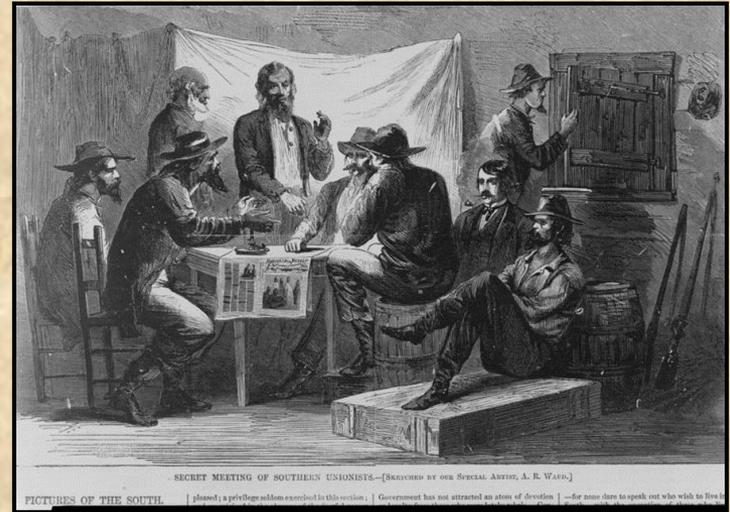


Black churches were targeted by racists and often burned down.



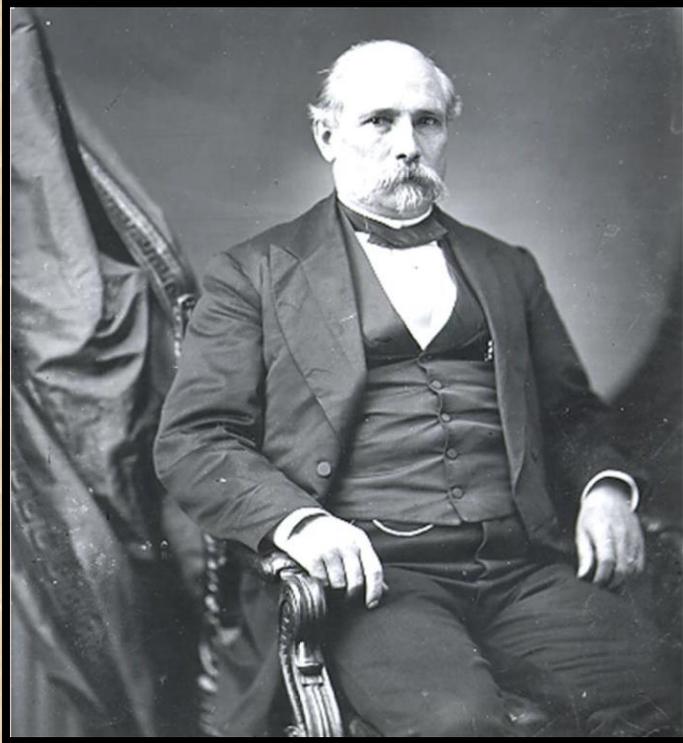
**Examples
of black
churches
built after
the Civil
War**

Carpetbaggers



The Union League (also known as the Loyal League) was a society formed during the Civil War to increase Union morale and support for the war effort. After the war some members went South to participate in Reconstruction. They worked for radical reconstruction of the Southern states, punishment of the Southern leaders, confiscation of property and black suffrage. They became the main spokesmen for the Republican party among the emancipated blacks. After the Freedmen's Bureau agents and other Northern whites took command of the League, it was accused of being a political machine to control the votes of African Americans.

Scalawags



James L. Alcorn was Mississippi's most prominent "scalawag" and the first Republican governor of the state. He was a man of wealth, and the pro-business stand of the Republicans appealed to him. Realizing that the black vote was necessary to keep the Republicans in power, he advocated black suffrage. This position cost him support from white Southerners.

Alcorn wrote an explanation of his view, concluding with this statement about blacks:

"All that Congress has given him I accept as his with all my heart and conscience, I propose to vote with him, to discuss political affairs with him; to sit, if need be, in political counsel with him, and from a platform acceptable alike to him, to me, and to you, to pluck our common liberty and our common prosperity out of the jaws of inevitable ruin."

The End of Reconstruction



Northern interest waned



Depression



Native American wars



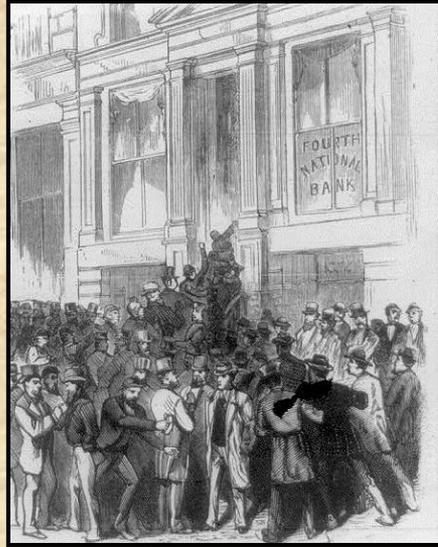
Presidential candidates, 1876



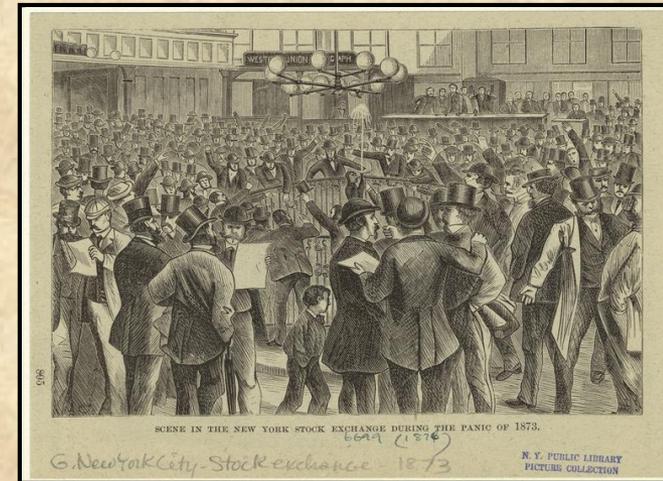
Compromise of 1877



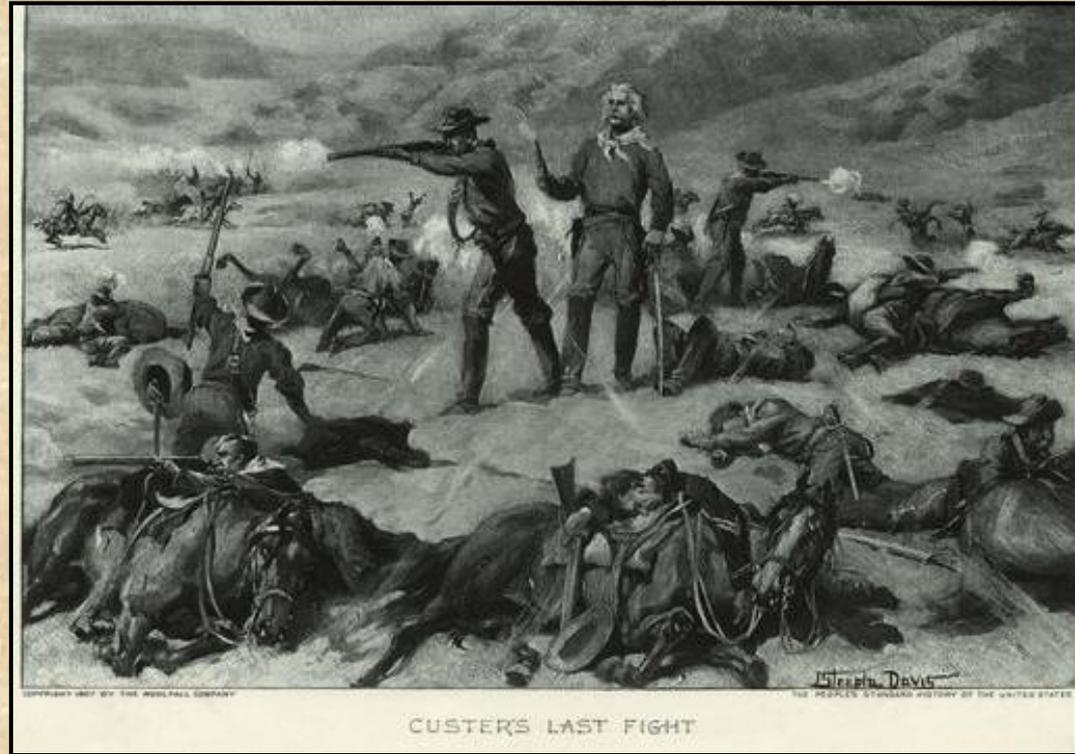
The Panic of 1873 began a depression that lasted until 1878.



A financial downturn in Europe spread to the U.S. causing great hardships. The New York Stock Exchange was closed for 10 days. Credit dried up, foreclosures were common and banks failed. Factories shut down, throwing thousands out of work. The number of homeless and hungry people soon overwhelmed the abilities of charities to function.

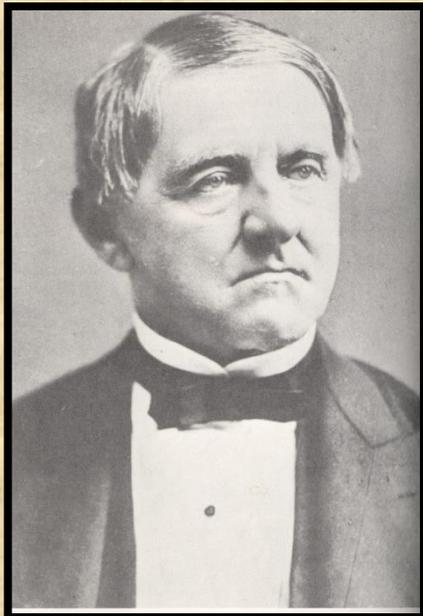
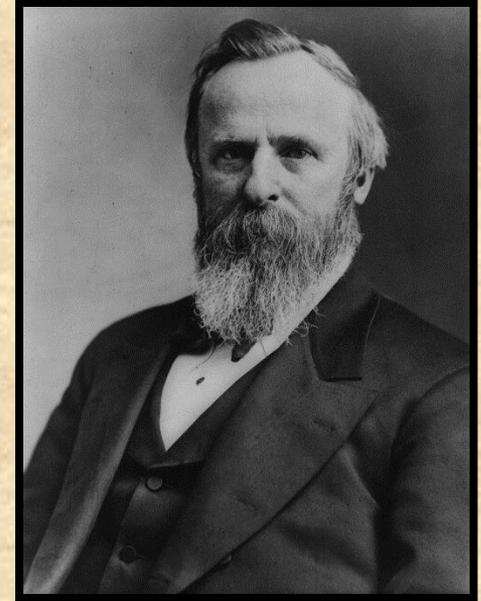


American Indian wars caught the attention of the American people.

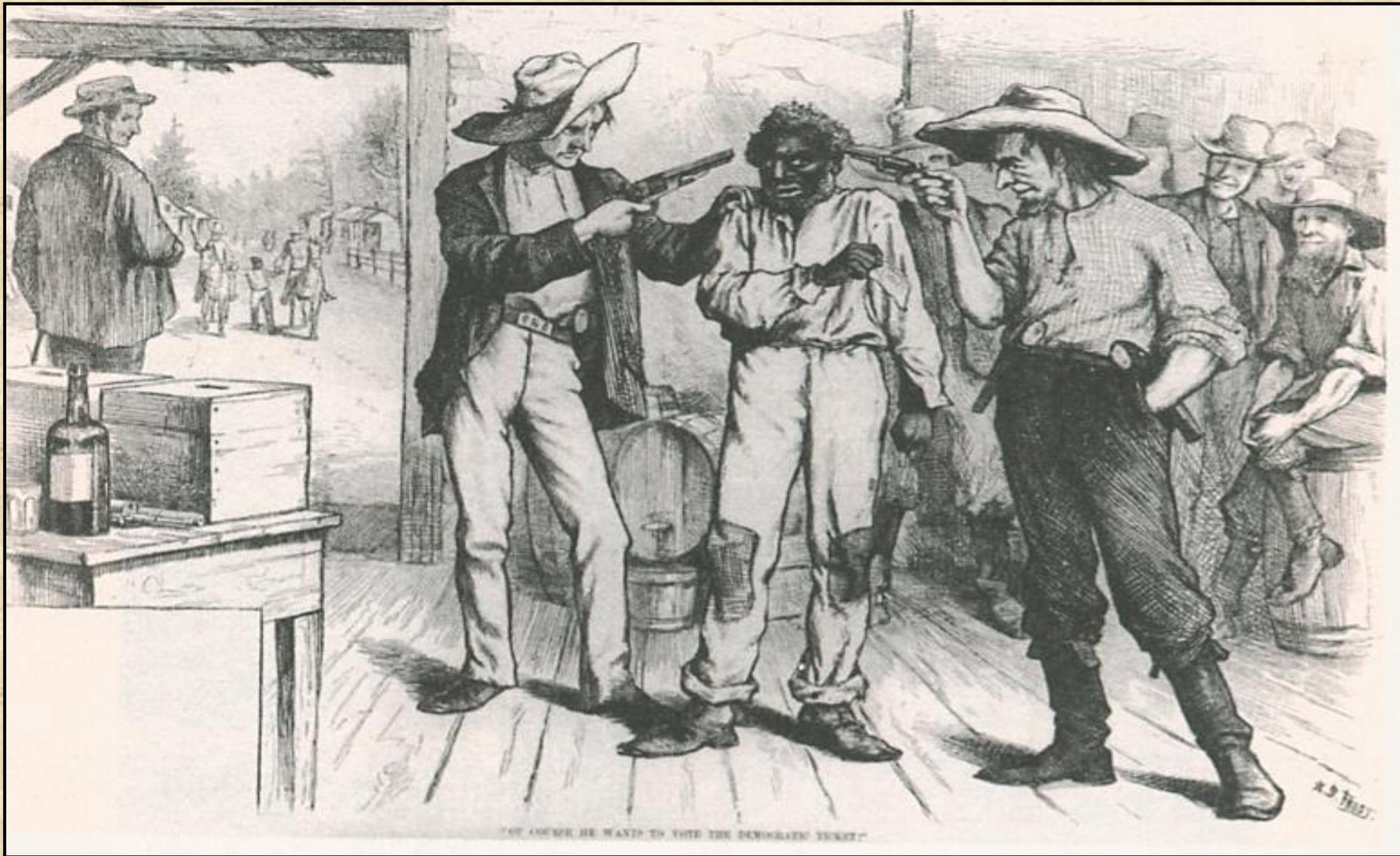


The two candidates in the 1876 presidential election.

The Republicans chose Rutherford B. Hayes, who led a successful political career making few enemies. At a time when many others were considered corrupt, he was seen as an honest man.



The Democrats chose Samuel Tilden, the reform governor of New York who had crushed Boss Tweed's bribery ring.



“Of course he wants to vote the Democratic ticket.”

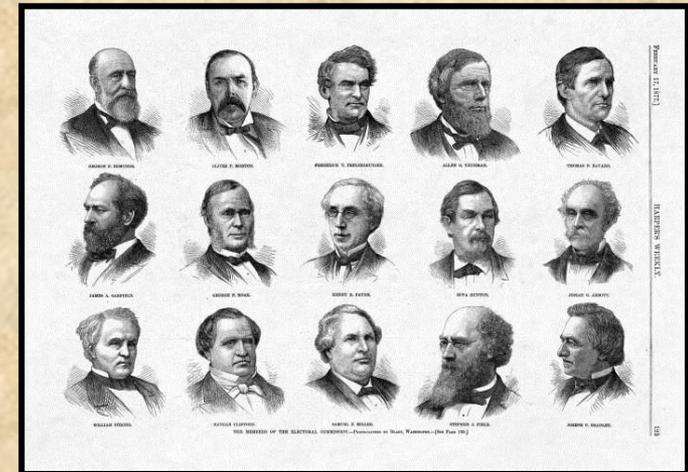
Compromise of 1877

Tilden won the popular vote, but lacked one electoral vote to earn a majority in the electoral college. There were 22 disputed electoral votes from the states of Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Oregon. Each state sent two sets of election returns. Republicans made deals with Southern Democrats which gave Hayes the presidency. The Southern politicians gave their support to Hayes in return for his promise to pull all the remaining troops out of the former Confederate states. The South also wanted the appointment of at least one Southerner to Hayes's cabinet and support for Southern railroad construction.

The Compromise of 1877 is often called the deal that ended Reconstruction.



The Electoral Commission that was formed to decide the disputed election



Constitutional Amendments and Supreme Court cases during Reconstruction

 **13th, 14th, 15th Amendments**

 **Major Supreme Court cases throughout the era**

Reconstruction amendments to the U.S. Constitution , 1865-1870.

Amendment number	Date passed by Congress	Main Provision	Date when $\frac{3}{4}$ of states ratified
13th	January 1865	Prohibited slavery in the U.S.	December 1865
14th	June 1866	Citizenship for all persons born or naturalized in the U.S.A.	July 1868
15th	February 1869	Prohibited denial of suffrage because of race, color or previous condition of servitude.	March 1870



***Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)** marked the beginning of a 58-year period in which Jim Crow racist laws went unchallenged and were accepted by the federal government. Homer Plessy, a black man who tried to board a white-only train in Louisiana (the car designated for blacks was full), claimed the Louisiana segregation laws violated both his 13th and 14th Amendment rights. Once Plessy boarded the white-only train, he was forcibly removed and jailed. The Supreme Court, by a vote of 8-1, ruled that equal rights did not mean co-mingling of the races, effectively legalizing and facilitating "separate but equal" access for blacks.



***Cumming v. County Board of Education* (1899)** stated that separate schools were valid even if comparable schools for blacks were not available.

Taking advantage of these Supreme Court decisions, Southern states passed laws that restricted African Americans' access to schools, restaurants, hospitals, and other public places. Soon signs that read "Whites Only" or "Coloreds Only" were posted at entrances and exits, water fountains, waiting rooms, and restrooms. Laws were enacted that restricted black citizens' rights in all aspects of life.

Methods used to stop blacks from voting after reconstruction included:

Poll taxes

Literacy tests

"Grandfather clauses"

Suppressive election procedures

Black codes and enforced segregation

Gerrymandering

White-only primaries

Physical intimidation and violence

Restrictive eligibility requirements

Rewriting of state constitutions

Voter registration for African Americans in Louisiana in 1896 was 130,000. In 1904 it dropped to 1,342.

