

Reconstruction and Its Effects**Section 1****The Politics of Reconstruction****Terms and Names**

Reconstruction Period of rebuilding the nation after the Civil War

Radical Republican One of the Congressional Republicans who wanted to destroy the political power of slaveholders and to give African Americans citizenship and the right to vote

Thaddeus Stevens One of the leaders of the Radical Republicans

Wade-Davis Bill Bill passed by Congress, and vetoed by President Lincoln, that would have given Congress control of Reconstruction

Andrew Johnson President after Lincoln's assassination

Freedmen's Bureau Government agency that helped former slaves and poor whites by giving out food and clothing and by setting up schools and hospitals

black codes Laws enacted in many Southern states that discriminated against African Americans

Fourteenth Amendment Gave African Americans citizenship

impeach Legal process to formally charge the president with misconduct in office

Fifteenth Amendment Banned states from denying African Americans the right to vote

Before You Read

In the last section, you read how the Union won the Civil War. In this section, you will learn how political leaders set out to rebuild the nation after the war.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes about the Reconstruction plans of President Lincoln, President Andrew Johnson, and Congress.

LINCOLN'S PLAN FOR RECONSTRUCTION (Pages 376–377)**What was Reconstruction?**

Reconstruction was the period of rebuilding after the Civil War. It also refers to the process of bringing the Southern states back into the nation. Reconstruction lasted from 1865 to 1877.

During the war, President Lincoln made a plan for Reconstruction that was easy on the South. It included pardoning Confederates if they would swear

allegiance to the Union. It also called for a state to be readmitted in the Union as soon as 10 percent of the state's voters swore allegiance to the nation. Thus it was known as the Ten Percent Plan.

Four states applied for readmission under Lincoln's plan. But a small group of Republicans, called **Radical Republicans**, blocked them. The Radicals thought Lincoln's plan was too easy on the South. They wanted to punish the South for the war. They also

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wanted to give African Americans the right to vote. The Radical Republicans were led by Representative **Thaddeus Stevens** of Pennsylvania and Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts.

In July 1864, the Radicals passed the **Wade-Davis Bill**. This bill called for Congress, not the president, to be in charge of Reconstruction. The bill also declared that a state could be readmitted to the Union when a majority—not just 10 percent— of its voters swore allegiance to the Constitution. Lincoln vetoed the bill.

1. What was Lincoln's plan for readmitting Confederate states to the Union?

JOHNSON'S PLAN (Pages 377–379) **What was Johnson's plan for Reconstruction?**

After Lincoln was killed, his vice-president, **Andrew Johnson**, became president. Johnson's Reconstruction plan was similar to Lincoln's. Many states met the plan's terms. As a result, these states were readmitted to the Union. In December 1865, Southern members of Congress began arriving once again in Washington.

The Radical Republicans, however, refused to seat the new members. In addition, they passed a law creating the **Freedmen's Bureau**. It gave food and clothing to former slaves and set up hospitals and schools.

Congress also passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866. The act declared that states could not enact **black codes**—laws that discriminated against African Americans.

Johnson felt that the two bills made the federal government too powerful. So he vetoed both.

2. Why did President Johnson veto the bill extending the Freedmen's Bureau and the Civil Rights Act of 1866?

CONGRESSIONAL RECONSTRUCTION (Pages 379–382) **What was the congressional plan for Reconstruction?**

Congress voted to override Johnson's vetoes. It also passed the **Fourteenth Amendment**. This amendment gave African Americans full citizenship. Johnson urged Southern states to oppose the amendment. He argued that the amendment was too hard on the South. He added that states should not have to ratify an amendment that their legislators had little to do with. The amendment was not ratified until 1868.

The Radical Republicans won numerous seats in the 1866 Congressional elections. They now had enough votes in Congress to take control of Reconstruction.

In 1867, the new Congress passed the Reconstruction Act. The act declared that state governments created under Lincoln and Johnson's plan were invalid. In addition, the act put the Southern states under military control and called for new state constitutions. The law also said that no state could re-enter the Union until it approved the Fourteenth Amendment and gave the vote to African-American men. Johnson vetoed the bill. Congress overrode his vetoes.

The fight between Congress and Johnson intensified. Congress began looking for a way to **impeach** the president in order to remove him from office. They soon found a way. Johnson had removed a cabinet member in 1867. Congress said he did it illegally. As a result, Congress voted to

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impeach Johnson. The President's impeachment trial went to the Senate in 1868. The Senate found him not guilty. Johnson remained in office.

In 1868, Civil War hero Ulysses S. Grant was elected president. African-American votes in the South helped him win. Then, in 1870, the **Fifteenth Amendment** was ratified. It banned states from denying the vote to African Americans.

3. How did the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments improve the lives of African Americans?
