

# Reconstruction

## Chapter 3 – Section 1



# What was Reconstruction?

- The Federal Government's controversial effort to rebuild the South after the Civil War and to restore the southern states to the Union



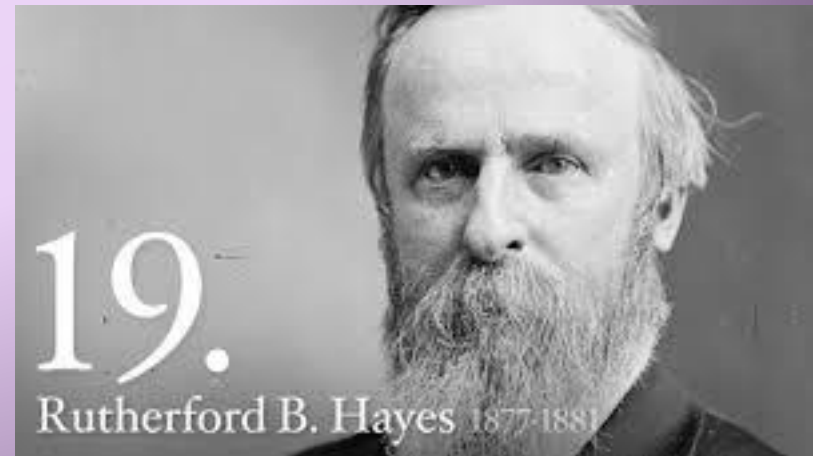
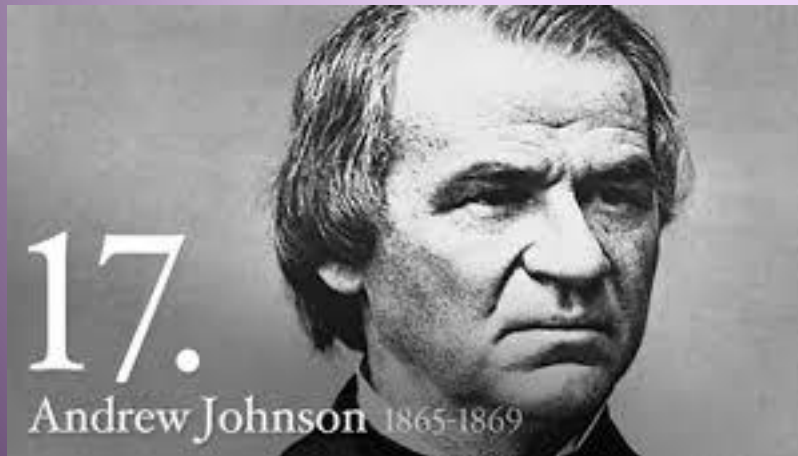
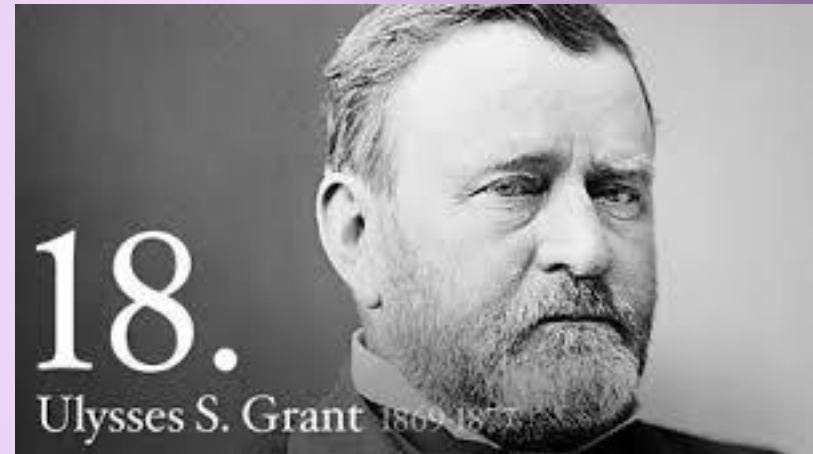
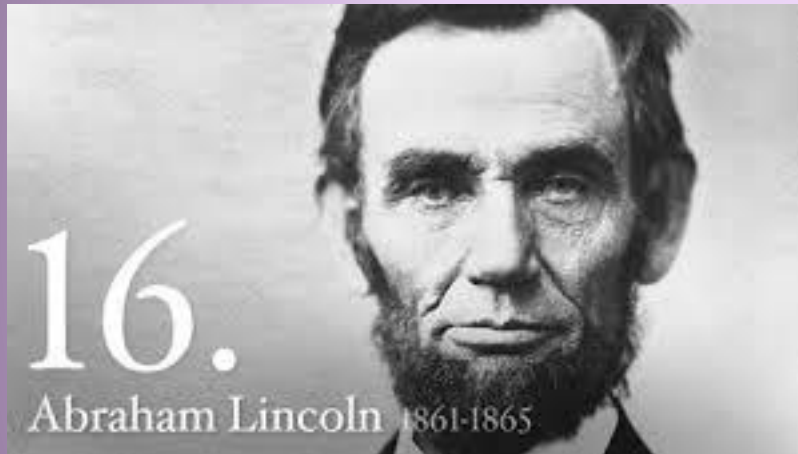
# South after the War

- The South was in much worse shape than the North after the war because it was the main battleground
- Hardly a farm, family, or house remained untouched



# 12 Long Years

- Reconstruction lasted from 1865 to 1877
- Involved 4 Presidents



# Physical toll on the South

- The war destroyed farms, livestock, railroads, bridges, roads & factories
- Value of southern property decreased by 70%



# The Human Toll

- South lost a generation of young, healthy, men – fathers, brothers, etc.
- North lost 364,000
- South lost 260,000 (but much smaller pop. to begin with)



# None untouched in South

- 1 in 5 adult men in South were killed – 1 in 3 were either killed or wounded
- Those who survived were emotionally scarred
- Every family affected in some way



# 3 Groups of Southerners

- 4 million now free black southerners
- As slaves they at least had food and shelter – now many had nothing due to the slow economy





# Plantation Owners

- Lost their slave labor and much of their property was seized by the government during the war



# Poor Whites

- Had to compete with freed slaves for work
- Many migrated to the frontier to find new opportunities



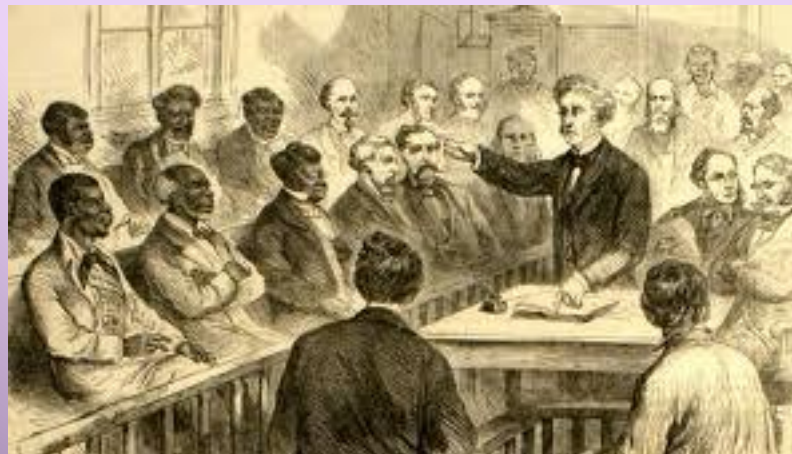
# Lincoln's plan for the South

- Would issue a pardon to all who took oath of allegiance to the Union except those who had killed black war prisoners
- After 10% did this they could hold elections and participate in Union again



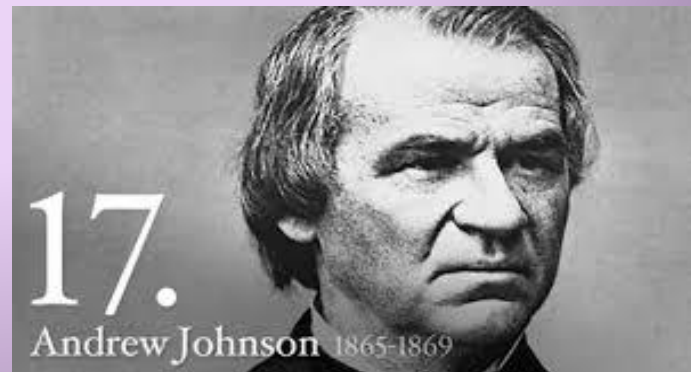
# Radical Republicans

- Members of Congress who thought the South was getting off too easy
- Believed that since the war was about the moral issue of slavery this meant that blacks should have full equality



# Andrew Johnson

- Lincoln's vice-president who took over after his assassination
- A southern senator (the only one left after secession) who was born poor and despised the rich planters
- Agreed with Lincoln's plan, but without the 10% requirement



# Freedom of Movement

- Allowed freed slaves to leave plantations
- Looked for family members taken from them by slavery
- Many married those they had been forbidden to under slavery



# Land redistribution?

- Freed slaves said southern land should be redistributed to them since they were the ones who worked the land for generations
- Plan didn't receive much political support



# Black Organizations

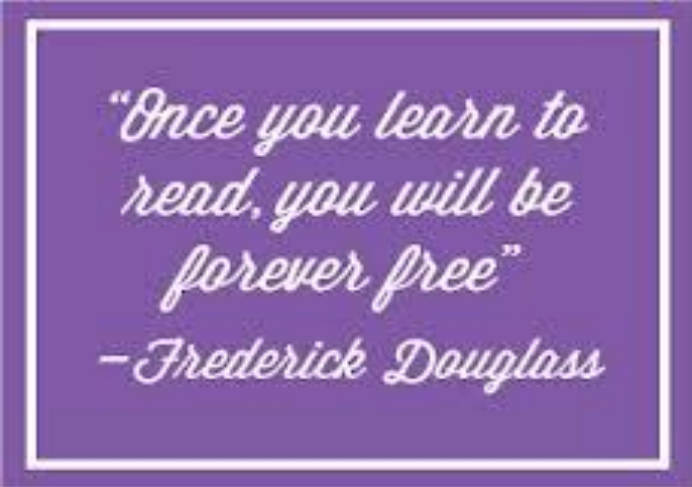
- Groups to aid one another arose after slavery ended
- Debate and drama clubs, but most importantly black churches (why such a unifying thing?)





# Freedom to Learn

- In 1860 90% of slaves were illiterate
- Some taught themselves to read
- After the war many white women went south to teach
- 30 black colleges formed from 1865-1870



*"Once you learn to  
read, you will be  
forever free"*  
— Frederick Douglass

- Why was the freedom to learn so important?

# Freedmen's Bureau

- 1<sup>st</sup> major relief agency in U.S. History to give out clothes, medical supplies, and millions of meals to both black and white war refugees
- 25,000 blacks received their first schooling in their schools



# Homework Essay

- *Imagine you are a recently freed slave. Using at least **5 specific facts (underlined)** from the section, explain what you are now going to do or hope to do with your life.*

Or

*You are a white southerner after the war. Again, using **5 specific facts** from the section, explain what your life is like now. What are your plans for the future?*