



Objectives

1. Explain why conflicts developed over plans for Reconstruction.
2. Describe the changes in the South brought about by Radical Reconstruction.
3. Explain how Congress tried to remove President Johnson from office.
4. Describe how the Ku Klux Klan and other secret societies tried to prevent African Americans from exercising their rights.

Prepare to Read

Reading Skill

Analyze Proposals Proposals must be carried out in order to be effective. The proposal must include details on how to put the proposal into action. As you read Section 2, look at the suggested ideas for carrying out proposals.

Vocabulary *Builder*

High-Use Words

critic, p. 553

impose, p. 555

Key Terms and People

Andrew Johnson, p. 552

black codes, p. 553

Hiram Revels, p. 555

Blanche Bruce, p. 555

scalawag, p. 555

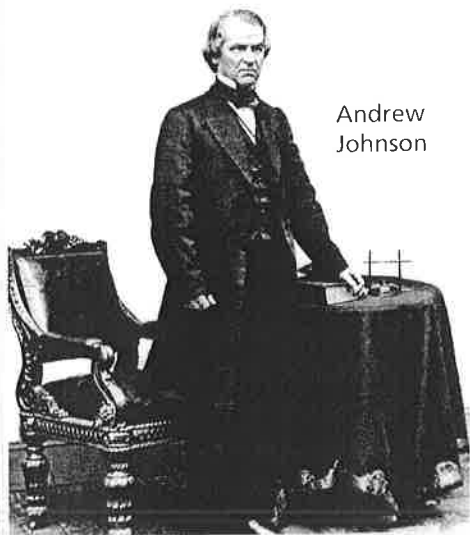
carpetbagger, p. 555

impeachment, p. 556

★ **Background Knowledge** You have read that Radical Republicans in Congress wanted a strict Reconstruction. In this section, you will learn how President Johnson's Reconstruction plans set the stage for a bitter battle between Johnson and Congress.

Main Idea

Andrew Johnson's lenient Reconstruction plan was rejected by Congress.



A Growing Conflict

Like President Lincoln, **Andrew Johnson** proposed a relatively lenient plan of Reconstruction. He followed Lincoln's example in putting his plan into effect himself, without consulting legislators.

The Thirteenth Amendment In January 1865, Congress approved a constitutional amendment to abolish slavery throughout the nation. The Thirteenth Amendment banned both slavery and forced labor. The amendment gave Congress the power to make laws to enforce its terms.

Johnson's Plan Like Lincoln, Johnson issued a broad amnesty to most former Confederates. Johnson allowed southern states to organize new governments and elect representatives to Congress. Each state, though, was required to abolish slavery and ratify the Thirteenth Amendment. By late fall, most of the states had met Johnson's requirements. When Congress met in December 1865, the representatives and senators elected by white southerners included many former Confederate leaders.



Violence Against Freedmen

Popular magazines carried pictures of violence against freedmen, including the burning of a school (above) and the riots in Memphis (left). **Critical Thinking: Make Predictions** How do you think northerners might have reacted to these pictures?

Congress quickly rejected Johnson's approach. First, it refused to seat the southern senators and representatives. Next, the two houses appointed a committee to form a new plan for the South.

In a series of public hearings, the committee heard testimony about **black codes**—new laws used by southern states to control African Americans. Critics claimed that the codes replaced the system of slavery with near-slavery. In Mississippi, for example, African Americans could not vote or serve on juries. If unable to pay a fine as ordered by a court, they might be hired out by the sheriff to any white person who paid the fine.

Anger at these developments led Congress to adopt an increasingly hard line. The hardest line was taken by the Radical Republicans. The Radicals had two key goals. One was to prevent former Confederates from regaining control over southern politics. The other was to protect the freedmen and guarantee them a right to vote.

Checkpoint How did Congress respond to Johnson's plan for Reconstruction?

The Fourteenth Amendment

The struggle over Reconstruction led to direct clashes between the President and Congress during 1866. At issue were two laws and a constitutional amendment.



Voicing alarm at the treatment of African Americans in the South, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866. It granted citizenship rights to African Americans and guaranteed the civil rights of all people except Native Americans.

President Johnson vetoed the bill and another one extending the life of the Freedmen's Bureau. Congress voted to overturn both vetoes. Under the Constitution, a vetoed bill becomes law if it wins the votes of two thirds of each house. Both bills received enough votes to become law.

Vocabulary Builder
critic (KRIHT ihk) *n.* someone who makes judgments on the value of objects or actions

Main Idea
Alarmed by violence against African Americans in the South, Congress approved the Fourteenth Amendment.

Opposing Plans for Reconstruction

I want a quick reunion.	President Andrew Johnson (1865)	Radical Republicans (1867)	We want real change.
 <p>President Andrew Johnson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority of white men must swear oath of loyalty • Must ratify 13th Amendment • Former Confederate officials may vote and hold office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must disband state government • Must write new constitution • Must ratify 13th and 14th Amendments • Must allow African American men to vote 	 <p>Congressman Thaddeus Stevens</p>

Reading Charts

Skills Activity

President Andrew Johnson and Republican members of Congress, led by Thaddeus Stevens, disagreed about the process of Reconstruction.

- (a) **Read a Chart** Which plan required states to write new constitutions?
- (b) **Detect Points of View** Why did Radical Republicans think Johnson's plan was not strict enough?

Congress also drew up the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, seeking to make sure that the Supreme Court did not strike down the Civil Rights Act. Republicans remembered the Court's Dred Scott decision. In that ruling, the Court declared that no one descended from an enslaved person could be a United States citizen.

The amendment failed at first to win the approval of three fourths of the states. It finally was approved in 1868, after Radicals took control of Reconstruction.

The Fourteenth Amendment says that all people born or naturalized in the United States are citizens. The amendment also declares that states may not pass laws that take away a citizen's rights. Nor can a state "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person . . . the equal protection of the laws."

Another provision declares that any state that denies the vote to any male citizen over the age of 21 will have its representation in Congress reduced. That provision was not enforced until the 1970s.

The Fourteenth Amendment became a powerful tool for enforcing civil rights. However, almost a century passed before it was used for that purpose.

✓Checkpoint How did the Fourteenth Amendment seek to protect the freedmen?



Analyze Proposals

Congress proposed the Fourteenth Amendment to give freedmen a way to defend their rights. How would the amendment put that goal into action?

Main Idea

During Radical Reconstruction, African Americans played an active part in the political life of the South.

Radical Reconstruction

Tempers rose as the elections of 1866 approached. White rioters and police attacked and killed many African Americans in two southern cities, Memphis and New Orleans. Outrage at this violence led Congress to push a stricter form of Reconstruction.

Radicals in Charge By early 1867, the Radical Republicans had won enough support from moderates to begin a “hard” Reconstruction. This period is known as Radical Reconstruction.

The Reconstruction Act of 1867 removed the governments of all southern states that had refused to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment. It then imposed military rule on these states, dividing them into five military districts. Before returning to the Union, each state had to write a new constitution and ratify the Fourteenth Amendment. Each state also had to let African Americans vote.

Under military rule, the South took on a new look. Soldiers helped register southern blacks to vote. In five states, African American voters outnumbered white voters. In the election of 1868, Republicans won all southern states. The states wrote new constitutions and, in June 1868, Congress seated representatives from seven “reconstructed” states.

Time of Hope and Advancement For the first time, African Americans in the South played an active role in politics. Prominent among them were free-born African Americans—carpenters, barbers, preachers—and former Union soldiers.

African Americans were elected as sheriffs, mayors, judges, and legislators. Sixteen African Americans served in the U.S. House of Representatives between 1872 and 1901. Two others, *Hiram Revels* and *Blanche Bruce*, served in the Senate.

Historians once took a critical view of Radical Reconstruction, focusing on the widespread corruption and excessive spending during this period. More recently, however, historians have written about important accomplishments of Reconstruction. They noted that during Reconstruction, southern states opened public schools for the first time. Legislators spread taxes more evenly and made fairer voting rules. They gave property rights to women. In addition, states rebuilt bridges, roads, and buildings destroyed by the war.

Radical Reconstruction brought other sweeping changes to the South. Old leaders lost much of their power. The Republican Party built a strong following based on three key groups. One group, called *scalawags* by their opponents, were southern whites who had opposed secession. Freedmen voters made up a second group.

The third group were *carpetbaggers*, a name given by southerners to northern whites who went south to start businesses or pursue political office. Critics claimed that these northerners were in such a rush to head south that they just tossed their clothes into cheap satchels called carpetbags.

Vocabulary Builder

impose (ihm POHZ) v. to place a burden on something or someone

Biography Quest



Hiram Revels
1822–1901

In his early years, Hiram Revels was a minister and preached to African American congregations across the Midwest. Throughout the Civil War, he was a staunch supporter of the Union.

In 1870, Revels was elected to the U.S. Senate and thus became the nation’s first African American senator. He was elected to complete the unfinished term of former Confederate president Jefferson Davis.

Biography Quest 

How did some senators try to keep Revels out of the Senate?

For: The answer to the question about Revels

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The Impact of Violence

Reading Political Cartoons Skills Activity



The terror—
"WORSE THAN
SLAVERY"

Burning
school-
house



The Ku Klux Klan used terror and violence to keep African Americans from voting. Northern cartoonist Thomas Nast shows his point of view about the Klan and other secret societies in this cartoon.

- (a) **Distinguish Relevant Information** Point out two negative images in the cartoon. Give one word to describe the family.
- (b) **Detect Points of View** What do you think is Nast's opinion of the Ku Klux Klan?

Targeting President Johnson Meanwhile, the Radicals mounted a major challenge against President Johnson. The Radicals tried to remove Johnson from office by impeachment. **Impeachment** is the bringing of formal charges against a public official. The Constitution says the House may impeach a President for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." After impeachment, there is a trial in the Senate. If convicted, the President is removed from office.

Johnson escaped removal—but barely. The House voted to impeach him in February 1868. The Senate trial took place from March to May. In the end, the votes went 35 for and 19 against Johnson. This was one vote short of the required two-thirds majority.

The Election of 1868 General Ulysses S. Grant, a war hero, won the presidential election for the Republicans in the fall of 1868. With southern states back in the Union under military rule, some 500,000 African Americans voted, mainly for Republicans. Grant won the electoral votes of 26 of the 34 states.

Grant was a moderate who had support from many northern business leaders. With his election, the Radicals began losing their grip on the Republican Party.

Fifteenth Amendment Over opposition from Democrats, Congress approved the Fifteenth Amendment in 1869. It barred all states from denying African American males the right to vote "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Some African Americans said the amendment was too weak. It did not prevent states from requiring voters to own property or pay a voting tax. The amendment took effect in 1870, after three fourths of the states gave their approval.

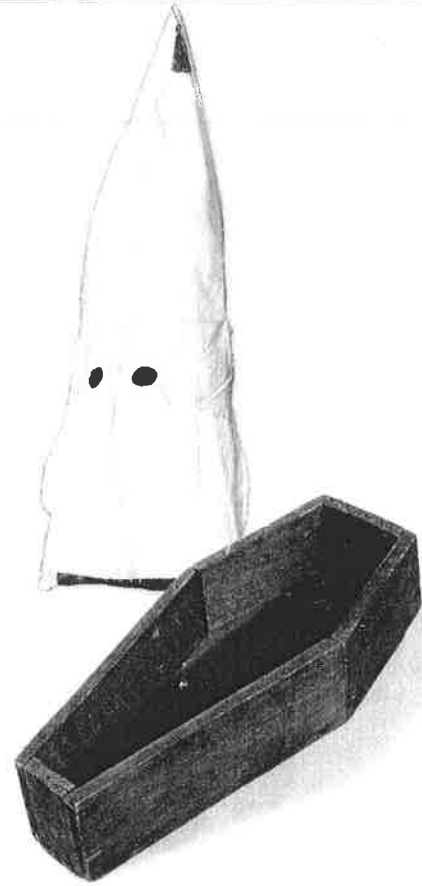
The Ku Klux Klan Angry at being shut out of power, some whites resorted to violence. They created secret societies to terrorize African Americans and their white allies.

The best-known secret society was the Ku Klux Klan. Its members donned white robes with hoods that hid their faces. Klansmen rode by night to the homes of African American voters, shouting threats and burning wooden crosses. If threats failed, the Klan would whip, torture, shoot, or hang African Americans and white Republicans. Klan violence took hundreds of lives during the election of 1868.

The terror went on even after Congress responded with new laws. The Ku Klux Klan Acts of 1870 and 1871 barred the use of force against voters. Although the original Klan dissolved, new groups took its place. In the face of the terrorism, voting by African Americans declined. The stage was set for the end of Reconstruction.

Checkpoint What were the key elements of Radical Reconstruction?

Looking Back and Ahead Although Reconstruction guaranteed rights to more Americans, huge challenges remained. In the next section, you will learn more about the process of rebuilding the South. You will also learn that as time went on, Americans became less interested in Reconstruction. This set the scene for a return of power to former Confederates.



Terror and Violence

To spread terror, Ku Klux Klan members wore hoods like the one above when they attacked their victims. They also left miniature coffins as warnings. **Critical Thinking: Draw Conclusions** Why do you think the hoods helped spread terror?

Section 2 | Check Your Progress

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Comprehension and Critical Thinking

- (a) Recall** Which amendment guaranteed African Americans the right to vote: the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, or Fifteenth?
(b) Apply Information How did each of these three amendments help to expand democracy?
- (a) Recall** What was the Ku Klux Klan?
(b) Evaluate Information Why do you think the Klan was not formed before the Civil War?

Reading Skill

- Analyze Proposals** In 1867, the Radical Republicans in Congress proposed the Reconstruction Act. What actions did this proposal involve?

Vocabulary Builder

- Complete each of the following sentences so that the second part clearly shows your understanding of the key term.
- Radical Republicans in the House of Representatives tried to remove the President by **impeachment**, which is _____.

- Former Confederates wanted to control the lives of freedmen through **black codes**, which were _____.

Writing

- Rewrite the following passage to correct the grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors that you find. **Passage:** President Johnson wanting to show mercy to the defeated confederacy. Many of the republicans in Congress, however, opposed him. Because they wanted to protect the freedman. This conflict led congress to held impeachment hearings.