Reconstruction: 1865-1877

Overview of principal Reconstruction laws, proposals and plans:
- 1864-65: Lincoln’s 10% plan
- 1865: 13th Amendment
- 1865-66: Presidential Reconstruction—Johnson’s version of Lincoln’s proposal
- 1866-67: Congressional plan—10% plan with 14th Amendment
- 1867-77: Military Reconstruction (Congress): 14th Amendment plus black suffrage that was later established nationwide by the 15th Amendment.
- Compromise of 1877: ends Reconstruction

Introduction:
What was Reconstruction? It was an attempt to achieve national reunification and reconciliation after the Civil War and to improve the status of former slaves (freedmen).
- The reality is that it was enormously difficult to satisfy both these goals.
  - "Politics is the art of the possible."
- The North prevailed during the Civil War. The South prevailed after the war.

I. Four main questions vis-à-vis Reconstruction of the post-Civil War South:
   A. How to rebuild the South after its destruction during the Civil War?
   B. What would be the condition of African Americans in the South?
   C. How would the South be reintegrated into the Union?
      - Confederate President Jefferson Davis was imprisoned for two years
   D. Who would control the process: Southern states, president, or Congress?

II. The South needed to be rebuilt after the war
   A. Richmond, Charleston, and Atlanta were destroyed
   B. Economically the South lay in ruins
      1. Banks were ruined by runaway inflation
      2. Factories were closed or destroyed
      3. The transportation system was devastated.
C. Agriculture
   1. Cotton fields lay uncultivated
   2. Livestock was gone after the Union invasion
   3. Agricultural output did not return to the 1860 level until 1870; much was from the new Southwest
D. Planter aristocrats were also devastated.
   1. Their value in slaves simply disappeared with Emancipation.
   2. Many mansions were destroyed or ruined.

III. African Americans in the immediate post-Civil War South
A. 13th Amendment (ratified in December, 1865)
   1. Provisions:
      a. Slavery abolished
      b. "Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
   2. All southern states but two, Kentucky and Delaware, had abolished slavery prior to the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment.
      a. All the former Confederate states (except Tennessee) saw slavery abolished by the Emancipation Proclamation (in theory)
      b. Missouri, Tennessee, West Virginia, Maryland, and part of Louisiana had abolished slavery by state action between 1863 and 1865.
B. Freedmen’s Bureau (created in 1865 by Congress)
   1. Headed by Gen. Oliver O. Howard (later founded and served as president of Howard University in Washington D.C.)
      • Members included many Northerners including former abolitionists who risked their lives to help freedmen in the South; one of several northern groups derisively called "carpetbaggers" by white southern Democrats.
   2. Purpose: Help unskilled, uneducated, poverty-stricken ex-slaves to survive
   3. Provided food, clothing, medicine and education to ex-slaves and poor whites
      a. Taught about 200,000 blacks to read; many freedmen were eager to read the Bible
      b. Negotiated labor agreements between freedmen and planters.
   4. Authorized to provide "40 acres and a mule" from confiscated or abandoned land to black settlers.
      a. In certain areas, the Bureau distributed no land.
      b. Sometimes it collaborated with planters in expelling blacks from towns and forcing them to sign labor contracts to work for their former masters.
   5. Southern violence against "carpetbaggers" and blacks was significant.
a. Anyone aiding African American rights in the South during Reconstruction risked being a victim of violence.

b. In Louisiana in summer and fall of 1868, white Democrats killed 1,081 people, most of whom were either freedmen or white Republicans.

6. The Freedmen’s Bureau expired in 1872.
   - Johnson had tried to kill it repeatedly as he was a white-supremacist along with most white Southerners

IV. Presidential Reconstruction

A. President Lincoln

1. 1863, Lincoln proposed his "10 percent" Reconstruction plan
   a. 10% of ex-Confederate states’ voters in the 1860 election had to pledge allegiance to the U.S. and obey emancipation to be reintegrated into the Union
   b. The next step would be creation of a state gov’t which Lincoln would then recognize.
   c. Congressional Republicans sharply rejected the 10% plan claiming it was too lenient and did not safeguard Union gains.
      - Republicans feared the southern planter aristocracy would regain power and possibly re-enslave African Americans.
   d. Lincoln vetoed the bill believing it was too punitive.

2. Wade-Davis Bill (1864)
   a. Passed by the Republican congress
   b. Would have required 50% of a state’s voters in the 1860 election to take an oath of allegiance while imposing stronger safeguards for emancipation than Lincoln's plan.
      - States then would have a Constitutional convention requiring the approval of the federal gov’t
      - "State suicide theory" -- Republicans believed the states had forfeited all their rights by seceding from the Union.
      - Republicans believed former-Confederate states should be readmitted only as "conquered provinces" subject to the conditions and wishes of Congress.
   c. Lincoln vetoed the bill believing it was too punitive.
   d. In response, Republicans refused to seat the delegates from the three reconstructed states under Union occupation—Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee—after they had met the requirements of Lincoln’s 10% plan in 1864.

3. Two congressional factions thus emerged among Republicans.
   a. The majority moderate group agreed with Lincoln that the Confederate states should be reintegrated ASAP but on Congress’ terms, not Lincoln’s.
   b. The minority radical group wanted the South’s social structure uprooted, the planters punished, and blacks protected before states were restored.
B. Presidential Reconstruction under President Andrew Johnson

1. Andrew Johnson
   a. He had been a champion of poor whites against planter aristocrats as a politician in Tennessee.
      • Ironically, he owned some slaves.
   b. He refused to secede with Tennessee in April of 1861 and remained in the Senate.
      • He served as military governor of Tennessee when Union armies reconquered the state.
   c. He became Lincoln’s vice presidential candidate for the National Union party in 1864.
      • Johnson was an attractive candidate to the War Democrats and other pro-Southern groups.
   d. He was perhaps the most overtly racist president in U.S history.
      • He knew this type of rhetoric resonated with a large portion of the electorate (both North and South).

2. May 1865, Johnson issued his own Reconstruction proclamation
   a. He called for special state conventions that required reconstructed states to repeal ordinances of secession, repudiate all Confederate debts, and ratify the 13th Amendment.
      • He believed, like Lincoln, that the states had never legally been outside the Union.
      • He reluctantly agreed to include the 13th Amendment.
   b. By December, Johnson had recognized all remaining former Confederate states under Lincoln’s 10% plan while Congress was not in session.
   c. Johnson granted amnesty to most southerners who would pledge loyalty to the Union.
      • High ranking Confederate officials and those who owned land worth at least $20,000 were disenfranchised, although they could apply to Johnson for a presidential pardon.
         o He subsequently issued thousands of pardons.
      • Pardons of planter aristocrats soon gave many of them the power to control the organization of their states during the second half of 1865
      • In December 1868, Johnson pardoned all former-Confederate leaders.
   d. Radical Republicans were outraged that the planter elite once again controlled many areas of the South.

C. White southerners had a window of opportunity to get off easy in 1865-66 (while Congress was out of session) but their actions provoked Congress to react strongly.

1. Former Confederate leaders began being elected to high offices.
   a. Alexander Stephens, vice president of the Confederacy, was the
newly-elected senator from Georgia.
b. Several ex-Confederate generals were elected to high office.

2. Black Codes were instituted by southerners in 1866 (see below).

3. Violence against blacks in the South began in the summer of 1865; massacres occurred in 1866.
a. The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) was founded in Tennessee in late 1865.
b. Southern whites, in effect, fought a guerilla war for white supremacy that they had been unwilling to wage for the Confederacy.

4. Thus, Radical Republicanism was a reaction to white supremacy rather than a desire to arbitrarily punish the South.
a. Northerners were convinced that Southerners had not learned their lesson from the war and were now flouting federal authority.
b. Congressional Reconstruction thus sought to force the ex-Confederate states to obey federal laws.

5. Why did southerners resist so strongly?
a. Freedmen left the plantations resulting in shortages of labor.
b. Freedmen were perceived as "uppety" by planters when they tried to negotiate labor contracts.
c. The vast majority of federal occupation forces in the South were black Union soldiers.

D. Black Codes were passed throughout the southern states
1. Purpose: Guarantee a stable labor supply for plantation owners now that former slaves were emancipated.
a. The codes imposed severe penalties on blacks that "jumped" labor contracts that committed them to work for the same employer for a year at very low wages.
b. Violators could be made to forfeit back wages or forcibly made to work by a paid "Negro catcher."

2. Purpose: Restore pre-emancipation system of race relations (as far as possible)
a. Although emancipation was recognized and marital rights were granted, few other rights were given.
b. Freedmen were forbidden to serve on juries or testify against whites in legal proceedings.
c. Some codes forbade freedmen from renting or leasing land.
d. Blacks were not allowed to vote.
e. "Vagrancy" was outlawed: "Idle" blacks could be sentenced to work on a chain gang.

3. The codes forced many blacks to become sharecroppers (the lucky ones became tenant farmers).
• Result: Many blacks sank to a level of indentured servitude; generations of freedmen thus remained on one plot of land,
indebted to the plantation owner.

V. Congressional Reconstruction

A. Republicans were furious that many ex-Confederates were elected to Congress and that Johnson had pardoned them
1. They refused entry to Democratic representatives from reconstructed southern Democrats on first day of the new Congress in December, 1865.
2. They feared the loss of political advantage that had yielded the ambitious Republican economic agenda, including the Homestead Act, Morrill Tariff, National Banking Act, Morrill Land Grant Act, and the Pacific Railway Act.
   a. Moreover, emancipation of the large African American population in the South increased its representation in Congress and increased the number of presidential electoral votes by 12.
   b. They feared southerners might win control of Congress by uniting with northern Democrats; perhaps the Democrats might even win the presidency in 1868.
      • Black codes (or slavery) might then be imposed at the federal level.

B. Civil Rights Bill of 1866

1. It was a response to Johnson's presidential reconstruction policy and his veto of the Freedman's Bureau in February 1866 (Congress subsequently overturned his veto).
2. Provisions:
   a. Gave African Americans citizenship
   b. Outlawed the Black Codes
3. Johnson vetoed it but Congress overturned his veto in April.
   • From then on, Congress frequently overturned Johnson’s vetoes and assumed effective control of the gov’t.

C. 14th Amendment (passed by Congress and sent to the states in June 1866)

1. Purpose: Republicans sought to place the principles of the Civil Rights Bill into a constitutional amendment as protection against a future southern takeover of Congress and the possible subsequent removal of the Civil Rights Bill with a simple majority.
2. Provisions:
   a. Gave civil rights and citizenship to African Americans
      • Did not guarantee voting rights, however
   b. Reduced proportionately representation of a state in Congress and in the Electoral College if it denied blacks voting rights
   c. Disqualified from federal and state office former Confederates who had once held office
d. Guaranteed the federal debt; repudiated all Confederate debts

D. The 1866 Congressional elections centered largely on Reconstruction
   1. Johnson asked the Southern states to reject the 14th Amendment as he campaigned for Democrats on his "swing around the circle" tour.
      • Therefore, all Southern states except Tennessee rejected the 14th Amendment, placing it in jeopardy.
   2. Republicans won 2/3 majority ("supermajority") in the House and Senate congressional elections of 1866.
      a. Significance: The Republicans now instituted Military Reconstruction (see below)
      b. Radical Republicans
         • Radicals were led in the senate by Charles Sumner of Massachusetts and Ben Wade of Ohio.
         • Radicals were led in the House by Thaddeus Stevens from Pennsylvania.
         • They sought to keep the ex-Confederate states out of the Union for as long as possible & to effectuate drastic social and economic change in the South.
      c. Moderate Republicans (consisted of the party’s majority)
         • Preferred policies that kept the southern states from infringing on citizens’ rights rather than direct federal intervention in peoples’ lives.

E. Military Reconstruction
   1. Military Reconstruction Act (March, 1867)
      a. The former Confederacy was divided into five military districts, each commanded by a Union general and policed by the Union army (a total of about 20,000 soldiers).
      b. It disenfranchised tens of thousands of former Confederates.
      c. Congress also required ex-Confederate states to ratify the 14th Amendment before being allowed back into the Union.
      d. States had to guarantee in their state constitutions full suffrage for African Americans.
         • This paved the way for easy ratification of the 15th Amendment three years later
   2. Military reconstruction did not give freedmen land or education at federal expense.
      a. Military rule lasted until 1868 in all but three Southern states.
      b. Congress did not want to make the federal gov’t directly responsible for the protection of the rights of freedmen.
         • Many saw this as a state responsibility, not a federal one.
      c. Lack of federal enforcement after 1868, however, resulted in a century of institutional discrimination against blacks.
3. Ironically, Republicans in 1867 could not get northerners to agree to guarantee suffrage for blacks in the North as racist attitudes were strong (especially Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio).
   a. Republicans held a razor thin supermajority and could not push the suffrage issue lest they be voted out.
   b. President-elect Grant did not receive a majority of the white vote in 1868.
   c. In 1867, Radical Republicans now wanted Johnson out of office.

4. **Impeachment of Johnson**
   a. Congress passed the *Tenure of Office Act* in 1867 over Johnson’s veto.
      - The act declared that the president couldn't remove senate-approved appointees (including cabinet members) without the approval of the Senate.
   b. Purposes:
      - Keep Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in the cabinet who was secretly serving as a spy for the radical Republicans
      - Provoke Johnson to break the law thus laying foundation for impeachment
   c. Johnson, believing the act was unconstitutional and depending on support from his sympathizers on the Supreme Court, fired Stanton in early 1868.
      - Johnson did not believe the law applied to Lincoln’s appointees.
   d. In response, the House voted 126 to 47 to impeach Johnson for "high crimes and misdemeanors," as called for in the Constitution.
      - Main issue: Johnson’s violation of the Tenure of Office Act.
      - Johnson became the only president in U.S. history to be impeached until Bill Clinton in 1998.
   e. The Senate refused to remove Johnson by one vote (2/3 was needed).
   f. The outcome was probably beneficial for the country.
      - Johnson’s removal may have set a destructive precedent, severely weakening the executive branch.

5. **15th Amendment** (1870)
   a. Passed in 1869; ratified in 1870 during Grant’s presidency
   b. Purposes:
      - Ensure state guarantees of suffrage if southerners took control of Congress in the future
      - Strengthen Republican control of southern states; boost Republican votes in the North.
   c. Provisions: Suffrage for black males
   d. Loopholes (see “Post-Reconstruction” below for more details)
• It said nothing about holding office; blacks were thus prevented from holding office throughout the South.
• Voting requirements were not uniform throughout the country.
• The discriminatory practices of poll taxes, literacy tests, and property requirements were not addressed (see below)

e. Results of loopholes in the 15th Amendment:
• Democratic party dominance in the South was thus assured.
• 14th and 15th Amendments were ignored.
• Many southern Republican voters were denied suffrage.
• Full suffrage for blacks were not realized until 1965.

a. Blacks made up the majority of voters in AL, FL, LA, MS, and South Carolina but only there did they make up the majority in the lower house.
b. No senate had a black majority nor were there any black governors during the period coined by white southerners as "black reconstruction."
c. Yet, many black representatives served with distinction; some were well-educated.
  • **Hiram R. Revels**: first African American to serve in the Senate (he represented Mississippi from 1870-71)
  • **Blanche K. Bruce**: represented Mississippi in the U.S. Senate from 1875-1881
  • Robert Smalls: congressman from South Carolina who authored the first free and compulsory public school system in the U.S.

7. Pro-Reconstruction Republicans in the South
a. "Scalawags" (term coined by white Southern Democrats)
  • Southern men, formerly Unionists and Whigs, who supported Reconstruction
  • Hated by former Confederates who exaggerated their corruption and plundering of Southern treasuries through their political influence
b. "Carpetbaggers"
  • Mainly northern Republicans who allegedly packed all their possessions into a single carpet-bag suitcase and came to the South to make money
  • Consisted of Union soldiers, teachers, and businessmen who arrived in the South before 1867
  • Some reaped benefits during military reconstruction
  • They were bitterly resented by the white South as an example of federal interference.
    o Suffered significant violence
8. The **Ku Klux Klan** (founded in 1866 in Pulaski, Tennessee)
   a. Waged a rebellion against "radical’ rule in the South; in effect, it was the terror wing of the Democratic party.
   b. **Goal:** Overthrow Reconstruction governments in the South and replace them with white supremacy oriented Democratic government
   - Many whites resented the success and efficacy of black legislators and the alleged corruption of Carpetbaggers and Scalawags.
   - The "Invisible Empire of the South" consisted of whites from all classes in the South.
   c. They used violent terrorism to intimidate blacks, Carpetbaggers and Scalawags.
   - They were effective in many areas for discouraging blacks from attaining their rights.
   d. They succeeded in decimating Republican organization in many localities.
   - In response, the new Republican southern governments looked to the federal gov’t for survival.
   e. **Force Acts of 1870 and 1871** (also called **Enforcement Acts**)
   - Represented President Grant’s and Congress’s attempt to reassert some federal muscle during Reconstruction.
   - Federal troops were sent to quell the KKK’s intimidation while terrorist groups were outlawed.
   - Significance: this was the first time the federal gov’t protected individuals, not local authorities
   - It was moderately successful in destroying the KKK yet much KKK intimidation had already had a devastating impact on southern blacks and Republicans.

9. Rise of the **Solid South** in the 1870s
   a. The white-supremacist **Solid South** was dominated by Democrats in each state.
   - The remaining Republican governments in the South collapsed
     - The Republican party was effectively dead in the South for the next 100 years.
   - "**The Lost Cause**" philosophy emerged.
     - Contended that the South had fought honorably and valiantly for the noble cause of independence
     - Encompassed pro-Confederate patriotism
     - Southern resentment and humiliation over the war and Reconstruction lasted for generations.
     - Resulted in increased violence and discrimination toward blacks
b. **Redeemers**: coalition of prewar Democrats, Union Whigs, Confederate veterans, and individuals interested in industrial development
   - This included the rise of many ex-plantation owners (sometimes called "Bourbons")
   - They sought to undo changes brought about by the Civil War
   - They won many local elections in the 1870s vowing to dismantle the "corrupt" Reconstruction system.
   - Their policies affected blacks and poor whites alike.
     - They exacerbated class strife and racial violence that followed the Civil War.

10. **Civil Rights Act of 1875**
   a. President Grant made an impassioned plea for a stronger civil rights bill that would guarantee rights for African Americans
   b. Provisions:
      - It made it a crime for any individual to deny full and equal use of public conveyances and public places, e.g. hotels, trains, railroads, theaters, and restaurants.
      - It prohibited discrimination in jury selection.
   c. Shortcoming: it lacked a strong enforcement mechanism
   d. The law was overturned by the Supreme Court in 1883 in the “Civil Rights” cases
   e. Dismayed northerners didn’t attempt another civil rights act until the 1950s.

11. **The End of Reconstruction**
   a. By 1870, all former Confederate states had reorganized their state governments and reintegrated into the Union, having adopted the 14th and 15th Amendments.
   - Once these state governments seemed on solid footing, Union forces were removed.
   - By 1876, whites again dominated southern politics
   b. Northerners were now concerned with other national issues besides Reconstruction
      - The Panic of 1873-1879 focused politics on economic issues.
   c. **Compromise of 1877**
      - The presidential election between Republican Rutherford B. Hayes and Democrat Sam Tilden was inconclusive.
        - Tilden led the popular vote and 184-165 in the Electoral College but was short of the 187 votes needed to win.
        - The 20 electoral votes in question were due to fraud and violence in South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana plus questions of voter eligibility in Oregon.
        - A 15-member commission eventually gave Hayes all 20 votes but the Democrats filibustered, blocking the results.
      - **Compromise**: The North got Hayes elected as president while
the last remaining federal troops would be removed from SC, FL and LA.

12. Results of Military Reconstruction
   a. The 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution were ratified, signifying a watershed in civil rights.
   b. Military Reconstruction resulted in a significant decline in presidential power relative to that of Congress.
      • The Supreme Court had ruled in *Ex parte Milligan (1866)* that military tribunals (executive branch) could not try civilians if civil courts were located nearby.
      • Since desperate times called for desperate measures, the Supreme Court avoided confronting Congress about its imposition of martial law on the South.
      • Subsequent to President Grant, Gilded Age presidents would be weak and faceless while Congress would dominate.
   c. Social and Economic Positives
      • Property rights for women were guaranteed.
      • Property requirements were eliminated for holding office.
      • Steps were taken to establish adequate public schools.
      • Public works projects were launched, especially in transportation.
      • Tax systems were improved.
      • Apportionment was made more equal in state legislatures.
   d. Southern Democrats prevailed in taking back control of the South while the Republican party became irrelevant in the region for decades.

VI. Post-Reconstruction Civil Rights: Road to institutional discrimination
   A. Reconstruction failed to empower African Americans politically.
      • The white South openly disregarded the 14th & 15th Amendments for 80-90 years.
   
   B. Sharecropping became a wide-scale practice keeping blacks tied to plantation owners with *crop lien laws*, which facilitated the binding of blacks unable pay their debts to owners of plantations.
      • The South, in effect, became a quasi-feudalistic society where millions of sharecroppers were subject to debt peonage.
   
   C. Slaughterhouse Cases, 1873 (still during Reconstruction)
      1. 14th Amendment protected against *federal infringements* of abridged "privileges and immunities," not state infringements.
         • Thus, in effect the states were able to discriminate against their citizens.
      2. Molded the Court’s interpretation of the 14th Amendment for
decades.

D. Civil Rights Cases, 1883
   1. Court claimed 14th Amendment protected individuals from state action, not individual action.
      • Overturned Civil Rights Act of 1875 which protected individuals in states.
   2. Significance: a discouraged Congress didn’t pass another Civil Rights law until 1957.

E. Wholesale disenfranchisement began in 1890 -- achieved by intimidation, fraud, and trickery.
   1. Poll taxes and property requirements; literacy tests were administered unfairly to favor illiterate whites.
   2. "Grandfather clauses" aimed to reduce number of black voters while enfranchising white voters who were poor or illiterate
      • Required citizenship prior to establishment of 14th Amendment in 1870; therefore, no African Americans were eligible to vote in the South
   3. Gerrymandering: Voting districts redrawn to break up large black voting areas. Resulted in few blacks being elected to office (especially in Virginia).
   4. "Jim Crow" laws in 1890s (beginning in 1881) intended to segregate blacks in public facilities: e.g., public schools, railroad cars, restaurants

F. Lynchings as a form of intimidation
   1. During 1890s, 200 blacks were lynched per year; 4/5 in the South.
   2. Lynchings in 1892 (230) all-time high followed by 1884 (211).
   3. Lynch law and mob rule competed with justice in many areas.
   4. Ida B. Wells-Barnett: Black journalist who launched an international anti-lynching movement; goal was a federal anti-lynching law.

G. Booker T. Washington and education for African Americans
   a. 44% of non-whites were illiterate in 1900, mostly from the South.
   b. Washington became head of the black normal & industrial school, the Tuskegee Institute, Alabama in 1881
      • Taught useful trades as a means toward self-respect and economic equality, rather than a classical, education.
      • Started with only 40 students who literally built the school.
   c. Advocated a policy of accommodation in which he grudgingly accepted segregation in return for the right to develop economic and educational resources for the black community.
      • Emphasized self-help among the black community
      • Urged blacks to adopt white middle-class standards in speech,
dress, and habits so blacks would gain respect of whites.

- Ideas put forth in the "Atlanta Compromise", 1895 (paved the way for Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896)

- Ironically, Washington labored secretly against Jim Crow laws and racial violence, writing letters in code names and protecting blacks from lynch mobs.
- His efforts, however, were little known in his time.

H. *Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)* capped the failure of Reconstruction by making it constitutional to segregate the black and white races: "Separate but equal"

1. Court ruled that separation was legal so long as facilities were equal.
2. This ruling henceforth applied to schools and other public places.

I. **W.E.B. DuBois**: opposed Washington’s views and demanded immediate social and economic equality for blacks.

1. His opposition to Washington as well as other blacks led to the formation of the **Niagara Movement** (1905-1909)
   - a. Demanded immediate end to segregation and to discrimination in the unions, courts, and public facilities.
   - b. Demanded equality of economic and educational opportunity.
   - c. Laid the groundwork for the creation of the NAACP in 1910

2. DuBois demanded that the "talented tenth" of the black community be given full and immediate access to the mainstream of American life.
   - This would enable this group to help lift up the rest of the African American community

J. **NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)**

1. After Springfield Race Riots in 1909, a group of white progressives including Jane Addams, John Dewey, William Dean Howells, and editor Oswald Garrison Villard formed the **NAACP** (1910)

2. Adopted many of the goals of the Niagara movement

4. Goal: attainment of equal rights for blacks through the use of lawsuits in federal courts.

5. Opposed the political and economic subordination of blacks by promoting the leadership of a trained, black elite.
Terms to Know

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Essay Questions

**Note:** This sub-unit is a medium probability area for the AP exam. In the past 10 years, 2 questions have come wholly or in part from the material in this chapter. Below are some questions that will help you study the topics that have appeared on previous exams.

1. “The North won the Civil War. The South won Reconstruction.” Assess the validity of this statement.

2. To what extent did Reconstruction constitute a political, economic and social revolution in the South between 1865 and 1877?

3. To what extent did African Americans in the South gain...
and maintain their rights in the years between 1865 and 1900?

4. To what extent were the Republicans successful in achieving their Reconstruction goals between 1865 and 1877?

**Bibliography:**


