

Radicals in Control

Essential Question

What were the results of Radical Reconstruction?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

black codes (p. 523) impeach (p. 527)
override (p. 524)

Academic Vocabulary

convince (p. 523) suspend (p. 526)

Key People and Events

Civil Rights Act of 1866 (p. 523)

First Reconstruction Act (p. 525)

Second Reconstruction Act (p. 526)

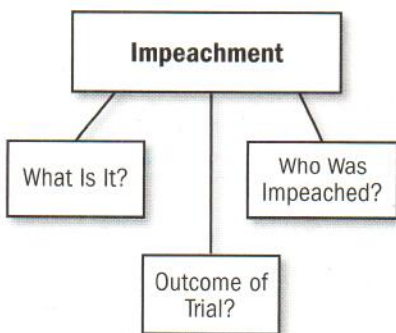
Tenure of Office Act (p. 526)

Edwin Stanton (p. 526)

Ulysses S. Grant (p. 527)

Reading Strategy

Taking Notes As you read, use a diagram like the one below to answer the questions about impeachment.



American Diary

For three days in May 1866, white mobs in Memphis, Tennessee, burned African American churches, schools, and homes. An army officer investigating the causes of the riot later reported: "Three [African American] churches were burned, also . . . about fifty (50) private dwellings, owned, occupied or inhabited by freedmen as homes, and . . . in many instances containing the hard earnings of months of labor."

—from the report on Memphis riot investigation, by Charles F. Johnson, 1866

Memphis rioters set fire to an African American schoolhouse built by the Freedmen's Bureau.

African Americans' Rights

Main Idea When Northerners realized that African Americans in the South were still being mistreated, they worked to find a way to help them.

History and You Think about the rights American citizens have. Read to find out how Congress made sure that formerly enslaved African Americans became citizens.

Many Northerners saw the Memphis riot as an attempt by whites to terrorize African Americans and keep them from enjoying and practicing their new freedoms. The Memphis incident and similar riots in other Southern cities helped **convince**, or persuade, Radical Republicans that President Johnson's Reconstruction plan was not strong enough.

During the fall of 1865, Southern states created new governments based on Johnson's plan. They also elected new representatives to Congress. When the Southern representatives arrived in Washington, D.C., however, Congress refused to seat them. Many Republicans refused to readmit the Southern states on such easy terms.

Black Codes

By early 1866, Southern states had passed **black codes**, or laws to control freed men and women. The black codes trampled the rights of African Americans. They allowed plantation owners to exploit African American workers and allowed officials to arrest and fine jobless African Americans. The codes also banned African Americans from owning or renting farms. To freed men and women and many Northerners, the black codes resembled slavery.

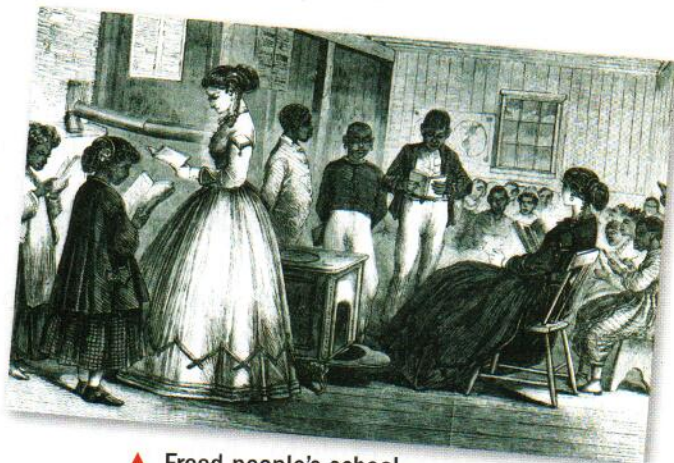
In early 1866, Congress passed a bill giving the Freedmen's Bureau new powers. The agency could now set up special courts to try individuals charged with violating the rights of African Americans. African Americans could also serve on juries in these courts.

Congress then passed the **Civil Rights Act of 1866**. This act granted full citizenship to African Americans and gave the federal government the power to intervene in state affairs to protect their rights. The law overturned the black codes. It also contradicted the 1857 *Dred Scott* decision of the Supreme Court, which had ruled that African Americans were not citizens.

Primary Source Freed People's Schools

Freedom to Learn Throughout the South, African Americans of all ages attended freed men and women's schools to learn basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills. As one freed person declared, education was "the next best thing to liberty." Many white Southerners, however, opposed schooling for African Americans. During the Memphis riots, white mobs burned down freed people's schools and attacked teachers and students. Despite the violence, African Americans continued to enroll in the schools.

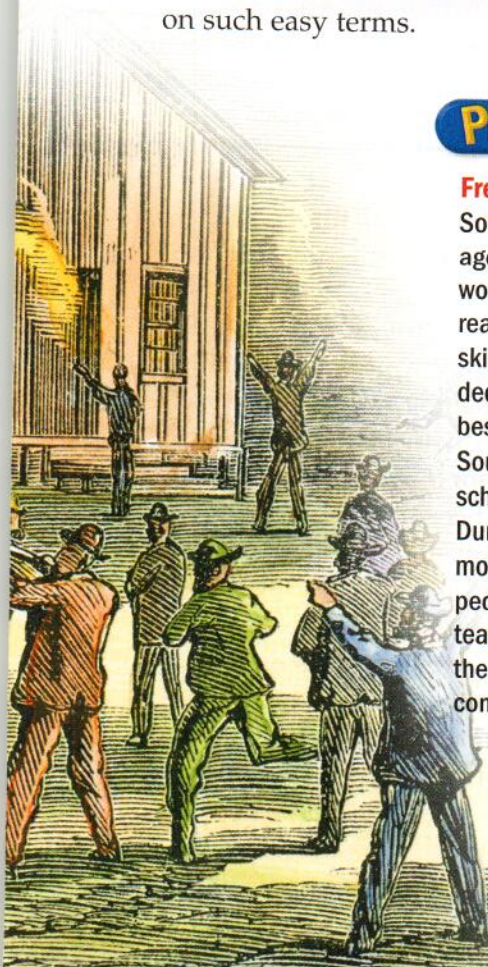
—from *Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction*



▲ Freed people's school, Richmond, Virginia, 1866

Critical Thinking

Hypothesizing Why do you think freed African Americans were eager to receive an education?



Primary Source The Fourteenth Amendment

Protection of Rights The Fourteenth Amendment gave African American males their citizenship and tried to prevent the Southern states from taking away their rights. Since its ratification in 1868, the Supreme Court has written several landmark decisions related to the Fourteenth Amendment.



▲ The Supreme Court limited the Fourteenth Amendment in a series of rulings in the late 1800s. These rulings led to segregation and voter restrictions in the South.

In 1954 the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas* that the equal protection clause forbade segregation. The Court ordered the desegregation of the nation's public schools. ►



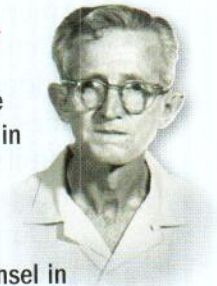
"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

—Fourteenth Amendment, Section 1



▲ During the 2000 presidential election, the Supreme Court ruled in *Bush v. Gore* that the Florida recount violated the equal protection clause. The Court argued that since vote counters used different standards to count the votes, the recount did not treat all voters equally.

Responding to an ► appeal by Clarence Gideon, the Supreme Court in 1963 ruled in *Gideon v. Wainwright* that all defendants were entitled to legal counsel in cases involving possible jail time, including those who were too poor to hire a lawyer.



Critical Thinking

Assessing How has the Fourteenth Amendment influenced the rights of individual Americans?

President Johnson vetoed both bills. He argued that the federal government was overstepping its authority. He also argued that the Freedmen's Bureau bill and the Civil Rights Act were unconstitutional because they were approved by a Congress that did not include representatives from all of the states. By raising this issue, Johnson indirectly threatened to veto any law passed by this Congress.

Republicans in Congress had enough votes to **override**, or defeat, both vetoes, and the bills became law. The chances of the president and Congress working together faded. The Radical Republicans abandoned the idea of compromise and drafted a new Reconstruction plan—one created by Congress.

The Fourteenth Amendment

Fearing that the Civil Rights Act might be overturned in court, Congress passed a new amendment to the Constitution in 1866. The Fourteenth Amendment was enacted in 1868. It granted full citizenship to all people born in the United States. Because most African Americans in the United States had been born in the country, they became full citizens.

The amendment also stated that no state could take away a citizen's life, liberty, or property "without due process of law." In addition to this, every citizen was entitled to "equal protection of the laws." If a state prevented any adult male citizen from voting, then it could lose some of its representation in Congress.

The amendment also barred former Confederate leaders from holding national or state office unless pardoned by Congress. The Fourteenth Amendment also excluded Native Americans from citizenship.

Congress declared that Southern states had to ratify the amendment to rejoin the Union. Of the 11 Southern states, only Tennessee ratified it. The refusal of the other Southern states to ratify delayed the amendment's adoption until 1868.

Republican Victory

In the congressional elections of 1866, President Johnson campaigned vigorously against the Radical Republicans. Many Northerners objected to the nasty tone of Johnson's campaign and feared clashes between whites and African Americans. The Republicans won a solid victory, giving Congress the signal to take Reconstruction into its own hands.

Reading Check **Explaining** Why did Johnson consider the civil rights bill unconstitutional?

Radical Reconstruction

Main Idea Radical Republicans were able to put their version of Reconstruction into action.

History and You If you were a member of Congress at this time, what changes would you like to see in a Reconstruction plan? Read to find out how the Radical Republicans shaped Reconstruction.

President Johnson could do little to stop Republicans because they could easily override his vetoes in Congress. Thus began a period known as Radical Reconstruction.

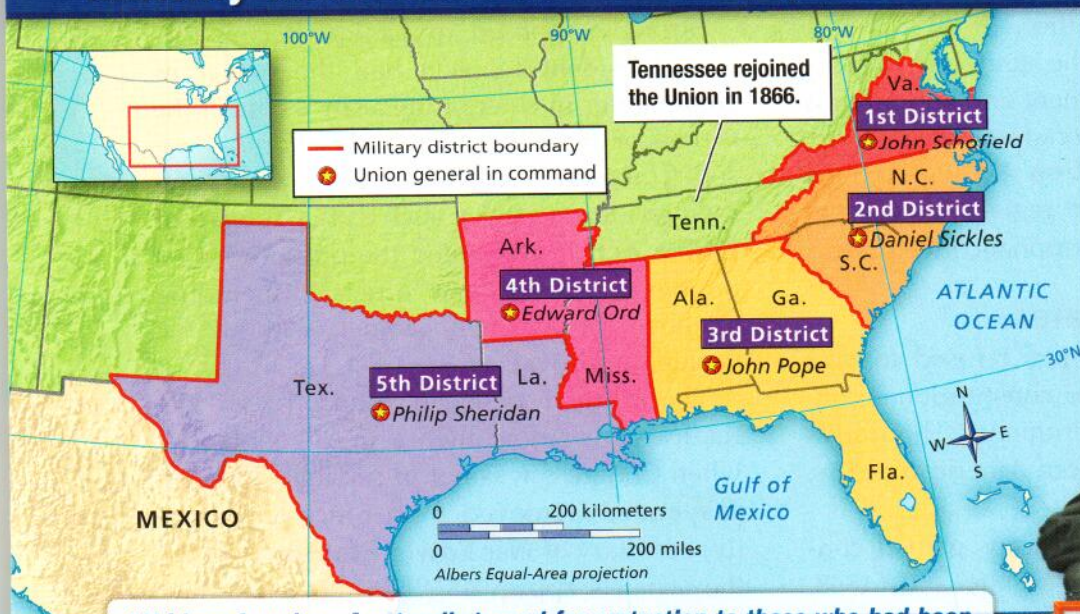
Reconstruction Acts of 1867

The **First Reconstruction Act** passed in 1867 called for the creation of new governments in the 10 Southern states that had not ratified the Fourteenth Amendment. Tennessee, which ratified, kept its government and rejoined the Union.

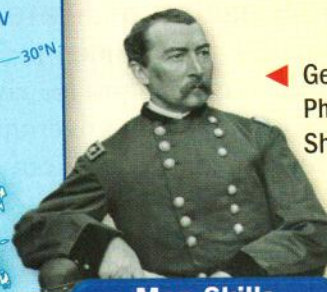
History ONLINE

Student Web Activity Visit glencoe.com and complete the Chapter 17 Web Activity about Reconstruction.

Military Reconstruction Districts, 1867



In March 1867, congressional Republicans passed the Military Reconstruction Act. The act divided the former Confederacy into five military districts. A Union general was placed in charge of each district.



Gen. Philip Sheridan

Map Skills

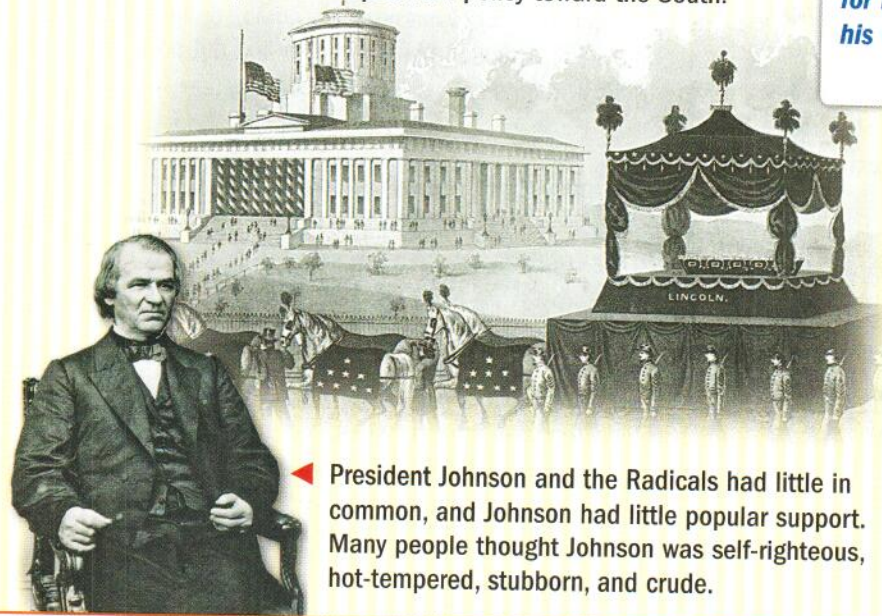
Place Which former Confederate state was not part of a military district?

"[African Americans] naturally turned for protection to those who had been the means of their liberation [freedom], and it would have been little less than inhuman to deny them sympathy. Their freedom had been given them, and it was the plain duty of those in authority to make it secure."

—from *Personal Memoirs of P. H. Sheridan*

What If Lincoln Had Survived?

Abraham Lincoln wanted the South to be treated compassionately when the war ended. The Radicals expected that the new president, Andrew Johnson, would adopt a firm policy toward the South.



◀ President Johnson and the Radicals had little in common, and Johnson had little popular support. Many people thought Johnson was self-righteous, hot-tempered, stubborn, and crude.

Second Inaugural Address, March 1865

"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."

—Abraham Lincoln

◀ Lincoln's funeral procession, Columbus, Ohio

Critical Thinking

1. **Contrasting** Describe the leadership qualities of Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson.
2. **Speculating** How do you think Reconstruction might have been different if Lincoln had not been assassinated? Explain.

The act divided the 10 Southern states into 5 military districts, each run by a military commander until new governments were formed. The act also guaranteed African American men the right to vote in state elections and banned former Confederate leaders from holding political office.

To rejoin the Union, the states had to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment and submit new state constitutions to Congress for approval. A **Second Reconstruction Act** required the military commanders to register voters and prepare for state constitutional conventions.

Readmission of States

Many white Southerners refused to take part in the elections for constitutional conventions and state governments. Thousands of newly registered African American voters, however, voted.

In the elections, Republicans gained control of Southern state governments. By 1868, seven Southern states—Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina,

and South Carolina—had established new governments and met the requirements for readmission. By 1870, Mississippi, Virginia, and Texas were restored to the Union.

Impeaching the President

Strongly opposed to Radical Reconstruction, President Johnson had the power as commander in chief of the army to direct the actions of the military governors. For this reason, Congress passed a series of laws to limit the president's power, such as the **Tenure of Office Act**. It prohibited the president from removing government officials, including members of his own cabinet, without the Senate's approval.

The conflict between Johnson and the Radicals grew more intense. In August 1867—when Congress was not in session—Johnson **suspended** (removed from office temporarily) Secretary of War **Edwin Stanton** without the Senate's approval. When the Senate met again and refused to approve the suspension, Johnson removed Stanton from office.

This action was a deliberate violation of the Tenure of Office Act. Johnson also appointed people who the Radical Republicans opposed to command some of the Southern military districts.

Outraged by Johnson's actions, the House of Representatives voted to **impeach** the president, or formally charge him, with wrongdoing. In 1868 the case went to the Senate for a trial that lasted almost three months. Johnson's defenders claimed that the president was exercising his right to challenge laws he considered unconstitutional. They argued that Congress impeached the president because of politics, without accusing him of a crime. Johnson's critics disputed that Congress held supreme power to make the laws and that Johnson's use of the veto improperly interfered with this function.

The senators failed to achieve the two-thirds majority required for conviction. Some moderate Republicans supported the president, arguing that Johnson should not be removed from office because of political differences. As a result, Johnson stayed in office until the end of his term in March 1869.

The Fifteenth Amendment

By the presidential election of 1868, most Southern states had rejoined the Union, and many Americans hoped that Reconstruction was over. Abandoning Johnson, the Republicans nominated **Ulysses S. Grant**, the Civil War hero. The Democrats chose Horatio Seymour. Grant received most of the African American votes in the South and won the presidency. The 1868 election showed that voters supported the Republican approach to Reconstruction.

In 1869 Congress passed the Fifteenth Amendment. It prohibited the state and federal governments from denying the right to vote to any male citizen because of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

African American men won the right to vote when the amendment was ratified and became law in 1870. Republicans thought the power of the vote would enable African Americans to protect themselves. That belief, however, was too optimistic.

 **Reading Check** **Explaining** How did Republicans organize the South during Reconstruction?

Section 2 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

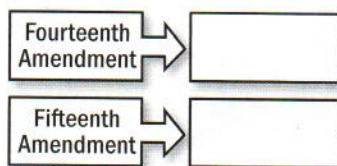
1. Define each of the following terms and use it in a sentence: **convince**, **black codes**, **override**, **suspend**, **impeach**.

Main Ideas

2. **Specifying** What requirement was necessary for African Americans to become citizens under the Fourteenth Amendment?
3. **Explaining** Why was President Johnson unable to stop Radical Republicans from putting their Reconstruction plan into action?

Critical Thinking

4. **Comparing** How were black codes similar to slavery?
5. **Determining Cause and Effect** Describe the impact of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments on African Americans. Use a diagram like the one below.



6. **Persuasive Writing** Assume the role of Andrew Johnson. Write a short speech to give at your trial, explaining why the senators should not convict you of wrongdoing.

7. **Answer the Essential Question** What were the results of Radical Reconstruction?