Fitzgerald

Reconstruction Notes

**Political Leadership**

Lincoln (p. 546) – Goal – quickly “bind the wounds”

Plan

* If 10% of the voters of a former Confederate state swear allegiance to the United States,
* Then the state can write a new state constitution, form a state government, and send representatives and senators to Congress
* Only requirement – outlaw slavery

Radical Republicans (p. 547) – Goal – prevent former Confederates from staying leaders of new South

Plan

* 50% need to swear allegiance
* Anyone who had willingly joined the Confederacy, can no longer vote

Lincoln is assassinated

* When – 5 days after the surrender at Appomattox
* By – a well-known actor who is a Confederate – John Wilkes Booth
* How – shot in a theater as part of a plot to also kill the Vice President and the Speaker of the House
* Caught – 2 weeks later, shot as he ran out of the barn where he was hiding that had been set on fire

Andrew Johnston (p. 552) – Lincoln’s Vice President takes over

* Who was he – a former slaver-owner from Tennessee who had not seceded from the Union, Lincoln needed him to win the votes of the Border States
* Plan – same as Lincoln’s – so by December of 1865, 8 months after surrender, there were many Confederate leaders back in Congress as representatives and senators

Radical Republicans (p. 555)

* Refuse to – let new Southern Congressmen take their seats, very upset with treatment of freed Blacks in South
* Instead establish – military rule in the South
* Divide the South into – 5 military districts
* Ruled by – officers in the U.S. army
* Only return to the Union when have ratified the 14 Amendment to the Constitution

Threaten Johnson with impeachment (p. 556) –

* House impeaches and Senate holds trial, comes 1 vote short of removing him from office

Elect Grant (p. 556)

* To “attack and control” the South

**Amending the Constitution**

13 Amendment (p. 552)

* Ends slavery

14th Amendment (pp. 553-554) – to address the treatment of freed Blacks

* Anyone who was born in the U.S. or is a naturalized immigrant
* Cannot be deprived of life, liberty, or property
* Without due process of law
  + (charged with a crime, given a trial with a jury of peers, found guilty)
* If a State prevented Blacks from voting, lost right to representation in Congress

15 Amendment (p. 556) – to address Black voting directly

* Right to vote
* Cannot be abridged
* Doe to race, color, or previous condition of servitude

**Helping Former Slaves/Freedmen – Hurting Former Slaves**

***To Help –***

Freedman’s Bureau (p. 548)

* Provide – necessary services to newly freed slaves
* Set up – schools and universities for black people in South
  + also help – teach poor whites
* Find – jobs for black people
* Settle – disputes with white people
* ***Sadly do not give land (40 acres and a mule) – This was a plan of Sherman’s when he ran a military district in South Carolina, but the Congress never did this.***

Military Rule in the South (p. 556)

* Help Blacks – register to vote, vote, and run for office
* Also protects whites
  + “scalawags” – Southerners who were against the Confederacy
  + “carpetbaggers” (carbetbag = suitcase) – Northerners who came to South with money to start businesses and buy land

***To Hurt***

Black Codes (p. 553) – attacked by 14th Amendment

* Old Slave Codes exactly – can’t meet in groups, can’t be on the road without a job, can’t have a gun
* Most importantly – can’t vote, can’t serve on a jury

Ku Klux Klan (p. 557)

* Secret society – wore hood, came at night
* Attacked Black and allies of Black who don’t follow the “rules”
* With threats (burning Crosses), visits in the night, whipping, beating, torture, shooting, lynching (hanging by a mob)

Sharecropping (p. 561)

* Trap Blacks as farm laborers
* Step 1
  + Landowners giver seed, tools, land, house
    - But must repay with a part (“share”) of your crop
  + Can also buy goods from landowner’s “store” on credit
* Step 2 – at harvest
  + Pay with share of crop and sell rest of crop for money
  + Repay debt to store
    - But don’t have enough? At least the landowners says you do not
    - So must promise larger share of crop next year
* Starts all over again
* If leave without paying, can be arrested and hired out to white man for labor

With military gone (p. 560) – prevent Black voting

* Poll taxes – a tax a person must pay to vote (which all white people seem to have paid?)
* Literacy Test – a reading test a person must pass to vote (which all white people seem to pass?)
  + Other tests develop if literacy is shown

**How Reconstruction Ends (pp. 558-559)**

***Three reasons Reconstruction ends in 1877***

North

* Wanted to concentrate on things the North needs
* Angry that tax money being spent to help Blacks, no one helped them

Grant – was a lousy president

* Appointed friends and family who do not know what they are doing
* Many people he appointed took bribes

Disputed election

* 20 Electoral College votes are disputed, as it is said Black people were prevented from voting
* With these 20 votes not counted, neither candidate had 50% of the Electoral College votes, as the Republican and Democratic candidate were very close
* So the election went to the House of Representatives
* A deal was cut
  + The House would the Republican candidate
  + If he agreed to end Reconstruction
  + Troops were thus removed from the South