Fitzgerald

Topic Civil War - Reconstruction

***The Country is in a mess as the war ends!***

* **Lincoln faced the serious possibility of losing reelection.**
	+ He had to choose a Vice-President who would win votes in the Border States. He chose Andrew Johnson. Johnson was **from Tennessee**. Johnson, like Lincoln, had **grown up in poverty**. He did **not learn to write until he was 20 years old**. He came to political power as a **backer of the small farmer**. In speeches, he **spoke strongly against the elite. slave-owning class ruling the South** like European noblemen. He said they had little use for white working men. He painted the South as treasonous for seceding from the Union and **had refused to leave the Senate when Tennessee seceded**. ***But*** when Frederick Douglas was introduced to him by President Lincoln at Lincoln's second inauguration, **he gave this impression of the man**:



No friend to our race!

* + Sherman's march had energized other Northern voters, but it had also destroyed large parts of the South and the South is angry.

Sherman's March (Start at 25 sec) - <http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/shermans-march/videos>

Sherman's tactics - <http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/shermans-march/videos/shermans-terrifying-tactics?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=false>

* **The Lincoln was assassinated.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVLM0BSqx5o>

***So who will guide the country?***

* **Two groups** are left:
	+ the Vice-president, now the **President, Andrew Johnson**
	+ **Congress**, dominated by a group called the **Radical Republicans**.
* **Two questions** had to be answered.
* How would the **Southern states be brought back into the Union**?
* What should be done to **help the newly freed slaves**?
* **The 13 Amendment - ended slavery**
	+ passed by Congress shortly before the end of the war
	+ ratified by 3/4 of the states by December of the 1865
* **The Freedman's Bureau**
* created to help the newly freed slaves after the 13 Amendment was passed.
	+ furnished food and medical aid to the former slaves
	+ established schools for the freedmen
		- by 1870, a quarter million black children and adults attended more than 4,000 of these schools in the South
	+ tried to make sure that the former slaves received fair wages and freely chose their employers
	+ created special courts
	+ to settle disputes between black workers and their white employers
	+ address cases of threats to the rights of freedmen

To reenter the Union***, Johnson only required*** that

* **Southern states** **ratified the 13th amendment** that ended slavery,
* **Southerners take a vow of loyalty to the Nation** before serving in the national government.

Cruel and severe ***"Black Code" laws*** were adopted by southern states - ***to maintain the social structure even without slavery.***

* created **a separate set of laws, punishments, and acceptable behaviors for anyone with more than one black great-grandparent.**
* **required black workers to contract with white farmers** by January 1 of each year **or face punishment for vagrancy**
	+ vagrancy means **not having a job**
	+ If a black person was **convicted of vagrancy - sentenced to forced labor**
		- **then his labor was sold to the highest bidder**
	+ If he *left the job*, he was breaking his sentence
		- could be **rearrested and sentenced to a longer term**.

Blacks were usually forced into ***Sharecropping*** agreements with White farmers, which trapped them on the land.



***Southern states were also denying blacks the right to vote***, saying that the 13th amendment freeing the slaves did not mean they had the right to vote. ***Many Southern Confederate officers were then reelected to Congress and arrived to take their seats.***

So Congress passed the 14th amendment, but most Sothern states refused to ratify it.

***The 14th Amendment*** - provided full citizenship and rights to the recently freed slaves

* **all freedmen are citizens**
	+ have **equal rights**
	+ **cannot be deprived of life, liberty, or property** without due process of law
	+ must be **equally protected by laws**
* **if a state does not comply - their representation Congress will be cut**

***All persons born or naturalized in the United States . . . 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***.

 **. . . .**  when the ***right to vote*** at any election . . . is ***denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age,*** and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, ***the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens*** twenty-one years of age in such State.

***Radical Republicans*** in Congress were upset with all of this and ***refusal to pass the 14th amendment was the last straw.*** Being the majority, they ***took Reconstruction into their own hands***.

They did three key things.

* They refused **to accept the newly elected Southern legislators**, saying that the Constitution gave it the right to decide on rules for its own membership.
* **Established military rule in the South**
* Passes the **14th amendment** and later the **15th amendment**

Congress the established ***military rule*** in the south.

* state boundaries in the South were ignored
* the **South was divided into 5 military districts**
* **Military generals in were in charge** of these districts
* **New elections** were held which **allowed the vote to black males** - caused
	+ **Black men to be elected to public office** in both the state and national governments
	+ **election of Ulysses S. Grant as president**

***The 15th amendment*** -  national and state governments **cannot deny a citizen the**[**right to vote**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suffrage) , **based on "**[**race**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_%28human_classification%29)**,**[**color**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colored)**, or previous condition of servitude*"***

The ***Ku Klux Klan*** (the Kan, the KKK), which had been rising in power, at this point became very strong!

* the Klan did all the things the Southern governments had done to the black man that were now forbidden by the 13th, 14th and 125th amendments
* sought to restore [white supremacy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_supremacy) by threats, violence, and murder
	+ burning crosses placed in yard
	+ beatings
	+ lynchings - the hanging of a person by a mob
* targeted both black men and any who supported them
* worked in secret
	+ Klansmen wore cloaks and hoods to hide their identity
	+ attacked at night

**Reconstruction ended due to a deal made to settle a disputed presidential election**

* Grant a terrible president - gave jobs to family and friends - unqualified, accepted bribed
* Presidential Election of 1876 - no clear winner of 50% majority, so the choice fell to Congress
* Deal with cut - Republicans get the presidency if military rule of South over

**With no troops, freedmen in the South were without any protection.**