

Unit 4- Reconstruction Document Based Socratic Seminar

Essential Question: Did Reconstruction successfully solve the problems caused by slavery and the Civil War?

The period of **Reconstruction** lasted from 1865 to 1877, and involved putting the country back together after the Civil War. The Civil War was fought and won by the North and the United States was preserved; but a number of new problems were created. Four million slaves were suddenly freed, but did not have jobs, an education, places to live, or a guarantee of basic civil rights. Northerners and Southerners, who had just spent five years slaughtering each other by the thousands, bitterly resented one another and were now forced to share the country once again. Many Southern whites had their land or families destroyed during the Civil War, and had to rebuild their lives from scratch. Those who survived still held many of the same racist attitudes and resentments towards blacks, and did not want to include them in society.

Reconstruction (1865 - 1877)

Historical Context

The Civil War may have settled some significant national problems, but it also created many more. Slavery was abolished, the country was reunited, and the supremacy of the federal government was confirmed. However, the cost of the Union victory - lost lives, destroyed property, and sectional bitterness - was staggering and it created huge new problems and tasks.

Perhaps the most challenging task facing our tired nation was the future status of the four million newly freed slaves. After the death of President Lincoln and the failure of President Johnson, Congress, in 1867, took charge of the effort to “reconstruct” our divided nation. A large part of “Congressional Reconstruction” was an effort to establish and to protect the citizenship rights of freedmen. The former Confederacy was divided into five military districts, each governed by a Union general. The southern states, in order to rid themselves of these “military dictatorships”, were required to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment, guaranteeing equal rights for all citizens B including former slaves.

At the same time, large numbers of former Confederate soldiers and supporters were disenfranchised, or denied the right to vote. By 1870, all of the former Confederate states had ratified the Fourteenth Amendment and were readmitted to the Union. In each state, the voting rights of freedmen were protected while voting was denied to many white Southerners. Therefore, with many whites not voting and union troops remaining in the South to protect them, freedmen seemed to be enjoying some level of equal rights and full citizenship. This did not last long.

By 1877, Reconstruction ended and all Southern state governments were restored, and the citizenship rights of freedmen rapidly eroded. African-American voting rates plummeted. Soon these former slaves fell into a “second class” citizenship characterized by a system of state-enforced segregation and discrimination

Document Collection 1: Incorporating Former Slaves into American Society

One of the most difficult challenges the nation faced following the Civil War involved creating jobs and homes for four million former slaves. The answer for many was called sharecropping, or renting out land to freed slaves and allowing them to pay their rent by selling the crops produced on it. Often these small pieces of land did not produce much, or the contracts were extremely biased against blacks, and so many found freedmen found themselves owing money to their former masters---and spending the rest of their lives in poverty to pay it off.

Source 1: Excerpt from *Senate Report 693, 46th Congress, 2nd Session (1880).*

Freed by the Emancipation Proclamation in 1865, former slave Henry Adams testified before the U.S. Senate fifteen years later about the early days of his freedom, describing the process of sharecropping.

The white men read a paper to all of us colored people telling us that we were free and could go where we pleased and work for who we pleased. The man I belonged to told me it was best to stay with him. He said, "The bad white men was mad with the Negroes because they were free and they would kill you all for fun." He said, stay where we are living and we could get protection from our old masters.

I told him I thought that every man, when he was free, could have his rights and protect themselves. He said, "The colored people could never protect themselves among the white people. So you had all better stay with the white people who raised you and make contracts with them to work by the year for one-fifth of all you make. And next year you can get one-third, and the next you maybe work for one-half you make. We have contracts for you all to sign, to work for one-twentieth you make from now until the crop is ended, and then next year you all can make another crop and get more of it."

I told him I would not sign anything. I said, "I might sign to be killed. I believe the white people is trying to fool us." But he said again, "Sign this contract so I can take it to the Yankees and have it recorded." All our colored people signed it but myself and a boy named Samuel Jefferson. All who lived on the place was about sixty, young and old.

On the day after all had signed the contracts, we went to cutting oats. I asked the boss, "Could we get any of the oats?" He said, "No; the oats were made before you were free." After that he told us to get timber to build a sugar-mill to make molasses. We did so. On the 13th day of July 1865 we started to pull fodder. I asked the boss would he make a bargain to give us half of all the fodder we would pull. He said we may pull two or three stacks and then we could have all the other. I told him we wanted half, so if we only pulled two or three stacks we would get half of that. He said, "All right." We got that and part of the corn we made. We made five bales of cotton but we did not get a pound of that. We made two or three hundred gallons of molasses and only got what we could eat. We made about eight-hundred bushel of potatoes; we got a few to eat. We split rails three or four weeks and got not a cent for that.

Source 2: Photo: "Help Wanted: Whites Only" 1873

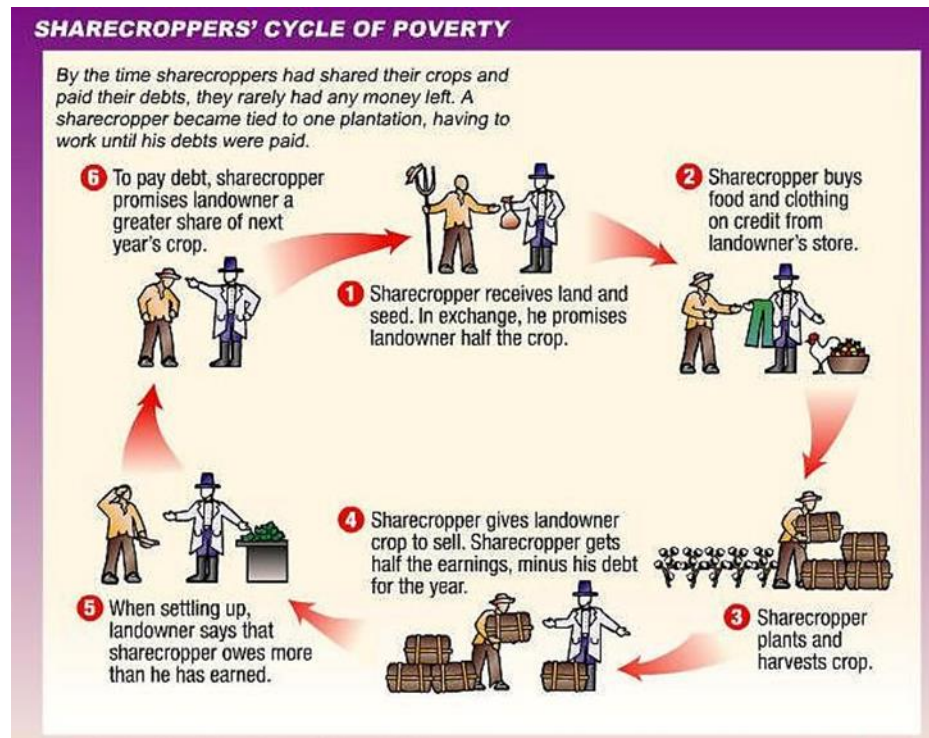


Source 3:

In the years following the Civil War - throughout the South -state, city, and town governments passed laws to restrict the rights of free African-American men and women. These laws were often called "Black Codes." The example below of "Black Codes" comes from laws passed in Opelousas, Louisiana immediately after the Civil War.

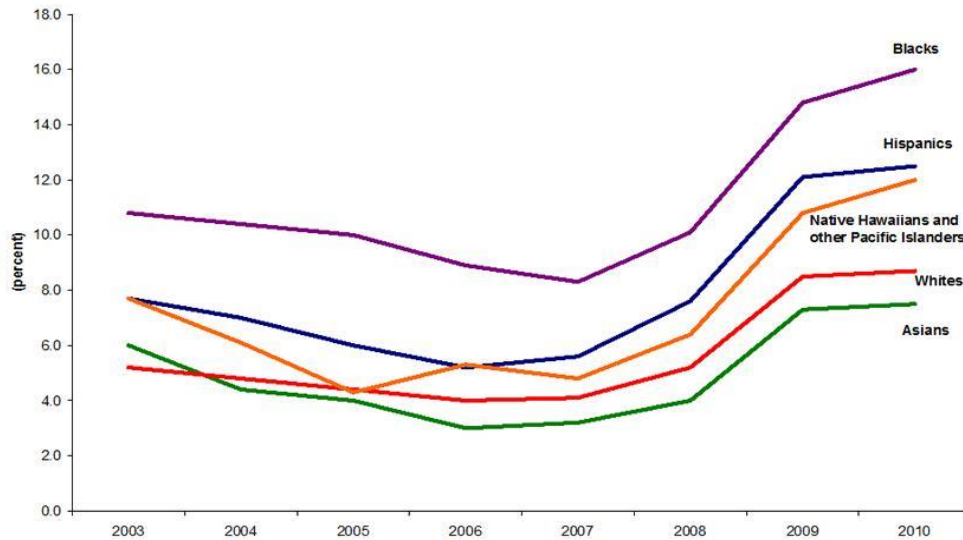
1. "No negro or freedmen shall be allowed to come within the limits of the town of Opelousas without special permission from his employers. Whoever breaks this law will go to jail and work for two days on the public streets, or pay a fine of five dollars."
2. "No negro or freedman shall be permitted to rent or keep a house in town under any circumstances. No negro or freedman shall live within the town who does not work for some white person or former owner."
3. "No public meetings of negroes or freedmen shall be allowed within the town."
4. "No freedman shall be allowed to carry firearms, or any kind of weapons. No freedman shall sell or exchange any article of merchandise within the limits of Opelousas without permission in writing from his employer."
5. "Every negro is to be in the service of (work for) some white person, or former owner."

Source 4: Cycle of Poverty (A Secondary Source—Not Created during Reconstruction)



Source 5: Department of Labor and Statistics, United States Census 2010

The following chart shows the unemployment rates in the United States broken down by race.



Source 6: Department of Housing and Urban Development (2010)

Percent of Families in Poverty and Homelessness (by race)		
Families	Poverty	Homelessness
All	11.3%	one in 403
Black	23.3%	one in 141
White	7.1%	one in 990

Document Collection 2: Protecting the Civil Rights of Former Slaves

In addition to finding jobs and homes, Reconstruction aimed to protect the freedom and civil rights of newly freed slaves. The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution aimed to ensure the equality of all people in the United States.

Source 1: The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments

Amendment 13:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or and place subject to their jurisdiction..... 1865

Amendment 14:

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....1868

Amendment 15:

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous conditions of servitude.....1870

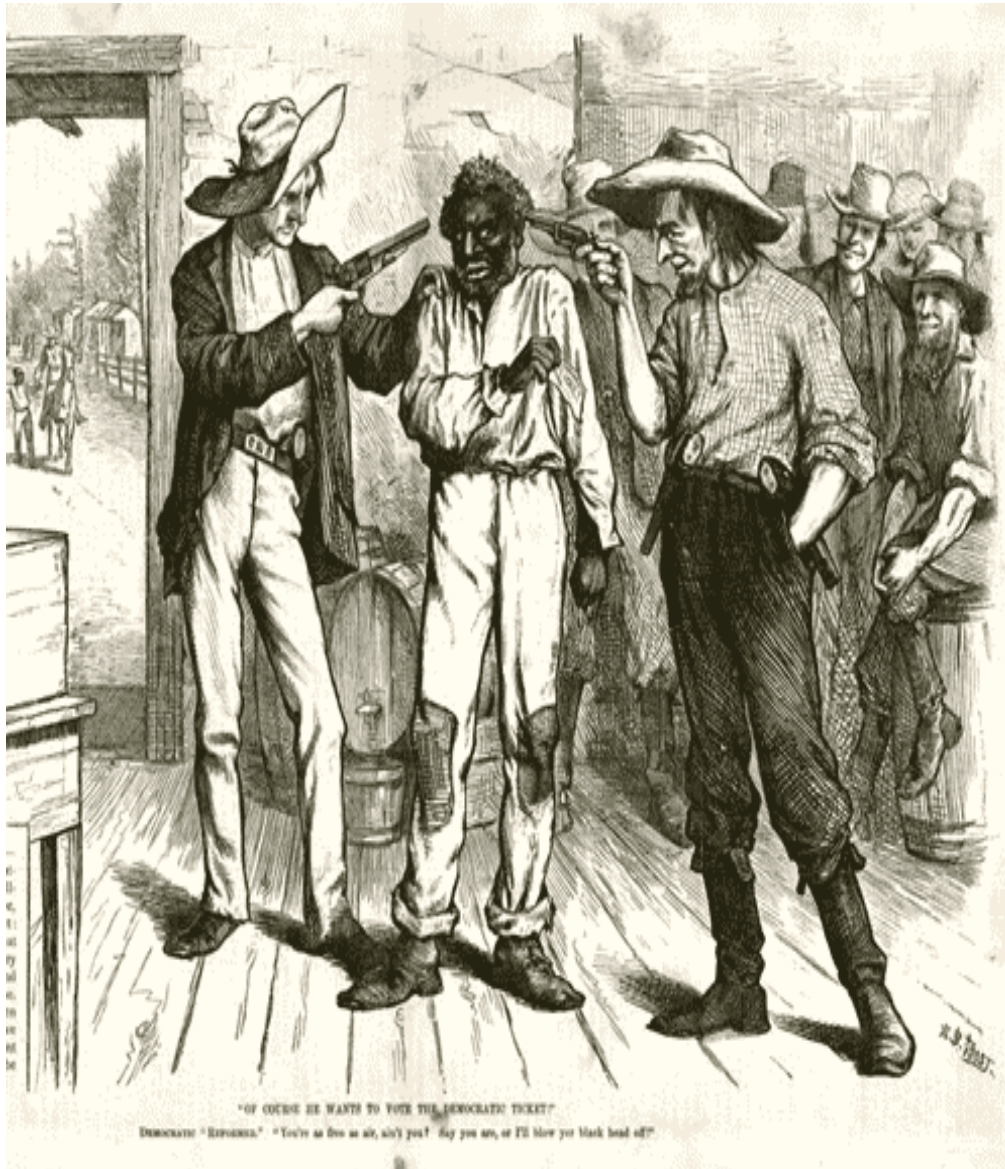
SOURCE: *U. S. Constitution.*

Source 2: March 25, 1871

The following petition was made to the United States Congress on March 25, 1871:

We the colored citizens of Frankfort and vicinity do this day memorialize upon the condition of affairs now existing in this state of Kentucky. We would respectfully state that life, liberty and property are unprotected among the colored race of this state. Organized bands of desperate and lawless men, mainly composed of soldiers of the late Rebel armies, armed, disciplined, and disguised, and bound by oath and secret obligations, have by force, terror, and violence subverted all civil society among the colored people... We believe you are not familiar with... the Ku Klux Klan's riding nightly over the country, going from county to county, and in the towns spreading terror wherever they go by robbing, whipping, ravishing [raping], and killing our people without provocation, compelling colored people to break the ice and bathe in the chilly waters of the Kentucky River... Our people are driven from their homes in great numbers... We would state that we have been law-abiding citizens, pay our tax, and, in many parts of the state, our people have been driven from the polls - refused the right to vote, Many have been slaughtered while attempting to vote; we ask how long is this state of things going to last. We appeal to you... to enact some laws that will protect us and that will enable us to exercise the rights of citizens... the senator from this state denies there being organized bands of desperadoes in this state... we lay before you a number of violent acts occurring during his administration...

Source 3: Harper's Weekly, October 21, 1876.



First white man: *"Of course he wants to vote for the democratic ticket!"*

Second white man: *"You're as free as air, ain't you? Say you are, or I'll blow your black head off!"*

Source 4: Abram Colby, testimony to a joint House and Senate Committee in 1872.

Source: Abram Colby, testimony to a joint House and Senate Committee in 1872.

Note: Colby was a former slave who was elected to the Georgia State legislature during Reconstruction.

Colby: On the 29th of October 1869, [the Klansmen] broke my door open, took me out of bed, took me to the woods and whipped me three hours or more and left me for dead. They said to me, "Do you think you will ever vote another damned Radical ticket?" I said, "If there was an election tomorrow, I would vote the Radical ticket." They set in and whipped me a thousand licks more, with sticks and straps that had buckles on the ends of them.

Question: What is the character of those men who were engaged in whipping you?

Colby: Some are first-class men in our town. One is a lawyer, one a doctor, and some are farmers... They said I had voted for Grant and had carried the Negroes against them. About two days before they whipped me they offered me \$5,000 to go with them and said they would pay me \$2,500 in cash if I would let another man go to the legislature in my place. I told them that I would not do it if they would give me all the county was worth... No man can make a free speech in my county. I do not believe it can be done anywhere in Georgia.

Source 5: "A Bleak Future for the Freedmen"

"A Bleak Future for Freedmen"

The Views of a Former Slave from Tennessee in 1865

Following Tennessee's ratification of the 13th Amendment ending slavery, a former slave in Nashville wrote a letter to the editor of the *Weekly Anglo-African*. The opinions of Samuel Childress were published in the November 29, 1865 edition of the weekly newspaper.

Mr. Editor:

You desire to know our opinions respecting the policy of the President [Andrew Johnson] concerning the colored race. We are not acquainted with the whole of it... To us the prospect seems gloomy. We have no permanent homes, and we see no prospect of getting any.

Most of us are accustomed to farm labor, and whatever skill we possess is chiefly in that direction. Land is dear, and few of us are able to buy it. We can hire out to our former masters, it may be said. It is true that we can do so to a considerate extent; but it is well known that the temper of our former masters had not greatly improved toward us.

Is it the intention of the Government to drive us to our worst enemies to ask for work...? Our race has tilled this land for ages; whatever wealth has been accumulated in the South has been acquired mainly by our labor. The profits of it have gone to increase the pride and wickedness of our old masters, while we have been left in ignorance and degradation.

It cannot be denied that the colored race earned nearly all this property. Justice required that it should be paid over to the colored race who had been robbed of it. But what did they do with it? It has gone back again to the very hands are dripping with the blood of murdered prisoners, and whose cruelties cry to heaven for vengeance.

It would seem that it was regarded as a greater crime to be black than to be a rebel. We think the Government ought in justice to the race to provide for their obtaining farms at such prices, and on such terms as would enable our people in a reasonable time to have a home of their own, on which they might hope to earn a living, and educate their children.

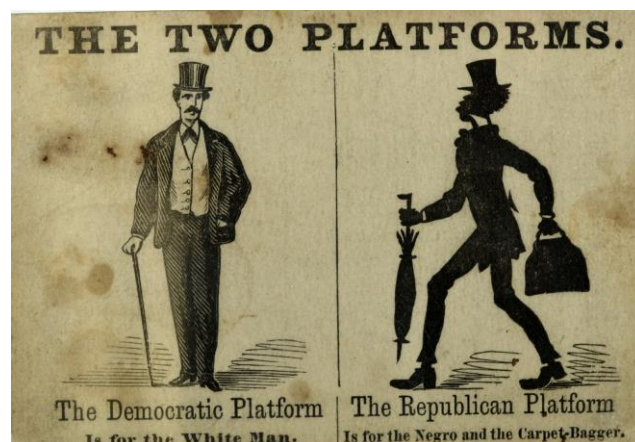
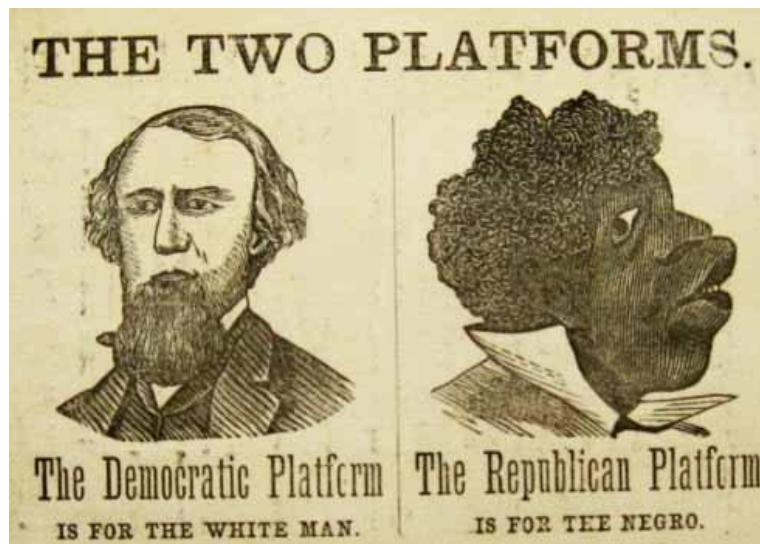
Samuel Childress, 1865

Source: Witness for Freedom, edited by C. Peter Ripley, published in 1993 by University of North Carolina Press

Document Collection 3: Healing the Divisions between North and South

The Civil War created many divisions between the Northern and Southern United States, which included divides along racial and political party lines.

Source 1: Voting Propaganda (1868)



Source 2: Secondary Excerpt from “Americans” textbook regarding divisions between the North and South.

To Punish the South or Not

Many people wanted the South to be punished for trying to leave the Union. Other people, however, wanted to forgive the South and let the healing of the nation begin.

Lincoln's Plan for Reconstruction

Abraham Lincoln wanted to be lenient to the South and make it easy for southern states to rejoin the Union. He said that any southerner who took an oath to the Union would be given a pardon. He also said that if 10% of the voters in a state supported the Union, then a state could be readmitted. Under Lincoln's plan, any state that was readmitted must make slavery illegal as part of their constitution.

President Johnson

President Lincoln was assassinated at the end of the Civil War, however, and never had the chance to implement his Reconstruction plan. When Andrew Johnson became president, he was from the South and wanted to be even more lenient to the Confederate States than Lincoln. Congress, however, disagreed and began to pass harsher laws for the Southern states.

Source 3: Views from a Former Confederate Supporter (1865)

“Our Country is now in a Disturbed Condition”

The Views of a Former Confederate Supporter in 1865

In this letter from 1865, Edwin H. McCaleb, a former supporter of the Confederacy, responds to Lincoln’s death, describes conditions in the post-war South, and expresses distrust towards President Andrew Johnson.

Our country is now in a disturbed condition caused by the fiery ordeal through which we just passed and the total absence of both military or civil laws. Were it not for the law abiding disposition of our people we would be subjected to the augur of lawlessness and outrage. All good citizens deeply deplore the assassination of Pres. Lincoln ... Mr. L – was a great man and more than that was a good man and the country could ill afford to lose his services at this important crisis.... Mr. Johnson has disregarded the requirements of the Constitution & undertakes to enact military governments over the states. And more than this, men are now being tried for their lives before military courts...instead of the civil tribunals [courts] of the land. This is in direct violation of the Constitution as these...were in no way connected with the Army.

By this sudden system of Emancipation, this spasmodic transformation of the ignorant Negro from a peaceful laborer who has been accustomed to have all needs...provided...both in sickness & health to a self reliant citizen will paralyze the productive resources of the South. It can cause a famine in this fertile land. If we could have a system of gradual emancipation our people would universally rejoice & be glad to get rid

of slavery which as ever been a cancer upon the body politic of our social organization....We would gladly substitute white for slave labor but we can never regard the

Negro our equal either intellectually or socially.

The government ought to pursue a magnanimous [generous] merciful & conciliatory [peacemaking] course towards those who have striven to be honorable & who have acknowledged ourselves fairly beaten. Let the northern people arise in the majesty of their power and stay the uplifted hand of official oppression and hatred.

I was only 17 years of age when this war commenced & the last speech I made before leaving college for the army was against secession and advocating the sovereignty of the Federal Government and yet I am not among the proscribed [banned from participation in government] because I held a petty office in the army.

Source: Digital History at http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/documents/documents_p2.cfm?doc=180

Source 4: Albion Tourgee, Letter on Ku Klux Klan Activities. New York Tribune, May 1870.

Note: *Tourgee was a white, Northern soldier who settled in North Carolina after the War. He served as a judge during Reconstruction and wrote this letter to the North Carolina Republican Senator, Joseph Carter Abbott.*

It is my mournful duty to inform you that our friend John W. Stephens, State Senator from Caswell, is dead. He was foully murdered by the Ku-Klux in the Grand Jury room of the Court House on Saturday... He was stabbed five or six times, and then hanged on a hook in the Grand Jury room... Another brave, honest Republican citizen has met his fate at the hands of these fiends...

I have very little doubt that I shall be one of the next victims. My steps have been dogged for months, and only a good opportunity has been wanting to secure to me the fate which Stephens has just met... I say to you plainly that any member of Congress who, especially if from the South, does not support, advocate, and urge immediate, active, and thorough measures to put an end to these outrages... is a coward, a traitor, or a fool.

Document Collection 4: Integration

The issue of integrating freed slaves into American society involved more than just finding homes and jobs for free blacks, it also meant involving them in every aspect of American life. Despite the protection of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, Southern states created hundreds of laws that kept blacks and whites completely segregated from one another, nicknamed the "Jim Crow Laws."

Source 1:

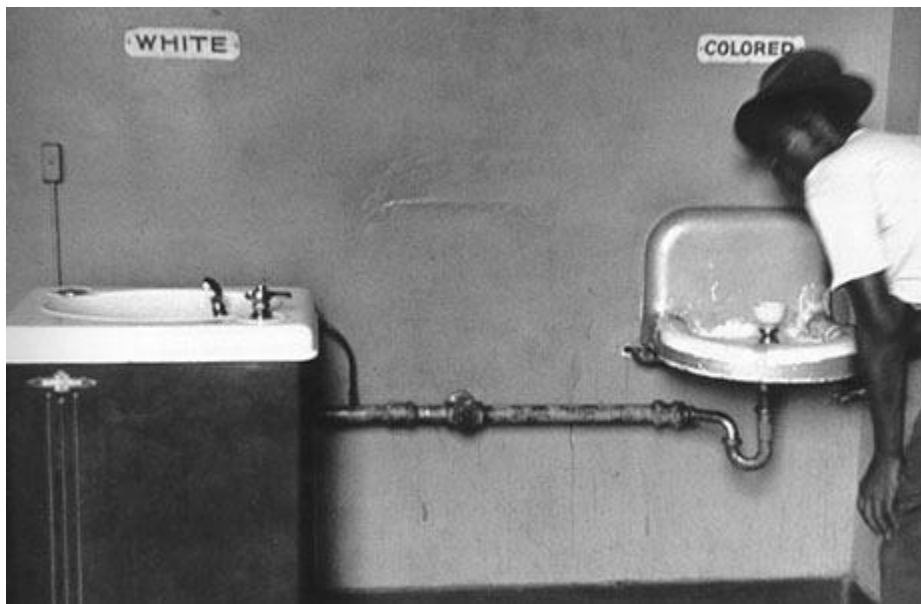
Black codes enforced in Southern states during Reconstruction prevented freed slaves from exercising many rights.

Now that the slaves have become emancipated, it is necessary to pass regulations that preserve public order. These regulations must also preserve the comfort and correct behavior

of the former slaves. Therefore, the following rules have been adopted with the approval of the United States military authorities who have command in this area:

- Every Negro is required to be in the regular service of some white person, or former owner, who shall be held responsible for the conduct of that Negro.
- No public meetings or congregations of Negroes shall be allowed after sunset. Such public meetings may be held during the day with the permission of the local captain in charge of the area.
- No Negro shall be permitted to preach or otherwise speak out to the congregations of colored people without special permission in writing from the government
- No Negro who is not in the military service shall be allowed to carry firearms or any kind of weapons without the special written permission of his employers
- No Negro shall sell, trade, or exchange merchandise within this area without the special written permission of his employer.

Source 2: Images- “Boy Drinking From Colored Water Fountain” Alabama (1933), “No Dogs, Negros, or Mexicans” sign in Texas (1941), & “Waiting room” Atlanta, Georgia (1954)



Source 3: Report of the Board of Education for Freedmen, Department of the Gulf

The Perspective of Teachers at African American Schools in 1864

During and after the Civil War, teachers spread throughout the South in an effort to educate freed black children and adults. There were many difficulties associated with starting education for African Americans, especially before the war ended in 1864.

Instances of privation [hardship] and peril

In a parish, some distance from New Orleans, a building was procured [obtained], an energetic teacher sent, scholars gathered, and the work begun. (The report) came subsequently, as follows: "Arrived. Went about gathering scholars [students], have forty. Did well enough till it rained, since then have walked three miles a day, ankle deep in thick black mud that pulls off my shoes. Nothing to eat but strong pork and sour bread. Insulted for being a '(black) teacher.' Can't buy anything on credit, and have'nt a cent of money. The school shed has no floor, and the rains sweep clean across it, through the places where the windows should be. The Provost Marshal won't help me. Says 'he don't believe in (black) teachers.' The children come rain or shine, plunging through the mud. Pretty picture they are."

Another class of obstacles is indicated by the following extract from the report of a country teacher:

"I have, in vain, attempted to form a night school. I never dared take more than two pupils, because some of the officers are so opposed to the instruction of negroes. One use to let his dogs loose after supper to but the night-scholars, till I told him I would kill them if they bit my pupils. A great many would come to night-school only they are afraid."

In Thibodeaux the school-house has been broken open, on successive nights, for months past, the furniture defaced, the books destroyed. Bricks have been hurled through the windows, greatly risking limb and life, and making general commotion. Complaint after complaint has not afforded relief or protection....

Characteristics of the Pupils

The pupils, as a class, are orderly, industrious, and easily governed. They are exceedingly grateful for any interest and kindness shown to them. Another habitude of these colored children is their care of books and school furniture. The walls and fences about the colored schools are not defaced. From the two most prevailing and disgusting vices of school children, profanity and obscenity [swearing], they are singularly free.

Source: The Report of the Board of Education for Freedmen, Department of the Gulf, for the Year 1864 by the U.S. Army, printed in 1865 in New Orleans, available on Google Books

Source 4: Segregation Today (2003)

From [A Multiracial Society with Segregated Schools: Are We Losing the Dream?](#), a 2003 report from social scientists at Harvard's Civil Rights Project, outlines the nature and scope of contemporary school segregation.

A 2003 report by Harvard's Civil Rights Project outlines the nature and scope of modern school segregation. At the dawn of the 21st century, education for Blacks is more segregated than it was in 1968.

Black students are the most likely racial group to attend what researchers call "apartheid schools," — schools that are virtually all non-white and where poverty, limited resources, social strife and health problems abound. One-sixth of America's black students attend these schools. Whites are the most segregated group in the nation's public schools. Only 14% of white students attend multiracial schools (where three or more racial groups are present). Latino students are the most segregated minority group in U.S. schools. They are segregated by race and poverty; immigrant Latinos also are at risk of experiencing linguistic segregation. Asian American students are the most integrated group in the nation's public schools. Three-fourths of Asian Americans attend multiracial schools.

Racial segregation in schools is strongly linked to segregation by class. Nearly 90% of intensely segregated, black and Latino schools are also schools where at least half of the student body is economically disadvantaged. Residential segregation impacts schools. With the decrease in busing to achieve school integration and the overwhelming return to neighborhood schools, where we live matters.

Today's segregated schools are still unequal. Segregated schools have higher concentrations of poverty, much lower test scores, less experienced teachers and fewer advanced placement courses. Students in integrated schools perform better on tests, possess elevated aspirations for educational and occupational attainment, and lead more integrated lives.

Document Collection 5: Racial Violence

Although African Americans had long been the targets of racial violence, the Reconstruction Era brought new waves of brutality to the North and South. Hate groups like the Ku Klux Klan spread terror across the nation as the government struggled to contain the hate crimes they committed.

Source 1: Atlanta News on September 10, 1874

Southern Resistance

The View of Southerners against the Civil Rights Bill of 1875

Throughout Reconstruction, Southern whites felt threatened by legislation to provide rights for former slaves. The Civil Rights Bill of 1875 was the last rights bill passed by Congress during Reconstruction. It protected all Americans' access to public accommodations, like trains. This document was written in the *Atlanta News* on September 10, 1874 and it urged Southerners to resist the Civil Rights Bill.

Let there be White Leagues formed in every town, village, and hamlet of the South, and let us organize for the great struggle which seems inevitable. If the October elections which are to be held at the North are favorable to radicals, the time will have arrived for us to prepare

for the very worst. The radicalism of the Republican Party must be met by the radicalism of white men. We have no war to make against the United States Government, but against the Republican Party our hate must be unquenchable, our war interminable [endless] and merciless. By brute force they are endeavoring to force us into acquiescence [agreement] to their hideous programme. We have submitted long enough, and it is time to meet brute-force with brute-force. Every Southern State should swarm with White Leagues, and we should stand ready to act the moment Grant signs the civil-rights bill. It will not do to wait till radicalism has fettered us to the car of social equality before we make an effort to resist it. The signing of the bill will be a declaration of war against the southern whites. It is our duty to ourselves, it is our duty to our children, it is our duty to the white race...to take the gage of battle the moment it is thrown down. ...It is time for use to organize. We have been temporizing [waiting to act] long enough. Let northern radicals understand that military supervision of southern elections and the civil-rights bill mean war; that war means bloodshed....

Source: Documentary History of Reconstruction by Walter Fleming (1907) available at http://www.archive.org/stream/documentaryhist02unkngoog/documentaryhist02unkngoog_djvu.txt

Source 2: Records of the Freedmen's Bureau in AL, 1866

Violence towards African Americans

In the years after the Civil War, violence towards former slaves increased. Beatings and murders were committed by organized groups like the Ku Klux Klan, out-of-control mobs, and individual white Southern men. During Reconstruction, white Southerners had limited governmental power, so they used violence to control African Americans. During Reconstruction, the Freedmen's Bureau recorded all of the assaults and murders of African Americans in the South. On the following page is a list of murders committed in Alabama in 1866.

List of Murders in the Dist. of Alabama 1866

1. Freedman killed in Sumter County, January.
2. Freedman killed in Russell County, February.
3. Freedman killed near West Point, March.
4. Freedman killed with an axe in Butler County. Three freedmen killed by two brothers in Shelby County, April.
5. Freedman killed in Montgomery County, April. Freedman & freedwoman killed, thrown into a well in Jefferson
1. Co., April.
6. Freedman killed for refusing to sign a contract, Sumter Co., May. Freedman killed in Butler Co., clubbed, April.
7. Freedman found hung by a grapevine in woods near Tuscaloosa, May.
8. Freed girl beaten to death by two white men near Tuscaloosa, July.
9. Freedman murdered between Danville & Somerville.
10. Freedman shot dead while at his usual work, near Tuscaloosa, Sept.
11. Freedman killed in Pike County, Sept.
12. Negro murdered near Claiborne, Alabama, June.
13. Freedman brought to hospital in Montgomery, shot through the head by unknown parties - died in few hours, Dec.
14. Freedman murdered in Montgomery City, Jan. '67.

District of Alabama, 1866

Jan. 4 - Bob Foreman cut at Union Springs.

Jan. 2 - Alfred killed in Sumter County.

Febry. 14 - Richard killed in Russell County near Columbus, Ga.

March - Freedman killed near West Point.

March - Bradley killed freedwoman with an axe. Montgy.

March - Guard fired on & driven off when attempting to arrest the murderer, Butler Co.

April 3 - Woman taken by three men out of her house in middle of night to swamp & badly whipped - beaten on head with pistol &c.

April - Freedman killed near Saw Mill near Montgomery.

April 27 - Freedman shot by Confed. Soldier wantonly near Livingston, Sumter Co.

May 7 - Moore taken to woods & hung till nearly dead to make him tell who robbed a store, at Tuscaloosa.

May 29 - Colored man killed by Lucian Jones for refusing to sign contract, in upper part of Sumter Co.

May 30 - Mulatto hung by grapevine near roadside between Tuscaloosa & Greensboro.

May 29 - Richard Dick's wife beaten with club by her employer. Richard remonstrated - in the night was taken from his house and whipped nearly to death with a buggy trace by son of the employer & two others.

June 16 - Mr. Alexander, colored preacher, brutally beaten & forced to leave his house at Auburn, Ala.

July - Band armed men came to house of Eliz. Adams, threatened to kill her & her sister if they did not leave the county, abused & beat them. (illegible) Franklin & (illegible) started to report outrage, not heard from afterward.

July 16 - Black girl beaten to death by Washington and Greene McKinney, 18 miles west of Tuscaloosa.

July 23 - White man named Cook murdered a Negro between Danville & Somerville.

Sept. 14 - Black man picking fodder in a field shot dead -- & another who had difficulty with a white man abducted

& supposed to have been murdered near Tuscaloosa.

Sept. 3 - Murderous assault upon returned black Union soldier in Blount Co.

Sept. 12 - Assault & firing upon a freedman in Greenville.

Dec. 18 - R. S. Lee of Butler Co. brutally assaulted a freedwoman of Sumner.

Dec. 18 - Same man assaulted with intent to kill Peter Golston, freedman.

Dec. 18 - Wm. Lee, son of above shot Morris Golston on 10th December.

Dec. 17 - Enoch Hicks & party burned school house in Greenville in Sumner - assaulted Union soldier &c. Judge Bragg & son mercilessly beat wife & daughter of James, freedman & drew pistol on James. Kell Forrest beat wife of colored man George.

14 more entries are listed for this year.

Source: The Freedmen's Bureau Online at

<http://freedmensbureau.com/alabama/alaoutrages.htm>

Source 3: Worse Than Slavery (Thomas Nast, 1874)



Source 4: Albion Tourgee, Letter on Ku Klux Klan Activities. New York Tribune, May 1870.

Note: Tourgee was a white, Northern soldier who settled in North Carolina after the War. He served as a judge during Reconstruction and wrote this letter to the North Carolina Republican Senator, Joseph Carter Abbott.

It is my mournful duty to inform you that our friend John W. Stephens, State Senator from Caswell, is dead. He was foully murdered by the Ku-Klux in the Grand Jury room of the Court House on Saturday... He was stabbed five or six times, and then hanged on a hook in the Grand Jury room... Another brave, honest Republican citizen has met his fate at the hands of these fiends...

I have very little doubt that I shall be one of the next victims. My steps have been dogged for months, and only a good opportunity has been wanting to secure to me the fate which Stephens has just met... I say to you plainly that any member of Congress who, especially if from the South, does not support, advocate, and urge immediate, active, and thorough measures to put an end to these outrages...is a coward, a traitor, or a fool.

Source 5: KKK Official Mission Statement and Goal (2014)

"There is a race war against whites. But our people - my white brothers and sisters - will stay committed to a non-violent resolution. That resolution must consist of solidarity in white communities around the world. The hatred for our children and their future is growing and is being fueled every single day. Stay firm in your convictions. Keep loving your heritage and keep witnessing to others that there is a better way than a war torn, violent, wicked, socialist, new world order. That way is the Christian way - law and order - love of family - love of nation. These are the principles of western Christian civilization. There is a war to destroy these things. Pray that our people see the error of their ways and regain a sense of loyalty. Repent America! Be faithful my fellow believers. "

The Knights Party as the political PARTY of the future and the Last Hope for America. The Knights Party, realizing that to achieve true security for our people we must achieve political power in the United States, will:

A. Become the leader of the White racist movement

- Through a strong organized show of leadership
- Through a concerted effort of all Klansmen and Klanswomen to carefully follow instructions, suggestions, and guidelines as set by headquarters and to continually strive to be THE BEST

B. Strive to become the representative and driving force behind the White Community

- Through an aggressive use of television, radio, and print advertising
- To legally break through the liberal wall that surrounds America's colleges and universities – to reach and instruct students in the reclaiming of their schools.

C. Organize and direct white people to a level of activism necessary to bring about a political victory.

- Through the organizing and maintenance of strong local units.
- Through bold public relations campaigns focusing on two main ideas:
- The White Christian people have been betrayed by our nations political, economic, educational, and religious leaders

We must take back control of OUR U.S. government. We intend to put Klansmen and Klanswomen in office all the way from the local school board to the White House!