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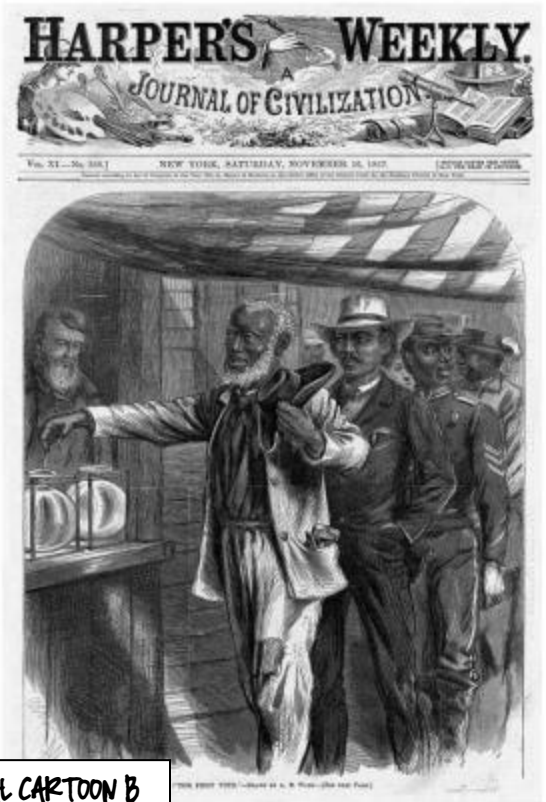
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POLITICAL CHANGE DURING RECONSTRUCTION

With the ratification of the 15th Amendment, African-American men gained the right to vote. During the period of Radical Reconstruction beginning around 1867 and lasting into the mid-1870s, African-Americans exercised their political rights widely. Voting in large numbers, they combined with northern migrants (known as “carpetbaggers”) and white southern Republicans (known as “scalawags”) to form large Republican majorities in many southern states. This process was augmented by the disfranchisement of former confederates. In states with large African-American populations, such as South Carolina, many African-Americans were elected to state and even federal offices. White southern Democrats perpetuated the view that Radical Reconstruction placed the worst elements of southern society in power. They argued that these new government leaders were inexperienced, inept, and corrupt. Current research by historians such as Thomas Holt indicates that, overall, these Republican governments were capable despite their inexperience, and that they were no more corrupt than their Democratic counterparts before and after Radical Reconstruction.



POLITICAL CARTOON A



POLITICAL CARTOON B

After Lincoln's death, a faction called the Radical Republicans came to dominate Congress. They immediately butted heads with President Andrew Johnson over the course of Reconstruction policy. In 1866, Congress passed a civil rights act which guaranteed African-Americans all the rights of citizenship. Johnson, convinced that Congress was moving too fast, vetoed the bill claiming that it discriminated against southern whites and granted special protections to African-Americans. Although Congress overrode the veto, African-Americans continued to face staunch discrimination at the state and local levels. In 1868, the Radicals pushed through the 14th amendment, which, among other things, promised "equal protection of the laws." This measure, if fully implemented, had the potential to radically alter the social structure of the South. Congress passed a second Civil Rights Act in 1875, which sought to discourage economic and social discrimination as well. Despite these major legal achievements, old prejudices died hard. In practice, no law could completely eliminate racist attitudes.

The **Civil Rights Act of 1866** granted citizenship and the same rights enjoyed by white citizens to all male persons in the United States "without distinction of race or color, or previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude."

DOCUMENT A: ANDREW JOHNSON'S VETO OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT, MARCH 27, 1866

"The bill in effect proposes a discrimination against large numbers of intelligent, worthy, and patriotic foreigners, and in favor of the Negro, to whom, after long years of bondage, the avenues to freedom and intelligence have just now been suddenly opened. He must, of necessity, from his previous unfortunate condition of servitude, be less informed as to the nature and character of our institutions..."

DOCUMENT B: 14TH AMENDMENT, SECTION 1, U.S. CONSTITUTION (1868)

"... 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..."

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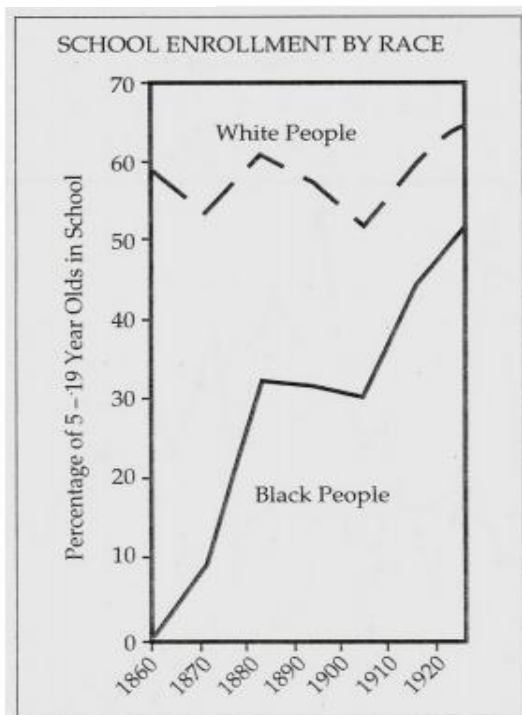
ASSISTING FREEDMEN, PART I

Most slaves were emancipated in a very piecemeal way. Even after the emancipation proclamation took effect in 1863, in practice, it only applied to slaves in areas under Union occupation. From the beginning, the Union lacked a coherent plan for helping former slaves transition to freedom. As the Civil War ended, Congress passed and the states ratified the 13th amendment, formally abolishing slavery throughout the entire country. Union efforts to assist freedmen evolved overtime, culminating in the creation of the Freedmen's Bureau, which officially functioned between 1866 and 1869. The Freedmen's Bureau was supposed to assist slaves by helping them find work, negotiate contracts, and gain an education. It also served as a legal advocate and provided some protection from resentful southern whites. Historian W.E.B. Du Bois argues that the Bureau was more successful in establishing black schools than it was at achieving land redistribution.

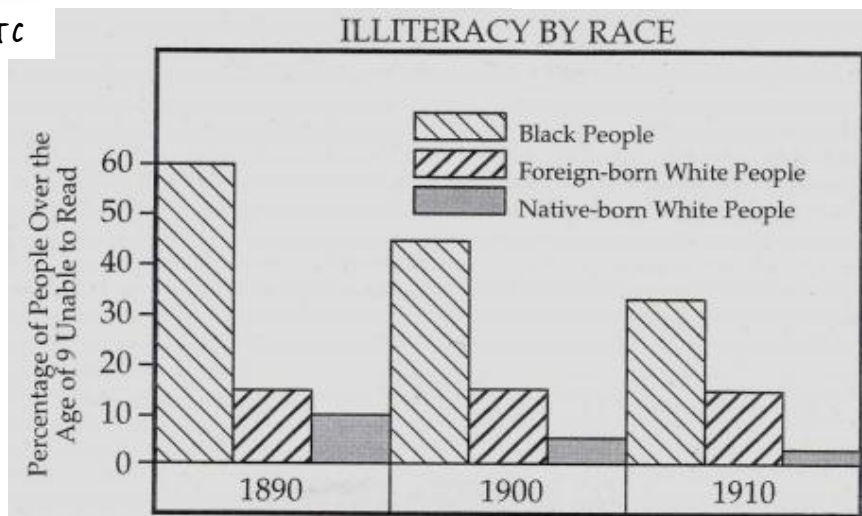
DOCUMENT A: MARY S. BATTEY, SCHOOLTEACHER, ANDERSONVILLE, GEORGIA, 1866

"Our school begun- in spite of threatenings from the whites and the consequent fear of the blacks- with twenty-seven pupils, four only of whom could read, even the simplest words. At the end of six weeks, we have enrolled eighty-five names, with but fifteen able to read. In seven years teachings at the North, I have not seen a parallel to their appetite for learning, and their active progress. Whether this zeal will abate with time, is yet a question. I have fear that it may. Meanwhile it is well to 'work while the day lasts.' Their spirit now may be estimated somewhat when I tell you that three walk a distance of four miles, each morning, to return after the five-hours session. Several come three miles, and quite a number from two and two-and-a-half miles..."

DOCUMENT B



DOCUMENT C



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HAPPY'S WEEKLY.

July 25, 1898.

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.—Drawn by A. R. WOOD.—[See Page 307.]

[illegible]

For 1866, THE SHARE of the Tax-payers of
YMER is OPPOSED to it.

DOCUMENT B

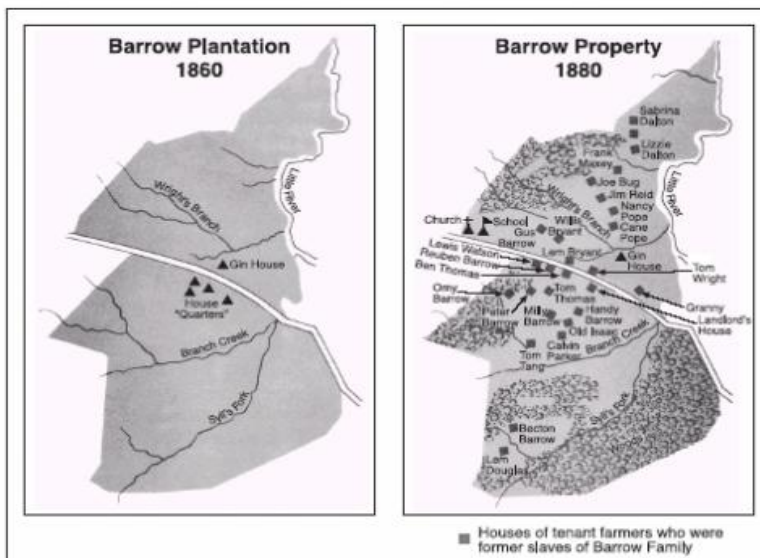
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ECONOMIC CHANGES DURING RECONSTRUCTION

The Civil War caused tremendous damage to the South. During Reconstruction, the federal government, and private northern investors (sometimes known derogatively by southerners as “**carpetbaggers**”) pumped a large amount of capital into the southern economy. This money was used to begin to develop a more diversified economic base. By the 1870s, many in the North began to talk about the “**New South**,” which referred to the development of some manufacturing and even heavy industry in the South. Despite these dramatic changes, much of the southern economy remained agrarian. During the Civil War, rumors circulated saying that the federal government would be granting freed slaves “**forty acres and a mule**,” upon emancipation. While some Radical Republicans did, indeed, discuss land redistribution, this did not become a reality. Slaves were generally freed with only the clothes on their backs. The war created a peculiar set of circumstances, as former slave-holders were left with land, but, without enough money to hire laborers to work it. At the same time, freedmen could provide labor, but had no land, tools, seeds, or other supplies. Consequently, it was common for former slaves and poor whites to work out **sharecropping** or **tenant farming** agreements with landowners (and sometimes even their former masters). According to these agreements, a farmer would work the land for the year, and the landowner would advance him supplies. At the end of the year, the farmer would have to give the owner a portion of the crop he had raised (usually 2/3). In practice, these new arrangements often led sharecroppers deeper and deeper into debt. In cases they tied freedmen to the land nearly as effectively as slavery had.

“When we come to the New Industrial South the change is so marvelous, and so vast and various that I hardly know where to begin...Instead of a South devoted to agriculture and politics, we find a South wide-awake to business, excited and even amazed at the development of its own amount of resources in metals, marbles, coal, timber, fertilizers, eagerly laying lines of communication, rapidly opening mines, building furnaces, foundries, and all sorts of shops for utilizing native riches. It is like the discovery of a new world.

-Charles Dudley Warner, "The South Revisited," Harper's New Monthly Magazine (March 1887)



Sources: *Scribner's Monthly*, "A Georgia Plantation," April 1881 and Graebner and Richards, *The American Record*, McGraw Hill, 2001 (adapted)



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BLACK CODES, POST CIVIL WAR

Under the lenient Reconstruction policies of President Andrew Johnson, white southerners reestablished civil authority in the former Confederate states in 1865 and 1866. They enacted a series of restrictive laws known as "black codes," which were designed to restrict freed blacks' activity and ensure their availability as a labor force now that slavery had been abolished.

Common Elements of Black Codes:

- Race was defined by blood; the presence of any amount of black blood made one black.
- Employment was required of all freedmen; violators faced vagrancy charges.
- Freedmen could not assemble without the presence of a white person.
- Freedmen were assumed to be agricultural workers and their duties and hours were tightly regulated.
- Freedmen were not to be taught to read or write.
- Public facilities were segregated.
- Violators of these laws were subject to being whipped or branded.

EXAMPLES OF BLACK CODES

1. "Servants shall not be absent from the premises without the permission of the master" (South Carolina)
2. Prohibited whites from marrying any Negro or any descendant of any Negro to the third generation inclusive. Penalty: Felony, punishable by imprisonment in the state penitentiary up to five years. (Kentucky)
3. White and black children shall be taught in **separate** public schools, "but there shall be no discrimination made in favor of, or to the prejudice of, either race." (North Carolina)

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THE RISE OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

Founded in 1866 by veterans of the Confederate Army, the Ku Klux Klan's main purpose was to resist Reconstruction. It focused as much on intimidating "carpetbaggers" (migrants from the North) and "scalawags" (white southern Republicans) as on putting down the freed slaves. The KKK quickly adopted violent methods. A rapid reaction set in, with the Klan's leadership disowning violence and Southern elites seeing the Klan as an excuse for federal troops to continue their activities in the South. The organization was in decline from 1868 to 1870 and was destroyed in the early 1870s by President Ulysses S. Grant's vigorous action under the Civil Rights Act of 1871 (also known as the Ku Klux Klan Act). A "Second" KKK emerged in the early twentieth-century. While it continued to harass southern African-Americans, it also targeted immigrants (especially Catholics and Jews).

DOCUMENT A: LEON F. LITWACK, BEEN IN THE STORM TOO LONG, 1979

Corrie Calhoun says that where she lives, about thirty miles from here, over in Carolina, the men have a recipe for putting troublesome Negroes out of the way that the Yankees can't get the key to. No two go out together, no one lets another know what he is going to do, and so, when mischievous Negroes are found dead in the woods, nobody knows who killed them.

DOCUMENT B: THOMAS NAST, "THE UNION AS IT WAS," HARPER'S WEEKLY 1874

