

Major Themes of Reconstruction

American History
American History Honors
(general overview)

What to do with freedom?

- Freedman’s Bureau
- Former slaves try to re-unite with family members
- Should former slaves be put to work?
- Military Occupation in the South:
 - How to keep social order?
- During Reconstruction / by the end:
 - Sharecropping / Tenant Farming

How to re-build the South?

- Whose going to pay for this?
- How will this be run?

Key Political Questions (groups)

- How do we bring the South back into the Union?
- How do we re-build the South?
- How do we integrate and protect newly emancipated black freedmen?
- Who should control this?
- How to deal with violence?
- Exit Strategy: When and How does Reconstruction end?

Timeline

- Lincoln’s 10% Plan
- 1865 Assassination
- Election of 1866 / Black Codes
- Johnson’s Plan (50%?)
- Congress returns! Takes over
- Civil Rights Act of 1866
- Military Reconstruction Act of 1867

Military Reconstruction

The map illustrates the five military districts established during Reconstruction. A legend indicates:

- 1870: Date of readmission to the Union
- 1871: Date of defeat of radical Reconstruction government
- Military district boundary
- Confederate states

 The map shows the following dates for readmission:

- TEXAS: 1870
- INDIAN TERRITORY: 1868
- ARK. (Arkansas): 1868
- LA. (Louisiana): 1868
- MISS. (Mississippi): 1870
- ALA. (Alabama): 1868
- GA. (Georgia): 1870
- FLA. (Florida): 1868
- W. VA. (West Virginia): 1863
- MO. (Missouri): 1868
- ILL. (Illinois): 1869
- IND. (Indiana): 1869
- OHIO: 1869
- KY. (Kentucky): 1869
- TENN. (Tennessee): 1869
- VA. (Virginia): 1869
- PENN. (Pennsylvania): 1869
- MD. (Maryland): 1869
- DELA. (Delaware): 1869
- N.C. (North Carolina): 1870
- S.C. (South Carolina): 1870

 The map also shows the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Mexico. A scale bar indicates 0 to 200 miles and 0 to 200 kilometers.

Timeline (continued)

- 14th Amendment (will be enforced/required)
- New State Constitutions
- Social Order turned upside down / Black voters and elected officials
- Johnson's problems / Impeachment
- Election of 1868 – U.S. Grant
- 15th Amendment

Timeline (continued)

- Deal with violence in the South:
 - Force Acts 1870-1871
- Scandals in the Grant Administration
- Wins re-election 1872
- Reconstruction begins to fade!
- Election of 1876 / Compromise of 1877

Legacies of Reconstruction

- Failure, government corruption
- Take over by “white redeemers”
- End result: Segregation and Discrimination
 - Civil Rights unraveled by Supreme Court 1883
 - Jim Crow Laws in the South
- Some change:
 - 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments