

Reconstruction Flashcards

Presidential Reconstruction

The period of Reconstruction under Andrew Johnson, which focused on a lenient approach to ex-Confederates and Southern states.
1865-1867

Congressional Reconstruction

The period of Reconstruction under the U.S. Congress which passed strict requirements for the South and placed Southern states under military rule.
1867-1873

Redeemer Reconstruction

The period of Reconstruction during which time the ex-Confederates returned to power and worked to undo the policies put in place under Congress.
1873 - 1876

Suffrage

The right to vote in political elections.

Reconstruction Flashcards

To Enfranchise

To grant a person or group of people the right to vote.

Sharecropper

A farmer who rented land and equipment from landowners, paying with a portion of the crops they grew often keeping them in cycles of debt.

Amendment

An addition to the Constitution meant to update or improve the document.

13th Amendment

An addition to the U.S. Constitution which abolished slavery or forced servitude except as a punishment for a duly convicted crime.

Reconstruction Flashcards

14th Amendment

An addition to the U.S. Constitution which granted citizenship to all people born in the United States, therefore making the formerly enslaved people U.S. citizens.

15th Amendment

An addition to the U.S. Constitution which extended the right to vote to Black men.

Ratify

To officially approve and accept a government document or law.

Martial Law

A government under military rule, rather than rule by elected citizens.

Reconstruction Flashcards

Emancipation

The act of freeing someone from bondage (slavery).

Abraham Lincoln

The president of the United States during the Civil War, who was reelected for a second term that he was unable to serve because he was assassinated at the end of the war.

Andrew Johnson

The president during the first 4 years of Reconstruction, although he was impeached by Congress. He was not convicted, so he remained in office, though he held little power.

Richard Coke

The last governor elected during Reconstruction. He was elected by the Redeemers to undo the policies put in place under Congressional Reconstruction.

Reconstruction Flashcards

Black Codes

A series of laws passed in Southern states, including Texas, to restrict the actions and rights of Black Southerners.

To Impeach

To vote to remove an elected official from office. For the elected official to be removed from office, he or she must not only be impeached, but also convicted.

Vagrancy Laws

Laws passed by the Texas legislature to control the labor and actions of Black Texans, including implementing punishments for homelessness.

Freedmen's Bureau

A federal organization established to provide services to Black Southerners, including education, medical care, and legal assistance.

Reconstruction Flashcards

Ku Klux Klan

A terrorist organization formed in the South that used threats and violence against Black Southerners and their allies to prevent them from exercising their rights.

Pardon

Official forgiveness granted by the president to people who have committed crimes. President Johnson issued these to ex-Confederates after the Civil War.

Reconstruction Acts

A series of laws passed by the U.S. Congress that required Southern states to rewrite their constitutions, end Black Codes, pass the 13th and 14th Amendments, and submit to martial law.

Centralized Government

Government where most of the power rests with the people at the top – for example, with the governor of a state.

Reconstruction Flashcards

Localized Government

Government where most of the power is held by people at lower levels, for example towns and counties.

Abolish

To officially get rid of something. Slavery was officially ended with the Thirteenth Amendment.

Constitution of 1876

The final Reconstruction government of Texas was established with this document, which decentralized the government and returned power to local governments.

Popular Sovereignty

The principle of government which states that the power of a government comes from the people.

Reconstruction Flashcards

Federalism

The principle of government which states that the national government and state governments share power.

Republicanism

The principle of government which states that people elect representatives to serve them in government.

Separation of Powers

The principle of government which created three different branches of the government, each with their own responsibilities.

Checks and Balances

The principle of government which grants each branch of the government the power to limit the powers of the other two branches.

Reconstruction Flashcards

Individual Rights

The principle of government which states that people have rights that cannot be taken away.

Limited Government

The principle of government which states that the government may not become too powerful.

Lawrence “Sul” Ross

A former Texas Ranger who helped establish the Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, helped write the Constitution of 1876, served as state senator and then governor.