Chapter 22
The Ordeal of Reconstruction, 1865–1877

Reconstruction
(1865-1877)

Key Questions
1. How do we
bring the South back into the Union?
2. How do we
rebuild the South after its destruction during the war?
3. How do we integrate and protect newly emancipated black freedmen?
4. What branch of government should control the process of Reconstruction?

April 12, 1865
Gen. Richard Taylor, CSA (Son of President Zachary Taylor)

General Canby met me with much urbanity. We retired to a room, and in a few moments agreed upon a truce… Then, rejoining the throng of officers, introductions and many pleasant civilities passed… A bountiful luncheon was spread, of which we partook, with joyous poppings of champagne-corks… the first agreeable explosive sounds I had heard for years. The air of "Hail Columbia," which the band in attendance struck up, was instantly changed by Canby's order to that of "Dixie;" but I insisted on the first, and expressed a hope that Columbia would be again a happy land, a sentiment by many libations.

Jeff Davis Under Arrest

Funny Story

An Account of a Confederate Surrender

Appomattox Court House
April 12, 1865

General. Today met me with much urbanity. We retired to a room, and in a few moments agreed upon a truce… Then, rejoining the throng of officers, introductions and many pleasant civilities passed… A bountiful luncheon was spread, of which we partook, with joyous poppings of champagne-corks… the first agreeable explosive sounds I had heard for years. The air of "Hail Columbia," which the band in attendance struck up, was instantly changed by Canby's order to that of "Dixie;" but I insisted on the first, and expressed a hope that Columbia would be again a happy land, a sentiment by many libations.
I. The Problems of Peace

- Jefferson Davis:
  - Temporarily clapped into irons during early days of two-year imprisonment
  - He and fellow "conspirators" finally released
  - All rebel leaders pardoned by President Andrew Johnson in 1868
  - Congress removed all remaining civil disabilities some thirty years later

- Congress posthumously restored Davis's citizenship more than a century later.

- Conditions of South:
  - Old South collapsed economically and socially
  - Handsome cities, Charleston and Richmond, now rubble-strewn and weed-choked
  - Economic life creaked to a halt
  - Banks and businesses locked doors, ruined by runaway inflation
  - Factories smokeless, silent, dismantled

- Transportation broken down completely

- Agriculture—economic lifeblood of South—almost completely crippled

- Slave labor system collapsed

- Not until 1870 would cotton production be at pre-war levels

- Princely planter aristocrats humbled by losses

- Investment of more than $2 billion in slaves evaporated with emancipation

Beaten but unbent, many white Southerners remained dangerously defiant:
- Continued to believe their view of secession correct and "lost cause" a just war
- Such attitudes boded ill for prospects of painlessly binding up Republic's wounds

Questions To Consider

1. How did African Americans create a personal and group identity after emancipation?

2. How did the challenge differ for those who were not previously enslaved and those who were not?

3. How is Christianity central to African Americans' search for identity in this period?

4. How does a culturally disenfranchised group create a "usable past" that guards truth yet nourishes the future?
II. Freedmen Define Freedom

What was the precise meaning of “freedom” for blacks:

- Responses to emancipation—
  - Many masters resisted freeing their slaves
  - Some slaves pent-up bitterness burst forth violently
  - Eventually all masters were forced to recognize their slaves’ permanent freedom
  - Some blacks initially responded with suspicion

II. Freedmen Define Freedom (cont.)

- Many took new names and demanded former masters address them as “Mr.” or “Mrs.”
- Whites forced to recognize realities of emancipation
- Thousands took to roads, some to test their freedom
- Other searched for long-lost spouses, parents, and children
- Emancipation strengthened black family
- Many newly freed men and women formalized “slave marriages” for personal and pragmatic reasons, including desire to make their children legal heirs

II. Freedmen Define Freedom (cont.)

- Others left to work in towns where existing black communities provided protection and mutual assistance
- Whole communities moved in search of opportunities—25,000 “Exodusters” went to Kansas
- Church became focus of black communities
- Formed their own churches pastored by their own ministers

II. Freedmen Define Freedom (cont.)

- Black churches grew robustly
- Formed bedrock of black community life
- Gave rise to other benevolent, fraternal, and mutual aid societies
- All these organizations helped blacks protect their newly won freedom
- Emancipation meant education for many blacks:
  - Freedmen raised funds to purchase land, build schoolhouses, and hire teachers—all proof of their independence

II. Freedmen Define Freedom (cont.)

- Southern blacks soon found:
  - Demand outstripped supply of qualified black teachers
  - Accepted aid of Northern white women sent by American Missionary Association to volunteer as teachers
  - Also turned to federal government for help
  - Freed blacks were going to need all the friends—and power—they could muster in Washington
III. The Freedmen’s Bureau

- Freedmen’s Bureau created March 3, 1865:
  - A primitive welfare agency
  - Provided food, clothing, medical care, and education both to freedmen and white refugees
  - Headed by Union General Oliver Howard, who later founded Howard University in Washington, D.C.
  - Bureau achieved its greatest successes in education:
    - Taught 200,000 blacks to read
  - In other areas, bureau’s achievements were meager

III. The Freedmen’s Bureau (cont.)

- Suppose to settle former slaves on forty-acre tracts confiscated from Confederates:
  - Little land made it to former slaves
  - Administrators collaborated with planters in expelling blacks from towns and compelling them into spring labor contracts to work for former masters
  - White Southerners resented bureau as federal interloper that threatened to upset white racial dominance
  - President Johnson repeatedly tried to kill bureau

Freedmen’s Bureau Seen Through Southern Eyes

Plenty to eat and nothing to do.

Freedmen’s Bureau School

Establishment of Historically Black Colleges in the South

IV. Johnson: The Tailor President

- What manner of man was Andrew Johnson?
  - Reached White House from very humble beginnings
  - Born to impoverished parents, orphaned early, never attended school but apprenticed to a tailor at ten
  - Taught himself to read; later his wife taught him to write and do simple arithmetic
  - Became active in Tennessee politics
  - Impassioned champion of poor whites against planter aristocrats

IV. Johnson: The Tailor President (cont.)

- Excelled as a stump speaker
  - Elected to Congress, he attracted favorable attention in North but not South when he refused to secede with Tennessee
  - After Tennessee partially “redeemed” by Union armies, appointed war governor and served courageously in a dangerous job
  - Politics next thrust Johnson into vice presidency
  - Lincoln’s Union party in 1864 needed a person who could attract War Democrats

IV. Johnson: The Tailor President (cont.)

- “Old Andy” a man of unpolished parts:
  - Intelligent, able, touchable
  - Steadfastly devoted to duty and to the people
  - Dogmatic champion of state rights and the Constitution
  - Yet he was also a misfit
  - A Southerner who did not understand North
  - A Tennessean, distrusted by South
  - A Democrat never accepted by Republicans
  - Hot-headed, contentious, stubborn
  - Wrong man in wrong place at wrong time
  - A Reconstruction policy devised by angels might well have failed in his tactless hands
Mary Surratt was the first woman executed by the U.S. government. Note the presence of the Catholic priest in the foreground (Nativism).

-- Walt Whitman

O CAPTAIN! my Captain! our fearful trip is done; The ship has weather’d every rack, the prize we sought is won; The port is near, the bells I hear, While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring: But O heart! heart! heart! O the bleeding drops of red, Where on the deck my Captain lies, Fallen cold and dead.

Andrew Johnson (D-TN)
Seventeenth President of the U.S. 1865-1869
- Tennessee Unionist
- VP on "Union Party" Ticket
- Opposition President
- Jacksonian Democrat vs. Republican Congress
- Sought to continue Presidential Reconstruction
- 1st President to be impeached

Stages of Reconstruction
1. Presidential Reconstruction (1863-1866)
2. Congressional (or Radical) Reconstruction (1867-1877)
3. Redemption (1877-1900) (creation of the "New South")
Presidential Reconstruction

A Tale of Two Reconstructions

Presidential Congressional

(aka, Radical)

With Malice Toward None...

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds... to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

— Abraham Lincoln
Second Inaugural Address
March 4, 1865

President Lincoln’s Plan

• 10% Plan
  • Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction (December 8, 1863)
  • Replace majority rule with “loyal rule” in the South.
  • He didn't consult Congress regarding Reconstruction.
  • Pardon to all but the highest ranking military and civilian Confederate officers.
  • When 10% of the voting population in the 1860 election had taken an oath of loyalty and established a government, it would be recognized.

President Lincoln’s Plan

• 1864 “Lincoln Governments”
  • “loyal assemblies”
  • They were weak and dependent on the Northern army for their survival.

10% Plan

10% of 1860 Voters

1. Oath to the U.S.
2. Accept Emancipation
YOU’RE IN!!!
Louisiana and Arkansas re-admitted

PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION

• Lincoln’s 10% Plan: TN, LA, AR
• Radical Republicans
  • Thaddeus Stevens
  • Charles Sumner
• Wade-Davis Bill (1864)
  • 13th Amendment (1865)
  • Freedmen’s Bureau
  • 14th Amendment (1868)

Wade-Davis Bill (1864)

• Required 50% of the number of 1860 voters to take an “iron clad” oath of allegiance (swearing they had never voluntarily aided the rebellion).
• Required a state constitutional convention before the election of state officials.
• Enacted specific safeguards of freedmen's liberties.

Wade-Davis Bill

(1864)

RADICAL (Anti-Lincoln) REPUBLICANS

• IRONCLAD OATH
  • Never supported CSA
  • 50 Percent Swear
• CSA DEBT REPUDIATION
• CONFEDERATE LEADERS DISENFRANCHISED

Further Reading
Wade-Davis Bill (1864)
- "State Suicide" Theory [MA Senator Charles Sumner]
- "Conquered Provinces" Position [PA Congressman Thaddeus Stevens]

POCKET VETO
"... if any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law."
— U.S. Constitution

POCKET VETO
NOT LAW
Because Congress Adjourned

President Johnson’s Plan (10%+)
- Offered amnesty upon simple oath to all except Confederate civil and military officers and those with property over $20,000 (they could apply directly to Johnson)
- In new constitutions, they must accept minimum conditions regarding slavery, succession and state debts
- Named provisional governors in Confederate states and called them to oversee elections for constitutional conventions

EFFECTS?
1. Disenfranchised certain leading Confederates.
2. Permitted planter aristocrats to return to political power to control state organizations.
3. Republicans were outraged that planter elite were back in power in the South

The Score in 1864

Amnesty Proclamation
- Former Confederates above a certain rank disenfranchised, but could apply for pardon.
- NO TREASON TRIALS

Issues:
- Southern state constitutions
- Pardons (over 13,500)
- Former Confederates elected to state positions and Congress (Georgia)
- 14th Amendment
- Black Codes
- Race riots, Memphis (May 1866), New Orleans (August 1866)

Public Reaction in North?

V. Presidential Reconstruction
- War over Reconstruction:
  - Lincoln believed Southern states never legally withdrew from Union
  - His "10 percent" Reconstruction plan (1863):
    - State could be reconstituted into Union when 10% of its voters in presidential election of 1860 wore allegiance
    - And pledged to abide by emancipation
  - Next step would be formal erection of state government
  - Lincoln would then recognize purified regime
V. Presidential Reconstruction (cont.)

- Lincoln’s plan provoked sharp reaction in Congress where Republicans feared:
  - Restoration of planter aristocracy
  - Possible re-enslavement of blacks
  - Republican rammed through Congress 1864:
    - Wade-Davis Bill:
      - Required 50% of state’s voters take oath of allegiance
      - Demanded stronger safeguards for emancipation than Lincoln’s as price of readmission to Union
    - Lincoln “pocket-vetoed” bill

- Controversy over Wade-Davis revealed:
  - Deep differences between president and Congress
    - Congress insisted seceders left Union and “committed suicide” as republican states
    - Thus forfeited their rights
  - Could be readmitted only as “conquered provinces” on such conditions as Congress should decree

- Majority moderate group:
  - Agreed with Lincoln—seceded states should be restored as simply and swiftly as reasonable
  - Though on Congress’ terms, not president’s

- Minority radical group:
  - Believed South should atone more for its sins
  - Wanted social structure uprooted, planters punished, newly emancipated blacks protected by federal powers

- Andrew Johnson:
  - Agreed with Lincoln—seceded states never left Union
  - Quickly recognized several of Lincoln’s 10% governments

- May 29, 1865 issued his Reconstruction proclamation (see Table 22.1):
  - Disfranchised certain leading Confederates:
    - Including those with taxable property worth more than $20,000
    - Though they might petition him for personal pardons
  - Called for special state conventions to:
    - Repeal ordinances of secession
    - Repudiate all Confederate debts
    - Ratify slave-freeing Thirteenth Amendment
  - States that complied would be swiftly readmitted to Union
  - Johnson granted pardons in abundance
  - Bolstered by political resurrection of planter elite, recently rebellious states moved rapidly to organize governments in 1865
  - As pattern of new governments became clear, Republicans of all stripes grew furious

Growing Northern Alarm!

- Many Southern state constitutions fell short of minimum requirements.
- Johnson granted 13,500 special pardons.
- Revival of southern defiance.

Slavery is Dead?

BLACK CODES
Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That in addition to cases in which freedmen, free Negroes, and mulattoes are now by law competent witnesses, freedmen, free Negroes, or mulattoes shall be competent in civil cases when a party or parties to the suit, either plaintiff or plaintiffs, defendant or defendants, or are the opposing party or parties, plaintiff or plaintiffs, defendant or defendants, and a white person or white persons, is or are the opposing party or parties, plaintiff or plaintiffs, defendant or defendants. They shall also be competent witnesses in all criminal prosecutions where the crime charged is alleged to have been committed by a white person upon or against the person or property of a freedman, free Negro, or mulatto. Provided that in all cases said witnesses shall be examined in open court on the stand, except, however, they may be examined before the grand jury, and shall in all cases be subject to the rules and tests of the common law as to competency and credibility.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted, That every freedman, free Negro, and mulatto shall, on the second Monday of January, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven.

VI. The Baleful Black Codes

• Black Codes:
  - Regulated activities of emancipated blacks:
    - Mississippi, first to pass such laws in November, 1865
    - Varied in severity from state to state
      - Mississippi's the harshest; Georgia's the most lenient
  - Their aims:
    - Ensure stable and subservient labor force
    - Whites wanted to retain tight control they exercised in days of slavery

VI. The Baneful Black Codes (cont.)

• Tried to restore pre-emancipation system of race relations:
  - All codes forbade a black to serve on a jury
  - Some even barred a black from renting or leasing land
  - Blacks could be punished for "idleness" by working on a chain gang
  - Freedmen were blacks allowed to vote
  - Oppressive laws mocked ideal of freedom
  - Imposed burdens on former slaves struggling against mistreatment and poverty

VI. The Baneful Black Codes (cont.)

• Worst features of Black Codes eventually repealed
• Revocation not lift liberated blacks into economic independence:
  - Lacking capital, many former slaves slipped into status of sharecropper, as did many landless whites
  - Sharecroppers fell into morass of virtual peonage
  - Many became slaves to soil and creditors
  - Deposed planter aristocracy resented even this pitiful concession to freedom
• Black Codes made ugly impression on North

Congress Ends Presidential Reconstruction

Why do the Radicals in Congress take control?

- Dec. 1865 - Congress bars Southern Senators and Congressmen elected under Johnson's plan
- Joint Committee on Reconstruction created.
- March 1866 - Congress passes the Freedmen's Bureau renewal bill and the 1866 Civil Rights Act over Johnson's vetoes (1st veto overrides in U.S. history)
- Nov. 1866 - After Johnson made a disastrous tour around the north pushing his plan, voters give Republicans 3-1 majorities in both houses and control of every northern state.
**“Radical” Republicans**

Thaddeus Stevens (PA)  
**HOUSE**

Charles Sumner (MA)  
**SENATE**

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**Conservatism vs. Radicalism**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONSERVATIVE</th>
<th>MODERATE</th>
<th>RADICAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preserves institutions</td>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>Embraces immediate change (enthusiastic)</td>
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</table>

**Reconstruction Acts, 1867-1868**

1. Military Occupation of the South  
2. Immediate Suffrage for African Americans  
3. Forced Ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment

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**Fourteenth Amendment**

*Ratified July 9, 1868*

**Section 1.** 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.

**Section 2.**…when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States…

- 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…

**Section 3.** No one shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, with having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States. But Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

**Section 4.** The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

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**VII. Congressional Reconstruction**

- Congress met in December, 1865:
  - New Southern delegations presented themselves:
    - Many were former Confederate leaders
    - Four former Confederate generals, five colonels, and various members of Richmond cabinet and Congress
    - Worst of all, Alexander Stephens, ex-Vice-President still under indictment for treason; there
    - "Whitewashed rebels," infuriated Republicans in Congress
VII. Congressional Reconstruction (cont.)
- Also during war, Republicans able to pass legislation favorable to North:
  - Morrill Tariff, Pacific Railroad Act, Homestead Act
- On first day of congressional session, Dec. 4, 1865, they shut door on newly elected Southerners
- Realized restored South would be stronger than ever in national politics
- With full counting of blacks because of end of 3/5 clause for representation, rebel states entitled to 12 more votes in Congress
- 12 more electoral votes in presidential elections

VII. Congressional Reconstruction (cont.)
- Republicans had good reason to fear:
  - Southerners might join with Northern Democrats and gain control of Congress and maybe White House
  - Could then perpetuate Black Codes
  - Disrupt economic programs of Republican Party by:
    - Lowering tariffs
    - Rerouting transcontinental railroad
    - Repealing free-farm Homestead Act
    - Even repudiating national debt

VII. Congressional Reconstruction (cont.)
- Johnson deeply disturbed congressional Republicans when he announced on December 6, 1865 that:
  - Rebellious states had satisfied his conditions
  - In his view, Union restored

Congress Breaks with the President
- Congress bars Southern Congressional delegates.
- Joint Committee on Reconstruction created.
- February, 1866 → President vetoed the Freedmen’s Bureau bill.
- March, 1866 → Johnson vetoed the 1866 Civil Rights Act.
- Congress passed both bills over Johnson’s veto → 1st in U. S. history!!

Johnson the Martyr / Samson
If my blood is to be shed because I vindicate the Union and the preservation of this government in its original purity and character, let it be shed; let an altar to the Union be erected, and then, if it is necessary, take me and lay me upon it, and the blood that now warms and animates my existence shall be poured out as a fit libation to the Union.
(February 1866)

VIII. Johnson Clashes with Congress
- Clash exploded in February 1866:
  - President vetoed bill extending life of Freedmen’s Bureau (later repassed)
  - Republicans passed Civil Rights Bill:
    - Conferred on blacks privilege of American citizenship
    - Struck at Black Codes
    - Vetoed by Johnson
    - In April, congressmen steamrollered over his veto — something repeatedly done

VIII. Johnson Clashes with Congress (cont.)
- Lawmakers riveted principles of Civil Rights Bill into Fourteenth Amendment:
  - Approved by Congress and sent to states-1866
  - Ratified-1868
  - Significant amendment, major pillar of constitutional law:
    - Confirmed civil rights, including citizenship but excluding franchise, on freedmen
    - Reduced proportionately representation of a state in Congress and Electoral College if it denied blacks the ballot

VIII. Johnson Clashes with Congress (cont.)
- Disqualified from federal and state office, former Confederates who as federal officeholders had once sworn “to support the Constitution of the United States”
- Guaranteed federal debt, while repudiating Confederate debt (see text of Fourteenth Amendment in Appendix)
- Radical faction disappointed Fourteenth Amendment not grant right to vote:
- All Republicans agreed no state should be readmitted into Union without first ratifying Fourteenth Amendment.
- Johnson advised Southern states to reject it.
- All did but Tennessee.
The 1866 Bi-Election
- A referendum on Radical Reconstruction.
- Johnson made an ill-conceived propaganda tour around the country to push his plan.
- Republicans won a 3-1 majority in both houses and gained control of every northern state.

IX. Swinging 'Round the Circle with Johnson
- Battle between Johnson and Congress:
  - "10 percent" governments passed Black Codes
  - In response, Congress extended Freedmen's Bureau and passed Civil Right Bill
  - Johnson vetoed both measures
  - Would South accept principles enshrined in Fourteenth Amendment?
  - Republicans would settle for nothing less

IX. Swinging 'Round the Circle with Johnson (cont.)
- Crucial congressional elections of 1866—
  - Johnson's famous "swing 'round the circle" (1866) = a comedy of errors
  - Delivered series of "give 'em hell" speeches
  - As vote getter, he was highly successful — for opposition
  - His inept speechmaking heightened cry "stand by Congress" against "Tailor of the Potomac"
  - When votes counted, Republicans had more than a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress

X. Republican Principles and Programs
- Republicans had veto-proof Congress and unlimited control of Reconstruction policy
- Radicals:
  - In Senate, led bycourtly and principled idealist Charles Sumner:
    - labored tirelessly for black freedom and racial equality
  - In House, most powerful was Thaddeus Stevens
    - traitor-defeated runaway slaves in court without fees
    - outspoken on being buried in a black cemetery
    - devoted to blacks; famed rebellious white Southerners
    - leading figure on Joint Committee on Reconstruction

X. Republican Principles and Programs (cont.)
- Radicals opposed rapid restoration of Southern states:
  - wanted to keep them out as long as possible
  - apply federal power to bring about drastic social and economic transformation in South
- Moderate Republicans:
  - involved principles of states' rights and self-government
  - recoiled from full implications of radical program
  - preferred policies that restrained states from abridging citizens' rights
  - rather than policies that directly involved federal government in individual lives

X. Republican Principles and Programs (cont.)
- Policies adopted by Congress showed influence of both groups
- By 1867 both agreed on necessity to enfranchise black votes, even if it took federal troops to do so
- By 1866, bloody race riots in several Southern cities

Radical Plan for Readmission
- Civil authorities in the territories were subject to military supervision.
- Required new state constitutions, including black suffrage and ratification of the 13th and 14th Amendments.
- In March, 1867, Congress passed an act that authorized the military to enroll eligible black veterans and begin the process of constitution making.

Reconstruction Acts of 1867
- Military Reconstruction Act
  - Rebuilt Reconstruction in the 10 Southern states that refused to ratify the 14th Amendment
  - Divided the 10 "unreconstructed states" into 5 military districts
The Radicals proposed dividing the former Confederate states (minus Tennessee) into five military districts.

Reconstruction Acts of 1867

- **Command of the Army Act**
  - The President must issue all Reconstruction orders through the commander of the military.
- **Tenure of Office Act**
  - The President could not remove any officials (esp. Cabinet members) without the Senate’s consent, if the position originally required Senate approval.
  - Designed to protect radical members of Lincoln’s government.
  - A question of the constitutionality of this law.

The Reconstruction Act passed by Congress on March 2, 1867 (see Map 22.1)

- Divided South into five military districts:
  - Each commanded by a Union general
  - Policed by about 20,000 blue-clad soldiers
  - Temporarily disfranchised ten of thousands of former Confederates
- Congress laid stringent condition for readmission:
  - Required to ratify 14th Amendment giving former slaves rights as citizens

Radical Republicans:

- Only true safeguard was to incorporate black suffrage into federal Constitution
- Congress sought to provide constitutional protection for suffrage provisions of Reconstruction Act
- **Fifteenth Amendment**, passed by Congress 1869, ratified by required number of states in 1870 (see Appendix)
- Military Reconstruction of South:
  - Usurped some presidential functions as commander in chief
  - Set up a martial regime of dubious legality

**Ex parte Milligan** (1866) ruled:

- Military tribunals could not try civilians, even during wartime in areas where civil courts were open
- Peacetime military rule seemed contrary to spirit of Constitution, but circumstances were extraordinary

**Table 22-2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Date of Readmission</th>
<th>Date of Ratification</th>
<th>Rights to Negroes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Jan. 29, 1868</td>
<td>May 29, 1868</td>
<td>Suffrage, rights as citizens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Dec. 20, 1861</td>
<td>Oct. 21, 1861</td>
<td>Same as whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>May 25, 1869</td>
<td>Dec. 20, 1868</td>
<td>Same as whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>May 25, 1868</td>
<td>Jan. 27, 1862</td>
<td>Same as whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>Oct. 26, 1866</td>
<td>March 10, 1867</td>
<td>Same as whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>June 23, 1868</td>
<td>June 23, 1868</td>
<td>Same as whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Jan. 29, 1861</td>
<td>Dec. 24, 1867</td>
<td>Same as whites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When federal troops left a state, its government swiftly passed back into hands of white **Redeemers** or “Home Rule” regimes—inevitably Democratic

- In 1877, last federal muskets removed from state politics and “solid” Democratic South congealed
XII. No Women Voters

– Struggle for black freedom and crusade for women’s rights were one and the same to many women
– Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony:
  • During war temporarily shelved their own demands
  • Worked wholeheartedly for cause of black emancipation
  • Woman’s Loyal League gathered 400,000 signatures on petitions asking Congress to pass constitutional amendment prohibiting slavery

XII. No Women Voters (cont.)

– With war over and 13th Amendment passed, feminist leaders believed their time had come
– Reeled with shock when wording of Fourteenth Amendment which defined equal citizenship:
  • Inserted word male into Constitution in referring to a citizen’s right to vote
– Both Stanton and Anthony campaigned against Fourteenth Amendment
  • Despite pleas from Frederick Douglass, who supported woman suffrage, but believed this was “Negro’s hour”

XII. No Women Voters (cont.)

– When 15th Amendment proposed to prohibit denial of vote on basis of “race, color, or previous condition of servitude,” Stanton and Anthony wanted word sex added to list
– Lost this battle, too
– Fifty years would pass before Constitution granted women right to vote

XIII. The Realities of Radical Reconstruction in the South

• Congress, haltingly and belatedly, secured franchise for freedmen:
  – Lincoln and Johnson had proposed to give ballot gradually to blacks who qualified for it through:
    • Education, property ownership, or military service
  – Moderates and many radicals at first hesitated to bestow suffrage on freedman

XIII. The Realities of Radical Reconstruction in the South (cont.)

• Congress, haltingly and belatedly, secured franchise for freedmen:
  – Lincoln and Johnson had proposed to give ballot gradually to blacks who qualified for it through:
    • Education, property ownership, or military service
  – Moderates and many radicals at first hesitated to bestow suffrage on freedman
Tenancy & the Crop Lien System

- Landlord provides tools and seed up to 60% interest to tenant farmer to plant spring crop.
- Farmer also secures food, clothing, and other necessities on credit from merchant until harvest.
- Merchant holds "lien" or mortgage on part of tenant's future crops as repayment of debt.
- Tenant plants crop, harvests in autumn.
- Tenant gives ½ of crop to landlord as payment of rent.
- Tenant gives remainder of crop to merchant in payment of debt.

Sharecropping & the Cycle of Debt

- Poor whites & freedmen have no jobs, homes, or $ to buy land.
- Sharecropper signs contract to work landlord's acreage for part of the crop.
- Landlord keeps track of the $$ that sharecroppers owe for housing and food.
- At harvest, sharecropper owes more to landlord than his share of the crop is worth.
- Sharecropper cannot leave farm as long as he is in debt to landlord.
- Landlord keeps track of the $$ that sharecroppers owe for housing and food.

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Black & White Political Participation

- The Balance of Power in Congress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>White Citizens</th>
<th>Freedmen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>291,000</td>
<td>471,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>362,000</td>
<td>446,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>589,000</td>
<td>405,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>AL</td>
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<td>LA</td>
<td>562,000</td>
<td>366,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA</td>
<td>719,000</td>
<td>533,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>621,000</td>
<td>365,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Black Senate & House Delegates

- Black Senate & House Delegates

- Black Senate & House Delegates

- Blacks in Southern Politics

- Core voters were black veterans.
- Blacks were politically unprepared.
- Blacks could register and vote in states since 1867.
- The 15th Amendment guaranteed federal voting.

- 15th Amendment

- Ratified in 1870.
- 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 condition of servitude.
- The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
- Women's rights groups were furious that they were not granted the vote.
The Failure of Federal Enforcement

- Enforcement Acts of 1870 & 1871 (also known as the KKK Act).
- "The Lost Cause."
- The rise of the "Bourbons."
- Redeemers (prewar Democrats and Union Whigs).

The Civil Rights Act of 1875

- Crime for any individual to deny full & equal use of public conveyances and public places.
- Prohibited discrimination in jury selection.
- Shortcoming → lacked a strong enforcement mechanism.
- No new civil rights act was attempted for 90 years!

XIII. The Realities of Radical Reconstruction in South (cont.)

- 14th Amendment heart of Republican program for Reconstruction:
  - Fell short of guaranteeing right to vote
  - Envisioned for blacks and women—citizenship without voting rights
  - Northern states withheld ballot from their tiny black minorities
  - Southerners argued Republicans were hypocritical in insisting Blacks in South be allowed to vote

XIII. The Realities of Radical Reconstruction in South (cont.)

- Union League:
  - Black men seized initiative to organize politically
  - Freedmen turned league into network of political clubs
  - Mission included building black churches and schools
  - Representing black grievances before local employers and government
  - Recruiting militias to protect black communities from white retaliation
XIII. The Realities of Radical Reconstruction in South (cont.)

• African American women’s roles:
  – Did not obtain right to vote
  – Attended parades and rallies common in black communities
  – Helped assemble mass meetings in new black churches
  – Showed up at constitutional conventions, monitoring proceedings and participating in informal votes outside convention halls

• African American men’s roles:
  – Some elected as delegates to state constitutional conventions:
    • Formed backbone of black political communities
    • At conventions, sat down with whites to hammer out new state constitutions that provided for universal male suffrage
    – Even though no governors or majorities in state senates, black power increased exponentially

XIII. The Realities of Radical Reconstruction in South (cont.)

• Former masters lashed out at freedmen’s white allies with terms Scalawags and carpetbaggers:
  • Scalawags—Southerners, former Unionists and Whigs
  • Carpetbaggers—supposedly sleazy Northerners who packed all their goods into carpetbag suitcases at war’s end and had come to seek personal power and profit
  • Most were Northern businessmen and former Union soldiers who wanted to play role in modernizing “New South”

XIII. The Realities of Radical Reconstruction in South (cont.)

• Radical regimes (legislatures) passed much desirable legislation:
  • Steps toward establishing adequate public schools
  • Streamlined tax systems
  • Launched public works
  • Granted property rights to women
  • Reforms retained by all-white “Redeemer” government that later returned to power

• Despite achievements, corruption rampant:
  • Especially in South Carolina and Louisiana
  • Conscienceless pocket-padders used inexperienced blacks as pawns
  • Wrote “black and white” legislatures purchased:
    • As “stationary supplies,” such “stationery” items, perfumes, suspenders, bonnets, corsets, and champagne
  • Corruption by no means confined to South in postwar years
The “Invisible Empire of the South”

The (First) Ku Klux Klan

1865-1874

Resistance to Reconstruction

The First Ku Klux Klan

Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, CSA

Vigilantism 1865 – 1874

The Second Ku Klux Klan

The Two Klans “Kompared”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>The First Ku Klux Klan</th>
<th>The Second Ku Klux Klan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Prevalence</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>Midwest, South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>Oppose carpetbagger governments</td>
<td>Oppose immigration, Catholicism, black migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods</td>
<td>Intimidation &amp; Violence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Birth of a Nation (1915)

• Highest grossing silent film EVER
• Glamorized the KKK
  – Responsible for rise of Second KKK

From Birth of a Nation

Birth of a Nation (1915)

CLIP ONE

NOTE: The inclusion of this video footage is for educational purposes and is not intended to endorse the views and perspectives contained therein.

VIEW CLIP

XIV. The Ku Klux Klan

– Deeply embittered, some Southern whites resorted to savage measures against “radical” rule
  • Resented successful black legislators
  • Secret organizations mushroomed
  • Most notorious—“Invisible Empire of the South”:
    – Ku Klux Klan, founded in Tennessee in 1866
    – Led fight, lynching, and terror against “upstart” blacks
    – “Upstarts” flogged, mutilated, and murdered
    – Also became refuge for bandits and outlaws
    – Any scoundrel could don a sheet
XIV. The Ku Klux Klan (cont.)

- **Force Acts** (1870-1871) used U.S. troops to stamp out "lash law"
- White resistance:
  - Undermined attempts to empower blacks politically
  - White South flouted 14th and 15th Amendments
- Wholesale disfranchisement of blacks in 1890s:
  - Used intimidation, fraud, and trickery
  - Literacy tests, unfairly administered by whites to advantage illiterate whites
  - Whites used goal of white supremacy to justify such devices

---

**President Johnson's Impeachment**

- Johnson removed Stanton in February, 1868.
- Johnson replaced generals in the field who were more sympathetic to Radical Reconstruction.
- The House impeached him on February 24 before even drawing up the charges by a vote of 126 – 47!

---

**The Senate Trial**

- 11 week trial.
- Johnson acquitted 35 to 19 (one short of required 2/3s vote)

---

**Impeachment**

- Tenure of Office Act of 1867 — Passed over Veto
- Johnson fired Sec. of War — impeached for violating TOA
- 35-19 vote in Senate to remove from office
- How many would it have taken?
XV. Johnson Walks the Impeachment Plank
• Radicals attempted to remove Johnson from office:
  – Initial step—Tenure of Office Act [1867]—
    • Passed over Johnson’s veto
    • Required president get consent of Senate before he could oust an appointee once they had been approved
  – One goal was to freeze into cabinet Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, a holdover from Lincoln’s administration
    – Who secretly served as informer for radicals

XV. Johnson Walks the Impeachment Plank (cont.)
— Johnson abruptly dismissed Stanton, early 1868
— House voted 126 to 47 to impeach Johnson:
  • For “high crimes and misdemeanors” as required by Constitution
  • Charged him with violations of Tenure of Office Act
  • Two additional articles related to Johnson’s verbal assaults on Congress
    – Involved “disgrace, ridicule, hatred, contempt, reproach”

XVI. A Not-Guilty Verdict for Johnson
• Johnson’s trial before Senate:
  – House conducted prosecution:
    • Johnson kept his dignity and maintained discreet silence
  – Sixteen senators argued president was testing constitutionality of Tenure of Office Act by firing Stanton
  – House prosecutors had hard time building compelling case for impeachment
  – May 16, 1868, by a margin of six votes, radicals failed to muster two-thirds majority to remove Johnson
  – Seven moderate Republican senators voted “not guilty”

XVI. A Not-Guilty Verdict for Johnson (cont.)
• Several factors shaped outcome:
  • Fears of creating destabilising precedent
  • Principled opposition to abusing constitutional mechanism of checks and balances
  • Political considerations:
    – Successor would have been radical Republican Benjamin Wade, president pro tempore of Senate
    – Wade disliked by business community for his high tariff, soft-money, pro-labor views
    – Distrusted by moderate Republicans

XVI. A Not-Guilty Verdict for Johnson (cont.)
• Diehard radicals infuriated by failure to remove Johnson
• Nation avoided dangerous precedent that would have gravely weakened one of three branches of federal government
XVII. The Purchase of Alaska

• Johnson’s administration:
  – Though enfeebled at home, achieved its most enduring success in foreign relations
  – Russians wanted to sell Alaska
  – In case of war with Britain, Russia would have lost it to sea-dominant British
  – Alaska had been ruthlessly “furried out” and was a growing economic liability
  – Russians eager to unload “frozen asset”
  – Preferred purchase by U.S.A. because wanted to strengthen U.S.A. as barrier against Britain

• 1867 Secretary of State William Seward, an ardent expansionist, signed treaty with Russia:
  – Transferred Alaska to United States for bargain price of $7.2 million (see Map 22.2)
  – Seward’s enthusiasm not shared by his uninformed countrymen, who called it “Seward’s icebox,” “Frigidia,” and “Walrussian”

XVII. The Purchase of Alaska (cont.)

• Why did United States purchase Alaska?
  • Russia alone among major powers had been friendly to North during recent Civil War
  • America did not want to offend their friend, the tsar
  • Territory had furs, fish, gold, and other natural resources
  • So Congress accepted “Seward’s Polar Bear Garden”

XVIII. The Heritage of Reconstruction

• White Southerners regarded Reconstruction as more grievous wound than the war itself:
  – Left scars that took generations to heal
  – Resented upending of social and racial system
  – Resented political empowerment of blacks and insult of federal intervention in their affairs
  – A wonder, given all the bitterness from war, that Reconstruction not far harsher than it was

• No one knew at war’s end what federal policy toward South should be
• Republicans acted from mixture of idealism and political expediency:
  – Wanted to protect freed slaves
  – Promote fortunes of Republican party
  – In end, efforts backfired badly
• Reconstruction:
  – Confirmed only fleeting benefits on blacks
  – Destroyed Republican Party in South for nearly 100 years

• Moderate Republicans never fully appreciated:
  – Extensive effort needed to make freed slaves completely independent citizens
  – Lengths to which Southern whites would go to preserve system of racial dominance
  – Despite good intentions by Republicans, Old South more resurrected than reconstructed:
    – Spelled continuing woe for generations of southern blacks
The Gilded Age

- The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today is an 1873 novel by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner, satirizing greed and political corruption in post-Civil War America.
- Twain and Warner got the name from Shakespeare's King John (1595): “To gild refined gold, to paint the lily, ...” which is already beautiful and not in need of further adornment, is excessive and wasteful. The characteristics of the age, Twain and Warner wrote about in their novel, are contrasted between an ideal “Golden Age,” and the less worthy “Gilded Age,” as gilding is only a thin layer of gold over baser metal, so the title now takes on a pejorative meaning as to the novel’s time, events, and people.

Gilded Age Politics

The 1868 Republican Ticket

Although not one of Twain’s more well-known works, it has appeared in more than 100 editions since its original publication in 1873. The book is remarkable for two reasons:

- It is the only novel Twain wrote with a collaborator.
- Its title very quickly became synonymous with graft, materialism, and corruption in public life.
I. The “Bloody Shirt” Elects Grant

A good general:
- Populace soured by wrangling of professional politicians in Reconstruction era
- Nation still prevailed that a good general would make a good president
  - Grant most popular northern hero:
    - Hapless greenhorn in political arena
    - His one presidential vote had been cast for Democratic ticket in 1856
    - His cultural background breathtakingly narrow

I. The “Bloody Shirt” Elects Grant (cont.)

Republican “Southern Strategy”

• The Democrats could only denounce military Reconstruction and couldn’t agree on anything else, and thus, were disorganized.

• The Republicans got Grant elected (barely) by “waving the bloody shirt,” or reliving his war victories and reminding voters of the “treasonous” Confederate Democrats during the Civil War.

• His war popularity was responsible for his victory, though his popular vote was only slightly ahead of rival Horatio Seymour. Seymour was the Democratic candidate who didn’t accept a redemption-of-greenbacks-for-maximum-value platform, and thus doomed his party.

• Still, due to the close nature of the election, Republicans could not take future victories for granted.

I. The “Bloody Shirt” Elect Grant (cont.)

- Wealthy eastern delegates demanded federal war bonds be redeemed in gold
- Poorer Midwestern delegates called for redemption in greenbacks (Ohio idea)
- Gold-backers agitated: Democrats hoped to keep more money in circulation and keep interest rates low
- Disputes introduced bitter contest over monetary policy that continued until century’s end
- Midwestern delegates got the platform but not the candidate
- Nominate Horatio Seymour repudiated Ohio idea
I. The “Bloody Shirt” Elects Grant (cont.)

- Grant nominated:
  - Republicans energetically nominated Grant by “waving the bloody shirt”
  - Revived glory memories of Civil War
  - Became for first time a prominent feature of a presidential campaign
- Grant won, with 214 electoral votes to 80 for Seymour
- Grant received 3,013,421 to 2,706,829 popular votes:
  - Most white voters supported Seymour
  - Ballots of three still-unreconstructed southern states (Mississippi, Texas, Virginia) not counted at all

II. The Era of Good Stealings

- Postwar atmosphere stunk of corruption:
  - Some railroad promoters cheated gullible bond buyers
  - Some unethical financiers manipulated stock-market
  - Too many judges and legislators put their power up for hire
- Cynics defined an honest politician as one who, when bought, stayed bought

II. The Era of Good Stealings (cont.)

- Two notorious financial millionaire partners:
  - “Jubilee Jim” Fisk and Jay Gould:
    - Corpulent and unscrupulous Fisk provided the “brass”
    - Undersized and cunning Gould provided the brains
  - Concocted plot in 1869 to corner gold market:
    - Plan would work only if federal Treasury refrained from selling gold
  - Conspirators worked on President Grant directly:
    - And through his brother-in-law, who received $25,000 for complicity
  - For weeks Fisk and Gould bid price of gold skyward, so they could profit from its heightened value:
    - On “Black Friday” (September 24, 1869) bubble broke when Treasury compelled to release gold
    - Price of gold plunged
    - Scores of honest businessmen driven to the wall
  - Congressional inquiry concluded Grant had done nothing crooked, but had acted stupidly

The Role of the Political Boss

- May serve as mayor:
  - Controls city jobs, business licenses
  - Influences courts, municipal agencies
  - Arranges building projects, community services
- Elected by businesses, get voters’ loyalty, extend influence

Immigrants and the Machine

- Many captains, leaders 1st or 2nd generation Americans
- Machines help immigrants with naturalization, jobs, housing

Election Fraud and Graft

- Machines use electoral fraud to win elections
- Graft = illegal use of political influence for personal gain
- Machines take kickbacks, bribes to allow legal, illegal activities
The Tweed Ring in NYC

William Marcy Tweed (notorious head of Tammany Hall's political machine)

[Thomas Nast → crusading cartoonist/reporter]

Corrupt political leader put New York City in debt
- Political boss
  - 1851 elected to city council
  - 1852 served in Congress
- Kept Democratic Party in power in NYC called Tammany Hall
- Formed the Tweed Ring
- Bought votes, encouraged corruption, controlled NYC politics
- Received large fees for interests (*Kickbacks) from the Erie Railroad
- Tweed Ring milked the city with false leases, padded bills, false vouchers, unnecessary repairs and over-priced goods
  - Return of a portion of the money received in a sale or contract often illegal and corrupt in return for special favors.

II. The Era of Good Stealings (cont.)
- Infamous Tweed Ring:
  - Displayed ethics of age:
  - "Boss" Tweed employed bribery, graft, and fraudulent elections to milk metropolis of $200 million:
    - Honest citizens cowed into silence
    - Protesters found tax assessments raised
  - Tweed’s luck finally ran out:
    - New York Times published damning evidence in 1871
    - Refused $5 million bribe not to publish it

Grant Administration Scandals
- Grant presided over an era of unprecedented growth and corruption.
  - Credit Mobilier Scandal
  - Whiskey Ring.
  - The "Indian Ring."

PRESIDENT GRANT'S SCANDALS
Credit Mobilier
- Phony construction company owned by stockholders of Union Pacific Railroad.
- Hired Credit Mobilier to build the transcontinental railroad
- Charged the U.S. government nearly twice the actual cost of the project.
- Bribed Congress to stop the investigation.
- Largest scandal in U.S. history, and led to greater public awareness of government corruption.
PRESIDENT GRANT’S SCANDALS

Whiskey Ring
• A group of President Grant’s officials imported whiskey
• Used their offices to avoid paying taxes
• Cheated US treasury of millions.

Then, in 1875, the public learned that the Whiskey Ring had robbed the Treasury of millions of dollars, and when Grant’s own private secretary was found to be one of the criminals, Grant retracted his earlier statement of “Let no guilty man escape” and promptly pardoned him.

Indian Ring
• William Belknap – Sec. of War.
• Pocketed $24,000 selling junk to Indians
• Became a political issue...Later repealed.

Salary Grab
• Congress gave itself a raise, $5,000 to $7,500 annually.
• Congressmen received a retroactive check for $5,000, plus their raise
• Became a political issue...Later repealed.

III. A Carnival of Corruption

• Misdeeds of federal government leaders:
  - Credit Mobilier scandal (1872):
    - Union Pacific Railroad insiders formed Credit Mobilier construction company.
    - Then listed themselves at inflated prices to build railroad line.
    - Earned dividends as high as 184 percent.
    - Company distributed shares of its valuable stock to key congressmen.
    - Newspaper exposé and congressional investigation led to:
      - Formal censure of two congressmen.
      - Resolution that vice-president accepted payments from Credit Mobilier.
  - Breath of scandal in Washington reeked of alcohol:
    - In 1874-1875, Whiskey Ring robbed Treasury of millions in excise-tax revenue.
    - Grant’s own private secretary among culprits.
    - Grant volunteered a written statement to jury that helped exonerate thief.
  - Bribes:
    - Secretary of War William Belknap (1876) forced to resign after pocketing bribes from suppliers to Indian reservations.
    - Grant accepted his resignation "with great regret."

By 1872, a power wave of disgust at Grant’s administration was building, despite the worst of the scandals not having been revealed yet, and reformers organized the Liberal Republican Party and nominated the dogmatic Horace Greeley.

- The Democratic Party also supported Greeley, even though he had blasted them repeatedly in his newspaper (the New York Tribune), but he pleased them because he called for a clasping of hands between the North and South and an end to Reconstruction.

- The campaign was filled with more mudslinging (as usual), as Greeley was called an atheist, a communist, a vegetarian, and a signer of Jefferson Davis’s bail bond (that part was true) while Grant was called an ignoramus, a drunkard, and a swindler.

- Still, Grant crushed Greeley in the electoral vote and in the popular vote as well.

In 1872, the Republican Congress passed a general amnesty act that removed political disabilities from all but some 500 former Confederate leaders.

The Election of 1872

• Rumors of corruption during Grant’s first term discredit Republicans.
• Horace Greeley runs as a Democrat/Liberal Republican candidate.
• Greeley attacked as a fool and a crook.
• Greeley died on November 29, 1872.

1872 Presidential Election
IV. The Liberal Republican Revolt of 1872

- Liberal Republican party:
  - Slogan “Turn the Rascals Out” urged purification of Washington and end to military Reconstruction
  - Muffled chance when at Cincinnati convention they nominated:
    - Erratic Horace Greeley, editor of New York Tribune
    - He was dogmatic, emotional, petulant, and notoriously unsound in his political judgments

- Democrats:
  - Endorsed Greeley’s candidacy
  - He had blasted them as traitors, slave shippers, saloon keepers, horse thieves, and idiots
  - He pleased them when he pleaded for clasping hands across “the bloody chasm”
  - Republicans dutifully renominated Grant
  - Voters had to choose between two non-politicians, neither of whom truly qualified

Election of 1872:

- Republicans denounced Greeley as atheist, communist, free-lover, vegetarian, and cosigner of Jefferson Davis’ bail bond
- Democrats derided Grant as ignoramus, drunkard, swindler
- Republicans chanting “Grant us another term” pulled president through:
  - Electoral count: 286 for Grant to 66 for Greeley
  - Popular vote: 3,596,745 for Grant; 2,843,446 for Greeley

The Panic of 1873

- It raises “the money question.”
  - Debtors seek inflationary monetary policy by continuing circulation of greenbacks.
  - Creditors, intellectuals support hard money.
- 1875 → Specie Redemption Act.
- 1876 → Greenback Party formed & makes gains in congressional races → The “Crime of ’73!”

V. Depression, Deflation, and Inflation

- Panic of 1873:
  - Grant’s woes deepened in paralyzing economy:
    - Age of unbridled expansion
    - Overbanking, overextension of railroad stock, over-mining, over-reckoning of mines, over-recreational newspapers, over-grain fields than existing markets could bear
    - Banks made too many unsecured and unprofitable loans in efforts to keep up their信誉
    - Profits failed to materialize; loans went unpaid; whole credit-based economy fluttered downward
    - Banks became ‘glour times’ as more than 15,000 businesses went bankrupt
- Black Americans hard hit
  - Freedman’s Saving and Trust Company had made unsecured loans to several companies that went under
  - Black depositors who had entrusted over $7 million to banks lost their savings
- Agrarian and debtor groups—“cheap money” supporters—clamored for reissuance of greenbacks
- Proponents of inflation breathed new life into issue of greenbacks
- Agrarian and debtor groups—“cheap money” supporters—clamored for reissuance of greenbacks

- “Hard-money” advocates carried day:
  - 1874 persuaded Grant to veto bill to print more paper money
  - Scored another victory in Resumption Act 1875:
    - Pledged government to further withdraw greenbacks from circulation and
    - To redemption of all paper currency in gold at face value, beginning in 1879
  - Debtors looked for relief in precious metal silver
V. Depression, Deflation, and Inflation (cont.)

- In 1870s Treasury maintained an ounce of silver worth only 1/16 compared to an ounce of gold
- Silver miners stopped offering silver to federal mints
- Congress dropped coinage of silver dollars (1873)
- With new silver discoveries in late 1870s, production shot up which forced silver prices to drop
- Demand for coinage of more silver was nothing more nor less than another scheme to promote inflation

• Hard-money Republicans resisted scheme and called on Grant to hold line.
• He did not disappoint them:
  - Treasury accumulated gold stocks until day of resumption of metallic-money payments
  - Coupled with reduction of greenbacks, this policy called "contraction."
  - Had noticeable deflationary effect, worsening impact of depression

• New policy restored government’s credit rating
• Brought embattled greenbacks up to full face value
• When Redemption Day came in 1879, few greenback holders bothered to exchange lighter and more convenient bills for gold
• Republican hard-money policy had political backlash:
  - In 1874, helped elect Democratic House of Representatives
  - 1878: spawned Greenback Labor Party, polled over a million votes, elected fourteen members of Congress
• Contest over monetary policy far from over

1. A Two-Party Stalemate

2. Intense Voter Loyalty to the Two Major Political Parties

3. Well-Defined Voting Blocs

4. Very Laissez Faire Federal Govt.

The "Politics of Equilibrium"
The Presidency as a Symbolic Office

- Party bosses ruled.
- Presidents should avoid offending any factions within their own party.
- The President just doled out federal jobs.

- 1865 → 53,000 people worked for the federal govt.
- 1890 → 166,000

VI. Pallid Politics in the Gilded Age

- Gilded Age:
  - Sarcastic name given to three-decade-long post-Civil era by Mark Twain in 1873
  - Every presidential election a squeaker
  - Majority party in House switched six times in seven sessions between 1869 and 1891
  - Few significant economic issues separated major parties yet elections ferociously competitive
  - Nearly 80% of those eligible, voted

VI. Pallid Politics in the Gilded Age (cont.)

- How can paradox of political consensus and partisan fervor be explained?
  - Sharp ethnic and cultural differences in membership of two parties:
    - Distinctions of style and tone, especially religious sentiment
    - Republicans adhered to creeds that traced lineage to Puritanism:
      - Strict codes of personal morality
      - Believed government should play role in regulating both economic and moral affairs of society

VI. Pallid Politics in the Gilded Age (cont.)

- Democrats:
  - Immigrant Lutherans and Roman Catholics figured heavily
  - More likely to adhere to beliefs that took a less stern view of human weakness
  - Religious profession tolerated in an imperfect world
  - Spurned government efforts to impose single moral standard on entire society

- Republicans:
  - Adhered to creeds that traced lineage to Puritanism:
    - Strict codes of personal morality
    - Believed government should play role in regulating both economic and moral affairs of society

VI. Pallid Politics in the Gilded Age (cont.)

- Democrats:
  - Solid electoral base in South
  - In northern industrial cities—with immigrants and well-oiled political machines

- Republicans:
  - Strength largely in Midwest and rural, small-town Northeast
  - Freedmen in South continued to vote Republican in significant numbers

VI. Pallid Politics in the Gilded Age (cont.)

- Members of Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)—politically potent fraternal organization of several hundred thousand Union veterans of Civil War
  - Patronage—lifeblood of both parties:
    - Jobs for votes, kickbacks, party service
    - Boisterous infighting over patronage beset Republican party in 1870s and 1880s
    - Roscoe (“Lord Roscoe”) Conkling—embraced time-honored system of civil service jobs for votes

VI. Pallid Politics in the Gilded Age (cont.)

- Half Breeds wanted some civil-service reform:
  - Champion was James G. Blaine of Maine
  - Two personalities succeeded only in stalemating each other and deadlocking party

The Abandonment of Reconstruction
Northern Support Wanes
- "Grantism" & corruption.
- Panic of 1873 (6-year depression).
- Concern over westward expansion and Indian wars.
- Key monetary issues:
  - should the government retire $432m worth of "greenbacks" issued during the Civil War.
  - should war bonds be paid back in specie or greenbacks.

And They Say He Wants a Third Term

Key issues for 1876:
- "Regional Balance?"
- Compromise of 1877
- "Corrupt Bargain" Part II?

1876 Presidential Tickets

1876 Presidential Election

Compromise of 1877

Disputed Election

Hayes Prevails

Samuel Tilden (D-NY) vs. Rutherford B. Hayes (R-OH)

Alas, the Woes of Childhood...

Sammy Tilden—Boo-Hoo! Ruther Hayes’s got my Presidency, and he won’t give it to me!
VII. The Hayes-Tilden Standoff, 1876 (cont.)

Democrats:
- Nominee was Samuel J. Tilden:
  - Risen to fame by jailing Boss Tweed in New York
  - 145 electoral votes needed
  - Tilden got 184 with twenty disputed votes in four states—three of them in South (see Map 23.1)
  - Tilden polled 4,284,020 to 4,036,572
- Both parties sent “visiting statesmen” to contested Louisiana, South Carolina, Florida.

VII. The Hayes-Tilden Standoff, 1876 (cont.)

Disputed states:
- All sent two sets of returns: one Democratic and one Republican:
- Constitutions merely specified that electoral returns from states be sent to Congress:
- Then in presence of House and Senate, they be opened by president of Senate (see Twelfth Amendment in Appendix).

Who should count them?
- On this point, Constitution silent:
  - If counted by president of Senate (a Republican), Republican returns would be selected
  - If counted by Speaker of House (a Democrat), Democratic returns would be chosen
  - How could impasse be resolved?

VIII. The Compromise of 1877 and the End of Reconstruction

Compromise of 1877:
- Deadlock broken by Election Count Act:
  - Passed by Congress in early 1877
  - Set up electoral commission of fifteen men selected from Senate, House and Supreme Court (see Table 23.1)
  - February 1877, a month before Inauguration Day, Senate and House met to settle dispute

Table 23.1: Composition of the Electoral Commission, 1877

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senate (Republican majority)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House (Democratic majority)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supreme Court</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Political Crisis of 1877

"Corrupt Bargain" Part II?

VIII. The Compromise of 1877 and the End of Reconstruction (cont.)
- Roll of states tolled off alphabetically
- Florida, first of three southern states with two sets of returns—
  - Disputed documents referred to electoral commission, which sat in nearby chamber
  - After prolonged discussion, members:
    - By partisan vote of 8 Republicans to 7 Democrats, voted to accept Republican returns
    - Outraged Democrats in Congress, smelling defeat, undertook to launch filibuster

- Other parts of Compromise of 1877:
  - Democrats agreed Hayes might take office in return for removing U.S. troops from two states in which they remained, Louisiana and South Carolina
  - Republicans assured Democrats a place at presidential patronage trough
  - And supported bill subsidizing Texas and Pacific Railroad's construction of southern transcontinental line

VIII. The Compromise of 1877 and the End of Reconstruction (cont.)
- Deal held together long enough to break dangerous electoral standoff:
  - Democrats permitted Hayes to receive remainder of disputed returns—all by partisan vote of 8 to 7:
    - So explosive, it was settled only three days before new president sworn into office

- Compromise bought peace at a price:
  - Partisan violence averted by sacrificing civil rights of southern blacks
  - With Hayes-Tilden deal, Republican party abandoned commitment to racial equality

- Civil Rights Act of 1875:
  - Last gasp of feeble radical Republicans
  - Supreme Court pronounced much of act unconstitutional in Civil Rights Cases (1883)

The Civil Rights Act of 1875
- Crime for any individual to deny full & equal use of public conveyances and public places.
- Prohibited discrimination in jury selection.
- Shortcoming: lacked a strong enforcement mechanism.
- No new civil rights act was attempted for 90 years!

VIII. The Compromise of 1877 and the End of Reconstruction (cont.)
- Court declared Fourteenth Amendment prohibited only government violation of civil rights, not denial of civil rights by individuals
- When President Hayes withdrew federal troops that were propping up Reconstruction governments, Republican regimes collapsed

"Regional Balance?"
“Redeemer” Governments

Southern White “Bourbon” Democrats re-assert authority

“Solid South”
- Democratic stronghold
  - Republican Party non-existent in Southern politics until the 1960s

Governor Wade Hampton (SC)

Restoration of Southern “Home Rule”
1869-1877

The “Solid South”

Almost 50 Years Later

The “New South”

Jim Crow

Litmus Tests
Poll Tax
Grandfather Clause

Segregation

If this guy could vote...

Grandfather Clause
IX. The Birth of Jim Crow in the Post-Reconstruction South

- Democratic South solidified:
  - Swiftly suppressed new-fangled blacks
  - White Democrats ("Redeemers"), relying on fraud and intimidation, reasserted political power
  - Black who tried to assert rights faced unemployment, eviction, and physical harm
  - Many blacks forced into sharecropping and tenant farming
  - "Crop- lien" system where storekeepers extended credit to small farmers for food and supplies, in return for lien on harvest

- Farmers remained perpetually in debt
- Southern blacks condemned to threadbare living under conditions scarcely better than slavery (see May 23.2)
- Blacks forced into systematic state-level legal codes of segregation known as Jim Crow laws
- Southern states enacted literacy requirements, voter-registration laws, and poll taxes

IX. The Birth of Jim Crow in the Post-Reconstruction South (cont.)

- Tolerated violent intimidation of black voters
- Supreme Court:
  - Validated South’s segregationist social order in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896):
    - Ruled "separate but equal" facilities constitutional under "equal protection" clause of Fourteenth Amendment
    - Segregated in inferior schools and separated from whites in virtually all public facilities including railroad cars, theaters, and restrooms

- Southern whites dealt harshly with any black who dared to violate South’s racial code of conduct
- Record number of blacks lynched in 1890s:
  - Most often for "crimes" of asserting themselves as equals (see Table 23.2)
  - Would take a second Reconstruction, nearly a century later, to redress racist imbalance of southern society

X. Class Conflicts and Ethnic Clashes

- Scenes of class struggle:
  - Railroad workers faced particularly hard times:
    - Even though railroads continue to make huge profits
    - Workers struck when wages were going to cut by 10%
    - President Hayes sent in federal troops to quell unrest by striking laborers
    - Failure of railroad strike exposed weakness of labor movement
X. Class Conflicts and Ethnic Clashes (cont.)

- Federal courts, U.S. Army, state militias, local police helped keep business operating at full speed.
  - Racial and ethnic issues fractured labor unity:
    - Divisions esp. marked between Irish & Chinese in California:
      - Chinese came originally to dig in goldfields and to sledgehammer tracks of transcontinental railroads
      - When gold petered out and tracks laid, many returned home to China with meager savings.
      - Those who remained faced extraordinary hardships:
        - Menial jobs: cooks, laundrymen, domestic servants
        - Without women or families, deprived of means to assimilate
        - In San Francisco, Denis Kearney incited followers to violent abuse of hapless Chinese
      - Chinese Exclusion Act (1882):
        - Prohibiting nearly all further immigration from China
        - Door stayed shut until 1943

Native-born Chinese:
- Supreme Court in U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark (1898) stated Fourteenth Amendment guaranteed citizenship to all persons born in United States
- Doctrine of "birthright citizenship" as contrasted with "right of blood-tie" (citizenship based on parents' nationality) provided protection to Chinese Americans as well as other immigrants.

XI. Garfield and Arthur

- Presidential campaign of 1880:
  - Hayes a man without a party
    - Hayes from electorally powerful state of Ohio
  - Vice-presidential running mate a notorious Stalwart henchman, Chester Arthur of New York
- Democratic candidate Civil War hero Winfield Scott Hancock
- Stalwart candidate from powerful state of Ohio
- Civil War hero, Winfield Scott Hancock.
XI. Garfield and Arthur (cont.)

- Statistics:
  - Garfield polled only 39,213 more votes than Hancock—4,453,295 to 4,414,082
  - Margin in electoral votes a comfortable 214 to 155
  - Disappointed and deranged office seeker, Charles Guiteau, shot President Garfield at Washington railroad station

- Garfield lingered in agony for 11 weeks
- Died on September 19, 1881:
  - Guiteau found guilty of murder and hanged
  - Garfield’s murder had one positive outcome:
    - Disgusted politicians into reforming shameful spoils system
    - Unlikely instrument of reform was Chester Arthur

- Pendleton Act (1883):
  - Magna Carta of civil-service reform
  - Made compulsory campaign contributions from federal employees illegal

- Pendleton Act:
  - Partially divorced politics from patronage
  - Helped drive politicians into “marriages of convenience” with big-business (see Figures 23.1)
  - President Arthur’s display of integrity offended too many powerful Republicans
  - His party turned him out to pasture
  - In 1886, he died of cerebral hemorrhage

---

XI. Chester and Arthur (cont.)

- 1880 Presidential Election: Republicans
  - Half Breeds
  - Sen. James G. Blaine (Maine)
  - Sen. Roscoe Conkling (New York)
- 1880 Presidential Election: Democrats
  - Compromise
  - James A. Garfield
  - Chester A. Arthur (VP)

---

XI. Chester and Arthur (cont.)

- 1880 Presidential Election: Democrats
  - Compromise
  - James A. Garfield
  - Chester A. Arthur (VP)

- 1880 Presidential Election: Republicans
  - Half Breeds
  - Sen. James G. Blaine (Maine)
  - Sen. Roscoe Conkling (New York)

---

Inspecting the Democratic Curiosity Shop

- 1880 Presidential Election
  - Map of the United States
  - Republican candidates
  - Democratic candidates

- 1881: Garfield Assassinated!
  - Charles Guiteau:
    - I Am a Stalwart, and Arthur is President now!
**Chester A. Arthur: The Fox in the Chicken Coup?**

- Assassinated by an upset Spoilsman.
- Led to VP Chester Arthur becoming president.
- Supported a change to the corrupt spoils system.
- Signed into the law the Pendleton Act also called the Civil Service Act.
- Required candidates applying for government positions to a test to determine their qualifications.

**Pendleton Act (1883)**

- Civil Service Act.
- The “Magna Carta” of civil service reform.
- 1883: 14,000 out of 117,000 federal gov’t jobs became civil service exam positions.
- 1900: 100,000 out of 200,000 civil service federal gov’t jobs.

---

**Arthur Reforms the Civil Service**

After the assassination, President Arthur was able to get congressional support for the Pendleton Civil Service Act, which created a commission of classified government jobs.

**Arthur Reforms the Civil Service**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>33,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>52,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In the late 1800’s businesses operated without much government regulation. This is known as laissez-faire economics.
- Laissez-faire means ‘allow to be’ in French or the government stays out of you business.
- Laissez faire supports our economic system of capitalism.

---

**Laissez Faire Federal Govt.**

- From 1870-1900 → Govt. did very little domestically.
- Main duties of the federal gov’t.: deliver the mail, maintain a national military, collect taxes & tariffs, conduct a foreign policy.
- Exception → administer the annual Civil War veterans’ pension.

---

**Socialism**

- Economic system based on cooperation rather than competition.
- Believes in government ownership of business and capital.
- Government controls production and distribution of goods.
- Opposite of laissez faire and capitalism.

---

**Republican “Mugwumps”**

- Reformers who wouldn’t re-nominate Chester A. Arthur.
- Reform to them → create a disinterested, impartial gov’t. run by an educated elite like themselves.
- Social Darwinists.
- Laissez faire government to them: favoritism & the spoils system seen as gov’t. intervention in society.
- Their target was political corruption, not social or economic reform.

---

**Capitalism**

- Economic system characterized by private property ownership.
- Individuals and companies compete for their own economic gain (profit).
- Capitalists determine the prices of goods and services.
- Production and distribution are privately or corporately owned.
- Reinvestment of profits
- Supports laissez faire

---

**Economic System**

- An economic belief supported by the U.S. that opposes the government regulating the business.
- In the late 1800’s businesses operated without much government regulation. This is known as laissez-faire economics.
- Laissez-faire means ‘allow to be’ in French or the government stays out of you business.
- Laissez faire supports our economic system of capitalism.

---

**Laissez Faire**

- Economic system based on cooperation rather than competition.
- Believes in government ownership of business and capital.
- Government controls production and distribution of goods.
- Opposite of laissez faire and capitalism.
XII. The Blaine-Cleveland Mudslingers of 1884

James G. Blaine:
- Persistence in seeking Republican nomination paid off in 1884
- Clear choice of convention in Chicago
- Some reformers, unable to swallow Blaine, bolted to Democrats—called Mugwumps

Democrats:
- Turned to reformer, Grover Cleveland
- From mayor of Buffalo to governorship of New York and presidential nomination in three years

Cleveland's admirers soon got shock:
- Learned he had an illegitimate son
- Made financial provision for son

Campaign of 1884 sank to perhaps lowest level in American experience:
- Personalities, not principles, claimed headlines

Contest hinged on state of New York, where Blaine blundered badly in closing days of campaign:
- Republican clergy called Democrats party of "Rum, Romanism, and Rebellion" insulting culture, faith, and patriotism of New York's Irish-American voters
- Blaine refused to repudiate phrase
- New York Irish vote gave presidency to Cleveland
- Cleveland swept solid South and squeaked into office with 219 to 182 electoral votes
- 4,879,507 to 4,850,293 popular votes

In one of the very first cartoons in which Uncle Sam largely appears as he does today, this Thomas Nast caricaturization deals with the fight between the Stalwarts and the Half-Breeds over civil service reform.

The Mugwumps
Men may come and men may go, but the work of reform shall go on forever.
- Will support Cleveland in the 1884 election.
A Dirty Campaign

Ma, Ma… where’s my pa?
He’s going to the White House, ha… ha… ha…!

Little Lost Mugwump

Blaine in 1884

Rum, Romanism & Rebellion!

- Led a delegation of ministers to Blaine in NYC.
- Reference to the Democratic Party.
- Blaine was slow to repudiate the remark.
- Narrow victory for Cleveland (he wins NY by only 1149 votes!).

1884 Presidential Election

- The “Veto Governor” from New York.
- First Democratic elected since 1856.
- A public office is a public trust!
- His laissez-faire presidency:
  - Opposed bills to assist the poor as well as the rich.
  - Vetoed over 200 special pension bills for Civil War veterans.

Cleveland’s First Term

- The “Veto Governor” from New York.
- First Democratic elected since 1856.
- A public office is a public trust!
- His laissez-faire presidency:
  - Opposed bills to assist the poor as well as the rich.
  - Vetoed over 200 special pension bills for Civil War veterans.

Bravo, Señor Cleveland!

- The “Veto Governor” from New York.
- First Democratic elected since 1856.
- A public office is a public trust!
- His laissez-faire presidency:
  - Opposed bills to assist the poor as well as the rich.
  - Vetoed over 200 special pension bills for Civil War veterans.

XIII. “Old Grover” Takes Over

- Cleveland in 1885 was first Democrat to take oath of presidency since Buchanan, 28 years earlier.
- Cleveland a man of principles:
  - Staunch apostle of hands-off creed of laissez-faire
  - Summed up philosophy in 1887 when he vetoed bill to provide seed for drought-ravaged Texas farmers:
    - “Though the people support the government,” “the government should not support the people” – Cleveland

XIII. “Old Grover” Takes Over (cont.)

- Outspoken, unbending, and hot-tempered
- Narrowed North-South chasm by naming two former Confederates to cabinet
- Cleveland whipsawed between demands of:
  - Democratic faithful want jobs
  - Mugwumps, who had helped elect him, want reform
  - At first he favored reform, but eventually caved to carpings of Democratic bosses
  - Fired almost two-thirds of 120,000 federal employees, including 40,000 incumbent (Republican) postmasters, to make room for “supporting Democrats”
XIII. “Old Grover” Takes Over (cont.)

- Military pensions gave Cleveland political headaches:
  - Powerful Grand Army of the Republic lobbied for hundreds of pension bills that granted benefits to:
    - Deserters
    - Bounty jumpers
    - Men who never served
    - Former soldiers who incurred disabilities not connected to war
  - Conscience-driven president read each bill carefully:
    - Vetoed several hundred
    - Laboriously penned individual veto messages to Congress

XIV. Cleveland Battles for a Lower Tariff

- Tariff:
  - Increased to raise revenues for Civil War military
  - Republicans profited from high protection
  - Piled up revenue at customhouses
  - By 1881 Treasury had annual surplus of $145 million
  - Most government income, pre-income tax, came from tariff

XIV. Cleveland Battles for a Lower Tariff (cont.)

- Surplus could be reduced:
  - Squander it on pensions and “pork barrel” bills—curry favor with veterans and self-seekers
  - Lower tariff—big industrialists vehemently opposed
  - Cleveland knew little and cared less about tariff before entering White House
  - As he studied tariff, he favored downward revision of tariff schedules

XIV. Cleveland Battles for a Lower Tariff (cont.)

- Would mean lower prices for consumers and less protection for monopolies
- Would mean end to Treasury surplus
- Cleveland saw his duty and overdid it:
  - Made appeal to Congress late 1887
  - Democrats frustrated
  - Republicans rejoiced at his apparent recklessness:
    - Claimed lower tariffs would mean higher taxes, lower wages, and increased unemployment
  - First time in years, a real issue divided two parties

XIV. Cleveland Battles for a Lower Tariff (cont.)

- Money used to line up corrupt “voting cattle” known as “repeaters” and “floaters”
- In Indiana, crucial “swing” state, votes purchased for as much as $20 each

- Election day:
  - Harrison nosed out Cleveland 233 to 168 electoral votes
  - Change of 7,000 N.Y. ballots would have reversed outcome
  - Cleveland polled more popular votes:
    - 5,537,857 to 5,447,129
  - Became first sitting president defeated since Martin Van Buren in 1840

The Tariff Issue

- After the Civil War, Congress raised tariffs to protect new US industries.
- Big business wanted to continue this; consumers did not.
- 1885 → tariffs earned the US $100 mil. in surplus!
- Mugwumps opposed it → WHY???
- President Cleveland’s view on tariffs???
- Tariffs became a major issue in the 1888 presidential election.
1888 Presidential Election

Tariff of 1888

Grover Cleveland (Dem)
Benjamin Harrison (Rep)

Coming Out for Harrison

Filing the Rough

The Smallest Specimen

Disposing the Surplus

XV. The Billion-Dollar Congress

Republican in office:
- Had only three more votes than necessary in House for quorum
- Democrats obstructed House business by refusing to answer roll calls:
  - Demanded roll calls to determine presence of quorum
  - Employed other delaying tactics
- New Republican Speaker of House: Thomas B. Reed of Maine

Reed bent House to his imperious will
- Counted as present Democrats who had not answered roll and who, rule book in hand, denied they were legally there
- By such tactics "Czar" Reed dominated "Billion-Dollar Congress"—first to appropriate that sum
  - Showered pensions on Civil War veterans
  - Increased government purchases of silver
  - Passed McKinley Tariff Act of 1890:
    - Boosted rates to highest peacetime level
    - Average of 48.4 percent on dutiable goods
XV. The Billion-Dollar Congress (cont.)

• Results of McKinley Tariff Act of 1890:
  – Debt burdened farmers had no choice but to buy manufactured goods from high-priced protected industrialists
  – Competed to sell their agricultural products in tightly competitive, unprotected world markets
  – Mass discontent against tariff caused many rural voters to rise in anger
  – In congressional election (1890) Republicans lost majority—seats reduced to 25 in as opposed to 235 Democrats
  – Even McKinley defeated—New Congress included 9 from Farmers' Alliance—militant organization of southern and western farmers

XVI. The Drumbeat of Discontent

• People's party or "Populists":
  – Rooted in Farmers' Alliance; met in Omaha (1892)
  – Platform denounced "prolific womb of governmental injustice"
  – Demanded inflation through free and unlimited coinage of silver—16 ounces of silver to 1 ounce of gold
  – Called for graduated income tax
  – Government ownership of railroads and telegraph
  – Direct election of U.S. Senators; one-term limit on presidency; adoption of initiative and referendum to allow citizens to shape legislation directly

XVI. The Drumbeat of Discontent (cont.)

• Populists' remarkable showing:
  – In presidential election (see Map 23.3)
  – Achieved 1,029,846 popular votes and 22 electoral votes for Weaver
  – One of few third parties to win electoral votes
  – Fell far short of electoral majority
  – Populists votes came from only six Midwestern and western states; only four (Kan. Colo. Idaho, Nev.) fell completely into Populist basket

XVI. The Drumbeat of Discontent (cont.)

• South unwilling to support new party:
  – one million black farmers organized Colored Farmers' National Alliance:
    – Shared many complaints with poor white farmers
    – Populist leaders reached out to black community
    – Stressed common economic problems
    – Black leaders, disillusioned with Republican party, responded
XVI. The Drumbeat of Discontent (cont.)

- Alarmed, white elite in South played upon racial antagonisms to counter Populists’ appeal and to woo poor whites back to Democratic party
- Southern blacks were heavy losers
- White southerners used literacy tests and poll taxes to deny blacks the vote
  - Grandfather clause:
    - Exempted from new requirements anyone whose forebear voted in 1860
    - When black slaves had not voted at all
    - More than a century would pass before southern blacks could again vote in considerable numbers

- Jim Crow laws:
  - Imposed racial segregation in public places:
    - Including hotels and restaurants
    - Enforced by lynchings and other forms of intimidation
  - Crusade to eliminate black vote had dire consequences for Populist party:
    - Tom Watson abandoned interracial appeal; became vociferous racist
    - Populist party lapsed into vile racism; advocated black disfranchisement

Changing Public Opinion

- Americans wanted the federal govt. to deal with growing soc. & eco. problems & to curb the power of the trusts:
  - Interstate Commerce Act - 1887
  - Sherman Antitrust Act - 1890
  - McKinley Tariff - 1890
    - Based on the theory that prosperity flowed directly from protectionism.
    - Increased already high rates another 4%
  - Rep. Party suffered big losses in 1890 (even McKinley lost his House seat).

1892 Presidential Election

- Cleveland Loses Support Fast!
  - The only President to serve two non-consecutive terms
  - Blamed for the 1893 Panic
  - Defended the gold standard
  - Used federal troops in the 1894 Pullman strike
  - Refused to sign the Wilson-Gorman Tariff of 1894
  - Repealed the Sherman Silver Purchase Act

XVII. Cleveland and Depression (cont.)

- Economic depression of 1893—causes:
  - Splurge of overbuilding and speculation
  - Labor disorders; ongoing agricultural depression
  - Free silver agitation damaged American credit abroad
  - U.S. finances propped when European banks began to call in loans

- Depression ran deep and far:
  - 8,000 businesses collapsed in six months
  - Dozens of railroads lines went into receivers’ hands
XVII. Cleveland and Depression (cont.)

- Soup kitchens fed unemployed
- Gangs of hoboes ("tramps") wandered country
- Local charities did their feeble best
- U.S. government (bound by let-nature-take-its-course philosophy) saw no legitimate way to relieve suffering
  - Cleveland, who had earlier been bothered by a surplus, now burdened with deepening deficit:
    - Treasury required to issue legal tender notes for silver bullion it bought

- Owners of paper currency would present it for gold
- By law, notes had to be reissued
- New holders would repeat process
- Drained gold in "endless-chain" operation
- Gold reserve in Treasury dropped below $100 million
  - Cleveland sought repeal of Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890
    - To do so, he summoned Congress into special session
  - Cleveland developed malignant growth in his mouth:
    - Removed with extreme secrecy

- If he had died, Vice President Adlai Stevenson, a "soft-money" person, would be president—would have deepened crisis
- In Congress, debate over repeal of silver act ran its heated course:
  - William Jennings Bryan championed free silver
  - Friends of silver announced "hell would freeze over" before Congress would pass repeal
  - Cleveland broke filibuster
    - Alienated Democratic silverites like Bryan
    - Disrupted his party at start of his term

- Repeal of Sherman Silver Purchase Act:
  - Only partially stopped drain of gold from Treasury
    - February 1894, gold reserve sank to $41 million
    - United States in danger of going off gold standard
    - Cleveland floated two Treasury bond issues in 1894 totaling over $100 million
    - "Endless-chain" operations continued
    - Early 1895, Cleveland turned in desperation to J.P. Morgan, "the bankers' banker," and head of a Wall Street syndicate

- After tense negotiations at White House, the bankers agreed to lend government $65 million in gold
  - Charged commission of $7 million
  - Did make significant concession when bankers agreed to obtain one-half of gold abroad
  - Loan, at least temporarily, helped restore confidence in nation's finances

XVIII. Cleveland Breeds a Backlash

- Gold deal stirred up nation:
  - Symbolized all that was wicked in politics:
    - Cleveland's secretive dealings with Morgan savagely condemned as "sellout" of national government
    - Cleveland certain he had done no wrong
    - Cleveland suffered further embarrassment with Wilson-Gorman tariff in 1894.

XIII. Cleveland Breeds a Backlash (cont.)

- Democrats pledged to lower tariff
  - But bill that made it through Congress loaded with special-interest protection
  - Outraged, Cleveland allowed bill to become law without his signature:
    - Contained 2% tax on incomes over $4,000
    - When Supreme Court struck down income-tax provision in 1894, Populist and disfranchised saw proof courts were tools of plutocrats

- Democrats's political fortunes:
  - Suffered several setbacks:
    - House Democrats defeated in 1894
      - Republicans won congressional election landslide
      - John R. Lamb served as Speaker for Democrats
    - Republicans looked forward to presidential race of 1896
      - Cleveland failed to cope with economic crisis of 1893
        - Because use of "rogueable总裁s," along with Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, and Harrison
Gilded Age Presidents

1. Ulysses S. Grant (1868-1876) – Republican
2. Rutherford B. Hayes (1876-1880) – Republican
3. James A. Garfield (1880-1881) – Republican
4. Chester A. Arthur (1881-1884) – Republican
5. Grover Cleveland (1884-1888) – Democrat
6. Benjamin Harrison (1888-1892) – Republican
7. Grover Cleveland (1892-1896) – Democrat
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHRONOLOGY</th>
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<td>1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1876</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legal Challenges**

- The Slaughterhouse Cases (1873)
- Bradwell v. IL (1873)
- U. S. v. Cruickshank (1876)
- U. S. v. Reese (1876)