

Unit 2 Class Notes- The Civil War and Reconstruction

The Question of Texas, War with Mexico, and Slavery in the Expanding U.S.

The issue of slavery's possible expansion broiled throughout the Texas revolution and war with Mexico

- David Wilmot of Pennsylvania, fearful of the southern "slaveocracy" introduced the **Wilmot Proviso** into Congress in 1846
 - Stipulated that slavery should NEVER exist in any territory won from Mexico
 - Southerners defeated the bill twice in the Senate,
 - Threats of Southern **secession**, the formal withdraw of a state from the Union, became more frequent
 - The bill symbolized the burning issue of slavery in the territories

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (Feb. 1848) following U.S. victory in the Mexican War brought out the tension over slavery again.

- U.S. won California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and parts of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming
- The discovery of gold in California at Sutter's Mill in Jan. 1848, and the ensuing **Gold Rush**, would deepen the argument over slavery in the newly won territories
- The issue of slavery in the new territories was finally settled by the **Compromise of 1850**
 - For the North, California was admitted as a free state; for the South, there was a strengthened Fugitive Slave Act
 - The slave trade was banned in our nation's capital, Washington D.C.
 - **Popular sovereignty**, the right of citizens to vote for or against slavery, would decide the slave issue in the New Mexico and Utah territories
 - The crisis over slavery was temporarily averted
- The **Gadsden Purchase** (1853) would purchase the southernmost portion of Arizona from Mexico, for the purpose of a southern railroad to the Pacific

New Political Parties Emerged Over the Slave Issue

- The **Liberty Party** and **Free-Soil Party** were formed to abolish slavery through passing laws, and on opposition to the extension of slavery, respectively

- The **Republican Party** was formed in 1854 by opponents of slavery and its expansion into the territories
 - It would gain support from both the Liberty Party and Free-Soilers

A Book Reignites the Slave Controversy

- **Harriet Beecher Stowe's** *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) criticized slavery, stirred Northern abolitionists' protests against the Fugitive Slave Act
- Southerners criticized the book as an attack on the South
- ***the issue of slavery had become more than just a political issue, it was now a moral issue

The Kansas-Nebraska Act and "Bleeding Kansas": Prelude to Civil War

Because the Kansas and Nebraska territories were north of the 36'30 line, they were closed to slavery

- Stephen Douglas introduced a bill that would allow for popular sovereignty to decide the slave issue in these territories
- The **Kansas-Nebraska Act** passed Congress in 1854
 - Northern abolitionists opposed it, southerners supported it
- In 1855, Kansas had enough settlers to apply for statehood
 - Proslavery voters poured into Kansas from Missouri while abolitionists poured in from the North to vote in electing a Kansas legislature.
 - **"Bleeding Kansas!"**- The proslavery vote won, resulting in cries of fraud and eventually violence that saw scores from both sides killed.
 - "Scenes have been enacted in the Territory, within a few months past, and lawless ruffianism, perpetrated on peaceable, unoffending citizens, sufficient to rouse the spirit of '76, in the breast of every freeman; and it is aroused. Military companies are forming, and though we may be accounted feeble in regard to numerical strength, compared with the hordes that may flock here from Missouri, the "battle is not always to the strong," and truth and justice will eventually triumph."
-a letter to a New Hampshire newspaper editor from a frontier woman in 1855

Violence Over the Slave Issue Spread to the Halls of Congress

In May 1855, Massachusetts Senator, Charles Sumner, gave an impassioned speech titled, "The Crime Against Kansas"

- He verbally attacked slavery and the south, singling out South Carolina's Andrew Brooks
- Brooks' nephew, Preston Brooks, walked into the Senate and beat Sumner repeatedly with a cane
 - Sumner suffered brain damage, was unable to return to the Senate for more than three years

The Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857) decision settles the question of slavery in the territories

- Dred Scott, a slave from Missouri whose owner took him to both a free state and free territory, sued for his freedom
 - He sued for his freedom on the grounds that living in a free state, Illinois, and a free territory, Wisconsin, made him a free man.
- The Supreme Court ruled that Scott was not, and never could be a citizen. He was PROPERTY
- The Fifth Amendment protects property rights, implying that territories that exclude slavery would drive slaveholders of their property
- ***Congress could do nothing about slavery in the territories

A Senate Race in Illinois Divides a Party, and Sets the Stage for Lincoln...and Secession.

- **Stephen Douglas**, the incumbent Democrat, was challenged by **Abraham Lincoln**, a Republican
- The two faced off in a series of debates that centered on the issue of slavery in the territories
 - Douglass proposed popular sovereignty as a way to limit slavery (even though the Dred Scott decision had already settled the issue)
 - Lincoln argued slavery was immoral and did not expect individuals to give up slaves until Congress abolished slavery with an amendment
 - ***Douglas won the election, but his stance widened a split in the Democratic party
 - ***Republicans began to view Lincoln as a candidate for president in 1860

A Martyr to the North, a Murderer to the South- John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry, VA, 1859.

On Oct. 16th, 1859, with secret financial backing from several northern abolitionists, **John Brown** led a band of followers to capture the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, VA.

- Hoped to start a general slave uprising with the weapons from the arsenal
- No uprising occurred, Brown was captured, faced trial, and hanged
- ***Abolitionists in the North were infuriated by Brown's execution
- ***Southerners asked how they could remain in the Union if the North was filled with a "murderous gang of abolitionists?"

The Election of 1860 Splits the Country

Republicans nominated Lincoln, while the Democrats split

- ***The Democrat party split over the issue of slavery
 - Northern Democrats supported Stephen Douglas, Southerners supported VP John Breckenridge
- Lincoln won the presidency without a single electoral vote from the South; his name didn't even appear on the ballot in most slave states!
- ***Hoping to prevent Civil War, the **Crittenden Amendments** (Dec. 18, 1860) proposed protecting slavery permanently in the territories south of the 36'30 line.
 - Lincoln and the North flatly rejected the amendments. Time had run out.
- With Lincoln's victory, the South felt they had lost their voice in Federal government
 - South Carolina led the way, seceding from the Union on Dec. 20, 1860, followed by six more in the next six weeks
 - In February 1861, the seven seceders created a government known as the Confederate States of America (**the Confederacy**), and chose **Jefferson Davis** as their president

The Outlook at the Outbreak of War

President Lincoln sent a Union naval force to *provision* the federal garrison at **Fort Sumter**, off the coast of Charleston, SC. The South regarded this an act of aggression, and on April 12, 1861, began a 34-hour bombardment of the fort. The first shots of the Civil War had been fired.

*****Throughout the Civil War, President Lincoln's main goal was to preserve the Union. This goal guided the many difficult decisions the president was forced to make.**

Quotes of Lincoln's regarding the secession of the South and restoring the Union:

- *****"A house divided against itself cannot stand."**
- *****"I do not expect the Union to be dissolved- I do not expect the house to fall- but I do expect it will cease to be divided"**

Picking Good Generals- Lincoln was plagued during the first half of the war by indecisive and sometimes outright timid generals

- Lincoln went through three Generals-in Chief before appointing Ulysses S. Grant in 1864

Lincoln's Views on Slavery were shaped by his commitment to preserve the Union

Lincoln on the importance of the Border States (Missouri, Kentucky, Delaware, Maryland), particularly Kentucky:

- "I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game. Kentucky gone, we cannot hold Missouri, not, I think, Maryland. These all against us, and the job on our hands is too large for us. We would as well consent to separation at once, including the surrender of this capital, Washington, D.C."

Lincoln on slavery and preserving the Union

Responding to Horace Greeley's criticism that he was not doing enough to assist slaves in the South, President Lincoln wrote:

- *****"If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that."**

Strengths & Weaknesses at the Outset of War

The Union (The North, Yankees, blue...)	The Confederacy (South, Rebels, gray...)
<p>Economic Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factories- to manufacture weapons, ammo, supplies • Huge farms- to provide food • Population- industrial workers • Wealth- The North owned $\frac{3}{4}$ of the nation's wealth • RRs- the North contained $\frac{3}{4}$ of the nation's track, vital for transportation of men and supplies <p>Military Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population- 22 million total + over 800,000 immigrants from 1861-1865 • Infrastructure- Factories, RRs, ***Plus thousands of miles of telegraph line, providing rapid communication between field officers and President Lincoln • A great Navy, to enforce a blockade of Southern ports <p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generals- Lincoln struggled to find able generals for the first half of the war 	<p>Economic Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotton- the South hoped to gain help from Britain, due to its heavy importation of Southern cotton • Donkeys- yep, donkeys... <p>Military Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ***Defensive war- the South didn't have to win, merely fight the invaders to a draw • ***Great Generals- Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson • Southern men grew up with weapons- born to fight • Cause- they were fighting for home <p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of factories, men, weapons, infrastructure, money...

The North's Strategy- ***The Anaconda Plan- to prevent the flow of supplies to the South through a blockade of land and sea

1. A navy blockade of Southern ports, so they could neither export cotton nor import needed manufactured goods
2. Split the Confederacy in two by controlling the Mississippi River
3. Capture the Confederate capital at Richmond, VA

The South's Strategy- defense. Don't lose.

- Fight the North to a draw, attack the North if the opportunity arose

Technological Innovations

- RRs- used for transport of men, supplies, and weapons
- Iron-clad ships- the Monitor (Union) & Merrimack (Confederate)
- ***The rifle-had the greatest impact on military tactics during the Civil War

Social Aspects of the War

- **The Enrollment Act**- In 1863, Congress passed a federal **conscription** (draft) law for the first time on a nationwide scale
- The provisions of the law were grossly unfair to the poor.
 - Substitution- a draftee could hire substitutes to go to war in their place
 - Commutation- purchase outright exemption by paying \$300
 - ***these provisions incited violent protests IN New York City in 1863
 - ***Ethnic and class antagonisms led poor, antiblack Irish Americans to rampage, pillage, and mob streets of New York for several days

Lincoln and Limitations on Wartime Liberties- Lincoln took temporary “liberties” with the Constitution during the Civil War

- Increased the size of the Federal Army- that power is reserved only for Congress
- Suspended the **writ of habeas corpus**- arresting anti-Unionists
- Suspended newspapers and arrested editors for “obstructing the war,” violating the 1st Amendment
- Arrested more than 15,000 civilians as “suspicious Rebel sympathizers,” without probable cause
- Instituted the first Income Tax

Civil War Medicine

- If injured in battle, you had to lie in the field until the battle was over.
- No antiseptic, cleaning utensils, gloves.
- Opium, morphine, quinine, whiskey, brandy were the medicines.
- You had to amputate limbs before a soldier got gangrene.
- *****Clara Barton** provided nursing, worked to prioritize the injured, and to promote sterilization during the Civil War. She would later found the Red Cross in 1881.

Fighting the War

The Union suffered a series of defeats prior to a turning point battle at Antietam in Sept. 1862

<u>DATE</u>	<u>BATTLE</u>	<u>VICTOR</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
July 1861	<u>Bull Run</u> (<u>Manassas</u>)	South	Union retreats to Wash. D.C.
June 1862	7 Days	South	Lee stops McClellan from taking Richmond
August 1862	Bull Run	South	Lee stops John Pope from taking Richmond
*Sept. 1862	Antietam	Draw	McClellan stops Lee from taking Washington, D.C. Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation

(*Turning Point battle)

The Union draw at Antietam, America's bloodiest single day in history, provided Lincoln the "victory" to issue the Emancipation Proclamation

- Freed the slaves in the areas in the South still in rebellion
- Did NOT free slaves in the border states that still remained in the Union (see quote on importance of KY)
- ***This changed the course of the war by extending the North's war aims to include abolition

Key Battles in the West

<u>DATE</u>	<u>BATTLE</u>	<u>VICTOR</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
Feb. 1862	Fort Donelson	Union	Controlled the Ohio River
March 1862	Fort Henry	Union	Controlled Cumberland River
April 1862	Shiloh	Union	Controlled Tennessee River
April 1862	New Orleans	Union	Controlled mouth of the Mississippi River
July 1863	<u>Vicksburg</u>	Union	Controlled Mississippi River * split Confederacy in half
July 1863	<u>Gettysburg</u>	Union	Ended Lee's final attempt at attacking territory in the Union

(*Turning Point Battle)

The Union victory at the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863) marked the beginning of the end for Lee and the Confederacy. It also preceded Lincoln's legendary Gettysburg Address.

- 272 simple but eloquent words
- A eulogy dedicating the battlefield as a national cemetery
- Summarized the case for American nationhood
- "...That from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion. That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain. That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom *and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*"

Lincoln appoints Sherman general of Union troops in the West

Sherman's March to the Sea- Following victory at Chattanooga in Nov. 1863, Sherman marched Union troops through Georgia reaching Savannah in Dec. 1864

- "*War is hell and the worse you make it the sooner it will be over.*"- Gen. Sherman
- Used "**Total War**": destroyed all resources the civilian population needed to survive, demoralize the enemy and force them to surrender.

Grants victories in Virginia, Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse, VA on April 9, 1865.

Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865 by John Wilkes Booth. The Nation mourned the president who saved the Union.

The Promise and Letdown of Reconstruction

Reconstruction: *the period during which the United States began to rebuild (politically, socially, and economically) after the Civil War, lasted from 1865 to 1877. The term also refers to the process of readmitting the defeated Confederate states to the Union.*

- One major complication of Reconstruction was that Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, and Congress all had very different ideas about how Reconstruction should be handled.

Plans for Reconstruction began long before the war was won:

Dec. 1863- Lincoln announced his Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction (the Ten-Percent Plan)

- Lincoln would pardon all Confederates who would swear allegiance to the Union (except high-ranking officials and those accused of crimes against prisoners of war)
- As soon as 10% of those who voted in 1860 took the oath of allegiance, a Confederate state could form a new state government and send representatives and senators to Congress
- Under Lincoln's plan, four states moved toward readmission to the Union
- ***Lincoln's plan was by far the most lenient plan for Reconstruction

Lincoln's Plan angered many Republicans, known as Radical Republicans, who wanted to ensure that the planter aristocracy would not regain power in the South, eventually re-enslaving blacks.

- Led by Charles Sumner in the Senate, and **Thaddeus Stevens** in the House of Representatives, Radical Republicans passed the **Wade-Davis Bill** in 1864, to strengthen the conditions of readmission to statehood
- ***It required that 50% of a state's votes take the oath of allegiance and demanded stronger safeguards for emancipation than Lincoln's plan
- Lincoln vetoed the Wade-Davis Bill, further angering Republicans who then refused to admit delegates from Louisiana after that state reorganized in accordance with Lincoln's 10% Plan.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, effective Jan. 1st 1863, was only the first step toward ending slavery. It would take Constitutional amendments to abolish slavery and create an equal playing field for African Americans.

13th Amendment- Passed Congress Jan. 31, 1865; ratified by states Dec. 6, 1865

- Abolished slavery throughout the United States and allowed Congress to enforce the law

The Freedman's Bureau

To cope with the reality that freedmen were largely unskilled, illiterate, without property or money, and with little knowledge on how to survive as free people, Congress created the **Freedmen's Bureau** on March 3, 1865 (before the war was over). The Bureau was intended to be a kind of primitive welfare agency, providing:

- Food, Clothing, Medical care
- Education for both freedmen and white refugees
- ***The Freedmen's Bureau had its greatest success in education, teaching an estimated 200,000 blacks how to read

Following Lincoln's assassination in April 1865, President Andrew Johnson announced his own plan for Reconstruction

- His plan differed little from Lincoln's
- The difference was that Johnson tried to break the planter's power by excluding high-ranking Confederates and wealthy Southern landowners from taking the oath need for voting privileges
- However, Johnson also pardoned more than 13,000 former Confederates because he believed "white men alone must manage the South"

Johnson and Congressional Republicans square off on Reconstruction

Dec. 1865-

- The seven remaining ex-Confederate states agreed to Johnson's terms and sent representatives to Congress
- Congress refused to admit the new Southern legislatures

1866- Republicans Take the Reins of Reconstruction

- In 1866 moderate Republicans passed laws to remedy Johnson's weak Reconstruction plan
 - Voted to enlarge the Freedmen's Bureau
 - Passed the **Civil Rights Act of 1866** which gave African Americans citizenship, forbade states from passing discriminatory **Black Codes** that severely restricted African American lives
 - ***Johnson vetoed both measures passed by Congress!!
- Angered by Johnson's obstruction, moderates and radical Republicans worked to shift Reconstruction from the executive to the legislative branch
 - They overrode the president's vetoes on the Freedmen's Bureau & Civil Rights Act
 - **14th Amendment- Passed Congress June 13, 1866; ratified July 9, 1868**
 - Was a Republican response to the fear that Southerners might one day win control of Congress and repeal the Civil Rights bill of 1866
 - 1- ***Provided freed slaves with citizenship by defining a citizen as "all persons born or naturalized in the United States"(Overrules the *Dred Scott* decision)

- 2- ***Promised equal legal protection to former slaves
- 3- Reduced representation of a state in Congress & Electoral Congress if it denied blacks the vote
- ***the 14th amendment was intended to overrule and nullify the *Dred Scott* decision
- ***Moderate and Radical Republicans gained control of Congress in the fall elections in 1866

1867- Radical Republicans put their plan into place- Congressional/Military Reconstruction

- Congress passed the **Reconstruction Act of 1867**
 - Did NOT recognize state governments, except Tennessee, formed under Lincoln & Johnson plans
 - Divided the former Confederate states into five military districts
 - States were required to grant African American men the vote & to ratify the 14th Amendment in order to reenter the Union
 - Johnson vetoed the Reconstruction Act...and Congress overrode his veto
- Congress passed the **Tenure of Office Act**, over Johnson's veto
 - Required president to secure the consent of the Senate before he could remove his appointees once they had been approved by the Senate
 - ***They hoped to trap him violating the law and remove him by impeachment

1868-

- Johnson provided the Radicals the chance to impeach him when he removed Sec. of War, Edwin Stanton
 - The House voted to impeach Johnson on charges of "high crimes and misdemeanors" for violating the Tenure Of Office Act
 - Johnson escaped removal from office by one vote following his impeachment trial in the Senate
- Ulysses S. Grant won the presidential election of 1868, largely due to the votes of more than 500,000 Southern African Americans

1869-70

Following the election, Radicals introduced the **15th Amendment**- Passed Congress Feb. 1869; ratified by states Feb. 1870

- Republicans worried that once Southern states were readmitted to the Union, they would amend their state constitutions and withdraw the right to vote from blacks
- The only safeguard against this was to incorporate black suffrage into the Constitution

- ***The 15th Amendment reads: "The right of citizens...to vote shall not be denied...by the U.S. or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude"
 - Helped ensure voting rights early during Reconstruction, leading to many African Americans holding political offices
 - **Hiram Revels**- 1st black Senator, from Mississippi
 - 16 African Americans were elected to Congress in D.C.
 - 90% of African Americans voted Republican during Reconstruction
- By 1870, all former Confederate states been completed the readmission process

Social, Economic, and Political Impact of Reconstruction

Economic Impacts of Reconstruction

- The South was economically ruined following the war
- Republican governments began public works programs to repair the physical damage and provide social services
- Without land of their own, African Americans and poor whites forced many to become **sharecroppers**
 - Landowners divide land, assign each sharecropper a few acres along with seed and tools
 - Croppers kept a small share of their crops, gave the rest to the landowner
 - If croppers could save enough money, they might become tenant farmers
 - ***Racist whites took advantage of black sharecroppers, keeping them in perpetual debt in a system that was in reality slavery in all but name

Political Impacts of Reconstruction

- The Republican party had to deal with conflicting goals of three groups in the South
- **Scalawags**- white southerners who joined the Republican party
 - Many were small farmers who wanted to improve their economic status and keep wealthy planters from regaining power
 - Few Scalawags shared the Republican commitment to civil rights for blacks
- **Carpetbaggers**- Northern businessmen and Union soldiers who wanted to play a role in modernizing the “New South” during Reconstruction
- **African Americans**- the largest group of Southern Republicans
 - 90% of blacks voted Republican
 - African Americans served at the local, state, and national level in elected offices

Social Impacts of Reconstruction

- African Americans worked hard to improve their lives
 - Founded churches which often were the center of social life
 - Eagerly sought education in schools established by the Freedmen’s Bureau & Reconstruction governments
 - Thousands of blacks migrated to reunite with family members or to find jobs in Southern towns and cities
- Many white Southerners refused to accept blacks’ new status & resisted the idea of equal rights
 - The **Ku Klux Klan (KKK)** was started in 1866 to terrorize African Americans to keep them “in their place” and worked with Democrats to keep blacks from voting

- The Klan and other groups killed perhaps 20,000 men, women and children
- Many whites refused to hire or do business with blacks who voted Republican
- Congress passed the **Enforcement Acts** of 1870 & 1871 to curtail Klan violence and Democratic intimidation
- Provided for federal supervision of elections in Southern states
- Gave the president the power to use federal troops in areas of Klan activity

Immediate and Long-Term Influences of Reconstruction

*****While Radical Republicans demanded total equality, voting rights, land, and education for former slaves, support for Reconstruction gradually weakened over time**

Congress passed legislation that severely weakened the power of the Republican party in the South

- The **Amnesty Act** (May 1872)- returned voting rights & right to hold state and federal office to 150,000 former Confederates
- Freedmen's Bureau was allowed to expire (1872)
- ***These actions helped Southern Democrats regain political power

Economic downturn hurts the efforts of Reconstruction

- Series of bank failures known as the **Panic of 1873** triggered 5 year depression
- ***Diverted attention in the North away from problems in the South

The White League helps Democrats "redeem" the South

- The **White League**, the "military arm of the Democratic Party," was formed in 1874
- Its purpose was to stop African Americans from voting through the use of intimidation and violence
- Helped Democrats take over control of many Southern state governments

The Election of 1876 and Compromise of 1877 bring Reconstruction to its end

- Samuel Tilden (D) won the popular vote against Rutherford B. Hayes (R), BUT did NOT win an electoral majority
- Southern Democrats in the House agreed to accept Hayes as president IF federal troops were withdrawn from the South. Hayes became president
 - *****Without federal troops to enforce Reconstruction laws, The South was "Redeemed" and things went back much the way they were before the Civil War**
 - *****Within 20 years, blacks were disenfranchised, Jim Crow Laws forced racial segregation to separate blacks and whites in public and private facilities**
- New laws took away African American's political power
 - **Poll Tax**- a tax to vote
 - **Literacy Tests**- a reading test prior to voting
 - **Grandfather Clause**- if a person's father or grandfather was eligible to vote on Jan. 1, 1867, then that person could vote. *No freed slave had the right to vote on that date.

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) established the principle of "separate but equal"

- Ruled separation of races did not violate the 14th Amendment

- Allowed states to continue segregation as long as they provided “equal” services

Positive impacts of Reconstruction

- ***The extension of civil rights through the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments was an enduring achievement of Reconstruction
- ***These Constitutional amendments laid the foundation for the Civil Rights Movement in the mid-20th century