APUSH Review: Reconstruction
Everything You Need To Know For Your APUSH Exam
Big Questions:

• Reconstruction was a “glorious failure”. Assess the validity of this statement in discussing the political, economic, and social reforms introduced in the South between 1864 and 1877.

• What goals did the Republican policymakers, the ex-Confederates, and freedpeople pursue during Reconstruction? To what degree did each succeed?
Focus Activity
Reconstruction Era

Photograph of ruins in Richmond, Virginia, taken in 1865
The Civil War, 1861-1865
Reconstruction: An Intro

• What was it?
  ▫ Attempting to achieve national unification after the Civil War

• Key questions regarding Reconstruction?:
  ▫ Who would control it? Congress? President?
  ▫ How would South be treated?
  ▫ What to be done with the freedpeople?
Major Questions After the Civil War

• How should the South be rebuilt?
• How should the states that seceded be brought back into the Union?
• How should former slaves be incorporated into the country as freed men and women?
Reconstructing a Nation

- After 4 years of war and over 200 years of slavery, could Northerners and Southerners rebuild the South together?
- Could they unify as citizens of the same country?
Punishment for the Confederate States?

• Should people who fought against the United States be recognized as citizens? Should they be punished?

• What should be done to the Southern state governments that fought against the United States?
African Americans in the South

• How would freed men and women be treated in the Southern states?
• How would Northerners address the issue of including former slaves as citizens in society?
• What were some major challenges that former slaves faced?
Big Questions:

- Reconstruction was a “glorious failure”. Assess the validity of this statement in discussing the political, economic, and social reforms introduced in the South between 1864 and 1877.
- What goals did the Republican policymakers, the ex-Confederates, and freedpeople pursue during Reconstruction? To what degree did each succeed?

Individually brainstorm key terms @ Reconstruction – jot them down – try it with no notes!!!
Lincoln vs. Congressional Reconstruction

- **Lincoln: Favorable to the South**
- **Lincoln’s 10% Plan:**
  - If 10% of voters in 1860 election pledged loyalty to US, state could be readmitted
  - Congress felt it was too lenient
- **Wade-Davis Bill:**
  - Congress (Republicans) sought 50% of voters in 1860 election to pledge allegiance
  - Pocket-vetoed by Lincoln
President Johnson

- His Reconstruction Plan was similar to Lincoln
  - 10%
  - Ratification of the 13th Amendment
  - Confederates could appeal to him for a pardon
- Disliked by “Radical Republicans”
  - Johnson was a Democrat from the South
- Impeached for violating *Tenure of Office Act*
  - Secretary of War Stanton
  - Johnson was not removed
Why did “Radical” Reconstruction occur?

- Congress (Republicans) wanted to maintain their power
  - 2 key Congressmen: Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner
- Former Confederate officials ran for federal office
  - Former CSA VP Alexander Stevens
- Black Codes
  - Regulated affairs of freedmen; conditions similar to slavery
- South was divided into 5 military zones
Freedmen’s Bureau

- **Goal:**
  - Help former slaves survive and adjust
  - Food, medicine, and clothing were provided to former slaves and poor whites
- Promised “40 Acres and a Mule”
  - Rarely happened
- Biggest Success of the Freedmen’s Bureau?
  - EDUCATION!
Key Reconstruction Amendments and Terms

• 13\textsuperscript{th} Amendment:
  ▫ Made slavery illegal
• 14\textsuperscript{th} Amendment:
  ▫ Granted citizenship to blacks
  ▫ Equal protection for citizens
  ▫ Former Confederate officers could not hold state or federal office
• 15\textsuperscript{th} Amendment:
  ▫ Granted suffrage for blacks
    ▪ South found loopholes: poll taxes, literacy tests, etc.
• Scalawags:
  ▫ Southerners that favored Reconstruction
• Carpetbaggers:
  ▫ Northerners that moved South during Reconstruction
• Force Acts:
  ▫ Passed in response to KKK, Federal troops used to quell KKK
End of Reconstruction

- Why did it end?
  - Compromise of 1877
- The compromise settled the disputed 1876 election
  - Hayes (Republican) became President
  - ENDED MILITARY RULE IN THE SOUTH!
  - Southerner appointed to cabinet
- Impact of end of Reconstruction?
  - Jim Crow Laws
    - Upheld by *Plessy v. Ferguson* 1896
  - Disenfranchisement for blacks
Three Phases of Reconstruction

1) Presidential or Southern Reconstruction from 1865 to 1867
2) Congressional or Radical Reconstruction from 1867 to 1877
3) Redemption or Home Rule from 1877 to 1965 (1965 Voting Rights Act enforces the 15th Amendment)
Three major interpretations of Reconstruction.

1) FAIL! freed Black slaves and corrupt Northern Republicans nearly ruined Southern society with corruption, theft, ignorance, taxes, and threats to Southern White womanhood. *1870s to the 1960s*

2) LIMITED SUCCESS Not the absolute failure that earlier historians had claimed it was. (Southern focus) 1960s and 1970s

3) TRAGIC FAILURE! it did not protect Blacks' rights or heal the racial divisions caused by centuries of American slavery and the Civil War. (Black focus) Late 1970s and 1980s
Historian Kenneth Stamp’s Perspective

- How Reconstruction affected the larger Southern society, both Blacks and Whites
- SUCCESS! made the South more democratic, gave Black and White Southerners public education/services, and it helped rebuild the Southern economy and industry.
- Whites and Blacks all
  - Have "the same civil and political rights"
  - allowed (property or not) to vote.
  - acquire the knowledge they needed to fully participate as citizens in their society
- Reconstruction provided the government support to rebuild Southern factories, cities, and railroads

- BUT.....Reconstruction didn't solve the guaranteeing of Blacks rights and integrating Blacks as equal members of Southern society
  - However, Stamp doesn't see this as an important failure, because he believes that Reconstruction laid the legal and political foundations for the "ultimate promise of equal civil and political rights" to Blacks
Historian Eric Foner’s Perspective

Unlike Stampp, who focuses on how Reconstruction affected the larger Southern society, Foner focuses on how Reconstruction affected Blacks.

1) Foner is directly challenging Stampp's argument the Reconstruction helped make the South more democratic. For Foner, the South can't be seen as democratic if it denies rights to Blacks and allows the Democratic Party to dominate politics and government

2) Reconstruction failed
   A. South White racism forced Blacks into subordinate political and economic status -- spread throughout the country, making the entire nation more racist.
   B. racism it helped create allowed Southern elites to resist social pressure from outside the South to change the culture
   C. Federal government failed to "protect blacks' civil and political rights."

Foner concludes that the failure of Reconstruction allowed "nearly a century to elapse before the nation again attempted to come to terms with the implications of emancipation and the political and social agenda of Reconstruction. In many ways, it has yet to do so.“..... The modern Civil Rights Movement (Second Reconstruction of the 1950s and 1960s)
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