Chapter 16
Reconstruction Abandoned
1867-1877

The Republicans
- Often called the Radical Republicans.
- Bitter over the death and destruction caused by the rebellion.
- The North (Union) had more dead and wounded than South
- Wanted to punish the South for rebellion.
- Led by Thaddeus Stevens & Charles Sumner.
- Held the majority with the South absent from Congress.

Democrats
- Had never wanted to impose an end of slavery.
- In 1864, McClellan ran as Democrat against Lincoln promising to end war with treaty.
- Did not want to punish the South for the war.
- Did not advocate Black rights at the expense of White authority; it had been their base.
- Favored a quick return to pre-war normalcy.

Long-Term impact of Reconstruction Policies
- Reconstruction policies impacted on regional party affiliation until the past thirty-five years.
- Until 30 years ago a Republican could not be elected in the South; now mostly GOP
- At first African Americans were all Republicans; shift to Democrats during 1900s
- White Southerners hated the Republican party

Since 1970 the South has realigned
- That all began to change when Republican Barry Goldwater ran against Lyndon Johnson in 1964; Goldwater not a segregationist.
- Republican Goldwater opposed the Federal government’s involvement in civil rights
- Now most White southerners are Republican.
- The two major parties have switched positions since the Civil War.

Lincoln Days Before
- Had Lincoln lived he would have treated the South more compassionately than was done by the Radical Republicans.
- Booth’s actions harmed the South.

Lincoln
- Though a Republican, his views were more like modern-day Democrats.
- Favored quick re-admittance of rebel states.
- He would have been more compassionate towards the Whites of the South than were the Radical Republicans.
- His death ultimately harmed the South.

Lincoln and Johnson
Lincoln chose Johnson as symbol of national unity.

**Thirteenth Amendment**
- The Emancipation Proclamation applied only to those states in rebellion.
- The District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri were slave states which did not rebel.
- The Proclamation was an instrument of war.
- Probably not legal.
- This Constitutional Amendment ends slavery everywhere in the U.S.

**Andrew Johnson**
- The only Southerner to remain in the Senate.
- He was the Senator from Tennessee
- Selected as symbol of national unity.
- Had periodic bouts of drunkenness.
- Shared Southern White views about slaves.
- Would not enforce federal laws about Blacks.

**President Andrew Johnson**
- Senator Johnson was the only Southern member of congress not to join the Confederacy

**Freedom For Slaves**
- Some remained with former masters.
- Some fled as soon as federal troops arrived.
- Some escaped and joined the Union army.
- Most Freedmen took to farming as sharecroppers; that is tenant farmers.
- Some with former masters.
- Most with smaller farmers, not slave owners

**Slavery Ends– Second-Class Status Begins**
- Most former slaves (called Freedmen) enter into exploitative relationships.
- Federal government had promised land to Blacks; never kept the promise.
- General Sherman had given 40 acres per family and loaned army mules in South Carolina.

**Governing the South**
- Initially South maintains state governments as they existed before the Civil War.
- Later, South divided into 5 military districts.
- Confederate soldiers & politicians denied vote.
- Public schools started; a forced reform.
- Freedman’s Bureau—Protects the rights of freed Blacks.
**Southern White Response**
- Carpetbaggers—Northerners who traveled to the South to exploit the political void.
- Scalawags—Southerners who cooperated with Carpetbaggers; seen as traitors.
- Redeemers—The southern Whites who managed to recapture authority & hinder Black equality.
- Southern Whites attempt to return Blacks to slave-like status; it will hold until 1960s.

**Lynching**
- Lynching is the primary means to terrorize and oppress African Americans in the South and elsewhere.

**What Happened to Freedmen**
- Black Codes (Jim Crow Laws)—Laws passed to return Blacks to a second-class status.
- Ku Klux Klan—Whites who wore hoods and sheets to terrorize Blacks, scalawags and carpetbaggers; violence becomes political.
- Eventually segregation will legalize the African American’s second-class status.
- U.S. Supreme Court supports segregation.

**Freedmen Not Treated as Citizens**
- Drawing of Freedmen hiding in Louisiana swamp.

**Johnson’s Impeachment**
- Reason stated-violated federal law passed by Republicans forbidding him from firing cabinet; a president can’t control cabinet?
- Real reason—Too soft on the South.
- Supreme Court’s Response—More than 50 years later the law was unconstitutional.
- Immediate Impact—President Johnson was acquitted by one vote.

**President Johnson Impeached**
- It has been acknowledged that President Johnson committed no impeachable offence. It was politically motivated.

**Long-term Impact of Impeachment**
- Johnson was seriously weakened.
- The office of the president was severely weakened for generations.
- Impeachment (until 1998) was seen as extreme measure; to be used for real crimes.
- The impeachment was politically motivated.
- The Senate so stripped Johnson of power as to virtually rule without a president.

**Fourteenth Amendment**
- The *due-process* amendment.
- Passed to deal with the “two tiered” laws of the South
- One set of laws for Whites, one set of laws for Blacks
- The South attempted to keep the Freedmen as “de facto” slaves.
- All laws must be administered equally.
The Klan in Watertown, NY.
• Though most Klan activity was in the South it the racism it advocated had supporters all over the nation.

Fifteenth Amendment
• Grants all Americans the right to vote regardless of race.
• Unsuccessful in granting Blacks in the South the vote.
• Pro-South conservative Supreme Court justices narrowly interprets this amendment to apply only to federal elections.
• South uses poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather laws to keep Blacks away.

Carpetbaggers & Scalawags
• Cartoon depicting the “evil” carpetbagger.

100 Years Later
• After nearly 100 years of the intent of the 15th Amendment being ignored, a federal law is enacted to deal with abuses.
• Civil Rights act of 1965 make all such practices illegal.
• This act more than any other results in the resurgence of the Republican part in what had been the Confederacy.

Lynchings Continue
• The terrorizing of African Americans by this means would continue until anti-lynching laws where passed by the Federal government after World War II.

Long-term Impact of Reconstruction-- Part 1
• Blacks returned to second-class status.
• Blacks ultimately flee South, where second-class status is enforced, for northern cities.
• South would remain economically behind.
• Conflict produces racism yet resolved.
• Southern Whites who support African American rights are despised -- called Scalawags.

Long-term Impact of Reconstruction-- Part 2
• Regional tensions still dominate national politics.
• Traditions hating the authority of the federal government gain regional base.
• Denial of equality to African Americans still cloaked under the guise of merely opposing federal author for “states’ rights.”

Grant Elected President
• War hero-- before war had been unsuccessful
• Had a long-term problem with alcohol.
• Civil War had resulted in economic boom for businesses related to conducting the war.
• Large businesses emerge as both economic and political power following the Civil War.
• The Civil War had produced cooperation between business and government.

**Scandals Abound**
• Though the federal government had helped businesses in the past, there was now outright collusion and corruption.
• An unintended product of the Civil War.
• Business interests now powerful enough to impact on federal politics.
• The post-war expansion of the west results in corruption.

**Patronage System**
• Federal workers were required to contribute to the party in power.
• Workers would lose jobs over politics.
• There was little or no tenure in ones’ federal job; states were corrupt too.
• Competence had little to do with keeping a federal job.

**The Ku Klux Klan**
• “Clan” is an Irish word meaning “family.”
• In Ireland, indigenous Irish terrorize those English, Scottish, and Irish who profit from the English-imposed economic system they thought unjust- “retributive justice.”
• Model for Klan of U.S. seems to be taken from Irish practice of the 1840s-1850s.
• In South its goal was “White Supremacy.”

**Tammany Hall**
• Already corrupt city hall taken over by Irish immigrants, who “democratize” the corruption.
• What had been done behind closed doors with/ for a wealthy elite, now done openly, brazenly.
• Journalists, working for newspapers owned by the deposed elite, now report corruption.
• The corruption is real, despicable, and its exposure benefits democracy and reform.
• Impacts on NY politics even today; regionalism.

**The Panic of 1873**
• The recurring economic crises are the under-reported story of modern American history; there are regular economic collapses.
• The “Great Depression” of the 1930’s was only the most recent & worst crisis.
• The so-called “Panic” was a “Depression.”
• To call it less serves the interest of the economic forces that caused it.

**The Native American**
• Dealings with Native Americans-- racism is augmented by corruption and greed.
• Federal government doesn’t honor treaties signed by earlier administrations.
• Native Americans granted “reservations” which are now coveted by land speculators.
• Well-intended views that if they would become “civilized” all would be well.
• In essence, business interests wanted land.
Temperance Movement

• American Protestant religions take on the dogma first taught in Great Britain that any alcohol consumption is immoral.
• A response to serious increase in alcohol consumption which in many instances accompanied industrialization & poverty.
• Alcohol abuse is a serious problem; whether the solution is medical or spiritual (or varying combinations) is problematic, even today.

Women’s Suffrage

• Frontier life shows women to be the equal of men; also, many women were widowed.
• In the east, women are offered unused seats in colleges, also new colleges just for women.
• The first generation of formally educated women produces Abolitionists & Suffragists.
• The confluence of events produces a viable movement.

The Election of 1876

• The corruption of Grant’s administration still a major political issue.
• Grant is abandoned as GOP candidate.
• Like the election of 2000, the Democrat, Tilden, won the popular vote, but still lost.
• Tilden won popular vote 51% to 48%.
• GOP opposes ending Electoral College because all 3 times it benefited their party.

The Election of 1876

• Like 2000, there was much post-election activity that seemed to obscure the outcome.
• The Democrats controlled the House and it seemed they would not approve the results.
• A political deal was struck in which Hayes would be elected president in exchange for the ending of Reconstruction.
• Did this political deal help African Americans?

Reconstruction’s End

• In an effort to hold the White House, GOP abandons Reconstruction.
• Political victory for Reconstruction’s opponents returns South to racist practices.
• It would be 90 years before damage begins to be undone; it will impact most of U.S.
• Industrialization would exploit outcome.