Reconstruction of The South, Part 2

Chapter 17 Section 3 Pages 567 - 571

Reconstruction Ends

Several Factors Led To A Weakening of Republican Control...

Factors that weakened Republican control:

- 1. Democrats began winning control of southern state governments
- 2. The <u>General Amnesty Act of 1872</u> allowed former Confederates (except those who held high ranks) to serve in public office
- 3. A series of financial & political scandals within the Grant Administration

The Panic of 1873....

What event started the Panic of 1873?

- Jay Cooke & Co. (major investor in RR's & the Union Army) declared bankruptcy
- The company had lied about the value of RR lands
- This sent "shockwaves" throughout the U.S. economy...

How did the Panic affect the business of the U.S.?

• Stock Market — investors began selling off large numbers of shares of stock. This led to massive "buy-backs" of company stock (this leads to a de-value in the price of the stock)

Railroads - 89 of the nations 364 railroad companies had failed

How did the Panic affect the business of the U.S.?

Unemployment - Unemployment rate had reached 14% by 1876 (2 million people out of work)

Strikes - The high unemployment led to a number of strikes & protests (mostly RR workers)

What issue replaced Reconstruction for Republicans?

Northerners became LESS concerned with Southern racism & discrimination and MORE concerned with their financial well-being

The Election of 1876...

What Issues Caused The Republican Party To Abandon Reconstruction?

- Voters' attention was shifting to economic concerns
- Republicans lost control of the House of Rep. to the Democrats
- Scandal & corruption within the Grant Admn.

Election of 1876

Candidates:

Republicans chose Rutherford B. Hayes (OH)

Democrats chose Samuel J. Tilden (NY Gov)

Results:

- The election was close
- Hayes won with the Compromise of 1877, which called for the removal of federal troops from the South in exchange for the Dem. acceptance of Hayes' victory

Redeemers

Defined -

Redeemers was a term used to describe the Democrats in the South who helped the party return to power

What did the Redeemers do?

- Wanted to reduce the size of state governments
- Limited civil rights of African Americans
- Reduced state budgets
- Got rid of social programs
- Reduced property taxes & cut school funding

African Americans' Rights Restricted

Voting Restrictions

- **Poll Tax** a special tax that had to be paid before a person could vote
- <u>Literacy Test</u> A test to determine if a person can read and write
- "Grandfather" Clause a provision written into laws that exempts people from being subject to certain laws & qualifications
- ** All of these tactics were used to keep African Americans from being able to vote**

Segregation

Defined -

The forced separation of whites and African Americans in public places

Jim Crow Laws

Defined -

Laws that were intended to enforce segregation in the South

Supreme Court Rulings...

Civil Rights Act of 1875 was ruled Unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court also interpreted the 14th Amendment to allow "private" segregation.

Plessy v. Ferguson

Result of the case?

The Supreme Court ruled that segregation was allowed as long as "separate, but equal" facilities were provided

Farming in the South...

Sharecropping

Defined -

A system used on southern farms after the Civil War in which [African American] farmers worked land owned by someone else in return for a small portion of the crops harvested

Why would a cycle of debt continue for sharecroppers?

- Sharecroppers did not make much money from this system
- When more supplies / livestock were needed, they had to buy on CREDIT
- Most sharecroppers grew cotton, which led to a decrease in price / demand
- Low cotton prices + buying on credit (x's the occasional natural disaster) ='s difficulty getting out of debt

Rebuilding Southern Industry...

What was the most successful industrial development in the South?

- Textile production
- Investors built textile mills in many small towns to produce cotton fabric
- This drew many workers from rural areas
- African Americans were NOT allowed to get jobs in these mills

Mill Work

Benefits

- Good wages, steady work
- Employed large numbers of people

Drawbacks

- Boring work (same thing over & over)
- Long hours (12 hrs/day, 6 days/week)
- Hazardous conditions (air quality & dangerous machinery)