

The Fight Over Reconstruction

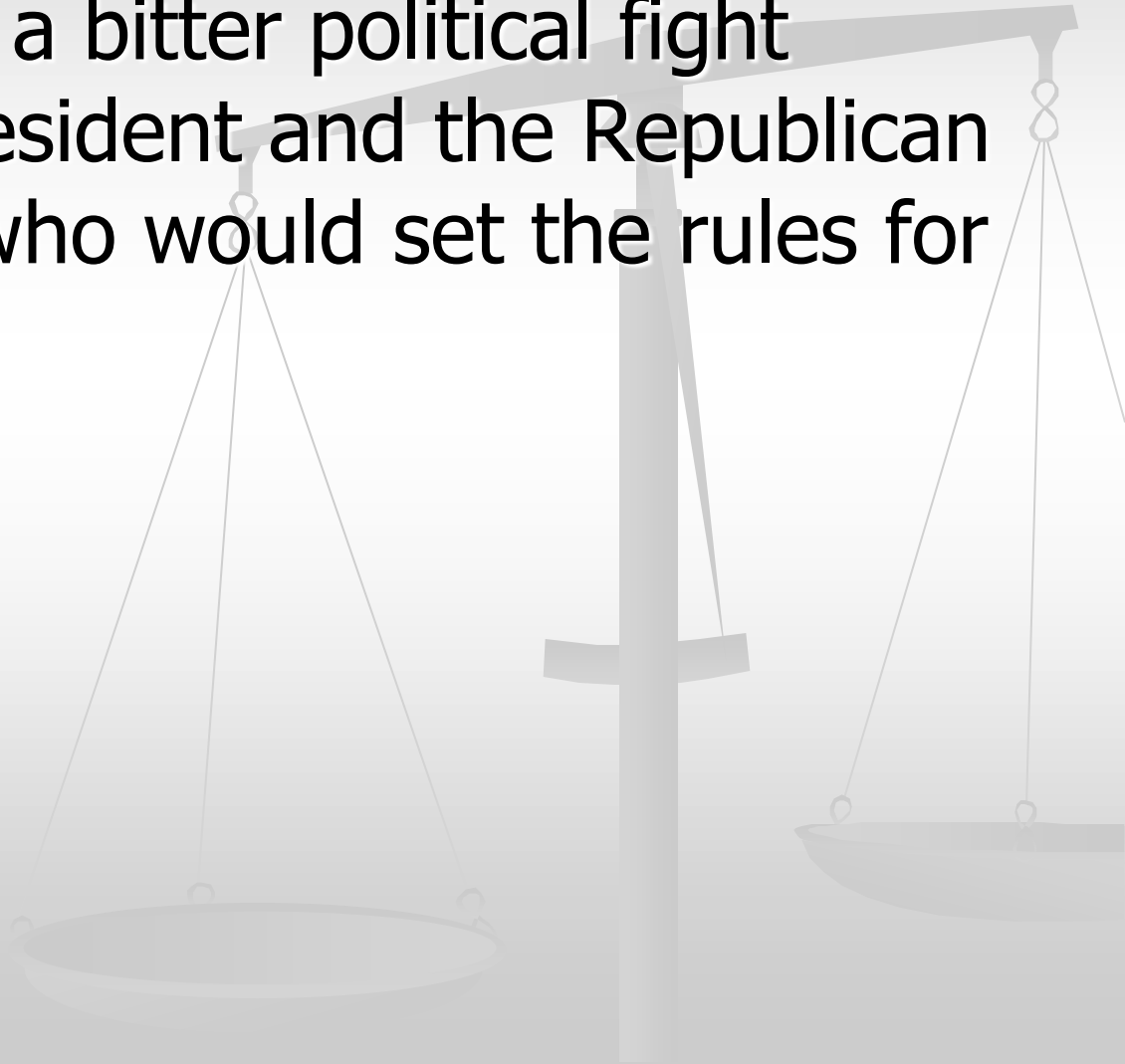


Chapter 17 Section 2

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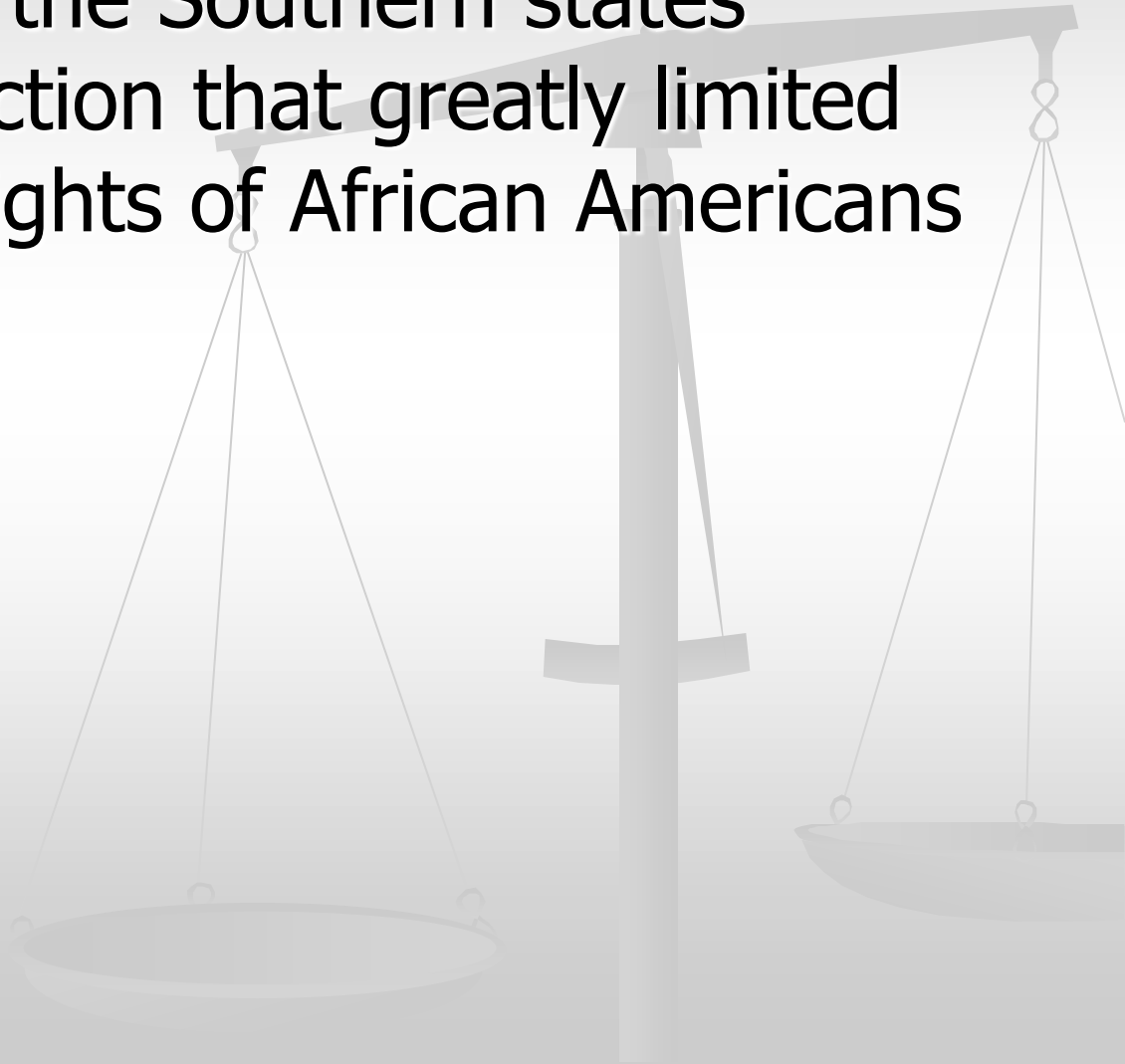
Opposition to Johnson's Lenient Plan

- There would be a bitter political fight between the President and the Republican Congress over who would set the rules for Reconstruction

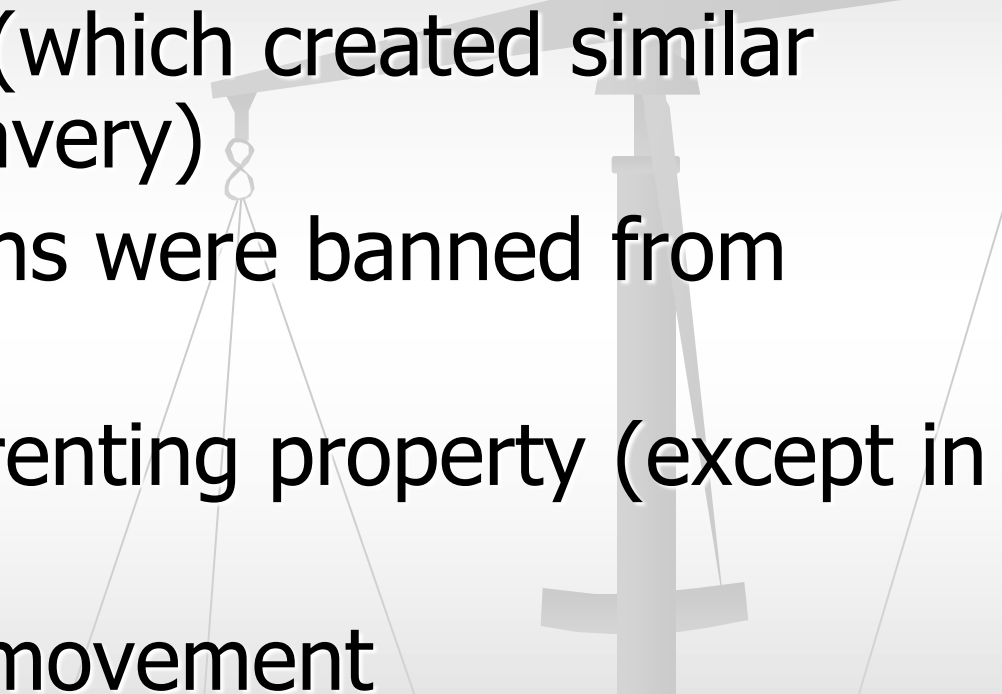


Black Codes defined:

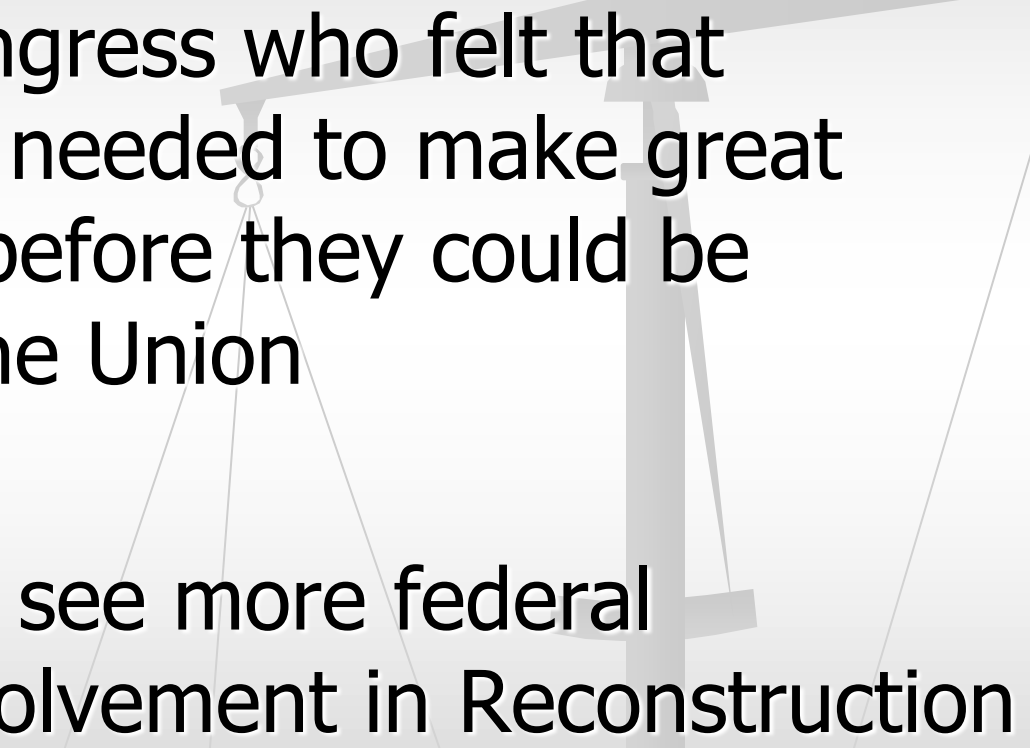
- Laws passed in the Southern states during Reconstruction that greatly limited the freedoms & rights of African Americans



What were some of the restrictions found in the Southern Black Codes?

- Work contracts (which created similar conditions as slavery)
 - African Americans were banned from owning guns
 - Restrictions on renting property (except in cities)
 - Restrictions on movement
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Who were the Radical Republicans & What did they want?

- Members of Congress who felt that southern states needed to make great social changes before they could be readmitted to the Union
 - They wanted to see more federal government involvement in Reconstruction
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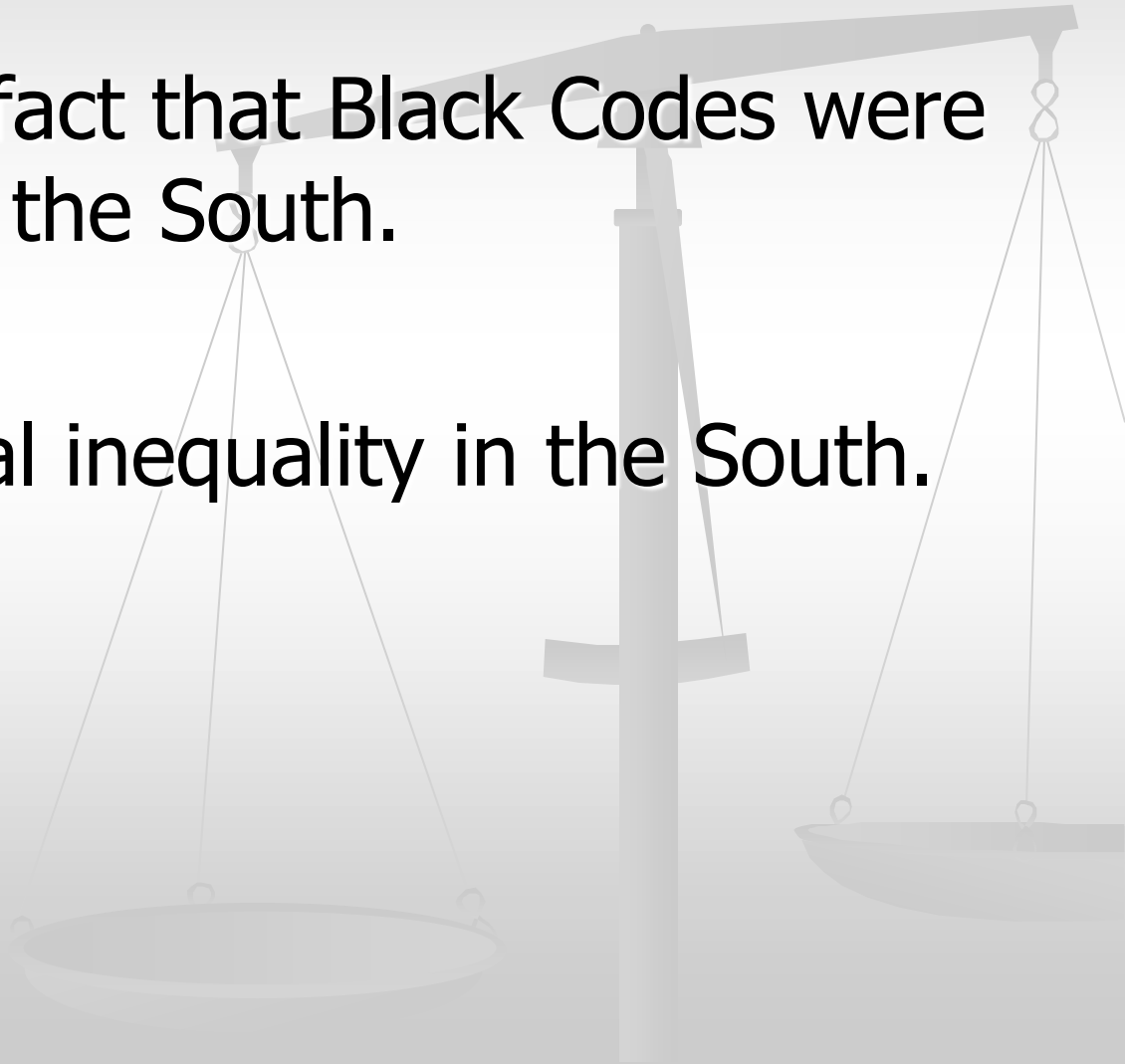
What did the leaders of the Radical Republicans (T. Stevens and C. Sumner) want for African Americans?

- Economic and political justice for African Americans
- Civil Rights
- Fair laws
- Right to vote

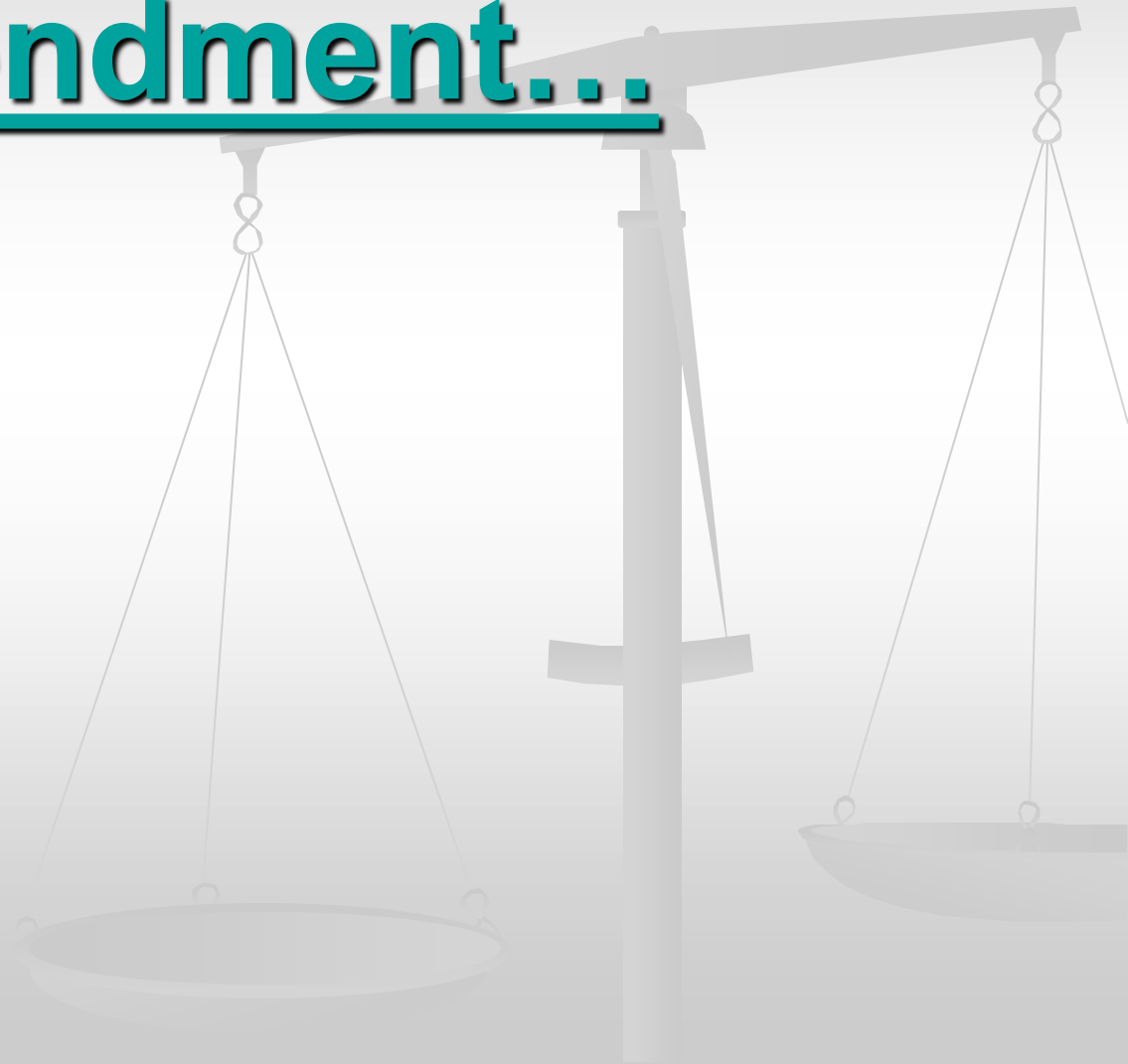


What was Johnson doing that angered the Radicals?

- He ignored the fact that Black Codes were being passed in the South.
- He allowed racial inequality in the South.

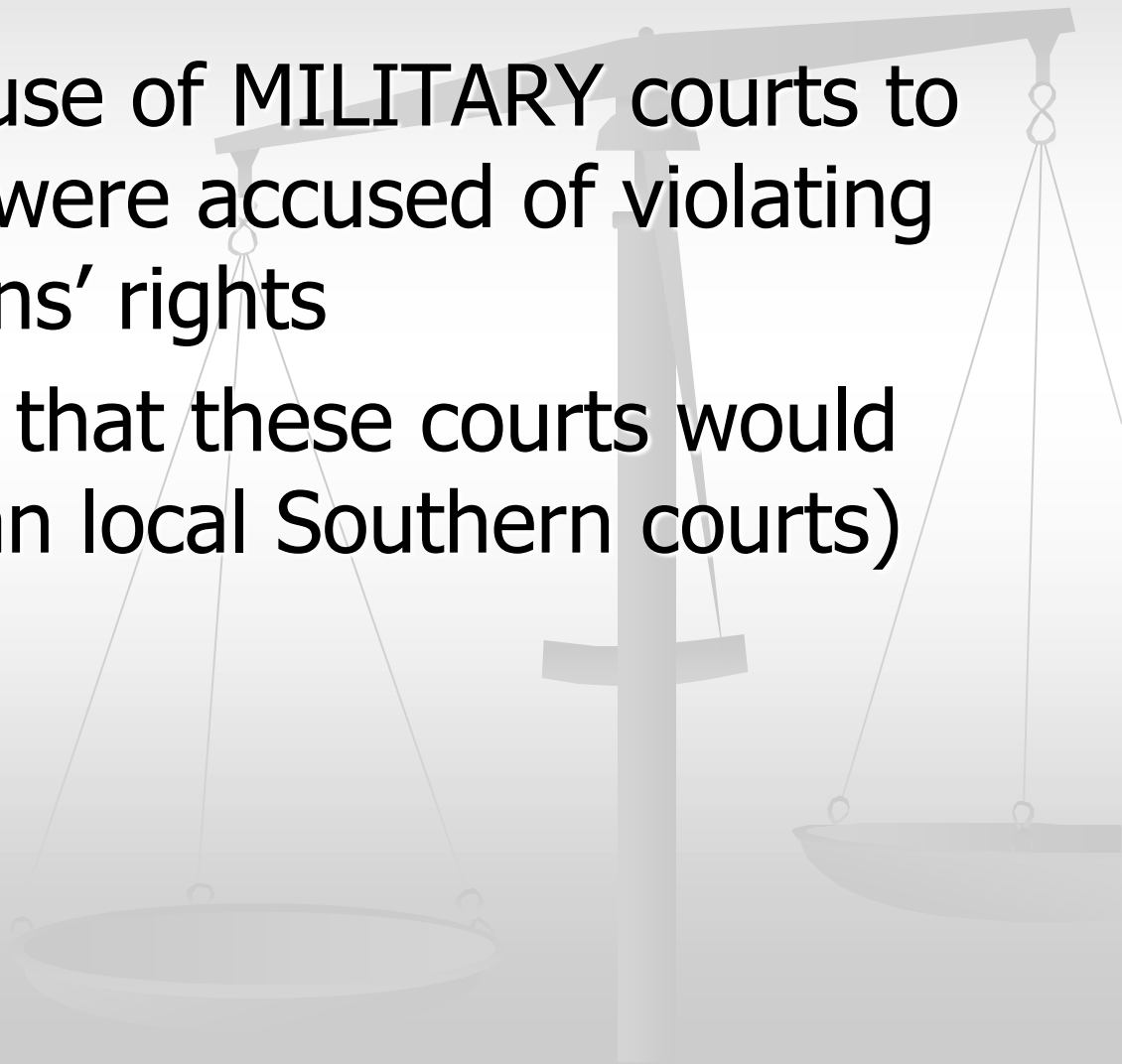


The Fourteenth Amendment...



How did Congress propose to give the Freedman's Bureau more powers?

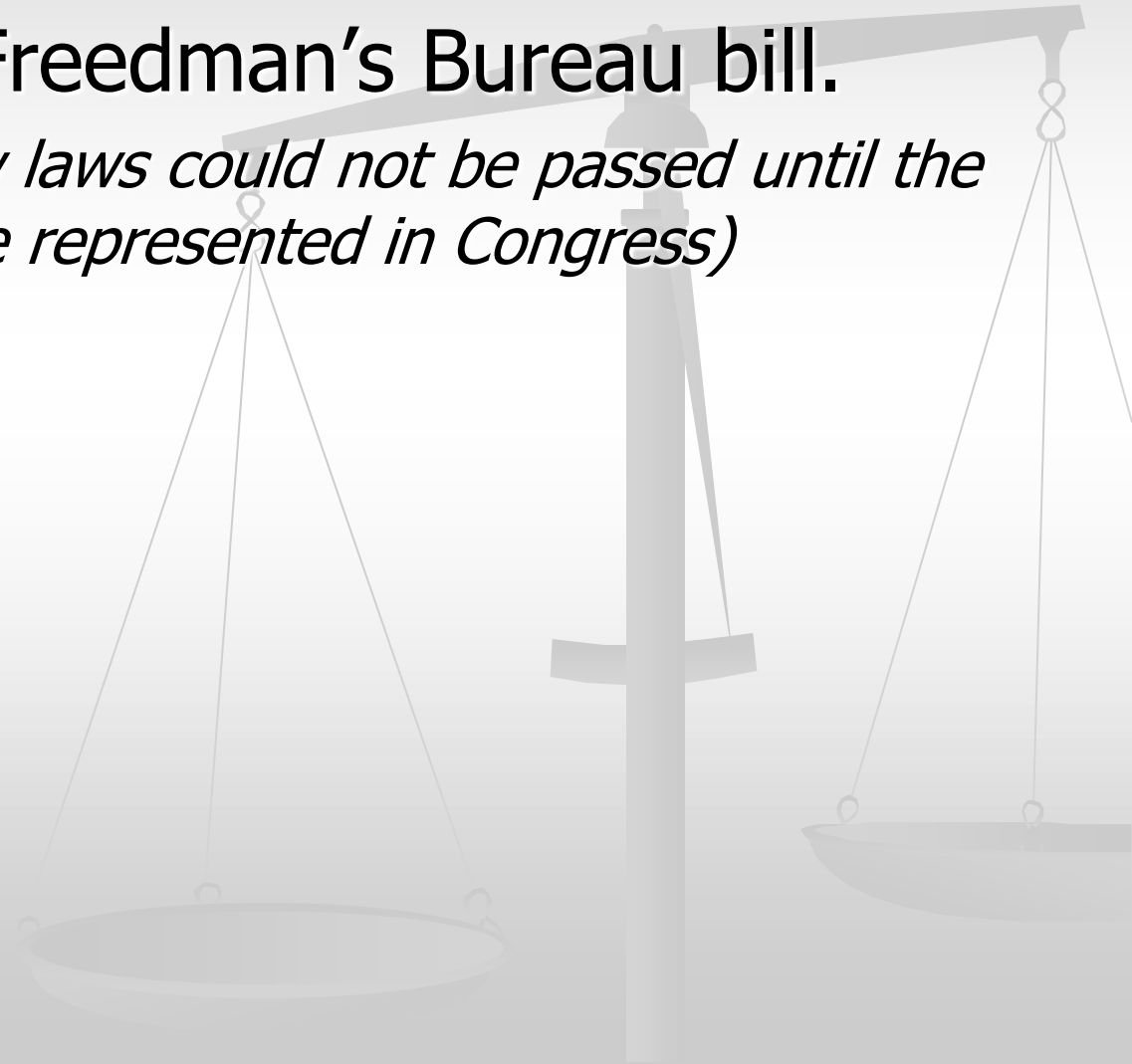
- Authorized the use of MILITARY courts to try people who were accused of violating African Americans' rights
- (it was believed that these courts would be more fair than local Southern courts)



What was Johnson's reaction to this?

- He vetoed the Freedman's Bureau bill.

(he insisted that new laws could not be passed until the Southern states were represented in Congress)



The Republican's responded with the Civil Rights Act of 1866. This act provided...

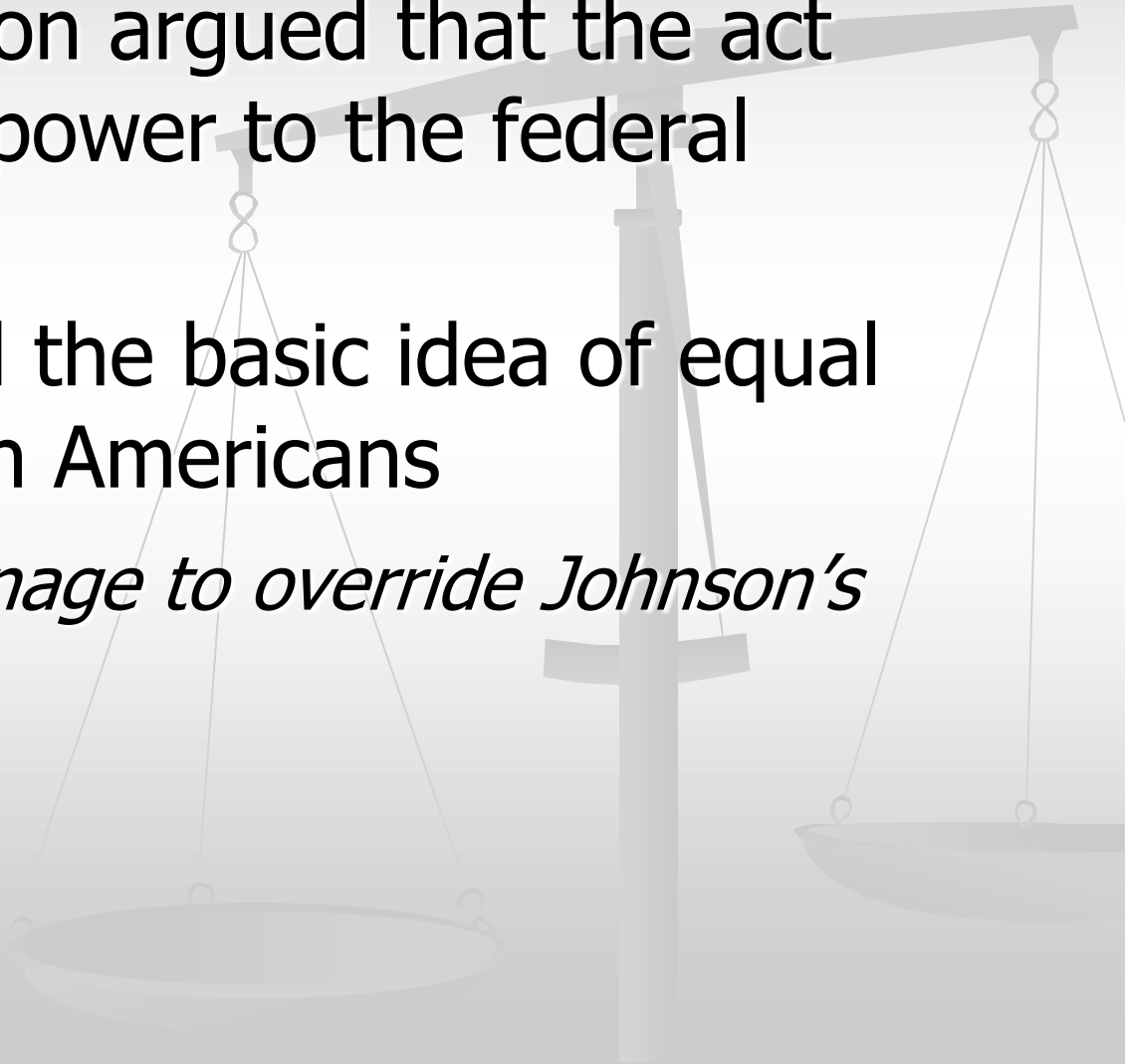
- African Americans with the same legal rights as white Americans.



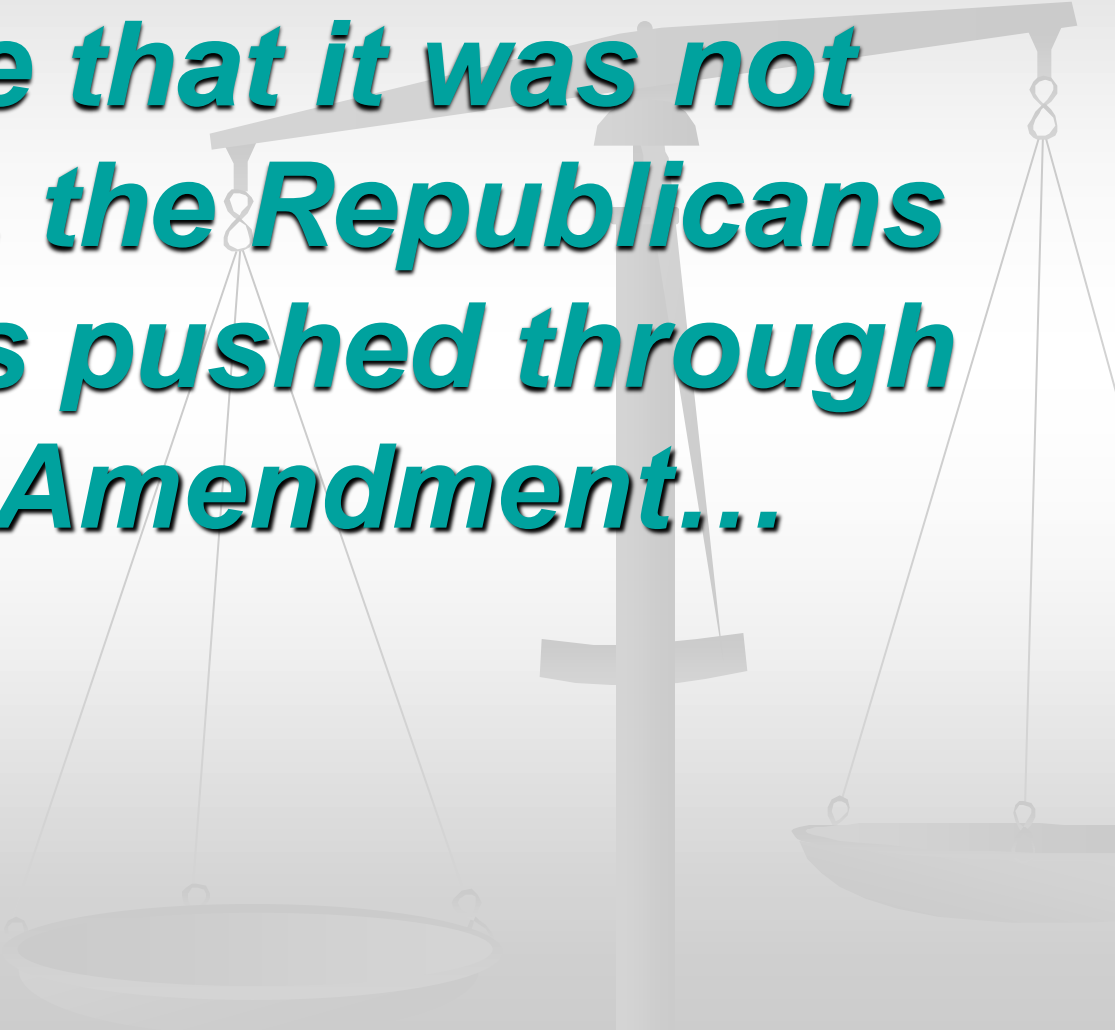
Johnson again vetoed this bill. Why?

- President Johnson argued that the act gave too much power to the federal government
- He also rejected the basic idea of equal rights for African Americans

(Congress did manage to override Johnson's veto)



To get around Johnson and to make sure that it was not overturned, the Republicans in Congress pushed through the 14th Amendment...



Provisions of the 14th Amendment



1. Defined all people born or naturalized with the U.S., except for Native Americans as citizens
2. Guaranteed citizens the equal protection of the laws
3. States could not deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law
4. Banned many Confederate officers from holding state or federal offices
5. Made state laws subject to federal court reviews
6. Gave Congress the power to pass any laws necessary to enforce the Amendment

Results of the Elections of 1866

- Civil Rights for African Americans was a major topic
 - Johnson went on a nation-wide tour supporting Democratic candidates (the tour was a disaster)
 - During the Summer of 1866, there were two major riots that resulted violence towards African Americans (Memphis & New Orleans)
 - ***Republicans won a 2/3's majority in BOTH the House & the Senate*** (this gave the Republicans the power to override any veto)
 - ***The Republican Party became united, as moderates joined with the Radicals***
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