

The Fight Over Reconstruction Part 2

Chapter 17 Section 2

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Congress Takes Control of Reconstruction....



The mid-term elections of 1866 gave the Republicans more than a 2/3 majority in both houses of Congress.

Anything they did was “veto proof” ...



Reconstruction Acts of 1867

- The South was divided into 5 military districts. (A U.S. Military commander controlled each state and a military presence would remain until the state rejoined the Union)
- The states had to write a NEW state constitution supporting the 14th Amendment
- Had to give African American men the right to vote



What were Johnson's views on the equal treatment of African Americans?

- Johnson did not believe that African Americans **DESERVED** the same treatment as whites (Johnson was once a Southern slaveholder)



What led Congress to call for Johnson's impeachment?

- Johnson had violated a law which prevented him from removing Cabinet officials without Senate approval
- He fired the current Secretary of War (Edwin Stanton, who had been appointed by Lincoln)



Result of the impeachment trial

- Congress FAILED TO CONVICT Johnson by ONE (1) vote
(even though he was unpopular, there were Republicans who felt Johnson was being treated unfairly & there was also mistrust towards the *President Pro Tempore* of the Senate)



**Election of 1868: Johnson
chose not to run.**



Who were the Presidential candidates for the 1868 election?

Democratic Candidate – NY Gov. **Horatio Seymour**

Republican Candidate – **Ulysses S. Grant**
(former Union War hero)



How did African Americans influence the election?

- Hundreds of thousands of African Americans turned out to vote for Grant (& *the Party of Lincoln* – the Republican Party)



What was the Southern white response to this?

- Violent tactics were used to TRY to keep African Americans from going to the polls to vote



**Grant won the election with
the help of the African
American vote.**



Fifteenth Amendment...



What worries did Republicans have about the future after Grant's election?

- Concerns that Southern states would try to keep African Americans from voting
- Concerns that as more southern states rejoined the Union, the Republican Reconstruction Plans would be challenged



What was the situation with African American voters in the North?

- Many states in the North still had laws that prevented African Americans from voting, yet all returning Southern states were required to guarantee African American voting rights



Fifteenth Amendment proposed and passed. *The right to vote cannot be denied for reasons of race, color, or previous condition of servitude*



Positive Reactions

- Symbolically marked the official end of the era of slavery in the United States



Negative Reactions

- Women were not mentioned in the Amendment, therefore still could not vote

