

# The Ordeal of Reconstruction



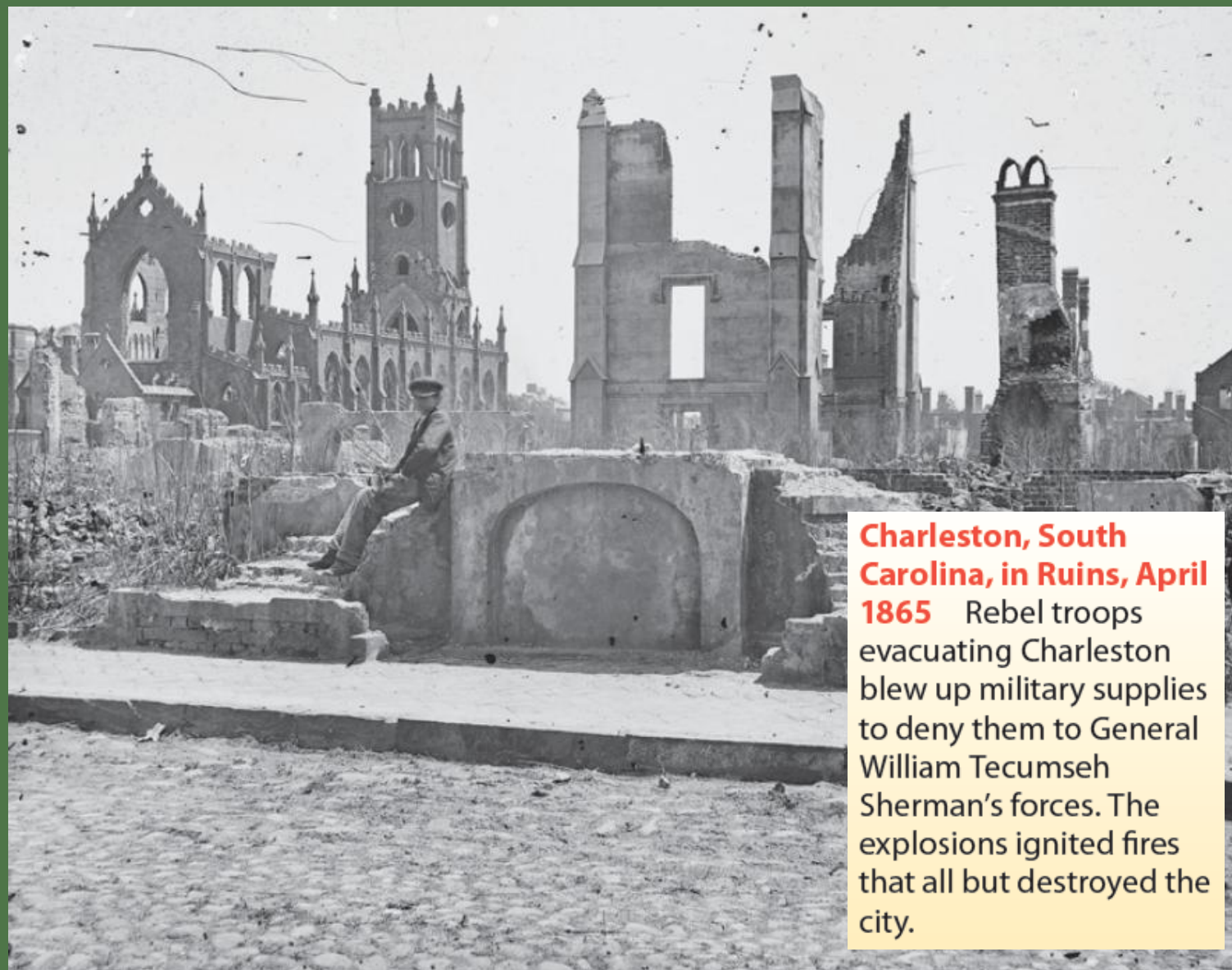
1865–1877

*With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, SECOND INAUGURAL, MARCH 4, 1865

#1: What were the major problems facing the South and the nation after the Civil War? Did Reconstruction address them or fail to do so?

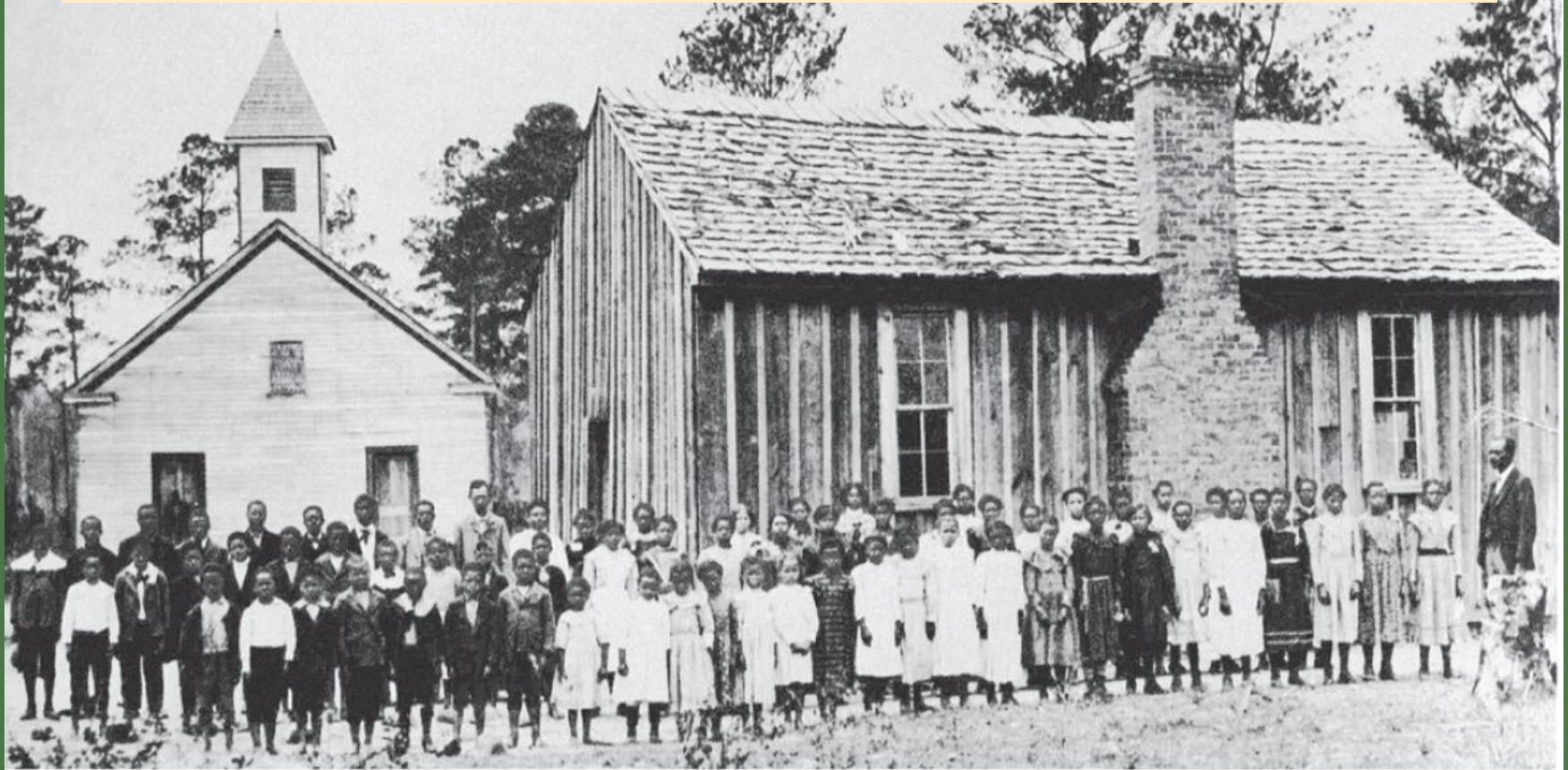
- The Four Questions of Reconstruction
- The Problems of Peace
  - Rebels | Cities | Economics | Agriculture
  - The Lost Cause
- Freedmen Define Freedom
- The Freedmen's Bureau \*



**Charleston, South Carolina, in Ruins, April 1865** Rebel troops evacuating Charleston blew up military supplies to deny them to General William Tecumseh Sherman's forces. The explosions ignited fires that all but destroyed the city.



**Educating Young Freedmen and Freedwomen, 1870s** Freed slaves in the South regarded schooling as the key to improving their children's lives and the fulfillment of a long-sought right that had been denied blacks in slavery. These well-dressed schoolchildren are lined up outside their rural, one-room schoolhouse alongside their teachers, both black and white.



*Women from the North enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to go south and teach in Freedmen's Bureau schools for emancipated blacks. One volunteer explained her motives:*

**“I thought I must do something, not having money at my command, what could I do but give myself to the work. . . . I would go to them, and give them my life if necessary.”**

#2: Describe Johnson's background, what were the major issues he faced in office? How did the question of Reconstruction come to define (or bury) his presidency? How did his vision differ from that of Congress – who was right?

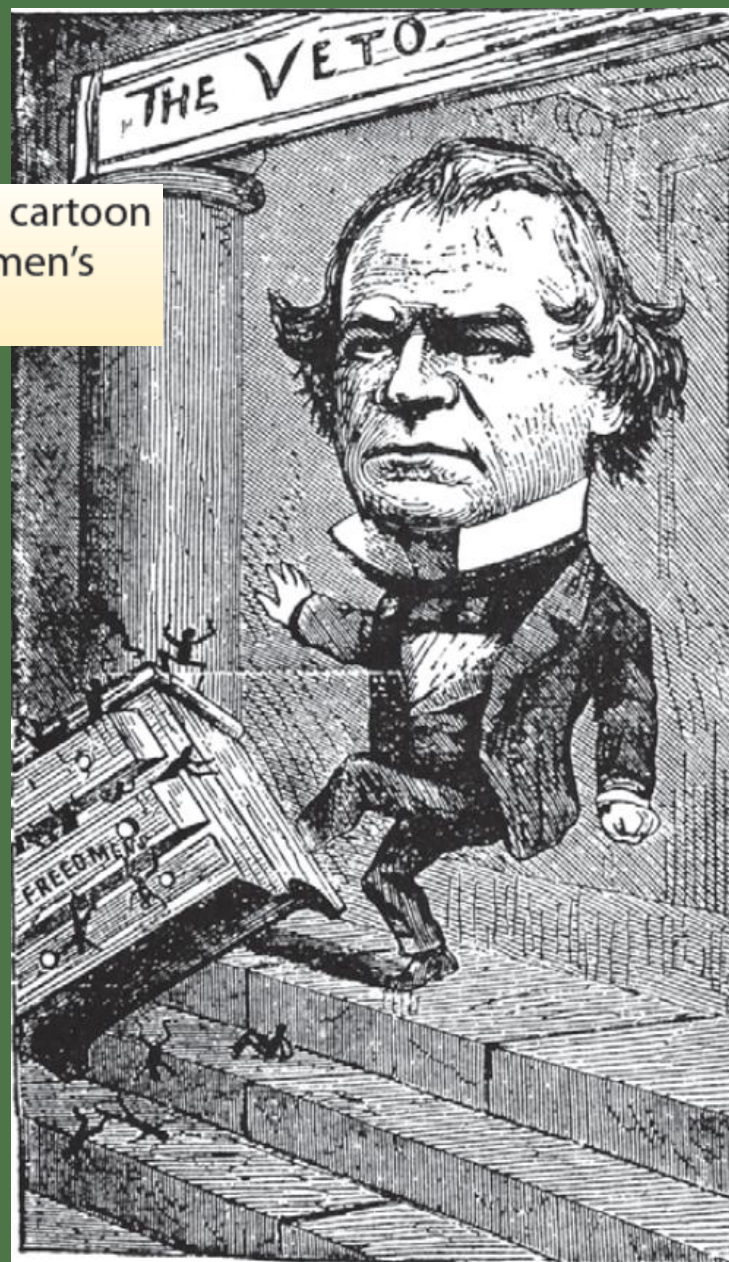
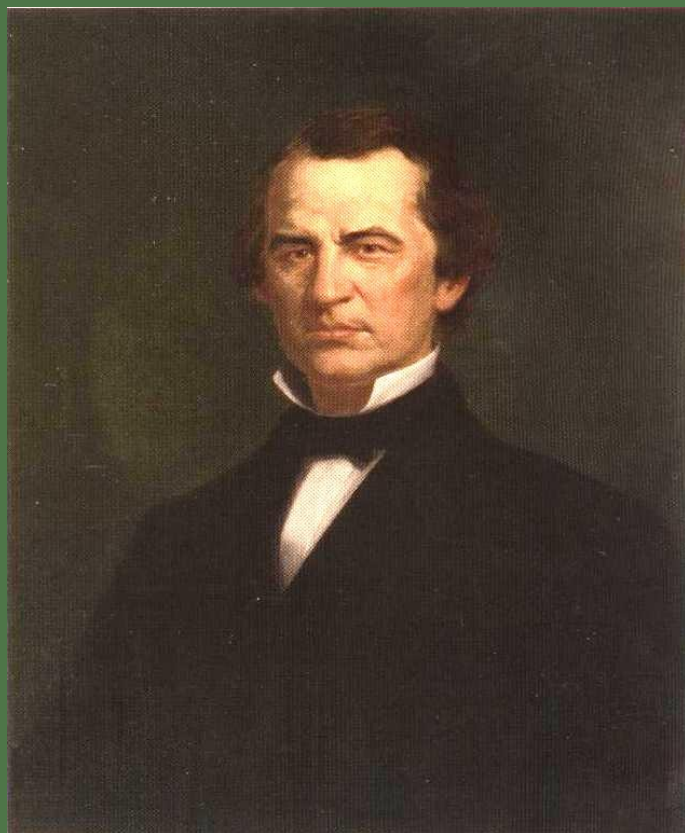
- Johnson: The Tailor President
- Presidential Reconstruction
- Congressional Reconstruction
- Johnson Clashes with Congress
- Swing Around the Circle \*

**TABLE 22.1** Principal Reconstruction Proposals and Plans

Year	Proposal or Plan
1864–1865	Lincoln's 10 percent proposal
1865–1866	Johnson's version of Lincoln's proposal
1866–1867	Congressional plan: 10 percent plan with Fourteenth Amendment
1867–1877	Congressional plan of military Reconstruction: Fourteenth Amendment plus black suffrage, later established nationwide by Fifteenth Amendment



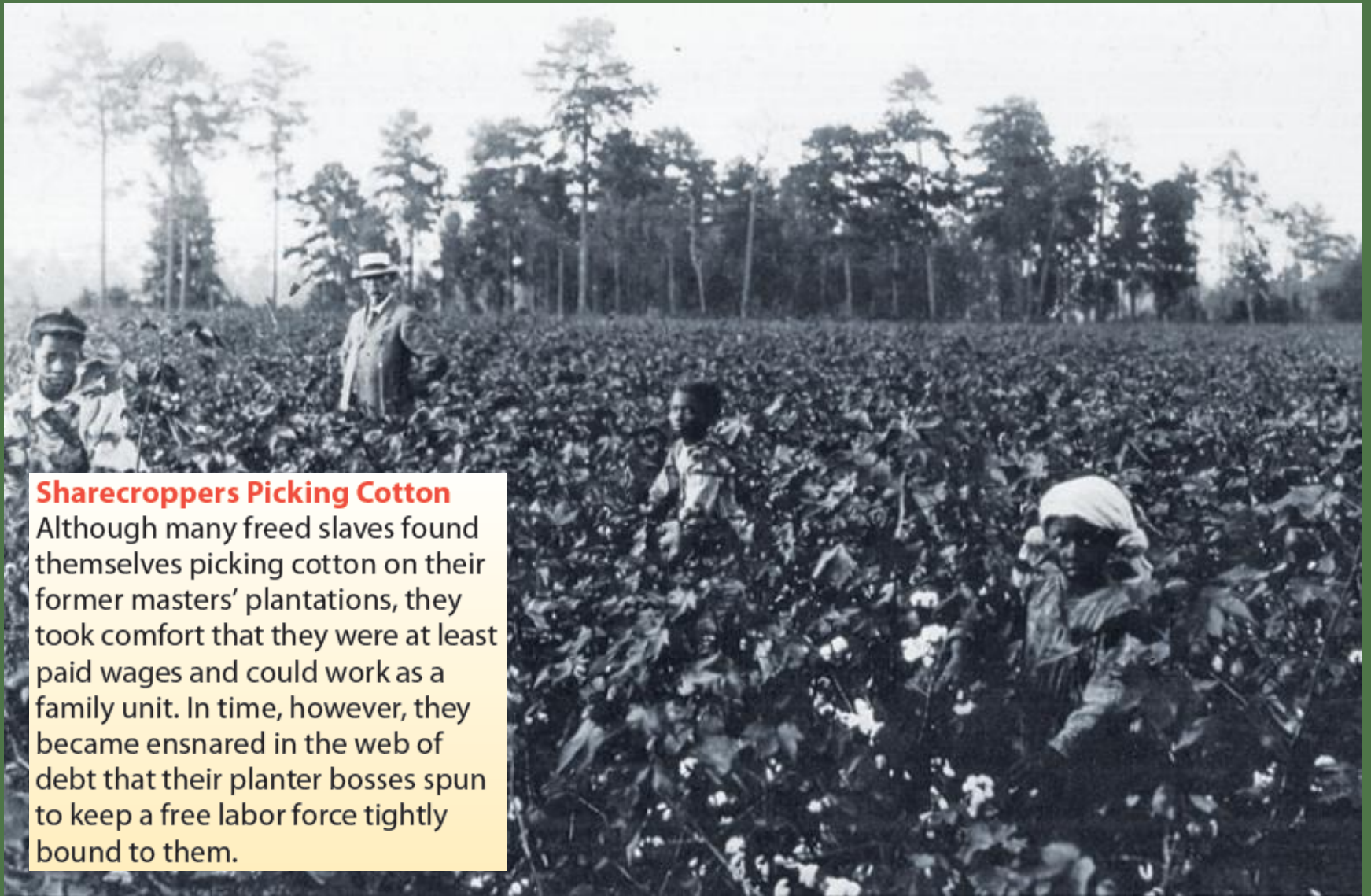
**An Inflexible President, 1866** This Republican cartoon shows Johnson knocking blacks out of the Freedmen's Bureau by his veto. Library of Congress





#3: Why did the South's treatment of the freed slaves enrage many northerners in 1865? What did the attempt at black political empowerment achieve? Why did it finally fail?

- The Baleful Black Codes
- Realities of Radical Reconstruction in the South
- The Ku Klux Klan \*



### **Sharecroppers Picking Cotton**

Although many freed slaves found themselves picking cotton on their former masters' plantations, they took comfort that they were at least paid wages and could work as a family unit. In time, however, they became ensnared in the web of debt that their planter bosses spun to keep a free labor force tightly bound to them.

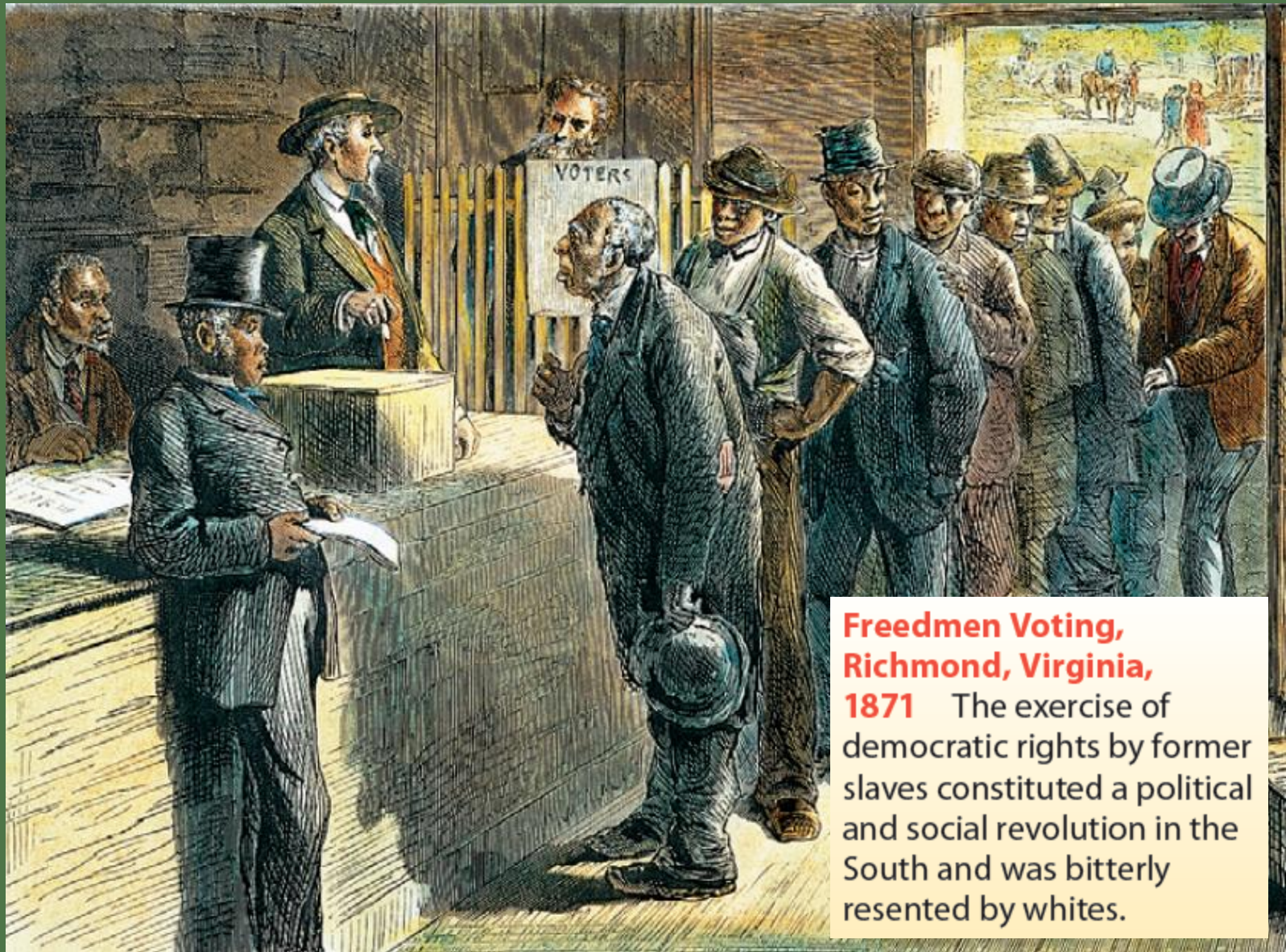
*Before President Andrew Johnson (1808–1875) softened his Southern policy, his views were radical. Speaking on April 21, 1865, he declared,*

“It is not promulgating anything that I have not heretofore said to say that traitors must be made odious, that treason must be made odious, that traitors must be punished and impoverished. They must not only be punished, but their social power must be destroyed. If not, they will still maintain an ascendancy, and may again become numerous and powerful; for, in the words of a former Senator of the United States, ‘When traitors become numerous enough, treason becomes respectable.’”

*Early in 1866 one congressman quoted a Georgian:*

“The blacks eat, sleep, move, live, only by the tolerance of the whites, who hate them. The blacks own absolutely nothing but their bodies; their former masters own everything, and will sell them nothing. If a black man draws even a bucket of water from a well, he must first get the permission of a white man, his enemy. . . . If he asks for work to earn his living, he must ask it of a white man; and the whites are determined to give him no work, except on such terms as will make him a serf and impair his liberty.”





**Freedmen Voting,  
Richmond, Virginia,  
1871** The exercise of  
democratic rights by former  
slaves constituted a political  
and social revolution in the  
South and was bitterly  
resented by whites.

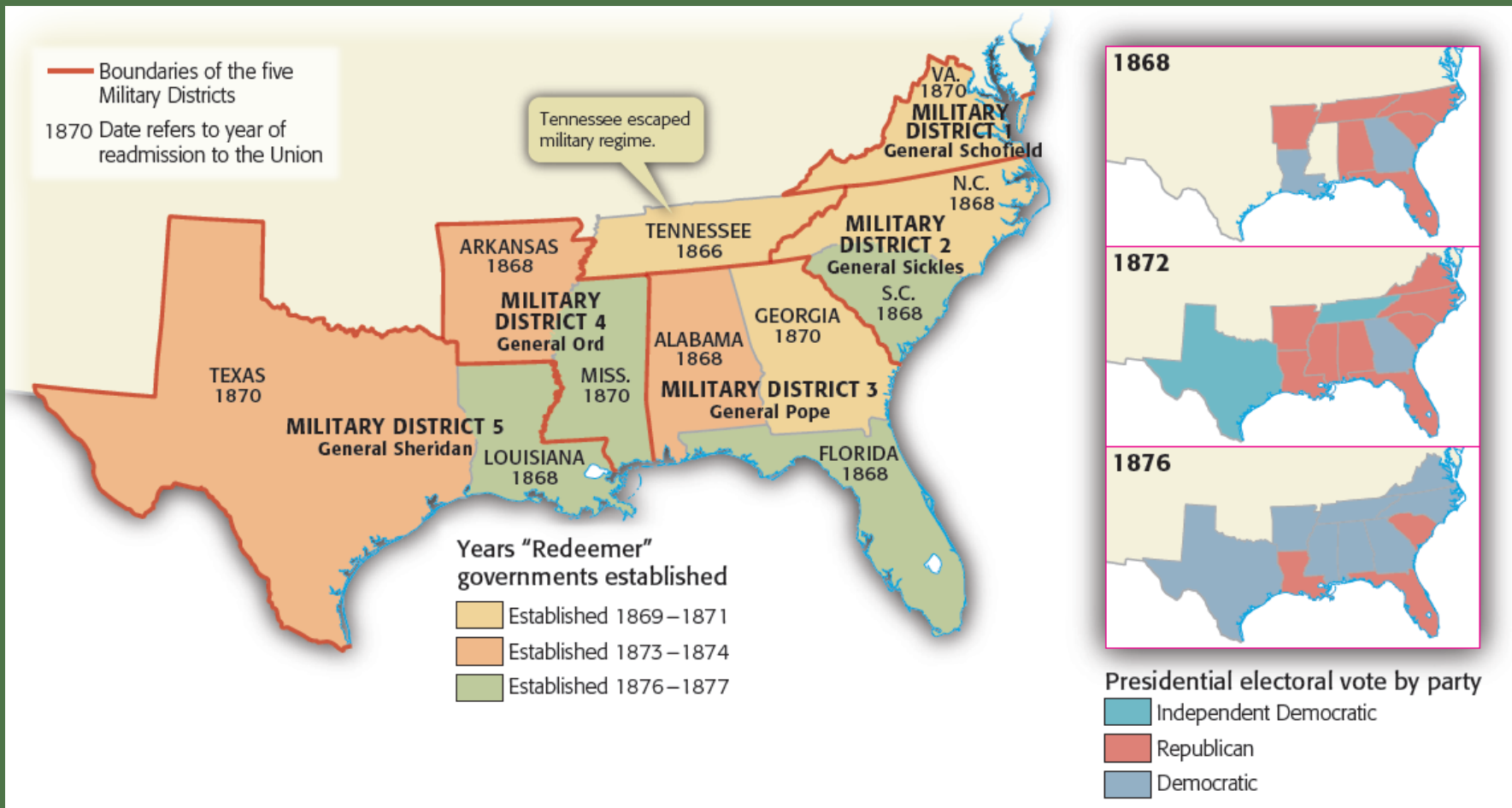




**The Ku Klux Klan, Tennessee, 1868** This night-riding terrorist has even masked the identity of his horse.

#4: What was the purpose of congressional Reconstruction, and then Military reconstruction, and what were its actual effects in the South and the Nation?

- Republican Principles and Programs
- Reconstruction by the Sword
- No Women Voters
- Johnson Walks the Impeachment Plank
- Not-Guilty Verdict for Johnson \*



### MAP 22.1 Military Reconstruction, 1867 (five districts and commanding generals)

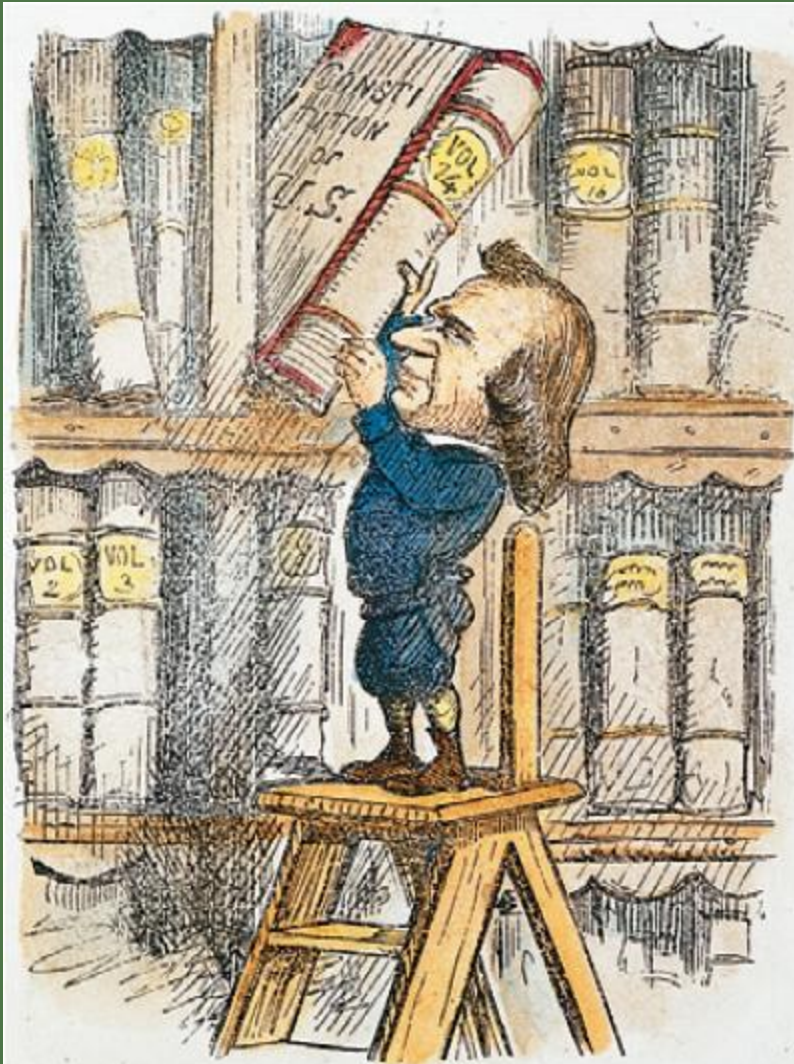
For many white Southerners, military Reconstruction amounted to turning the knife in the wound of defeat. An often-repeated story of later years had a Southerner remark, "I was sixteen years old before I discovered that damnyankee was two words." © Cengage Learning

**TABLE 22.2 Southern Reconstruction by State**

State	Readmitted to Representation in Congress	Home Rule (Democratic or "Redeemer" Regime) Reestablished	Comments
Tennessee	July 24, 1866		Ratified Fourteenth Amendment in 1866 and hence avoided military Reconstruction*
Arkansas	June 22, 1868	1874	
North Carolina	June 25, 1868	1870	
Alabama	June 25, 1868	1874	
Florida	June 25, 1868	1877	Federal troops restationed in 1877, as result of Hayes-Tilden electoral bargain
Louisiana	June 25, 1868	1877	Same as Florida
South Carolina	June 25, 1868	1877	Same as Florida
Virginia	January 26, 1870	1869	
Mississippi	February 23, 1870	1876	
Texas	March 30, 1870	1874	
Georgia	[June 25, 1868] July 15, 1870	1872	Readmitted June 25, 1868, but returned to military control after expulsion of blacks from legislature

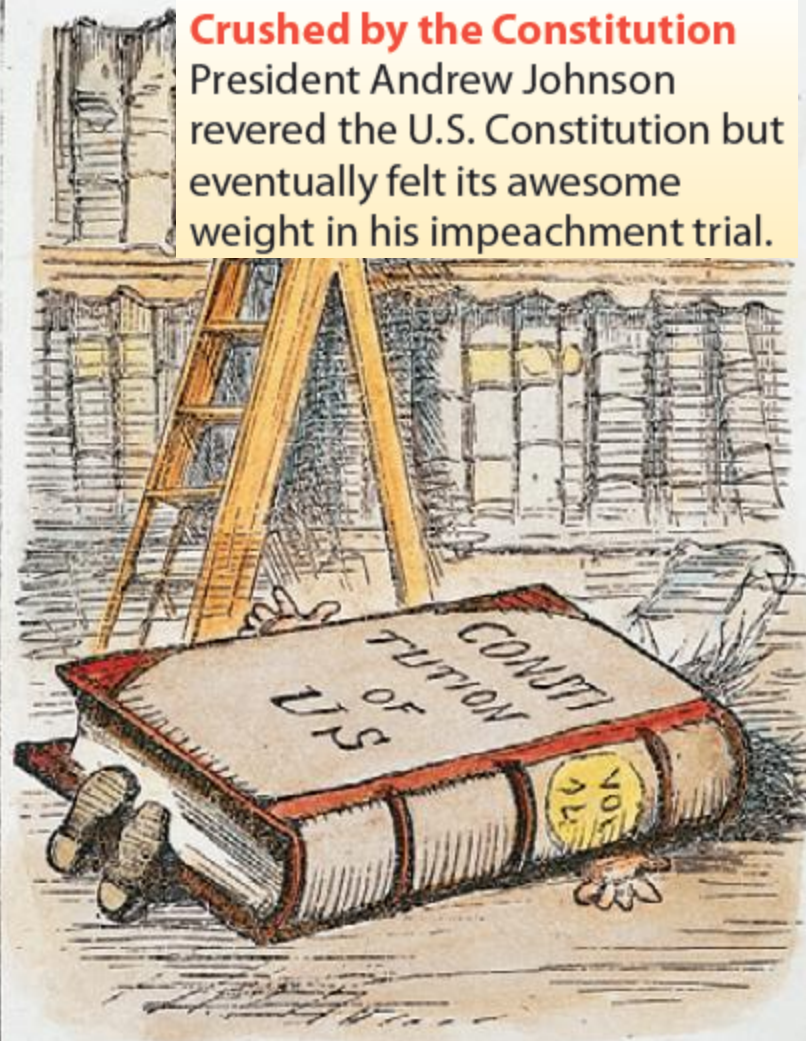
\*For many years Tennessee was the only state of the secession to observe Lincoln's birthday as a legal holiday. Many states in the South still observe the birthdays of Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee.





### **Crushed by the Constitution**

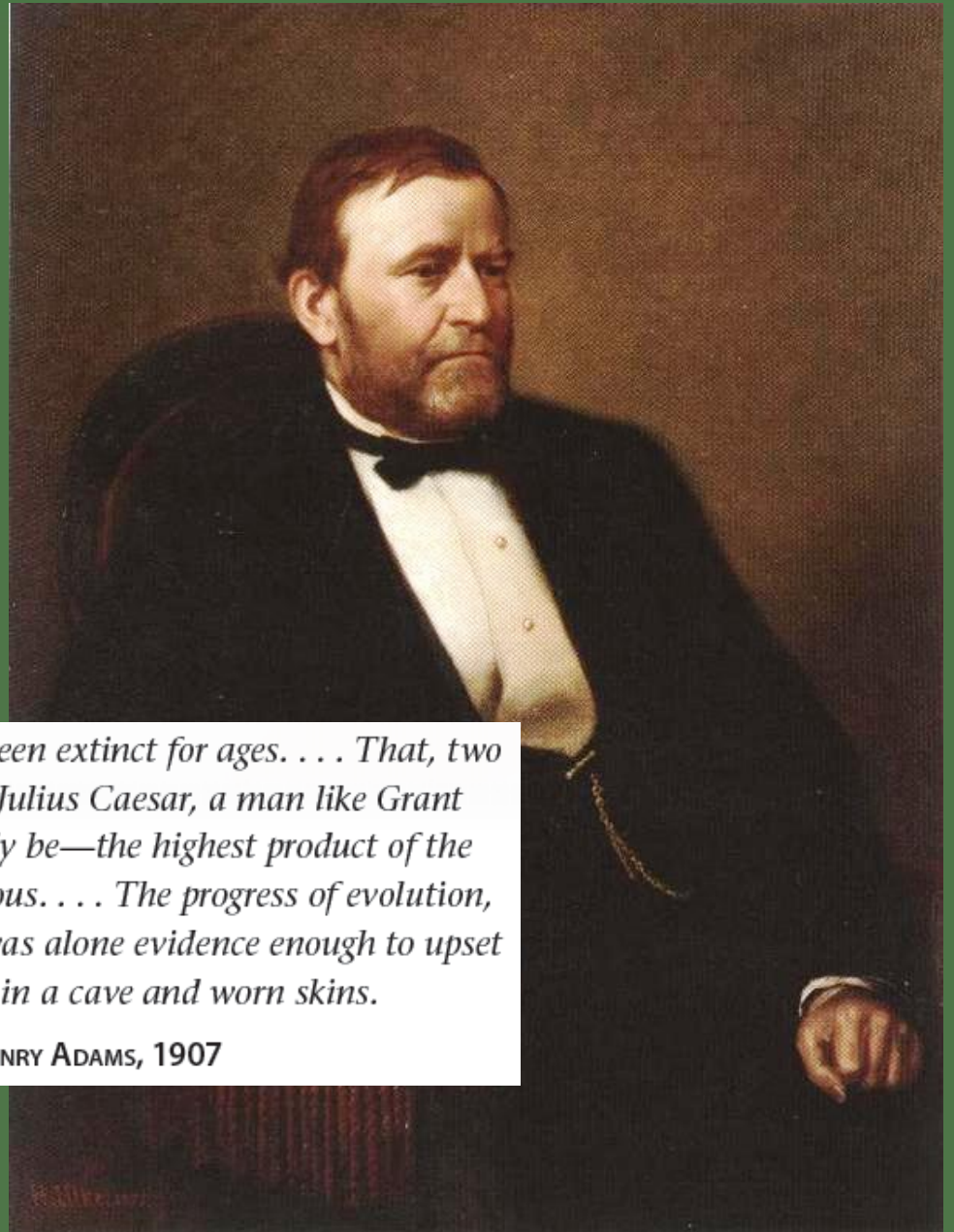
President Andrew Johnson revered the U.S. Constitution but eventually felt its awesome weight in his impeachment trial.



#5: Evaluate the state of politics under the Grant administration. What should be Grant's legacy as president?

- The “Bloody Shirt” Elects Grant
- The Era of Good Stealings
- A Carnival of Corruption
- The Liberal Republican Revolt of 1872
- Depression, Deflation, and Inflation
- Pallid Politics in the Gilded Age \*

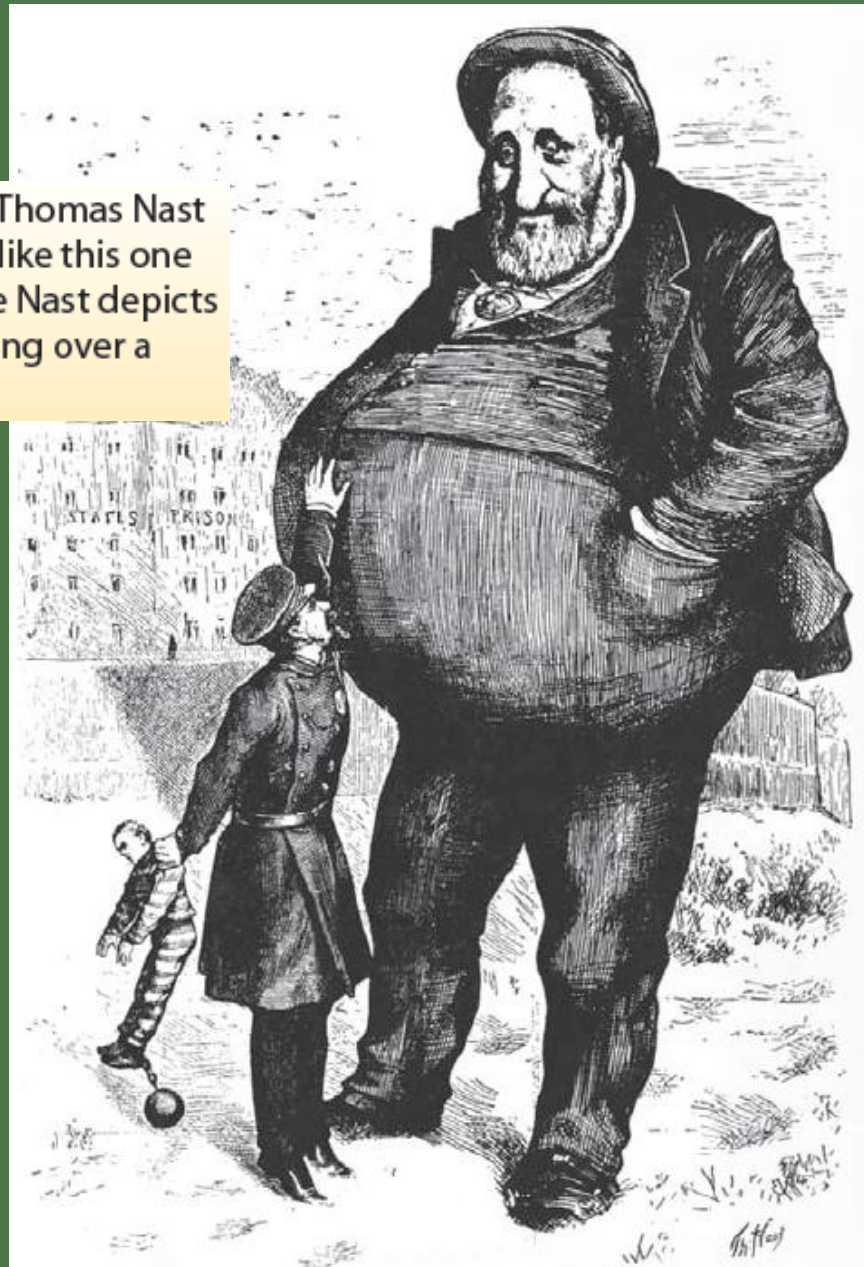




*Grant . . . had no right to exist. He should have been extinct for ages. . . . That, two thousand years after Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar, a man like Grant should be called—and should actually and truly be—the highest product of the most advanced evolution, made evolution ludicrous. . . . The progress of evolution, from President Washington to President Grant, was alone evidence enough to upset Darwin. . . . Grant . . . should have lived in a cave and worn skins.*

HENRY ADAMS, *THE EDUCATION OF HENRY ADAMS*, 1907

**Can the Law Reach Him? 1872** Cartoonist Thomas Nast attacked "Boss" Tweed in a series of cartoons like this one that appeared in *Harper's Weekly* in 1872. Here Nast depicts the corrupt Tweed as a powerful giant, towering over a puny law force. © Bettmann/Corbis







**Can Greeley and the Democrats "Swallow" Each Other?**  
**1872** This cartoon by Thomas Nast is a Republican gibe at the forced alliance between these former foes. General William Tecumseh Sherman wrote from Paris to his brother, "I feel amazed to see the turn things have taken. Grant who never was a Republican is your candidate; and Greeley who never was a Democrat, but quite the reverse, is the Democratic candidate."

#6: What caused the electoral standoff in 1876, how was it resolved? Did the Compromise of 1877 effectively deal with and end Reconstruction?

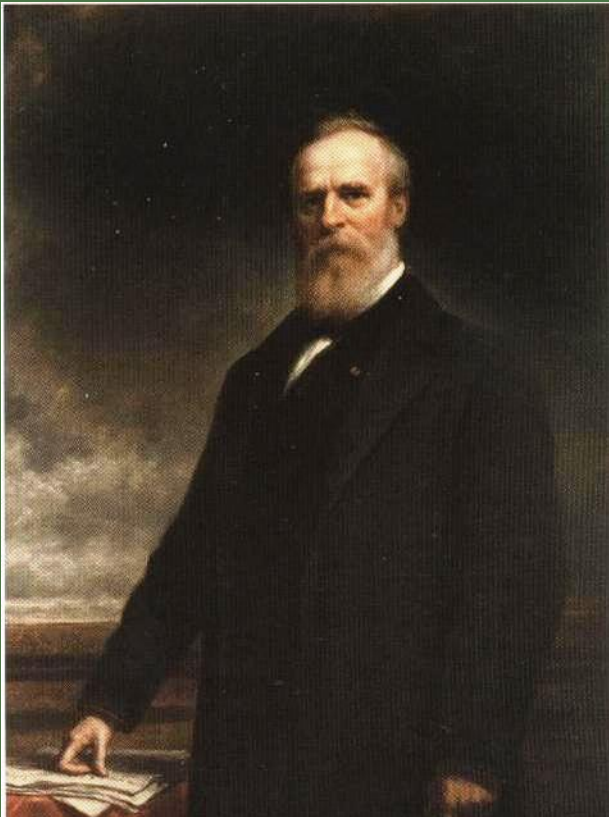
- The Hayes-Tilden Standoff, 1876
- The Compromise of 1877
- The End of Reconstruction \*





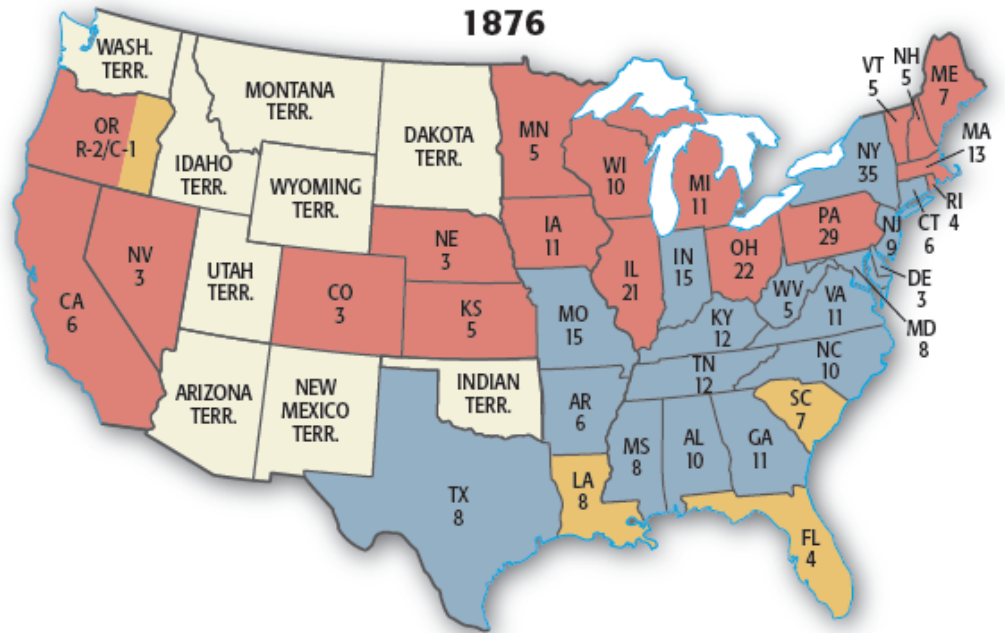
**The Political Legacy of the Civil War** Union veterans of the Civil War supported Republican candidate Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876. The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), the Union veterans' organization, voted heavily for the G.O.P. (Grand Old Party) in the post-civil war years.





**TABLE 23.1** Composition of the Electoral Commission, 1877

Members	Republicans	Democrats
Senate (Republican majority)	3	2
House (Democratic majority)	2	3
Supreme Court	3	2
TOTAL	8	7

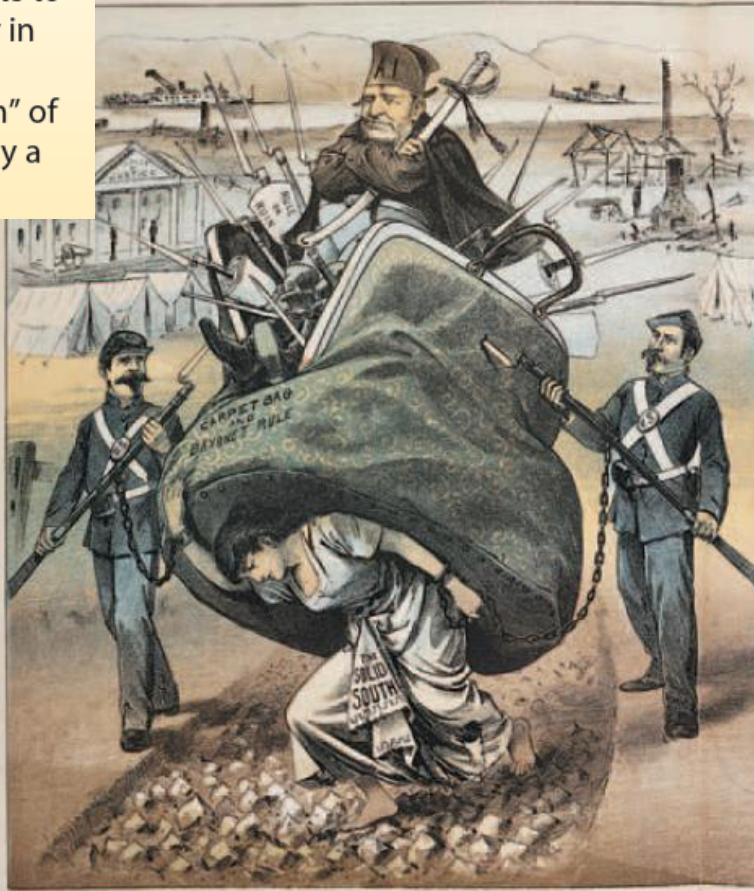


Candidate (Party)	Uncontested Electoral Vote	Electoral Vote	Popular Vote
Hayes (Republican)	165	185 50%	4,034,311 48.0%
Tilden (Democrat)	184	184 50%	4,288,546 51.0%
Contested			
Territories			

**MAP 23.1 Hayes-Tilden Disputed Election of 1876 (with electoral vote by state)** Nineteen of the twenty disputed votes composed the total electoral count of Louisiana, South Carolina, and Florida. The twentieth was one of Oregon's three votes, cast by an elector who turned out to be ineligible because he was a federal officeholder (a postmaster), contrary to the Constitution (see Art. II, Sec. I, para. 2). © Cengage Learning

## The End of Reconstruction, 1877

President Hayes's "Let 'em Alone" policy replaces the carpetbags and bayonets of the Grant administration, signifying the end of federal efforts to promote racial equality in the South—until the "second Reconstruction" of the civil rights era nearly a century later.



THE "STRONG" GOVERNMENT 1869-1877.



THE "WEAK" GOVERNMENT 1877-1881.