

Problems of Reconstruction

Directions: Complete the definitions below in your own words.

1. Reconstruction: _____
2. Disenfranchise: _____

Directions: Compare the following plans for Reconstruction and answer the questions below.

Lincoln's 10% Plan

- Ten percent of Southern voters would be required to take an oath of loyalty before the state would be readmitted to the Union.
- State must agree to abolish slavery.

Congress's Wade-Davis Bill

- Fifty percent of Southern voters would be required to take an "ironclad" oath that they had never voluntarily supported the Confederacy before the state would be readmitted to the Union.
- State Constitutions must abolish slavery.

Johnson's Reconstruction Plan

- Ten percent of Southern voters would be required to take an oath of loyalty before the state would be readmitted to the Union.
- Leading Confederates were to be disenfranchised
- State must agree to abolish slavery.

1. Why was Lincoln's plan so lenient towards the Confederacy? _____

2. Why was Congress' plan so strict? _____
3. Why would the Wade-Davis Bill not be an effective plan for Reconstruction? _____

4. How was Johnson's Reconstruction plan a compromise between the two previous plans? _____

Directions: Identify whether the Reconstruction systems below focused on keeping blacks socially, economically, or legally inferior to whites.

1. Sharecropping _____
2. Ku Klux Klan _____
3. Jim Crow Laws _____
4. Grandfather clause _____
5. Poll taxes _____
6. Literacy tests _____

Amendment XIII

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction...

Amendment XIV

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed...

Amendment XV

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.



Document Based Questions

1. Explain the 13th Amendment in your own words. _____

2. According to the 14th Amendment, who is a citizen of the United States? _____

3. What must happen to deny a citizen of their life, liberty, or property? What does that phrase mean? _____

4. What original clause of the Constitution does Section 2 of the 14th Amendment repeal? _____

5. What right does the 15th Amendment grant? To whom? _____

6. Who is not included in the 15th Amendment? Why do you think they weren't included?

Directions: Use the summary of *Plessy v. Ferguson* below to answer the questions on the right.

Facts of the Case

The state of Louisiana enacted a law that required separate railway cars for blacks and whites. In 1892, Homer Plessy--who was seven-eighths Caucasian--took a seat in a "whites only" car of a Louisiana train. He refused to move to the car reserved for blacks and was arrested.

Question

Is Louisiana's law mandating racial segregation on its trains an unconstitutional infringement on the equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment?

Conclusion:

Decision: 7 – 1 votes for Ferguson **Legal provision:** Amend 14, Section 1
The majority upheld state-imposed racial segregation. The justices based their decision on the separate-but-equal doctrine, that separate facilities for blacks and whites satisfied the Fourteenth Amendment so long as they were equal.

Plessy v. Ferguson

1. What element of the Fourteenth Amendment did Plessy feel had been denied to him?
2. What was the court's decision in this case? What doctrine was instituted as a result?
3. What do you think might have happened if the Supreme Court had voted in favor of Plessy?