Chapter 15: The South After the Civil War

The Economy of the South After the Civil War

Three reasons the economy of the South was not very strong before the Civil War

1. Profits were made because labor was unpaid.
2. limited major crops were planted: cotton, tobacco, and sugar.
3. Other industry was believed to be unneeded.

The Seven Factors of a Healthy Economy

1. Labor
2. Natural Resources
3. Equipment and Tools
4. Transportation
5. Money and Credit
6. Demand for Products
7. Profit

The Labor Factor

The 250,000 dead and maybe 300,000 wounded decreased the labor force in the South after the Civil War by about a third.

The Natural Resources Factor

Fertilizer = materials added to the soil to improve its qualities.

Some of the natural resources in the South included: farmland, water power and steam power, coal, iron and oil.

The Equipment and Tools Factor

Reapers, combines and corn planters, new farming inventions of the 1800's were no use to the cotton farmers of the South and the cultivation, another new invention, was too expensive for small time farmers.

Textiles and steel

Textiles and steel = two industries that grew in the South after the Civil War.

Agriculture = the primary source of employment (1890, 70% of the people).
The Transportation Factor

Railroads

Transcontinental = across the continent

Much of the railroad was destroyed during the Civil War including tracks, engines and cars.

The southern railroads didn't improve much right after the war because the federal government was building the transcontinental railroad between the east and west coasts of the United States.

The economy of the South was slow to recover due to the delay in the repairing and the building of new railroad track.

The Money and Credit Factor

Sharecropping

Sharecropping = landowner, the person who provides the supplies to grow crops and the worker (often poor whites and former slaves) each share 1/3 of the profits from the crops grown.

Sharecropping was used by southern farmers because large profits were able to be made using laborers who received very little for their efforts.

The hardships of sharecropping

Sharecropping was not profitable for workers because

1. They were uneducated
2. They were easily cheated by the landowners who also owned much of the supplies.
3. All the landowners agreed to pay the sharecroppers the same "share."

Large plantations shrink

A foreclosure occurs when a borrower cannot pay back money on a loan and the lender obtains ownership of the property. It is a legal
The three ways a farmer could lose their land through foreclosure =
1. lack of payment to the storekeeper for supplies,
2. lack of payment for a bank loan, and
3. inability to pay taxes.

The Demand Factor

Cotton and cloth

Southern cotton was still wanted by both the United States and Europe.

Labor was cheaper in the south and cotton, the raw product, was grown locally = cheaper cloth than in the north.

Other products

Fresh produce was in greater demand, in both the north and south, once refrigerated rail cars were introduced.

The Profit Factor

The two biggest economic problems that faced the South =
1. an undeveloped railroad system and
2. little financial resources (money and credit) to invest in industry.

Small textile factories started by individuals who had private money were the most profitable industry in the South after the war.

People's Rights Problems in the South After the Civil War

President Lincoln’s Approach to the Fred Slaves

The 10% Plan

One problem with Lincoln’s 10% Plan was getting the Confederate States to rejoin the United States.

A Confederate state was allowed to rejoin the United States if 10% of its
voters took an oath of allegiance to the United States.

**The 10% Plan and freed slaves**

Another problem Lincoln’s 10% Plan dealt with was what to do with the freed slaves after the Civil War.

Under the 10% Plan, each southern state was allowed to make decisions about the treatment of the newly freed slaves as long as the decisions "were consistent with the freed slaves condition as a laboring, landless, homeless class" (Hofstadter et. al. 1976 The United States p. 315).

Some people thought it best if the freed slaves left the United States altogether.

**13th Amendment**

The 13th Amendment which banned slavery and involuntary servitude was passed because northern congressmen wanted the freed slaves to be treated decently.

Confederate states had to go along with the agreements of the 10% Plan or the state would be ruled by Union Army leaders and occupied by Union soldiers.

**Black codes**

Black codes were rules and regulations that restricted the freedom of former slaves.

Under the 13th Amendment freed slaves were able to travel around as they pleased.

The restrictions placed on freed slaves by black codes =

Some states
a. banned freed slaves from leaving a job, or
b. from competing with whites for a good paying job.
c. did not allow former slaves to vote, or
d. own a gun, or
e. testify in a court of law against a white person.
f. jailed unemployed former slaves.

**African Americans Under Congressional Reconstruction**
Congress' Approach to the Freed Slaves

The Freedmen's Bureau

Things the Freedmen's Bureau did for some former slaves =

a. give land and tools
b. give food and clothing
c. set up more than 100 hospitals
d. set up 4,300 schools

Most people who worked for the Freedmen's Bureau thought their job = repairing the plantation system.

Congressional Reconstruction

Reconstruction was considered a radical plan because it included giving land and providing civil rights to freed slaves.

Civil Rights Act

The Civil Rights Act of 1866 was passed by the radical Republicans = black codes were being passed in the south creating people's rights problems for the former slaves.

Civil Rights Act of 1866

a. Described the rights freed people would have.
b. All people born in the United States, excluding Native Americans, were citizens of the United States.
c. As citizens, freed slaves were eligible for full benefit of all laws.
d. Former slaves could make contracts.
e. The federal government was able to protect former slaves if they were denied their rights.

14th Amendment

The radical Republicans made the Civil Rights Act into the 14th Amendment = fear that the act might get changed in the future by Congress or that the Supreme Court might decide the act is unconstitutional.

The 14th Amendment=

a. citizenship to all people naturalized or born in the United States.
b. guaranteed equal protection under the law
c. penalized states that did not permit former slaves to vote
by not counting freed slaves as part of the population of that state.

d. repayment by the federal government for the money borrowed to fight the Civil War.
e. no Confederate war debt to be paid by either the federal or states governments.
f. banned those who held office under the Confederate government to serve in the federal government.

The Reconstruction Act

The Republicans passed the Reconstruction Act in 1867 stating = **ex-Confederate states had to reapply for admission back into the United States.**

Tenure of Office Act

The Tenure of office Act was passed by the radical Republicans = Presidents needed Senate approval to remove government officials, appointed by the President, from office.

Radical Republicans tried to impeach Johnson = **violating a federal law.**

Impeachment process

Republicans really wanted Johnson impeached = **he was against southern reconstruction.**

Johnson remained in office after the senate vote for his impeachment was one short of the two-thirds majority needed; he had no more political influence and did not run for reelection.

The Tenure of Office Act was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court a few years after the impeachment trial of Johnson.

The 15th Amendment

Republicans wanted the 15th Amendment passed = **obtaining the vote of the freed slaves.**

The 15th Amendment = the right to vote to all male citizens of the United States, regardless of color or previous condition of servitude.
African Americans become politicians

The 15th Amendment opened the door for the elections of African Americans to the United States Congress and to Southern local and state offices.

Segregation = separating by color.

New Southern governments began collecting taxes for local public schools.

Summary of Congressional Reconstruction

Congressional Reconstruction = more rights for the freed slaves.

The economic problems of the freed slaves was not solved by Congressional Reconstruction.

The South After Congressional Reconstruction

The End of Congressional Reconstruction

The Ku Klux Klan

Two groups that opposed African-American citizenship = the Ku Klux Klan and the Knights of the White Camellia.

These groups burned the homes, churches and schools of African-Americans sometimes beating and killing them.

Two reasons that northern support of the former slaves decreased = belief that African-Americans had an education system for their children and a way to defend themselves by using political rights.

The Depression of 1873

The Depression of 1873 decreased support for the former slaves = the federal government had less money = less money for federal troop protection in the South.

A confused election

Congressional Reconstruction ended in March, 1877 with the withdrawal of federal troops in the South, by President Hayes.

Congressional Reconstruction: Not a Complete Failure
Requirements and trickery at the polls

The southern whites used requirements, trickery and violence to prevent former slaves from voting =

- residency requirement: have to live in one place for over a year.
- literacy requirement: people have to be able to read to vote.
- poll taxes: fee for registering to vote.
- demonstrate an understanding of the constitution of the state to election officials, who often judged them unacceptable.
- large numbers of ballot boxes.
- terrorization by white mobs.

Separate but equal

The Supreme Court said the Civil Rights Act of 1875 was unconstitutional = the federal government did not have the right to deny privately owned businesses the right to discriminate based on skin color.

Plessy vs. Ferguson = states could provide separate transportation service for African Americans if the service was equal to that of whites.

African Americans Help Themselves

New towns

One way African-Americans tried to help themselves = moving away from the cities and towns of the South with the hope of getting free land and to escape violence.

Vocational schools

Vocational education = education that is arranged to teach specific job skills to an individual.

Colonel Armstrong thought vocational education was important for the former slaves = basic reading, writing and arithmetic would not help most of them find work.

Booker T. Washington

Booker T. Washington = one of the first pupils to attend Colonel Armstrong's vocational school, receiving a teaching and then a principal
position after graduation.

Booker T. Washington felt that earning money was more important to the freed slaves than voting (political action).