

## 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 cultivator**, 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

**process.**

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 Freed 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 =

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