

AP US History Unit 5, 1844-1877

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The one thing you need to know about this unit:

The **Civil War** and the **fight over slavery** profoundly changed the United States.

You need to know:

- Its Causes
- Why the Union/North/US wins
- Its Effects

5.1 Contextualizing the Unit

Be ready to explain: the context of the section conflict in Period 5

During Period 4, the westward expansion of the United States continued, spurred on by ideas of **Manifest Destiny** (see [5.2](#)). Period 4 also saw the Market Revolution and the Antebellum Reform Movements that profoundly changed the US. The **Market Revolution** increased the connectedness of the North and West through communication and transportation innovations like the telegraph and railroad.

The **Antebellum Reform Movements** changed the US after the Second Great Awakening by urging Americans to change their society for the better through movements like Temperance, Women's Rights, and, most consequentially for Period 5, **abolitionism**.

These changes were not uniform throughout the US, however, and **sectional tensions** began to develop between the North and South as they grew increasing apart on a variety of issues: the North was changing far faster than the South thanks to the Market Revolution and Antebellum Reform Movements. The South grew increasingly protective of its more traditional way of life. Tensions mounted as the 1840s continued...

Main Events

1844 – Election of Polk; Manifest Destiny
1846 – Mexican-American War begins 🇲🇪 vs. 🇺🇸
1848 – Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; Mexican Cession; end of Mexican-American War 🕊️; Seneca Falls Convention 🧑
1850 – Compromise of 1850
1854 – Kansas Nebraska Act; creation of Republican Party 🐘
1857 – *Dred Scott v. Sanford* 🧑
1860 – Election of Abraham Lincoln; secession begins
1861 – Beginning of Civil War 🔥; Battle of Fort Sumter
1862 – Homestead Act; Pacific Railway Act; Antietam
1863 – Battle of Gettysburg; Gettysburg Address; Battle of Vicksburg; Emancipation Proclamation takes effect
1865 – Civil War ends; the assassination of Lincoln; 13th Amendment ⚔️➡️🚫
1877 – End of Radical Reconstruction; Compromise of 1877; Jim Crow begins

Major Trends Between 1844-1877

- New immigrants like Germans 🇩🇪 and Irish 🇮🇪 continue to play a role in the US economy
- The US federal government grew more powerful, mostly thanks to the Civil War
- The US continued to expand westward, leading to more conflicts as compromises lasted for shorter and shorter time periods
- The US economy continued to grow and became more industrialized
- African Americans continued to fight for rights and equality
- Questions about who counted as an American continued to be hotly debated

5.2 Manifest Destiny

Be ready to explain: the causes and effects of the US moving west in Period 5.

Origins

John L. O'Sullivan coined the term Manifest Destiny in 1845 while advocating for the annexation of Texas. It came to be defined as the belief that God had given the US the special calling and privilege of spreading its civilization and Christianity across the whole of the North American continent, moving westward from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

It quickly gained advocates throughout the US, especially among **Democrats** who were pro-expansion and hoped to gain additional territory to expand Jefferson's **Empire of Liberty** so that more American citizens could be yeoman **farmers** and plantation owners.

(Picture courtesy of [Wikipedia](#))

Areas & Impacts

You should know a few areas out west and what drew settlers there during the time of Manifest Destiny:

- **Texas** for cotton cultivation and cattle ranching 🐮
- **Oregon** (and its famous Oregon Trail path to get there) for farming
 - British claimed this territory too
 - James K. Polk gets elected in 1844 with his promise of "54° 40' or fight!"
 - Peacefully resolved by Polk to focus on Mexico (see [5.3](#))
 - **California** for **gold** after 1849
- **Utah** (Deseret) for **Mormons** seeking religious liberty and polygamy

You should also know some of the impacts of Manifest Destiny on the people out west and the US as a whole:

- Manifest Destiny leads to **conflicts over the spread of slavery** to the Western territories
 - (This is a BIG deal in APUSH and is almost always on the exam in May)
- Native Americans continued to resist losing land to White American settlers who moved West.
- Led to the Mexican-American War (see [5.3](#))
- The US begins to seek greater access to Asian markets (🇯🇵 & 🇨🇳)
 - The US begins to expand into places like Alaska & Hawaii

- The US signs treaties like the **Treaty of Kanagawa** in which Commodore Matthew Perry sailed into Edo Bay with steamships🚢 armed with cannons and forced the Japanese to allow Americans to trade with them

While Manifest Destiny is mostly associated with the westward expansion of the US in the antebellum (pre-Civil War) era, the term also applies to later westward expansion efforts such as the **Homestead Act of 1862** that gave away land out west to American settlers. It also later fueled the US overseas expansion during the 1890s (see Period 7) and beyond.

5.3 The Mexican-American War

Be ready to explain: the causes & effects of the Mexican-American War

Manifest Destiny goes south...but not too far south.



A preface to the Mexican-American War was the Texas War of Independence (1835-1836), where Texas became its own country for a few years after defeating Mexico. This war involved the **Alamo** and other famous battles like Goliad and San Jacinto (Period 3).

Causes

Pro-expansionists, largely Democrats, had long eyed Mexico and other sub-tropical regions for their ability to grow crops that could lead to the **expansion of slavery** and the associated Southern way of life. Mexico seemed like a prime target.

President James K. Polk was elected on a pro-expansion platform, and his placement of troops in the disputed territory near the **Rio Grande River** led to conflict with Mexico.

The United States won after two years of battles and negotiations (see map below for an overview), but you largely just need to know the causes and effects of the war.

Effects

The Mexican-American War was an important event as it serves as a link between

Manifest Destiny and the **Civil War**: it is a great example of how Westward expansion led to increasingly bitter and divisive debates over slavery in new territories.

The **Wilmot Proviso** was an unsuccessful addition to a bill to fund the US army during the war. It argued for a complete ban on slavery in captured territories, which, of course, only

made tensions worse. It passed the House of Representatives—hello, Northern population advantage!—but failed in the Senate. (Map courtesy of [Wikipedia](#))

This showcased the necessity for Southerners to keep the balance of states in the Senate as their population totals fell behind those of the North: the Senate, which its equal representation for each state regardless of population, was the safeguard for the South's interests as the North continued to add to its population advantage in the House and Electoral College.

Finally, the United States won the war and annexed the territories north of most of Mexico's population centers—mostly to avoid annexing Catholics and non-Whites—and thus gained parts of New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California, the area known as the **Mexican Cession** after the signing of the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** that ended the war.

The Treaty promised citizenship for Native Americans and Mexicans, but was largely ignored: the Mexicans who were remaining



in the newly-acquired territory often lost land and property in courts, since white settlers considered them foreigners despite treaty promises, or because of the pressure to sell. **Chinese immigrants** who worked in the goldfields also suffered discrimination.

California was on its way to getting statehood, but the question of its being a slave or free state seemed years away until the **California Gold Rush of 1849** forced the issue through the sudden influx of thousands of settlers. See [5.4](#) for the impact of this. (Picture courtesy of [Wikipedia](#))

5.4 The Compromise of 1850

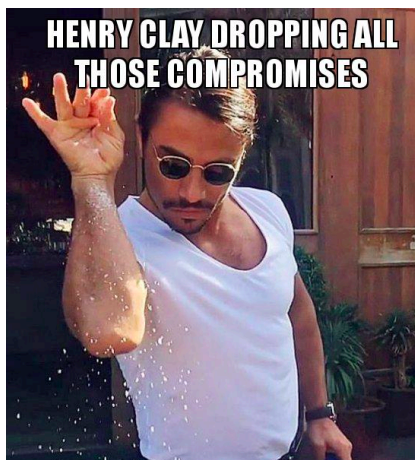
Be ready to explain: how regional differences and similarities led to different US policies after 1848.

Just like in previous decades, the United States had to deal with the problem of **slavery in the Western territories**.

The Context

As shown in the previous section ([5.3](#)), the US took over the **Mexican Cession** land after the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** ended the **Mexican American War**. California quickly needed statehood because of the massive settler influx during the **California Gold Rush**, but there was no slave state seeking admission to the Union to keep the balance of states in the Senate.

The Deal



The great statesmen of the day, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and Stephen Douglas passed five separate acts to keep the Union together (you *need* to know the first two; the last three are minor details):

1. The South got a new **Fugitive Slave Act**, which put the federal government in charge of recovering runaway slaves up North.
2. The North got **California admitted as a free state**
3. The North got an end of the slave trade in Washington DC, although not the end of slavery itself
4. The North got a boundary dispute between New Mexico and Texas. It was resolved in favor of non-slave New Mexico.
5. The rest of the Mexican Cession territory would be based on **popular sovereignty** (see [section 5.6 on the Kansas-Nebraska Act](#) for a definition)

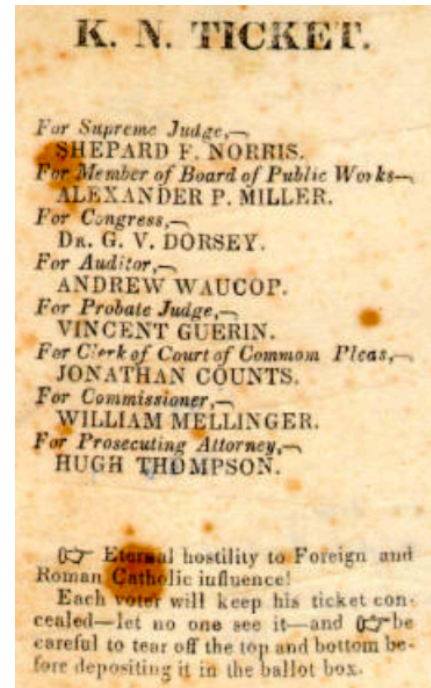
While this Compromise was rightly hailed for keeping the Union together, it failed within just four years (see [section 5.6 on the Kansas-Nebraska Act](#)): the admission of more free states without slave states angered the South and the new Fugitive Slave Act caused outrage in the North (see [section 5.6 on Personal Liberty Laws](#)).

5.5 Sectional Conflict: Regional Differences

Be ready to explain: the effects of immigration on the US & how slavery worsened regional tensions and differences before the Civil War

Immigration Changes in the US

As **Germans** 🇩🇪 and **Irish** 🇮🇪 **Catholics** ✝️ emigrated to the US in large numbers, they began to change the make-up of the US, particularly in Northern cities. There was a **Nativist** (the belief that longer-residing citizens need to be protected from recent immigrants) backlash in the form of the American Party (Know-Nothing Party) and increased interest in temperance.



Immigrants often settled in ethnic neighborhoods to preserve their culture and because of racism. (Picture courtesy of [Wikipedia](#))

Out in California, there was a backlash against **Mexicans**, **Californios**, and **Chinese** living there, especially as many were seen as job competition or obstacles for land exploitation (mining or ranching).

Sectional Tensions Over Slavery

Sectional tensions over slavery continued during this period, with the mostly free-labor North increasing growing uncomfortable with the largely slave-labor South. In return, the South got more defensive about their “peculiar institution” of slavery and more aggressive in their defense of it.

Abolitionists, although a minority in the North, got louder and more aggressive, thus making the South angrier. Some examples include:

- John Brown & **Bleeding Kansas** (see [5.6](#))
- John Brown & **Harper’s Ferry**
- **William Lloyd Garrison** & *The Liberator*

- **Frederick Douglass** and the *North Star*
- **Underground Railroad**, which needed to extend to Canada now because of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 (see [5.4](#))
- **Personal Liberty Laws**: the North passed these laws to undermine and nullify the new Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, arguing that states have the right to be free states and to refuse to cooperate in returning fugitive slaves.

Slaveholders in the South got louder too, arguing that slavery was okay via racism and paternalism: they thought Africans were inherently inferior because of bad science or bad theology, and they thought slavery was beneficial to slaves themselves (**John C. Calhoun argued slavery was a “positive good”**). Southerners also defended slavery because it was connected to property rights as enshrined in the US Constitution.

Books on Slavery - Pro and Con

Uncle Tom's Cabin

The most influential book of its day was a novel about the conflict between an enslaved man named Tom and the brutal white slave owner Simon Legree. The publication of **Uncle Tom's Cabin** in 1852 by Northern writer Harriet Beecher Stowe moved a generation of Northerners as well as many Europeans to regard all slave owners as monstrously cruel and inhuman.

Impending Crisis of the South

Hinton R. Helper's (North Carolina) book of nonfiction, *Impending Crisis of the South*, attacked slavery from another angle. He used statistics to demonstrate to fellow Southerners that slavery weakened the South's economy. Southern states acted quickly to ban the book, but it was widely distributed in the North.

Southern Reaction

Southern whites counterattacked by arguing that slavery was just the opposite – a positive good for the slave and master alike. They argued that slavery was sanctioned by the Bible and was firmly grounded in philosophy and history. Southern authors contrasted the conditions of Northern wage workers – “wage slaves” forced to work long hours in factories and mines – with the familial bonds that could develop on plantations between slaves and masters.

5.6 Failure of Compromise

Be ready to explain: the political causes of the American Civil War

Slavery in the Western territories continued to be a problem, even after the Compromise of 1850—sorry, Henry Clay!

Kansas- Nebraska Act

Kansas Nebraska Act overrode the Missouri Compromise with **Popular Sovereignty**: it allowed the settlers in the Kansas and Nebraska territories (see map) to vote on whether or not to allow slavery in their territory.



This bill was so controversial, partly because the voting was almost entirely along sectional lines: instead of Whigs vs. Democrats, you now had Northern Whigs and Northern Democrats teaming up against the bill and Southern Whigs and Southern Democrats supporting the bill.

This leads to the breakup of the **Whig Party**, which was split into Conscience Whigs (Northern Whigs whose consciences were bothered by slavery) and Cotton Whigs (Southern Whigs who supported slavery for its economic and cotton-based agricultural value to the nation). (Map courtesy of [Wikipedia](#))

After the Whigs split, some of the Conscience Whigs teamed up with other anti-slavery parties such as the Liberty Party and the Free Soil Party, along with some Know-Nothings, to form the **Republican Party**.

The Republicans are a largely northern party whose existence is all about opposition to slavery in the territories and thus to the Kansas-Nebraska Act. 1854 is, therefore, the start of the **3rd Party System**, with largely regional parties splitting the country.

Bleeding Kansas

The Kansas-Nebraska Act also caused **Bleeding Kansas** as violence erupted to ensure victory for pro- or anti-slavery forces in Kansas. Most of the Kansas settlers were Free Soilers, but every time there was a vote on **popular sovereignty**, thousands of pro-slavery **Border Ruffians** poured in from Missouri to vote for slavery (even though they weren't citizens of the state and thus were not entitled to vote). **John Brown**, the famous abolitionist, was involved in the violence in Kansas, which eventually killed around 200 people.

Caning of Senator Sumner



The violence in Kansas spilled over into the halls of the US Congress. On May 22, 1856, Rep. Preston Brooks of South Carolina erupted onto the floor of the Senate with a cane in his hand. He approached Charles Sumner (anti-slavery Senator from MA) who had given a speech condemning slavery. The speech included insulting references to Senator Andrew Butler of SC. Brooks found Sumner at his desk and battered him over the head. He made an attempt to rise from the desk, but collapsed onto the floor under the torrent of blows. He was so badly injured that he didn't return to the Senate for 3 years.

Lecompton Constitution

One of Buchanan's (probably the worst president in American history) first challenges as president was to decide whether to accept or reject a proslavery state constitution for Kansas submitted by the Southern legislature in **Lecompton**. He knew that the constitution did not have the support of the majority of settlers. Even so, he asked Congress to accept the document and admit Kansas as a slave state. Congress didn't do so, because many Democrats, including Stephen Douglas, joined with Republicans in rejecting the Lecompton constitution. The next year, it was overwhelmingly rejected by Kansas settlers, most of who were antislavery Republicans.

Dred Scott

Dred Scott, an enslaved person living in Missouri, sued in Federal court claiming that he should be free because he was brought to Wisconsin, a free state where he lived for years.

In March 1857, the Supreme Court ruled in **Dred Scott v. Sanford** that African Americans descended from enslaved people, whether now free or slave, were *not* citizens of the US and thus could not sue in a Federal court.

The court should have left the matter there, but **Chief Justice Roger B. Taney** went further, deciding that the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional because Congress could not make laws prohibiting slavery in United States territories. Since slaves were considered property, the US government could not take them away without due process as per the **Fifth Amendment**.

This was immediately condemned by Republicans and many in the North since it invalidated compromises over slavery in the territories and essentially allowed slavery in the Northern states too. It was eventually overturned by the **14th Amendment** and is widely considered one of the worst Supreme Court decisions of all time.

John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry

Brown, who appeared in a manner of an Old Testament Prophet, thought of himself as God's chosen instrument "to purge this land with blood" and eradicate the sin of slaveholding. He led men across the Potomac River from his base in Maryland and seized the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry. He hoped that his revolt would spread with slaves joining him, but neighboring slaves did not rise up.

Brown was sentenced and hanged. Southerners were stunned by the outpouring of sympathy from the North. He was considered in some ways a martyred saint. In the North, there were firing of cannons, ringing of bells and memorial services on the day of his death.

5.7 Election of 1860 & Secession

Be ready to explain: the consequences of Lincoln's election in 1860

As the Election of 1860 approached, it became clear that the country was more deeply divided than ever over the issue of slavery in the territories. The four main candidates in 1860 campaigned on different solutions to that issue and the American vote split.

Lincoln-Douglas Debates

Prominent Democratic senator from Illinois, Stephen Douglas, faced a tough reelection battle in 1858 against newcomer and Republican Abraham Lincoln. The nation watched the election closely.

Lincoln was not an abolitionist. As a moderate who was against the expansion of slavery, he spoke effectively of slavery as a moral issue. He argued that the nation had reached the crisis point in the struggle between slavery and freedom stating "A house divided against itself cannot stand". "the government "cannot endure half slave and half free". Southerners heard this and viewed Lincoln as a radical.

There was a series of debates between the two that focused national attention on the Illinois contest. Lincoln continued to go with the theme that Douglas was a covert defender of slavery because he was not a principled opponent to it. Douglas responded in what became known as the Freeport Doctrine, that slavery could not exist in a community if the local citizens did not pass laws (slave codes) maintaining it. Lincoln lost the election to Douglas, but won the respect of the Republican circles.

Abraham Lincoln: The Winner

Abraham Lincoln was first a Congressman from Illinois in the 1840s. He gained nationwide fame for his opposition to the Mexican-American War and later his 1858 **debates with Stephen Douglas** for a US Senate seat for Illinois. While holding ideas that were racist by modern standards, he was known for personally opposing the practice of slavery and politically opposing its spread westward.

Lincoln won the **election of 1860** without any Southern votes and became the first Republican president. He won a majority in the electoral college but only 40% of the popular vote because the country had been split between four main candidates with different views on slavery.

Because Lincoln, as a Republican, was determined to stop the spread of slavery out west, the South reacted with horror. They feared Lincoln's leadership would stop the spread of slavery, embolden abolitionists in the North, and possibly even attack slavery in the Southern states.

The election of 1860 also demonstrated the South's political weakness because a Northern Republican could win the presidency without a single electoral vote from the South.

In an effort to stop the impending secession of some Southern states, some lawmakers proposed the **Crittenden Compromise**: constitutional amendments to protect slavery and extend the Missouri Compromise line to California. This was rejected and did not pass.

Secession & Ft. Sumter

South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union in (December 1860). The **Deep South** (in deep red—>) followed soon after and also before Lincoln was even inaugurated (March 1861).

These cotton-growing states created the Confederacy on the basis of White Supremacy and against the fear that Lincoln would interfere with their slaves either out West or even down South (see the states' secession declarations).

Lincoln waited for the South to make the first move, and eventually, in April 1861, the rebels attacked the Federal arsenal at **Ft. Sumter** in South Carolina, starting the Civil War. Lincoln called for 50,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion, which caused the **Upper South** (lighter red) to secede because they opposed the use of violence to force fellow Southern states back into the Union.

5.8 Military Conflicts of the Civil War

Appomattox (1865) The Confederate government tried to negotiate for peace, but Lincoln would accept nothing short of restoration of the Union, and Jefferson Davis still demanded nothing less than independence. Lee retreated from Richmond with less than 30,000 men and tried to escape to the mountains, only to be cut off and forced to surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.

Civil War Intro

For the United States, the Civil War saw the unprecedented mobilization of manpower and materials alongside unprecedented carnage on the battlefield. The Civil War was a **total war** because it involved every aspect of society.

The South wanted a short war and needed European support. They were sure that Great Britain would support them because of their need for southern cotton. Unfortunately for them, the British just got their cotton from Egypt and India instead.

The North had more resources and thus could afford a longer war, especially since their **Anaconda Plan** could strangle the South's ability to trade or receive resources through its naval blockade of Southern ports and coastline. The idea was to blockade all the ocean ports on the Atlantic and Gulf as well as the ports on the Mississippi, literally constricting the South (like an Anaconda).

Advantages

	North	South
Military	The Union hoped that its population of 22 million against the Confederate population of only 5.5 million free white would work to its favor in a war of attrition.	Strong military leadership under Robert E. Lee, something that the North did not have at the beginning of the war.

Economic	The Union dominated the nation's economy, controlling most of the banking and capital of the country, more than 85% of the factories, more than 70% of the railroads, and even 65% of the farmlands.	The Southern economy was less adaptable because of the weakness of the industrial base. The South depended on the outside world for most of its manufactured goods.
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Civil War Turning Points

The South won many early battles under General **Robert E. Lee**, but as the war dragged on, improving leadership (such as the generalship of **Ulysses S. Grant** and **William Tecumseh Sherman**) and superior resources helped the North win key turning points that changed the tide of the war and the United States as a whole:

- **Antietam (1862)** was/is the bloodiest day in US history and led Lincoln to issue the **Emancipation Proclamation**, keeping Europe out of the war and changing the Union Army into an army of liberation: it now freed slaves as **contraband** or property taken from those breaking the law. This also added African American manpower to the US Army (example: **54th Massachusetts**).
- **Gettysburg (1863)** again kept Europe out of the war and was the Confederate high water mark. The Confederacy was on the defensive after this, especially since Lee lost $\frac{1}{3}$ of his army. This also led to the **Gettysburg Address** and Lincoln's statement that the US would have a "new birth of freedom" as the war would end slavery. This and Vicksburg were the turning points of the war.
- **Vicksburg (1863)** occurring at the exact same time as Gettysburg, it allowed the Union to gain control of the Mississippi River and split the Confederacy. General Grant was promoted after this too, giving the Union better leadership in higher positions.
- **Atlanta (1864)** was a well-timed victory that led to **Lincoln's re-election in 1864** and thus allowed the US to finish the war with the eradication of slavery.
- **Sherman's March (1864)** Leading a force of 100,000 men, Sherman set out from Chattanooga, Tennessee on a campaign of deliberate destruction that went clear across the state of Georgia and then swept north into South Carolina. Marching relentlessly through Georgia, his troops destroyed everything in their path, burning cotton fields, barns, and houses; everything the enemy might use to survive. It was total warfare. This was called a **scorched-earth** policy.

- **Appomattox** (1865) The Confederate government tried to negotiate for peace, but Lincoln would accept nothing short of restoration of the Union, and Jefferson Davis still demanded nothing less than independence. Lee retreated from Richmond with less than 30,000 men and tried to escape to the mountains, only to be cut off and forced to surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865

5.9 Government Policies During the Civil War

The Draft / Conscription & Opposition to the War

Both sides introduced a **draft (conscription)** that produced a backlash on the homefront from those opposed to the war or to forcing people to join the war.

- **Copperheads/Peace Democrats** opposed the war in the North
- The **New York Draft Riots** were an example of opposition to the war in the North (NYC was a Democrat stronghold)
- **Bread riots** erupted in Southern cities because of a lack of food and other supplies

Don't forget that Lincoln had to run for reelection in 1864: he narrowly beat the Democratic candidate, former General George B. McClellan, who drew strength from opposition to Lincoln's aggressive tactics to the length of the war, to the draft, and to fighting for African Americans.

Lincoln & the Border States

Lincoln declared **martial law** (military rule) and **suspended habeas corpus** (the right to have a trial so you know what you're charged with) in order to keep the border states in the Union

- Border States (MO, KY, MD, & DE; in yellow at right) were slave states that stayed loyal to the Union

(Map courtesy of [Wikipedia](#))

Emancipation Proclamation

Lincoln's **Emancipation Proclamation** freed slaves in areas in rebellion, so no slaves were immediately freed since those areas were not listening to him. It also didn't apply to border states to keep them loyal.

- This leads to the reframing of the war goals: the goals are now **emancipation** and preserving the **Union**
- Enslaved people ran away to Union lines and thus freed themselves
- Leads to African Americans in the Union Army (ex: **54th Massachusetts**)

5.10 Reconstruction

The three big questions of Reconstruction were:

1. What to do with the former Confederates?
2. What do with the formerly enslaved people?
3. Who should be in charge of deciding #1 & #2: Congress or the President?

(Cartoon courtesy of the [Library of Congress](#))



Reconstruction Amendments

The Civil War and

Reconstruction led to enormous political changes in the United States. First, the federal government was much more powerful after the Civil War & protected the rights of citizens in new ways. The best examples are the three Reconstruction Amendments:

- The **13th Amendment** abolished slavery
- The **14th Amendment** granted African Americans citizenship and equal protection under the laws
- The **15th Amendment** granted African American men voting rights. Women's rights were dealt a setback when they were not included in the 14th and 15th Amendment rights, and this splits the movement, which had previously included both black rights advocates and women's rights advocates.

Lincoln's Reconstruction Plan

Prior to Lincoln's assassination, he had established the **Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction** (often called the 10% Plan), which provided

- Full presidential pardons would be granted to most Confederates who (1) took an oath of allegiance to the Union and the US Constitution, and (2) accepted the emancipation of slaves.
- A state government could be reestablished and accepted as legitimate by the US president as soon as at least 10% of the voters in that state took the loyalty oath.

Congress and Wade-Davis Reconstruction

Many Republicans in Congress objected to Lincoln's 10% plan, arguing that it would allow a supposedly reconstructed state government to fall under the domination of disloyal secessionists. In 1864, Congress passed the **Wade-Davis Bill**, which proposed far more demanding and stringent terms for Reconstruction. It required:

- 50% of the voters of a state to take a loyalty oath
- Permitted only non-Confederates to vote for a new state constitution.

Lincoln exercised a pocket veto by refusing to sign the bill before Congress adjourned.

Freedmen's Bureau

In March 1865, Congress created an important new agency: the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, known simply as the **Freedmen's Bureau**. The bureau acted as an early welfare agency, providing food, shelter, and medical aid for those made destitute by the war – both blacks (chiefly freed slaves) and homeless whites. The bureau's greatest success was in education. Under the leadership of General Oliver Howard, it established nearly 3000 schools for freed blacks, including several colleges.

Johnson's Reconstruction Plan

After Lincoln's assassination, **Andrew Johnson**, a Southern Democrat who was on Lincoln's 1864 ticket to provide national unity appeal, became president. He began in 1865 a process called **Presidential Reconstruction** where the South was allowed to reenter the Union with the ratification of the 13th Amendment. They were also allowed to pass **Black Codes** and discriminate against **Freedmen** (former slaves).

What were black codes?

Black Codes that restricted the rights and movements of the former slaves. The codes:

- Prohibited blacks from either renting land or borrowing money to buy land
- Placed freedmen into a form of semi bondage by forcing them, as "vagrants" and "apprentices" to sign work contracts

- Prohibited blacks from testifying against whites in court.
- Most codes made black unemployment a crime, which meant that blacks had to make long-term contracts with white employers or be arrested for vagrancy.
- Others limited the occupations that they could have to include servants or laborers only.

Congressional Radical Republican Reconstruction

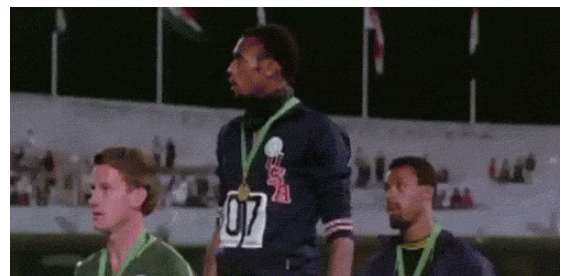
When **Congressional Radical Republicans** came into session, they rejected Johnson's plans and clashed with him repeatedly over Reconstruction policies. They passed numerous laws over his veto.

They also passed the **Civil Rights Act of 1866** that declared all people born in the US citizens and deserving of equal rights (repudiating Dred Scott and later reinforced with the 14th Amendment) Over Johnson's veto, Congress passed three

Reconstruction Act of 1867, which:

- Placed the South under military occupation, dividing the former Confederate states into five military districts, each under the control of the Union army.
- States had to ratify the 14th Amendment to be readmitted.
- Place guarantees in its constitution for granting the franchise (vote) to all adult males, regardless of race.

This period of **Congressional Reconstruction** also led to the first black congresspeople, including **Blanche K. Bruce & Hiram Revels** as the first Black US Senators.



Johnson's Impeachment

The obstacle to enforcement of congressional Reconstruction was Johnson. He sought to thwart the will of Congress by administering the plan in his own fashion. He began to dismiss officeholders who sympathized with Radical Reconstruction and countermanded the orders of generals in charge of southern military districts who were enforcing the new legislation.

Congress responded by passing legislation limiting presidential authority over Reconstruction matters. **Tenure of Office Act** required Senate approval for the removal of Cabinet officers and other officials whose appointment needed the consent of the Senate. When Johnson tried to discharge Secretary of War Edwin Stanton (the only Radical in the Cabinet) and persisted in his efforts despite disapproval by the Senate, the pro impeachment forces gained strength. The House

voted overwhelmingly to impeach the president on February 24. He was then placed on trial before the Senate. The effort to remove him from office fell one vote short.

5.11 Failure of Reconstruction

Reconstruction Loopholes

Despite the promises of Reconstruction, there were setbacks and constant resistance from down South. For example, all the Reconstruction Amendment had loopholes:

- **13th Amendment: convict leasing** where Blacks convicted of crimes had to work for companies for free in terrible conditions; **sharecropping** where poor farmers leased land and got caught in cycles of debt
- **14th: Black Codes** and, after 1877, **Jim Crow laws** that only applied to African Americans and thus segregated them despite allegedly being equal. One of the worst Black Codes were the **Vagrancy Laws** that required Freedmen to work for White people, usually former owners. (Jim Crow laws were given formal approval by the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court case)
- **15th:** African Americans are lynched and shot to prevent them from voting or holding political power (**Colfax Massacre** as one example; **KKK** as well); **after 1877** Blacks are disenfranchised through **Poll Taxes, Literacy Tests, & Grandfather Clauses**.

The Supreme Court undermined the 14th Amendment in the **Slaughterhouse Cases** and the **Cruikshank case** which effectively made the 14th Amendment impossible to enforce: the first said that the 14th Amendment's rights only applied to federal citizenship, not state citizenship; the second said the bill of rights only restricted the federal government, not individuals or states.

Scalawags and Carpetbaggers

Democratic opponents gave nicknames to their hatred Republican rivals. They called Southern Republicans “scalawags” and Northern newcomers “carpetbaggers”.

Some Northerners went south as investors interested in setting up new businesses, while others were ministers and teachers with humanitarian goals. Some went simply to plunder and take advantage.

Sharecropping

Sharecropping became a popular new form of coerced labor in the South. Blacks worked in families on a piece of land for a fixed share of the crop, usually 1/2 . This was good for the landowners, because it didn't require much expenditure in advance of the harvest. The tenant also shared the risk of crop failure or a fall in cotton prices. Croppers had to live on credit until their cotton was sold, and plantation owners used the chance to provision them at high prices. Creditors were entitled to deduct what was owed to them out of the tenants share of the crop, and this left most Croppers with no net profit at the end of the year....often with a debt that had to be worked off. Sharecropping was often considered slavery by another name.

Grant's Presidency and Scandal

The postwar years were notorious for the corrupt schemes devised by business bosses and political bosses to enrich themselves at the public's expense.

- Wall Street financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk obtained the help of President Grant's brother-in-law in a scheme to corner the gold market.
- In the **Credit Mobilier affair**, insiders gave stock to influential members of Congress to avoid investigation of the profits they were making, as high as 348% from government subsidies for building the transcontinental railroad.
- In the case of the **Whiskey Ring**, federal revenue agents conspired with the liquor industry to defraud the government of millions in taxes.
- Grant's secretary of war, was impeached by the House after an investigation revealed he had taken bribes for the sale of Indian trading posts.

Reconstruction Ends

Even after **Ulysses S. Grant's presidency (1869-1877)** and the elimination of the **KKK** by 1871 because of the **Enforcement Acts**, Reconstruction would eventually fail. This was because the South resisted it and the North got sick of having to enforce it and to protect Black rights for so long in the face of resistance.

Reconstruction ended in 1877 with the **Compromise of 1877**. This was a deal in which the Northern Republicans got **Rutherford B. Hayes** elected as president. In exchange, the Southern Democrats got an end to the military occupation of the South (called the **Bayonet Rule**) since they promised to respect Black rights. That... did not go so well.

(Cartoon courtesy of the [Library of Congress](#))

Despite the enormous potential of achieving basic racial equality, the Amendments in the Constitution would be mostly useless for African Americans for almost 100 years...

The New South

Proponents of the New South envisioned a post-Reconstruction southern economy modeled on the North's embrace of the Industrial Revolution. An Atlanta, Georgia newspaper coined the phrase the "**New South**" in 1874. The writer urged the South to abandon its longstanding agrarian economy for a modern economy grounded in factories, mines, and mills.

Rise of Jim Crow

Jim Crow laws were imposed by southern states from 1876 through the first decade of the 20th century. The name Jim Crow came from an antebellum minstrel show figure first popularized by Thomas "Daddy" Rice who blackened his face and sang a song called "Jump Jim Crow"

5.12 Comparison in Period 5

Be ready to explain: the effects of the American Civil War on American values and society

The Civil War changed the balance of power between Congress and the President and between the states and the federal government. This led to new meanings of the **separation of powers** and **federalism**, respectively.

The Civil War also changed American values, especially the definition of **citizenship** and citizens' **rights**, which got debated throughout the period. Some examples of the debate over citizenship and rights included:

- Immigrants & Nativism (see [5.5](#))
- Mexicans, *Californios*, & Chinese (see [5.5](#))
- Slavery and US founding values
- African Americans & the Amendments (see [5.11](#))

Some questions that Americans were asking themselves back then and that you should be able to answer now:

- What does the US stand for in the world?
- Does the US want expansion at the expense of other countries?
- What does Freedom mean? Freedom for whom?

Past College Board Exam Questions

Exam questions that fit the new APUSH exam

[Exam questions that fit the new APUSH exam](#)

Previous exam questions that might be formatted differently, but still are useful.

[2014 – LEQ 3: Achievements of Reconstruction](#)

[2010 – LEQ 3: Slavery in western territories](#)

[2009 – DBQ: Responses to slavery](#)

[2006 – LEQ 3: Political effects of Civil War](#)