

Important Events Regarding Emancipation, the Civil War and Reconstruction

1808-1954

Name of Event and Date	Description of event and significance	Source
1808- Slave Trade	International Slave Trade abolished (ended)	A. Carruth
1820 Missouri Compromise	Attempt to balance power in Congress between free and slave states. This act admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state. However, it prevented slavery from entering the Louisiana Territory north of the 36° 30' latitude line. In 1854, the Missouri Compromise was repealed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act. "Three years later the Missouri Compromise was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott decision, which ruled that Congress did not have the authority to prohibit slavery in the territories"	http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/Missouri.html
1831 Turner Rebellion	In 1831 a slave named Nat Turner led a rebellion in Southhampton County, Virginia. A religious leader and self-styled Baptist minister, Turner and a group of followers killed some sixty white men, women, and children on the night of August 21. Turner and 16 of his conspirators were captured and executed, but the incident continued to haunt Southern whites. Blacks were randomly killed all over Southhampton County; many were beheaded and their heads left along the roads to warn others.	http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6811/
September 18, 1850 Fugitive Slave Act	The Fugitive Slave Act mandated the return of runaway slaves, regardless of where in the Union they might be situated at the time of their discovery or capture. Along with the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the ratification of Kansas' admission for free statehood, this legislation is part of the chain of events which culminated in the American Civil War.	http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1850fugitive.asp
Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854	Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. This act repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820(<i>which had prohibited slavery in the former Louisiana territory but allowed slavery within the boundaries of Missouri</i>) by allowing citizens of these new territories to vote on whether or not they wanted slavery in these new states. Many people opposed letting citizens vote on slavery in these territories because the land of Kansas had been CLOSED to slavery since the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and with the popular vote, Kansas became a slave state and Nebraska became a free state (no slavery).	

Dred Scott Supreme Court Case (1857)	The case had been brought before the court by Dred Scott, a slave who had lived with his owner in a free state before returning to the slave state of Missouri. Scott argued that his time spent in these locations entitled him to emancipation The United States Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, declared that all blacks -- slaves as well as free -- were not and could never become citizens of the United States. The court also declared the 1820 Missouri Compromise unconstitutional, thus permitting slavery in all of the country's territories.	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h2933.html
1863- Emancipation Proclamation	January 1st, Lincoln signs this executive order freeing all slaves in rebellion states (Southern slaves)	A. Carruth
1863- Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction	December 8- Lincoln signs this order, which offers pardon and restoration of property -- except slaves -- to Confederates who swear allegiance to the Union and agree to accept emancipation. Known as the 10 Percent Plan , it requires only 10% of a former Confederate state's voters to pledge the oath before the state can begin the process of readmission into the Union.	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html
1864- Congress Responds to the "10% plan"	Early 1864: President Lincoln begins Reconstruction in the Union-occupied former Confederate state of Louisiana. Lincoln's lenient 10 percent policy upsets Radical Republicans, who expect the South to do more to gain readmission, and believe Lincoln's approach does not provide enough protection to ex-slaves July: In response to Lincoln's plan, Congress passes its own, the Wade-Davis Bill. It ups the allegiance requirement from 10% to a majority of a state's voters, limits many former Confederates from political participation in state reconstruction, demands blacks receive not only their freedom but equality before the law, and imposes a series of other requirements on the states. Lincoln does not sign the Wade-Davis Bill; his pocket veto means the bill does not pass into law.	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html
1865: January-February 13th Amendment	The Thirteenth Amendment, abolishing slavery throughout the Union, wins Congressional approval and is sent to the states for ratification. By the end of February, 18 states will ratify the amendment; after significant delay in the South, ratification will be completed by December.	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html
1865: April 9th End of Civil War	South is defeated. North is victorious. General Lee surrenders to General Grant at the Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia	A. Carruth

April 14th, 1865 Lincoln Assassinated	At the Ford Theater in Washington, D.C., Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth	A. Carruth
1866-Reconstruction South creates Black Codes	The Black Codes were laws in the <u>United States</u> after the <u>Civil War</u> with the effect of limiting the <u>civil rights</u> and <u>civil liberties</u> of <u>blacks</u> . Even though the U.S. constitution originally discriminated against blacks and both <u>Northern</u> and <u>Southern states</u> had passed discriminatory legislation from the early 19th century, the term "Black Codes" is used most often to refer to legislation passed by Southern states at the end of the Civil War to control the labor, migration and other activities of newly-freed slaves.	wikipedia.org
April, 1866 Civil Rights Act of 1866	The Civil Rights Act of 1866 granted citizenship and the same rights enjoyed by white citizens to all male persons in the United States "without distinction of race or color, or previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude." President <u>Andrew Johnson's</u> veto of the bill was overturned by a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress, and the bill became law. Johnson's attitude contributed the growth of the Radical Republican movement, which favored increased intervention in the South and more aid to former slaves, and ultimately to Johnson's <u>impeachment</u> .	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/american/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html
1868 President Andrew Johnson <i>nearly</i> impeached	May 16: Having infuriated the Republicans, Andrew Johnson becomes the first president to be impeached by a house of Congress, but he avoids conviction and retains his office by a single vote. He will not get the Democratic nomination in the upcoming presidential election.	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/american/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.htm
July, 1868 14th Amendment ratified (agreed upon) by Congress	The amendment defines citizenship to include all people born or naturalized in the U.S. and increases the federal government's power over the states to protect all Americans' rights. It stops short of guaranteeing blacks the right to vote.	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/american/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.htm
Nov. 1868 Grant elected president See you later Johnson!	Ulysses S. Grant elected president as Republican	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/american/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.htm
1869 15th Amendment Ratified	February 26: Congress passes the <u>Fifteenth Amendment</u> , which attempts to address Southern poll violence by stating that the right to vote can not be denied on the basis of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude."	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/american/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.htm
1872 Grant re-elected	President U.S. Grant is re-elected and will serve his 2nd term.	

1875	March 1: As one of its last acts, the Republican-led Congress passes the <u>Civil Rights Bill of 1875</u>, prohibiting segregation in public facilities. The law will stand only until 1883, when the U.S. Supreme Court will strike it down.	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/american/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.htm
1877 Hayes Elected President, Reconstruction ENDS.	March 4: Following a bitterly <u>disputed presidential contest</u> between Republican Rutherford B. Hayes and Democrat Samuel Tilden, in which both candidates claim victory, Hayes is declared president. In a back-room political deal, the Republicans agree to abandon Reconstruction policies in exchange for the presidency. Reconstruction policies officially end. The South codifies and enforces <u>segregation</u> through Jim Crow laws. Violations of black civil rights will not command national attention again until after World War II. President Hayes pulls out all Northern troops from the South.	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/american/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.htm
1896 Plessy v. Ferguson Supreme Court rules that separate facilities for whites and blacks are constitutional as long as they are “equal”	30-year-old Homer Plessy was jailed for sitting in the "White" car of the East Louisiana Railroad. Plessy could easily pass for white but under Louisiana law, he was considered black despite his light complexion and therefore required to sit in the "Colored" car. He was a Creole of Color, a term used to refer to black persons in New Orleans who traced some of their ancestors to the French, Spanish, and Caribbean settlers of Louisiana before it became part of the United States. When Louisiana passed the Separate Car Act, legally segregating common carriers in 1892, a black civil rights organization decided to challenge the law in the courts. Plessy deliberately sat in the white section and identified himself as black. He was arrested and the case went all the way to the United States Supreme Court. Plessy's lawyer argued that the Separate Car Act violated the Thirteenth and Fourteenth tendency to destroy the legal equality of the two races. ... The object of the Fourteenth Amendment was undoubtedly to enforce the absolute equality of the two races before the law, but in the nature of things it could not have been intended to abolish distinctions based upon color, or to enforce social, as distinguished from political equality, or a commingling of the two races upon terms unsatisfactory to either."	http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_plessy.html
1954 Brown v. Board of Education	The Supreme Court overrules the Plessy v. Ferguson ruling, arguing that separate facilities are inherently UNEQUAL. This pertained specifically to schooling and led to an end of segregation in LAW although not in practice.	A. Carruth