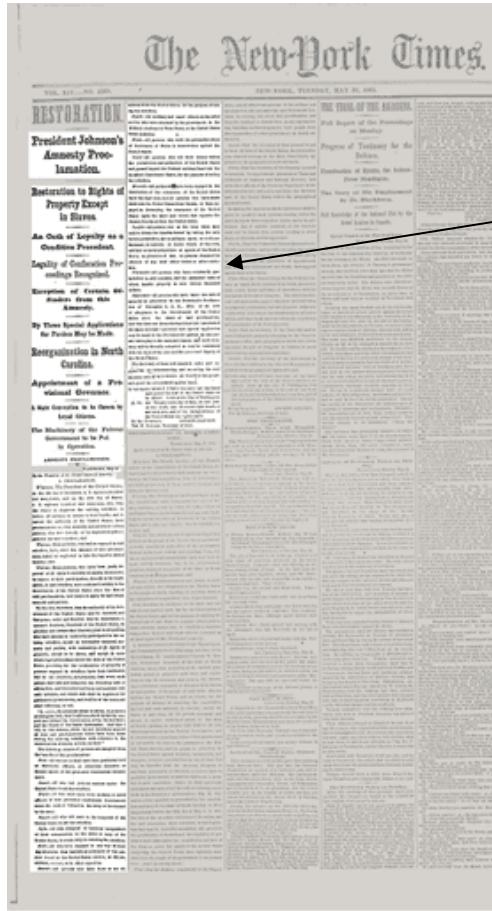


**Instructions: Create a chart that contains the following for each of the issues below: Issue, Success/Failure, Evidence that proves it was a success or failure.**

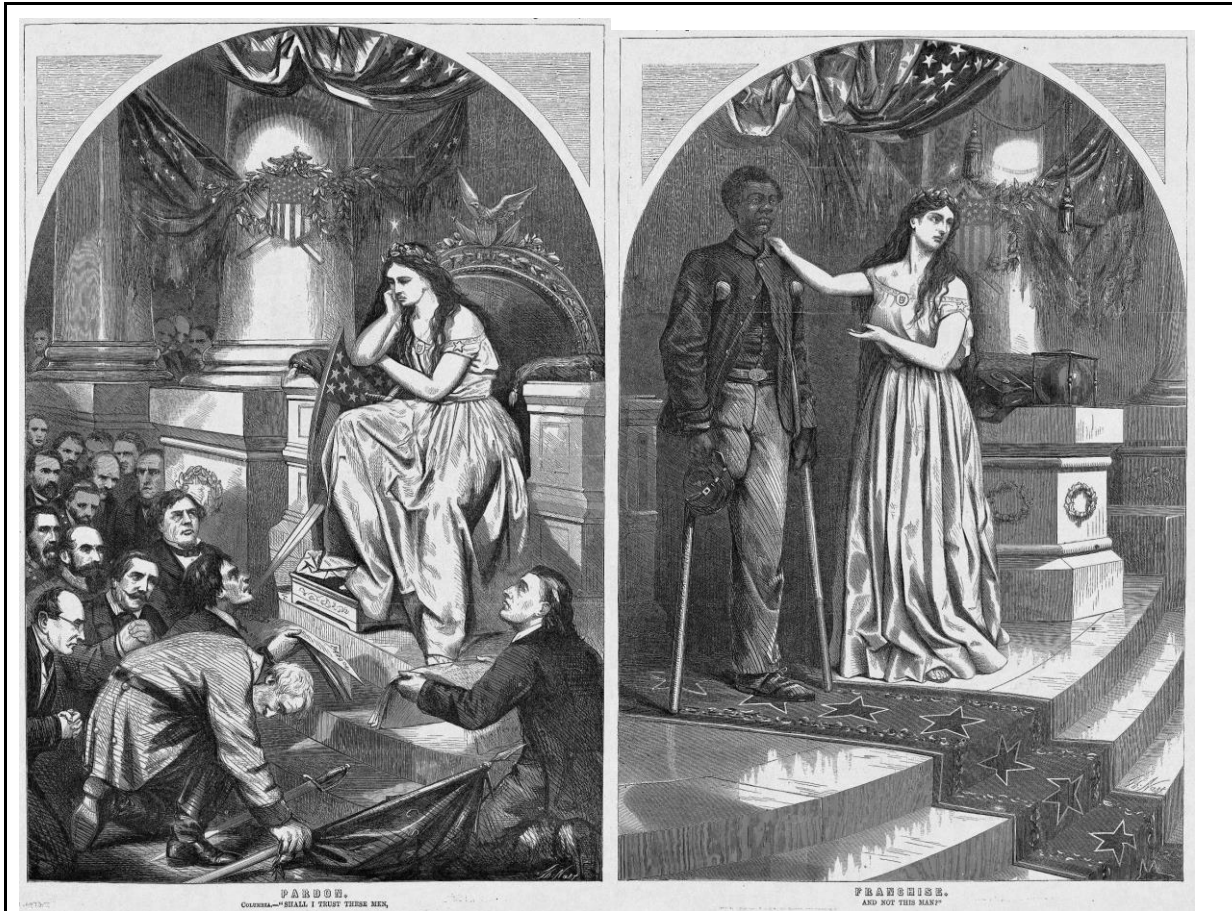
**Issue 1: Amnesty Proclamations**



**List of former Confederate military and political figures who have received a special pardon from President Johnson. There were 12,652 pardons issued by June 5, 1866.**

Part of Johnson’s plan allowed him to pardon (formally forgive) former Confederates who personally appealed to him for a pardon. Southerners, especially planters, needed pardons in order to regain their land confiscated by the Union Army. Soon, a “pardoning business” developed, in which southerners would pay lobbyists to get them pardon appointments with Johnson, who almost always granted a pardon.

In a final proclamation in December 1865, Johnson declared "a universal amnesty and pardon for participation in said rebellion extended to all...to all and to every person who directly or indirectly participated in the late insurrection or rebellion, a full pardon and amnesty for the offence of treason against the United States, or of adhering to their enemies during the late civil war, with restoration of all rights, privileges, and immunities under the Constitution," meaning anyone who had fought against the US during the Civil War was free to vote and hold office.



**"Shall I Trust these Men, and Not this Man?", August 5, 1865, Thomas Nast:** In advocating voting rights for black men, Nast used this cartoon to contrast former Confederates, such as Vice President Alexander Stephens, Congressman Robert Toombs, Admiral Raphael Semmes, Generals Robert E. Lee, Richard Ewell, and John Bell Hood, begging for pardons, with a black Union veteran, who had lost his leg in service to his country. Although Nast believed manhood suffrage was a natural birthright, he knew his national audience required the additional justification of national service and personal sacrifice.

### FREEDPEOPLE PROTEST THE LOSS OF THEIR LAND

In January 1865, General Sherman issued Special Field Order 15. The field order divided up land abandoned by Southern planters along the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida and gave it to freedpeople in 40-acre plots. Under President Johnson's Reconstruction policies, confiscated land was returned to its owners. The following is a letter from the Committee of Freedmen on Edisto Island, South Carolina, to Freedmen's Bureau Commissioner O. O. Howard responding to Johnson's land policy.

We are at the mercy of those who are combined to prevent us from getting land enough to lay our Fathers bones upon. We Have property In Horses, cattle, carriages, & articles of furniture, but we are landless and Homeless...You will see this Is not the condition of really freemen...General, we cannot remain Here In such condition and If the government permits them to come back we ask It to Help us to reach land where we shall not be slaves nor compelled to work for those who would treat us as such...

## Issue 2: Black Codes

**Black Codes:** In the fall of 1865, new legislatures, led by members of the old Southern elite, passed the Black Codes, severely limiting the former slaves' legal rights and economic options so as to force them to return to the plantations as dependent laborers. Some states limited the occupations open to blacks. None allowed any blacks to vote, or provided public funds for their education. Below is an example from Louisiana, but Black Codes in all southern states closely resembled one another.

1. "No negro or freedmen shall be allowed to come within the limits of the town of Opelousas without special permission from his employers. Whoever breaks this law will go to jail and work for two days on the public streets, or pay a fine of five dollars."
2. "No negro or freedman shall be permitted to rent or keep a house in town under any circumstances."
3. "No public meetings of negroes or freedmen shall be allowed within the town."
4. "No freedman shall be allowed to carry firearms, or any kind of weapons. No freedman shall sell or exchange any article of merchandise without permission in writing from his employer."
5. "Every negro is to be in the service of (work for) some white person, or former owner. Negroes not in the employment of a white person will be arrested for vagrancy."

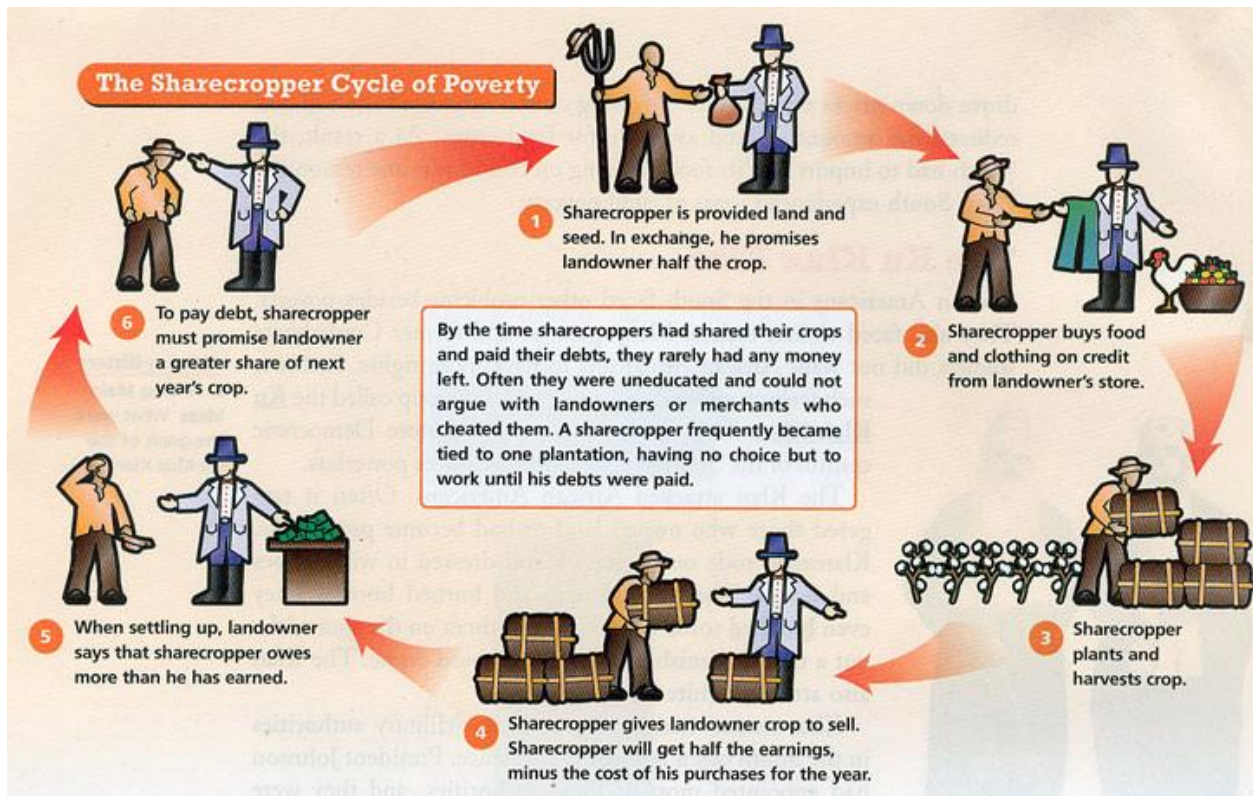
According to Florida's Black Code, blacks who violated broke labor contracts could be whipped, pilloried, and sold for up to one year's labor.

Below: "Selling a Freeman to Pay His Fine at Monticello, Florida," January 19, 1867



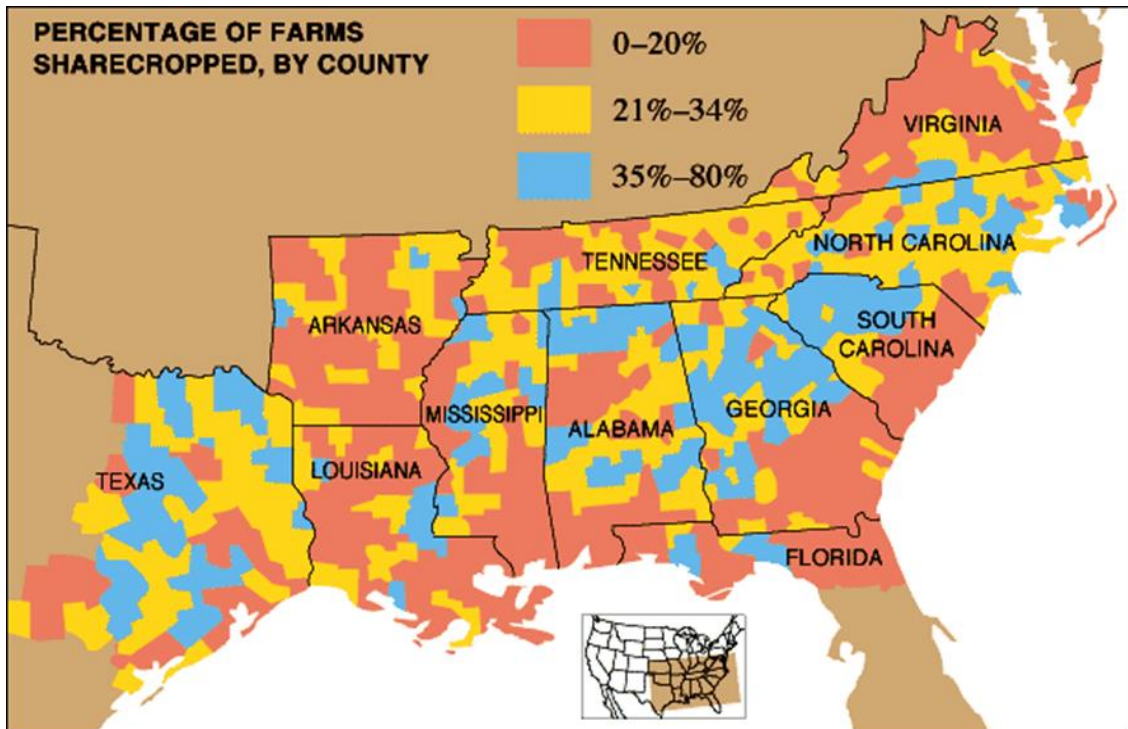
### Issue 3: Sharecropping

While the Freedmen's Bureau did help some former slaves get land unclaimed by its pre-war owners, Congress never passed land reform or redistribution. Sharecropping was a way for poor farmers, both white and black, to earn a living from land owned by someone else. The landowner provided land, housing, tools and seed, and perhaps a mule, and a local merchant provided food and supplies on credit. At harvest time, the sharecropper received a share of the crop (from one-third to one-half, with the landowner taking the rest). The cropper used his share to pay off his debt to the merchant. Many landowners wrote into labor contracts detailed provisions requiring freedpeople to labor in gangs as under slavery, and obey their employers' every command. But contracts could not create a submissive labor force; because of the labor shortage, dissatisfied freedpeople could always find employment elsewhere. Most sharecroppers remained poor and unable to afford their own land.





**Below: The spread of sharecropping in the South**



Below: After the Civil War, country stores offered a variety of goods shipped from the North. Farmers and sharecroppers (white & black) often could not afford to make a purchase except "on credit" at exorbitant interest rates. Widespread use of credit increased debt and poverty among rural Southerners during the Reconstruction era.



Richland Cotton Plantation Store, Mississippi, ca. 1868.

#### Issue 4: Building Black Community: Education, Religion & Family

The desire for education extended beyond simply learning to read and right. By 1867, black colleges such as Howard and Morehouse College were founded to educate black lawyers, doctors, ministers and businessmen.





African American schoolchildren are pictured in Liberty County, circa 1890. The Freedmen's Bureau established numerous schools in Georgia from 1865 to 1870, and local education societies continued to administer the schools after the bureau's closure.



Immediately after the Civil War, newly freed blacks asserted their freedom every chance they got. Many changed their names, abandoning their old “slave names” given to them by their masters and adopting new first and last names. They also moved off of the plantations on which they had been slaves, finding labor elsewhere or acquiring their own land, and formed their own schools and churches.

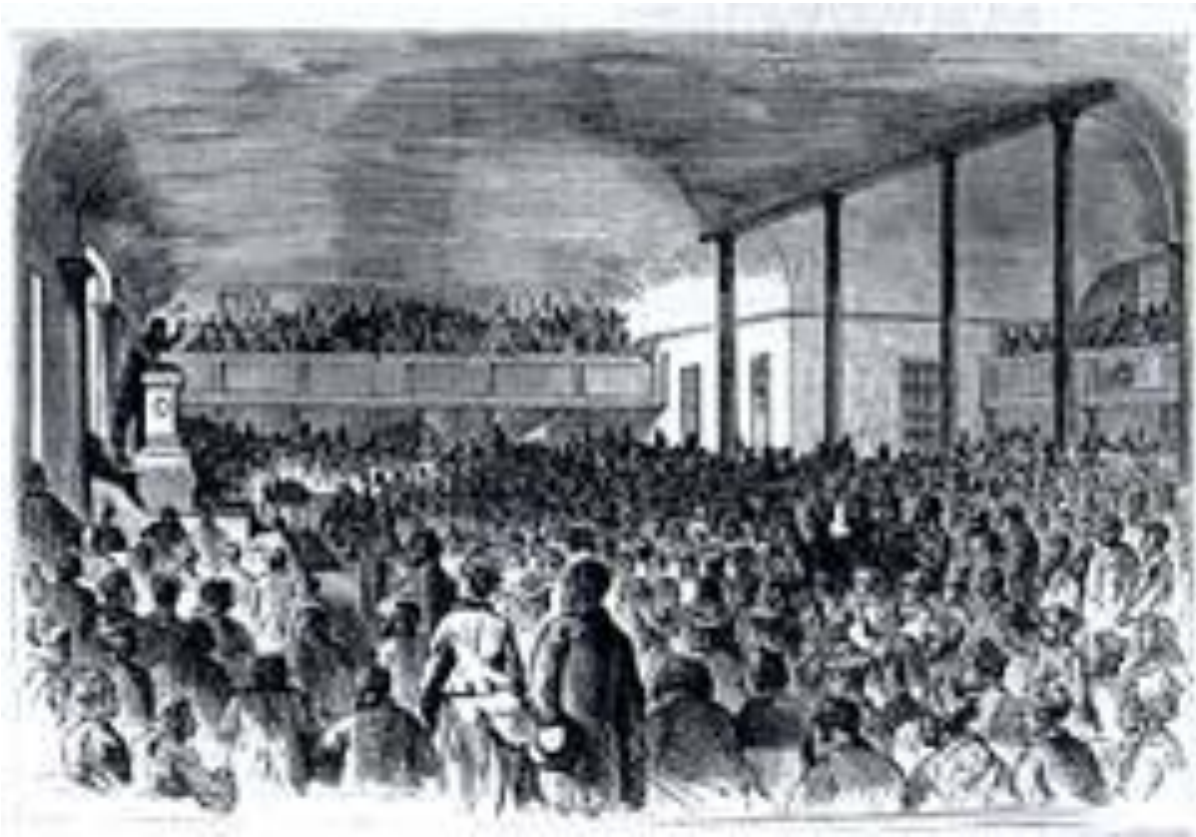
Below is an excerpt from a January 1866 Freedmen’s Bureau report on education for freedpeople in the South, written by Freedmen’s Bureau inspector John W. Alvord

“Not only are individuals seen at study, and under the most untoward circumstances, but in very many places I have found what I will call “native schools,” often rude and very imperfect, but there they are, a group, perhaps, of all ages, trying to learn. Some young man, some woman, or old preacher, in cellar, or shed, or corner of a negro meeting-house, with the alphabet in hand, or a torn spelling-book, is their teacher. All are full of enthusiasm with the new knowledge The Book is imparting to them . . . A still higher order of this native teaching is seen in the colored schools at Charleston, Savannah, and New Orleans. With many disadvantages they bear a very good examination. One I visited in the latter city, of 300 pupils, and wholly taught by educated colored men, would bear comparison with any ordinary school at the north. Not only good reading and spelling were heard, but lessons at the black-board in arithmetic, recitations in geography and English grammar. Very creditable specimens of writing were shown, and all the older classes could read or recite as fluently in French as in English. This was a free school, wholly supported by the colored people of the city...at least 500 schools of this description are already in operation throughout the south.”

**The creation of black churches was a major achievement of the Reconstruction era, and a central component of blacks' conception of freedom. The first institution fully controlled by African-Americans, the church played a central role in the black community.**

**Before the Civil War, many rural slaves had held secret religious meetings outside the supervision of their owners. With emancipation, blacks withdrew from these institutions to create their own churches. They combined their resources to purchase land and build church buildings. A place of worship, the church also housed schools, social events, and political gatherings. Black ministers also came to play a major role in Reconstruction politics.**

**Most Southern blacks belonged to the African Methodist Episcopal and Baptist churches.**



**Interior View of the First African Baptist Church in Richmond.**



## Issue 5: Legislation

### **April 1866: Civil Rights Act**

The Civil Rights Act was the first major law in US history passed over a president's veto (it was passed just before the 2nd Freedmen's Bureau bill) and it declared that all persons born in the United States were now citizens (birthright citizenship) and had the same rights that whites had always enjoyed: they could make and enforce contracts, sue and be sued, give evidence in court, and inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1866 April 9, 1866

An Act to protect all Persons in the United States in their Civil Rights, and furnish the Means of their Vindication.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all persons born in the United States...excluding Indians not taxed, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States; and such citizens...shall have the same right, in every State and Territory in the United States...as is enjoyed by white citizens, and shall be subject to like punishment, pains, and penalties...

### **June 1866: 14th Amendment**

To make the promises of the Civil Rights Act permanent parts of the Constitution, Congress passes the Fourteenth Amendment. The amendment defines citizenship to include all people born or naturalized in the U.S. (birthright citizenship) and increases the federal government's power over the states to protect all Americans' rights with the equal protection and due process clauses. It stops short of guaranteeing blacks the right to vote but states that any state that restricts voting rights based on race would lose representation in Congress.

#### **14th Amendment: ratified by states 1868**

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States . . . are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge [limit] 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.

## Issue 6: Racial Violence

### May-July 1866: Racial Violence

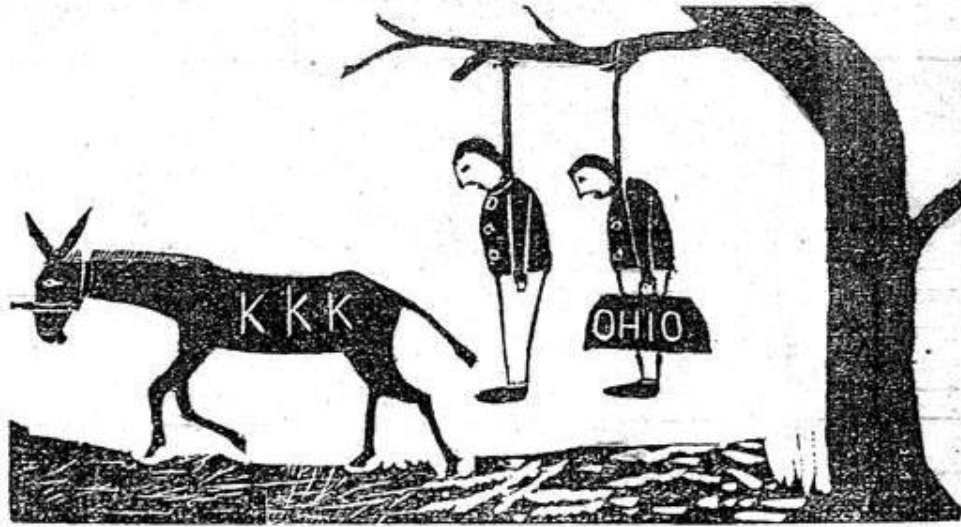
In May 1866 in Memphis, violence erupted between whites and black Union soldiers, leading to riots: 46 blacks and 2 whites were killed, 75 blacks injured, over 100 black persons robbed, 5 black women raped, and 91 homes, 4 churches and 8 schools burned in the black community. In July in New Orleans, a white mob, including police and many Democrats, attacked blacks and Radical Republicans attending a black suffrage convention, killing 40 people.



SCENES IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, DURING THE RIOT—BURNING A FREEDMEN'S SCHOOL-HOUSE.

[SKETCHED BY A. R. W.]

**The Ku Klux Klan & Violence:** The Ku Klux Klan was formed in Tennessee and spread throughout the South in response to the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the “threat” of black suffrage. The KKK inflicted terror and violence on black Southerners and white Northerners in an effort to intimidate them and influence elections.



"Klan Warning ," Independent Monitor, 1868

This cartoon sent a threat to a carpetbagger from Ohio and Dr. N. B. Cloud, a scalawag serving as Superintendent of Public Instruction of Alabama. The Klan succeeded in driving both men from their positions.

**Colby:** “On the 29th of October 1869, [the Klansmen] broke my door open, took me out of bed, took me to the woods and whipped me three hours or more and left me for dead. They said to me, "Do you think you will ever vote another damned Radical ticket?"...Some are first-class men in our town. One is a lawyer, one a doctor, and some are farmers... They said I had voted for Grant...”

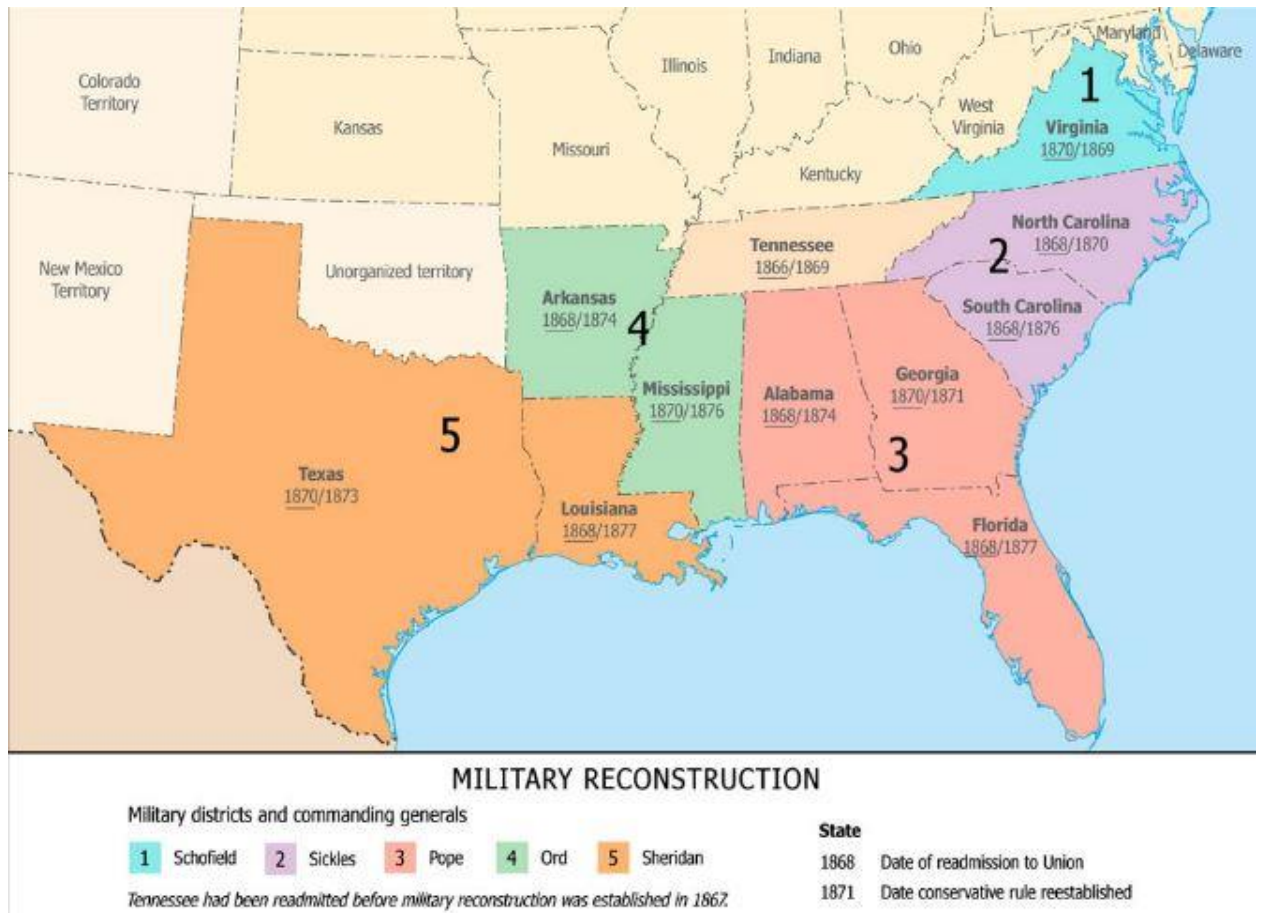
**Abram Colby, testimony to a joint House and Senate Committee in 1872 about the KKK.**



## Issue 7: Radical Reconstruction

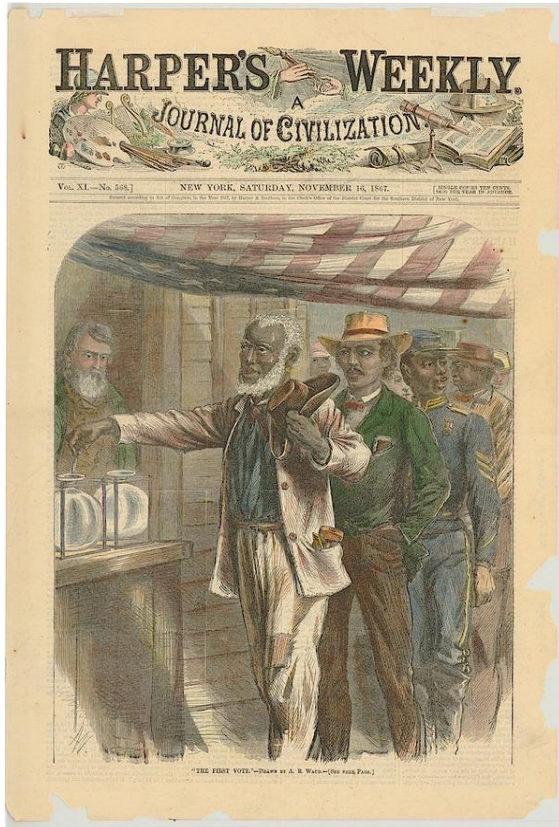
The new session of Congress begins to pass additional reconstruction laws, overriding President Johnson's vetoes and beginning a more hard-line attitude toward the South. The Reconstruction Acts of 1867 began the period of time known as Radical Reconstruction. These laws included the following measures:

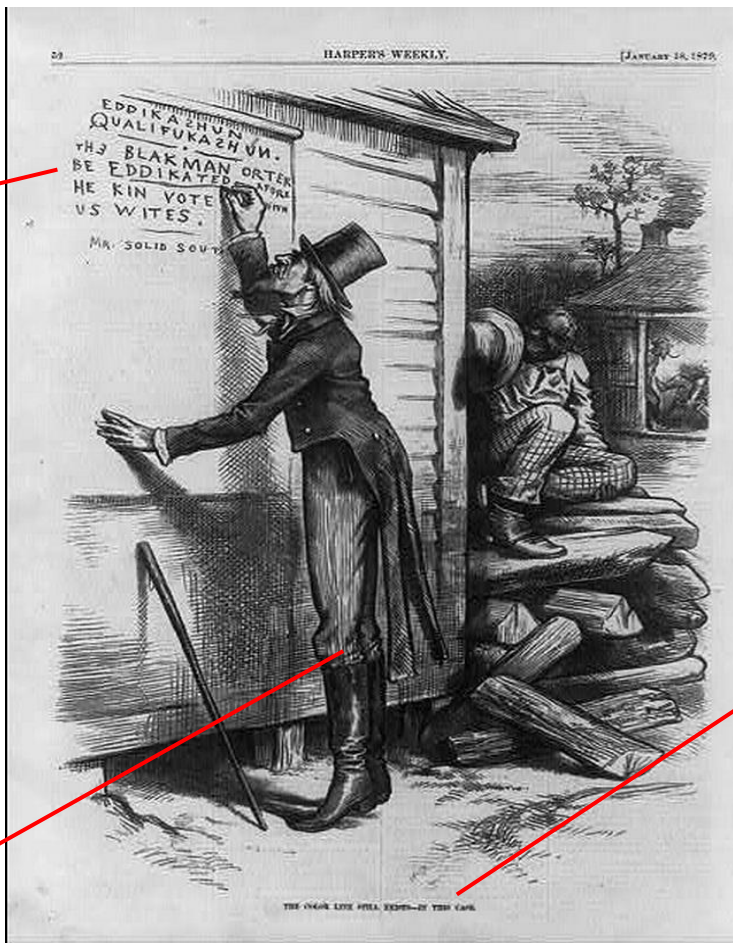
- The South was divided into five military districts and governed by military governors until acceptable state constitutions could be written and approved by Congress.
- All males, regardless of race, EXCEPT former Confederate leaders, were permitted to participate in the constitutional conventions that formed the new governments in each state.
- New state constitutions were required to give black men the right to vote
- States were required to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment in order to be readmitted to the Union



**Issue 8: Black Political Participation**

**"The First Vote" from the November 16, 1867, issue of *Harper's Weekly* magazine. Black voting helped hundreds of blacks get elected to local, state and national offices during Reconstruction. Unfortunately, many blacks were still kept out of the voting process through intimidation or laws passed by states.**





Source:

Eddikashun  
qualifukashun.  
The Black man  
orter be eddikated  
afore he kin vote  
with US Wites,  
signed Mr. Solid  
South.”

[Translation:  
Education  
Qualification. The  
Black man ought  
to be educated  
before he can vote  
with US whites,  
signed Mr. Solid  
South]

Caption:  
The color  
line still  
exists - in  
this case.



## North Carolina

Must reside in the State two years, in the County six months, and four months in the precinct or ward.

Must be registered and in order to do so, must be able to read and write any section of the Constitution, and shall have paid on or before the first day of May, an annual poll tax of two dollars for the previous year.

Persons over fifty years of age are exempt from poll tax.

## South Carolina

Must reside in the State two years, in the County one year, and four months in the polling precinct.

Must be registered, and in order to do so must be able to read and write any section of the Constitution submitted by the registrars, and if unable to read and write, must prove to the satisfaction of the registrars the ownership of three hundred dollars worth of property in the State, upon which all taxes for the previous year must have been paid.

All poll tax must be paid six months before election, and tax receipts showing the payment of all taxes including the poll tax shall be shown to the election officer at the polls.

Any person convicted of felony, adultery, larceny, wife-beating or miscegenation is forever barred from voting.

## Tennessee

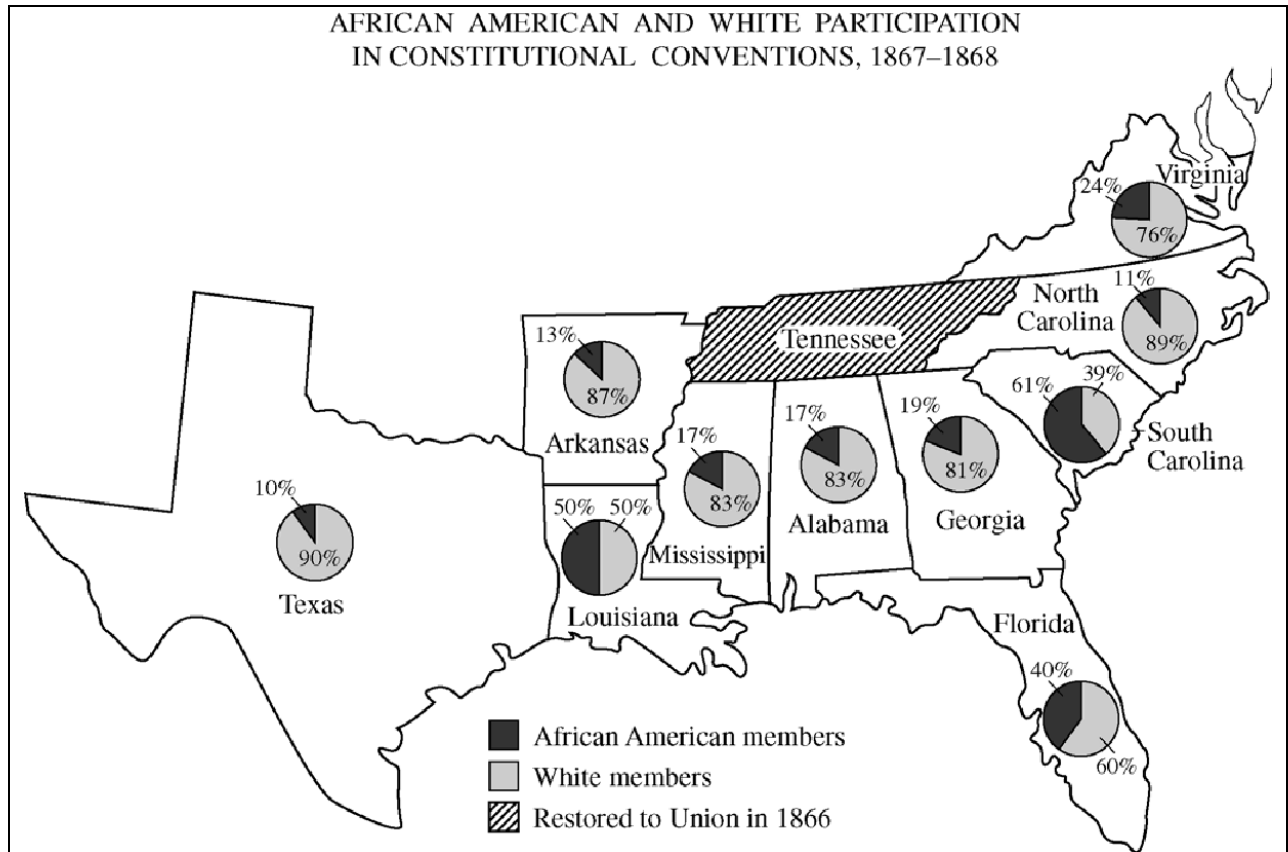
Must reside in the State one year, in the County six months. A poll tax receipt for the previous year shall be shown to the judges of election.

Persons over fifty years of age are exempt from poll tax.

Must be able to mark the ticket at election without assistance.

In precincts or civil districts with a population of fifty thousand, and in towns and cities of two thousand five hundred, must be registered.

Any person convicted of felony, bribery or larceny is forever barred from voting.



**The Reconstruction Act of 1867 stipulated that all former Confederate states except Tennessee hold conventions to draft new constitutions that granted former slaves the rights of citizenship. 265 African Americans, or 25% of the total delegates, attended these conventions held in Southern states in 1868-69, making them the first public bodies in American history with substantial black representation. In Virginia, blacks made up 1/5 of the convention.**



**This broadside commemorates the new Louisiana constitution and reconstructed government that was rewritten under the Reconstruction Acts of 1867. It salutes many of the blacks, most of them freeborn, who formed a majority of delegates at the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1868. They included Oscar J. Dunn, the state's lieutenant governor, and Pinckney B.S. Pinchback, who became the nation's first black governor.**

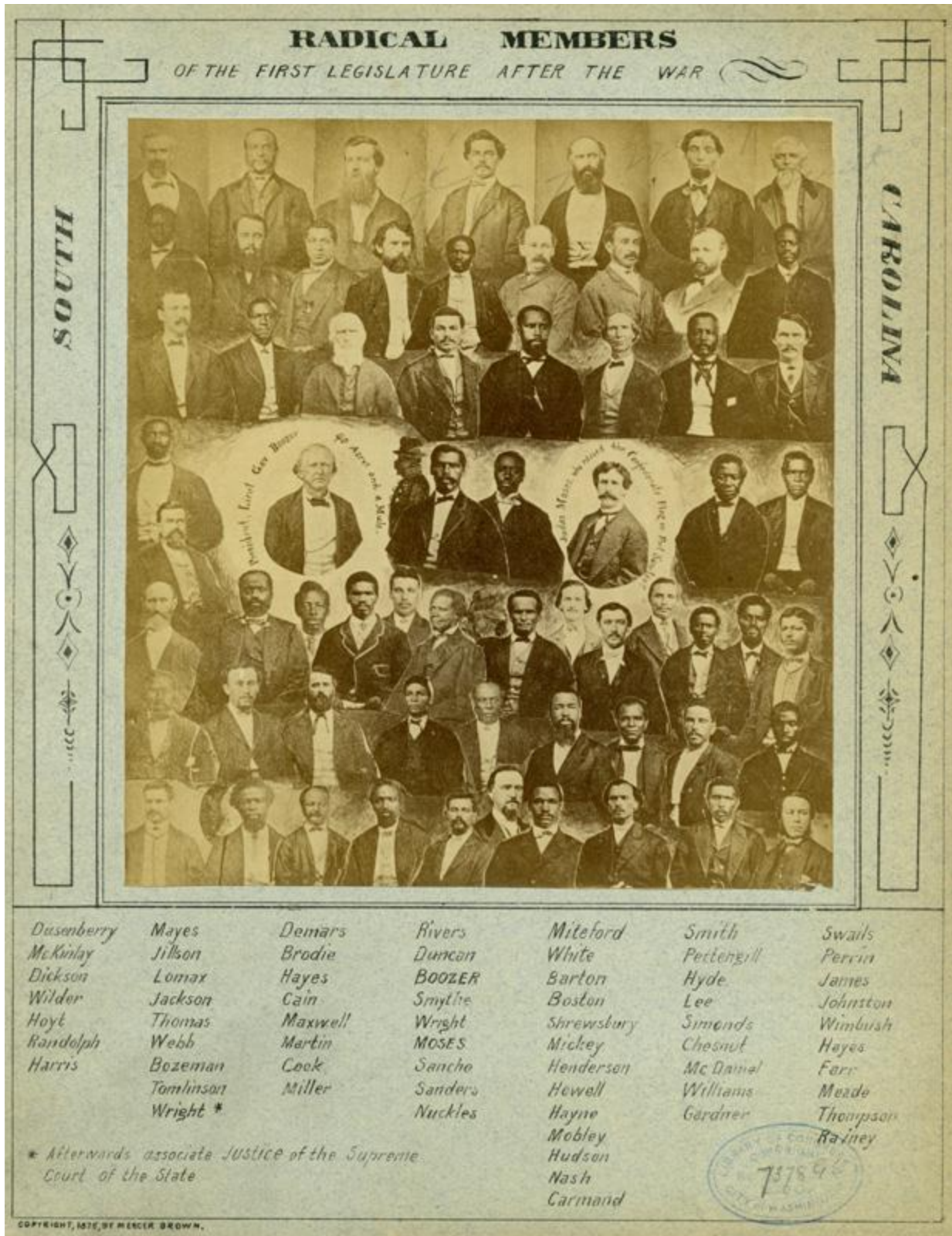


**EXTRACT**  
from **the**  
**Reconstructed Constitution**  
OF THE

**O. J. DUNN**  
1ST LT. GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**STATE OF LOUISIANA.**  
of the Distinguished **WITH PORTRAITS**  
Members of the Convention & Assembly.  
A. D. 1868.

In the Senate, Thursday, September third, 1868. Published true to a question of printing, and not. I want to let from they have nearly reached the end of their voyage. The cast-iron of the kind which they contain will be the signal for the date of publication or circulation of which they have not. I want to let from they have nearly reached the end of their voyage. The cast-iron of the kind which they contain will be the signal for the date of publication or circulation of which they have not.



In 1868, South Carolina had the first state legislature with a black majority. This image includes 63 of the legislature's members.