

Chapter 15: Reconstruction and the New South

"There was one thing that the white South feared more than negro dishonesty, ignorance, and incompetency, and that was negro honesty, knowledge, and efficiency."

~W.E.B. Du Bois, civil rights advocate

Problems of Peacemaking

- Thirteenth Amendment (1865) states that slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for punishment for a crime, is illegal
 - Freed all slaves



Problems of Peacemaking



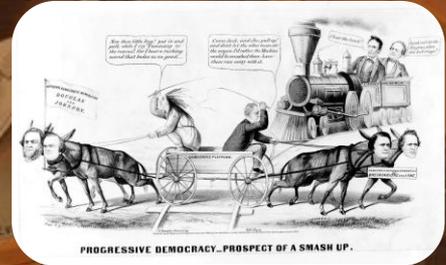
- Aftermath of the War and Emancipation
 - 1865 → War was almost over and no plans were in place for the defeated South
 - South was a disaster → Towns were gutted, plantations burned, fields neglected, bridges and railroads destroyed
 - White Southerners were stripped of the capital they relied on slavery → faced homelessness and starvation
 - Lost Cause of the South → the South was nostalgic of the time before the war
 - Built monuments for Confederate leaders



Problems of Peacemaking



- Reconstruction was intended to redefine freedom, but both whites and African Americans wanted different things
 - Some African Americans wanted redistribution of economic resources (property), others demanded legal equality
 - 1865 → Freedmen's Bureau was created and established schools and settled former slaves on land
 - only a temporary fix; only lasted a year
- Republican victories in 1860 and 1864 divided the Democratic Party and removed the South from the electorate



Problems of Peacemaking

10%

- Plans for Reconstruction:
 - Lincoln supported with the moderates and conservatives
 - Lincoln's 10% Plan stated that when 10% of voters took an oath in a state, those voters could set up a state government
 - LA, AK, and TN were reinstated. Loyal governments under Lincoln in 1864

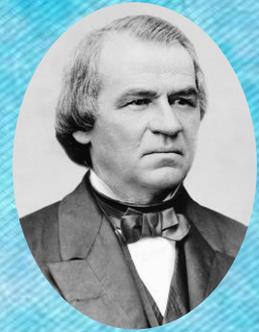


Problems of Peacemaking



- Plans for Reconstruction:
 - The Wade-Davis Bill (1864) authorized the president to appoint a provisional governor for each conquered state when a majority of the white males pledged their oath
 - Must abolish slavery , remove the confederate government and military leaders, repudiate debt accumulated by state governments
 - Lincoln used a pocket veto which enraged radicals

Problems of Peacemaking



- Johnson and Restoration:
 - Johnson became president under the Republican Party (1865)
 - Was openly hostile to freed slaves and was unwilling to support any plans giving them civil equality or enfranchisement
 - High ranking confederate officials would have to appeal to the president for pardons

Problems of Peacemaking

- Johnson and Restoration:
 - A governor was appointed to each state and implied that it would be voted on by a majority of the qualified voters
 - States had to revise its ordinance of secession, abolish slavery, ratify the 13th amendment, repudiate the Confederate and state war debts, elect a state government, and send representative to Congress



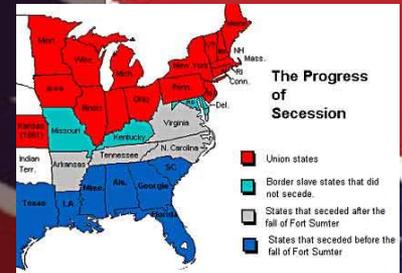
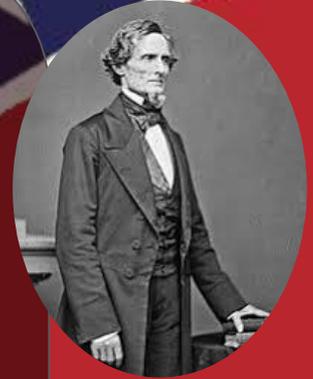
Problems of Peacemaking

- Johnson and Restoration:
 - Northerners were angry because states could elect leaders of the Confederacy as state officials and representatives to Congress
 - Hard to accept Stephens (Confederate Vice President) as senator



Radical Reconstruction

- Conservative Republicans
 - Insisted that the South accept the abolition of slavery
 - Wanted fewer conditions for the readmission of seceded states
- Moderate Republicans
 - Rejected most goals of Radical Republicans
 - However, they supported taking away some rights of former Confederate leaders



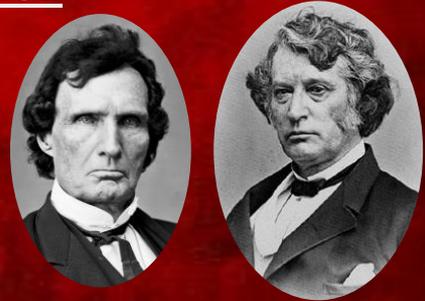
Radical Reconstruction

- Radical Republicans

- Led by Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner

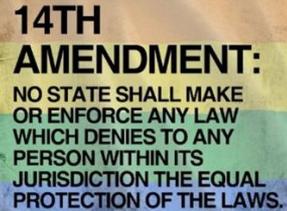
- Wanted:

- To punish former Confederate leaders
- Disenfranchisement of Southern whites
- To protect slaves' legal rights
- To distribute land of wealthy, white Southerners among freemen



Radical Reconstruction

- Fourteenth Amendment (1868) states that everyone born in the United States or naturalized is automatically a citizen
 - First constitutional definition of citizenship
 - Citizenship had no other requirements (does not consider skin color)



**14TH
AMENDMENT:**
NO STATE SHALL MAKE
OR ENFORCE ANY LAW
WHICH DENIES TO ANY
PERSON WITHIN ITS
JURISDICTION THE EQUAL
PROTECTION OF THE LAWS.

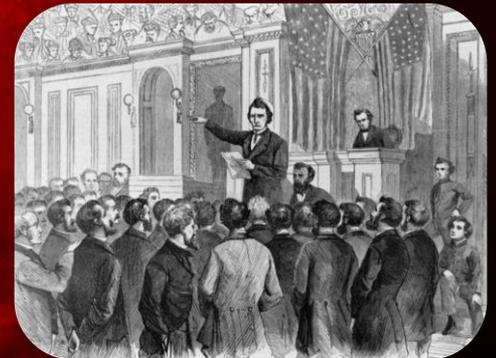
Radical Reconstruction

- Fifteenth Amendment (1870) gave all citizens the right to vote
 - Suffrage could not be denied based on “race, color, or previous condition of servitude”



Radical Reconstruction

- Three Reconstruction Bills of 1867
 - Combining ten former Confederate states into five military districts
 - Tenure of Office Act forbade the president from removing officials without the Senate's consent
 - Command of the Army Act states that military orders had to be issued through the commanding general of the army
 - General Ulysses S. Grant



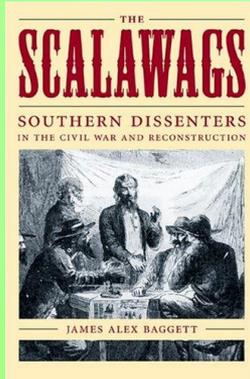
Radical Reconstruction

- Johnson's Impeachment (1868)
 - It was difficult for the Radical Republicans to go through with their plans because Johnson vetoed many of their bills
 - The Radical Republicans decided to impeach Johnson after he violated the Tenure of Office Act by removing Edwin M. Stanton as the Secretary of War
 - He was short of the two-thirds majority, so Johnson was found not guilty



The South in Reconstruction

- Reconstruction Governments
 - “Scalawags” were Southern whites who supported Reconstruction and the Republican Party after the Civil War
 - “Carpetbaggers” were Northern whites who served as Republican leaders in the South



The South in Reconstruction

- African Americans in Government
 - “Colored Conventions” consisted of African American voters
 - Twenty African Americans served in the US House of Representatives between 1869 and 1901
 - They also served in state legislatures and other state offices



The South in Reconstruction

- Improvements in Education
 - Educational reform became prominent in this time period
 - By the end of the Reconstruction Era in 1876, more than half of all white children and about 40% of all black children were attending Southern schools
 - Southern schools were segregated
 - The Civil Rights Act of 1875 was one effort to



Beware of entrance to a quarrel: but, being in,
Bear it that the opposer may beware of thee:
Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice;
Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.

Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,
But not express'd in fancy; rich, not gaudy;
For the apparel oft proclaims the man.

This above all,—To thine own self be true;
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

SHAKESPEARE.

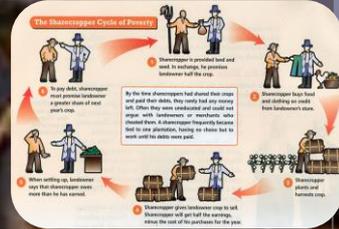
The South in Reconstruction

- “Forty acres and a mule”
 - By June 1865, the Freedmen's Bureau had settled about 10,000 black families on their own land
 - Most of this land was drawn from abandoned plantations
 - This gave false hope to former slaves as they believed that they would be about to have their own property



The South in Reconstruction

- Tenantry and Sharecropping
 - This allowed for former slaves to enjoy some physical independence from their landlords
 - However, they were never able to buy the land
- The Crop-Lien System
 - Farmers had to give merchants a lien (or claim) on their crops as a collateral for loans
 - This contributed to a decline in the Southern agricultural economy



The South in Reconstruction

- The African American Family in Freedom
 - Many former slaves looked for lost family members in order to reunite
 - African American families initially displayed traditional gender roles (males go to work, females stay at home)
 - However, this changed because both men and women needed to work due to poor economic conditions

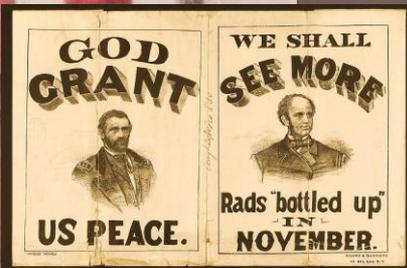


WANTED, INFORMATION in relation to my children, NANCY, BEN, POLLY, TEMPA, and ISHAM BAILEY, who formerly belonged to Ben Prince, Sussex county. If any of them are living, or if any person can give me information of them, they will confer a great favor. Address me, in this city, care of Mr. George D. Fisher.
no 23-31* MARY BAILEY, colored.



The Grant Administration

- Election of 1868
 - Republican nominee: Ulysses S. Grant
 - Democratic nominee: Horatio Seymour
 - Grant won the election



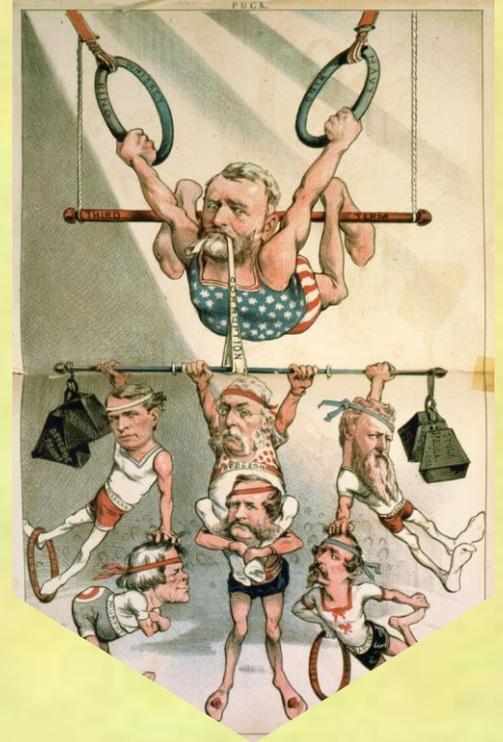
GEN. U.S. GRANT
FOR
PRESIDENT.

NATIONAL
UNION
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

HORATIO SEYMOUR COLFORD
FOR
VICE PRESIDENT.

The Grant Administration

- Grant had no prior political experience
- Liberal Republicans opposed what they called “Grantism”
 - They hoped to prevent his reelection but failed
 - The Liberal Republicans were a substantial faction of the Republican Party



The Grant Administration

- The Grant Scandal
 - Crédit Mobilier
 - steered large fraudulent contracts to their company
 - In order to prevent investigations Crédit Mobilier stock was given to Congress members
 - Schuyler Colfax, Grant's vice president, accepted stock



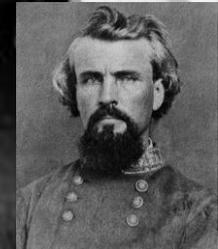
The Grant Administration

- The Greenback Question
 - The Panic of 1873 was a financial crisis caused by Grant and the nation's problems
 - Began with the failure of Jay Cooke & Company (leading investment banking firm)
 - Jay Cooke & Company invested too heavily into post war railroad building

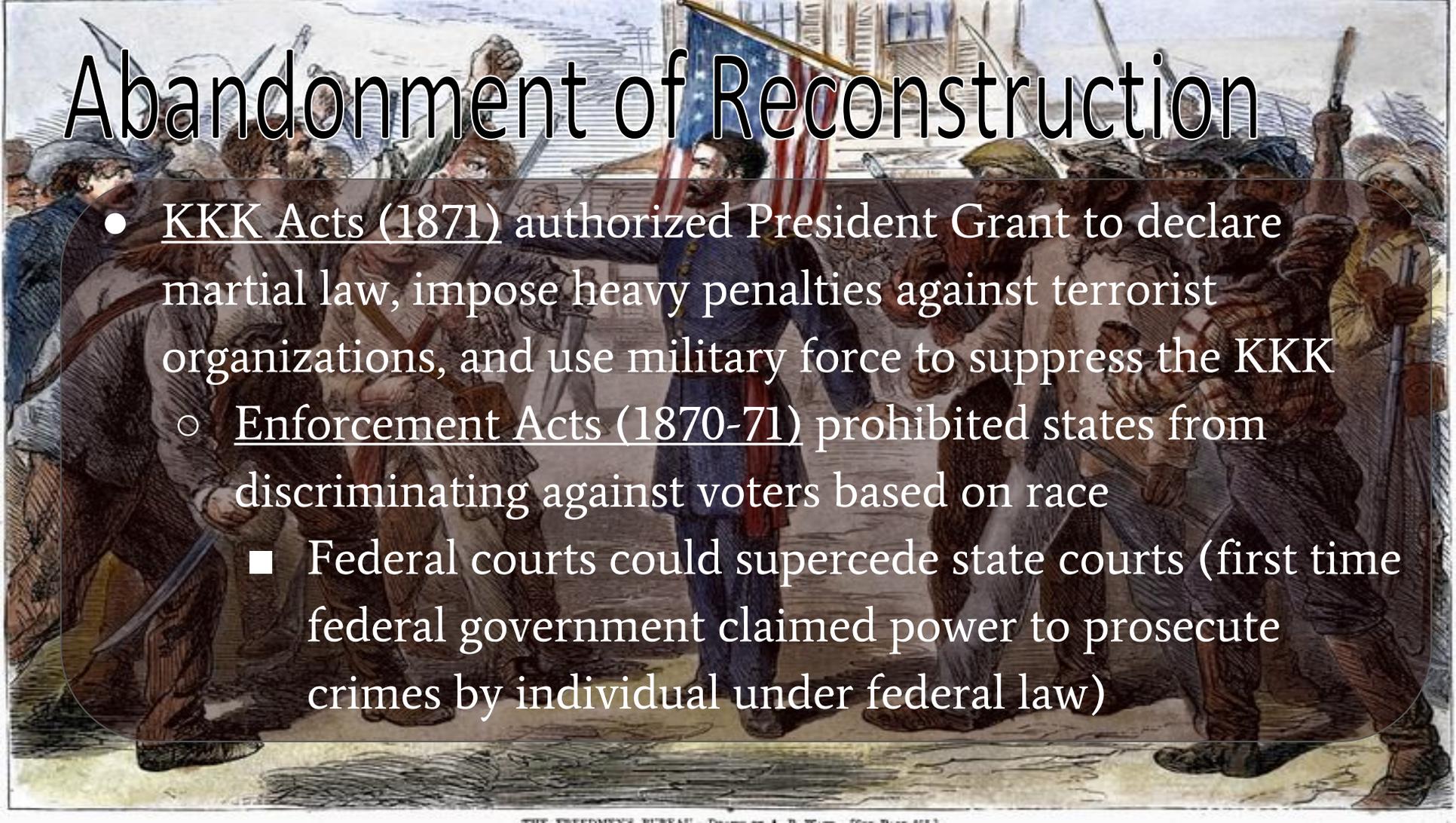


Abandonment of Reconstruction

- The Klu Klux Klan was formed in 1866 and led by Nathan B. Forrest, they terrorized black families with midnight rides
- The KKK wore head coverings to hide their identities
 - Groups such as the KKK used terrorism to bar African Americans from voting or exercising their citizenship
 - Wanted to regain Democratic control of the South
 - The 20th century will see revivals of the KKK



Abandonment of Reconstruction



- KKK Acts (1871) authorized President Grant to declare martial law, impose heavy penalties against terrorist organizations, and use military force to suppress the KKK
 - Enforcement Acts (1870-71) prohibited states from discriminating against voters based on race
 - Federal courts could supercede state courts (first time federal government claimed power to prosecute crimes by individual under federal law)

Abandonment of Reconstruction

- New laws authorized the president to use the military to suspend habeas corpus when violations seemed egregious
- Nine South Carolina counties were deemed to be in a “state of lawlessness” by Grant were placed under martial law to occupy the KKK

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to her owner cannot be very gratifying.

THE KU KLUX WAR.

Effects of Martial Law in South Carolina.

Stampede of Citizens from the Counties Under the Ban.

Reported Fight on Broad River—Federal Forces Call for Reinforcements.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 21, 1871.

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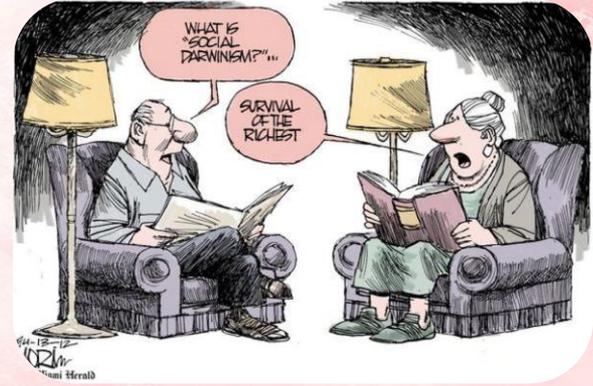
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Abandonment of Reconstruction

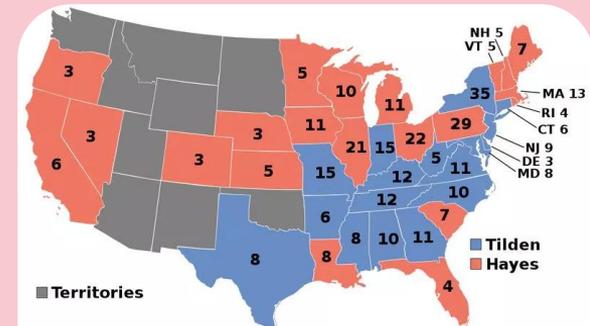
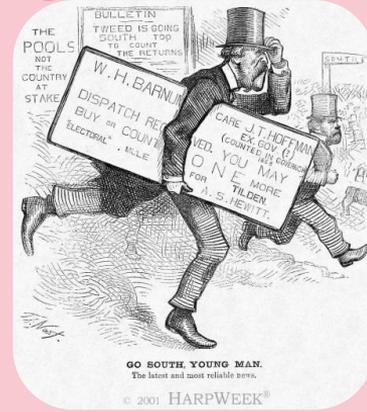
- Social Darwinism

- Argued that individuals who failed did so because they were weak and “unfit”
- Justified the treatment of unemployed vagrants in the North and poor African Americans in the South
- Contributed to the downfall of Reconstruction



Abandonment of Reconstruction

- Compromise of 1877
 - Election of 1876
 - Democratic nominee: Samuel J. Tilden
 - Republican nominee: Rutherford B. Hayes
 - If federal troops were pulled out of the South, Hayes would be elected as president
 - This officially ended the Reconstruction Era



The New South

- The Redeemers:
 - By the end of 1877, every southern state gov't had been redeemed by white democrats
 - South fell under control of the Redeemers or the bourbons (aristocrats)
 - Were merchants, industrialists, railroad developers, and financiers; combined home rule with social conservatism and economic development



The New South

- Effects of redeemers
 - Lowered taxes
 - Reduced spending
 - Diminished state services that reconstruction accomplished (ex. education)
- Readjuster Challenge demanded states revise their debt payment procedure to make more money available for state services



The New South

- South began to industrialize, but at a much slower rate than the North
 - Was very reliant on the North
- High percentage of women as textile workers since there was a lack of employees



The New South

- Menial jobs left for African Americans
 - Some industries such as textile gave no opportunities to them
- Convict-lease system: southern states leased gangs of convicted criminals to private interests as a cheap labor supply; this was how industrialization proceeded on basis of no wage; employment-money went to the states



The New South

- Education was very important to the future of African Americans
 - Many black colleges were founded
- Booker T. Washington - founded Tuskegee Institute in Alabama; self-improvement through education
 - Outlined a philosophy of race relations that became widely known as the Atlanta Compromise (1895)
 - blacks should engage in severe and constant struggle for economic gains
 - African Americans needed to prove they were ready for the rights of citizenship



The New South

- Birth of Jim Crow:

- In the civil rights cases of 1883, the court ruled that:

- The 14th amendment prohibited state gov'ts from discriminating against people because of race

- Did not restrict private organizations or individuals

- By doing so; hotels, theaters, etc. could segregate



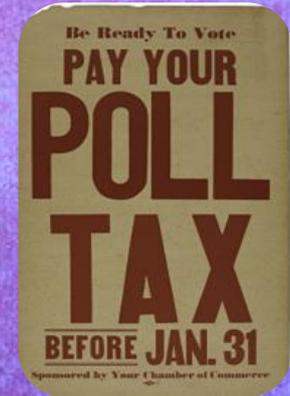
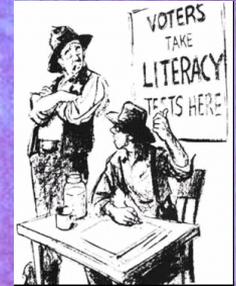
The New South



- Cumming v. County Board of Education (1899) and Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)
 - Emphasized *separate but equal*

The New South

- Restricting the franchise:
 - Poll tax/some form of property qualification
 - Literacy tests
 - Black vote decreased
 - Grandfather laws: those who had enjoyed the right to vote prior to 1867, or lineal descendants, would be exempt from educational, property, or tax requirements for voting
- Court validated literacy test in Williams v. Mississippi (1898)



Effects of Reconstruction

- Legacy

- Reconstruction made some improvements, but it was an overall failure
- African Americans had some advancements in society, but they were still not considered equal
 - The “Second Reconstruction” would occur about a hundred years later
 - African Americans did not really receive freedom until 1965

