

- 1 **Congressional Reconstruction**
- 2 **Republican Moderates vs. Radicals**
 - ◆ Republican Moderates
 - ◆ Moderate Republicans view reconstruction as practical manner or restoring southern states to Union
 - ◆ Main concern is keeping former Confederates out of government
 - ◆ Favored giving Africans some civil liberties but NOT the vote
- 3 **Republican Moderates vs. Radicals**
 - ◆ Republican Radicals
 - ◆ Believed that African Americans should be given the right to vote
 - ◆ Be granted civil equality
 - ◆ Right to labor freely
- 4 **Issues Dividing the Republicans**
 - ◆ Radical Republicans believed a new South should be created so all men would enjoy equal rights
 - ◆ Few northerners and even abolitionists supported giving African Americans right to vote
 - ◆ Frederick Douglass demanded “the immediate, unconditional, & universal right to vote for the black man, in every State in the Union”
- 5 **Frederick Douglass**
 - ◆ Born into slavery in 1817 on tobacco plantation in Maryland
 - ◆ At the age of 15 began planning his escape
 - ◆ 2nd escape attempt is successful in 1838
 - ◆ Becomes leader in antislavery movement
 - ◆ Writes life story in 1845 *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
 - ◆ After war, embraces policies of Reconstruction and Radical Republicanism
- 6 **Land Reform**
 - ◆ Radical Republican Thaddeus Stevens believed the great plantations needed to be broken up and divided b/w the freedmen
 - ◆ Economic independence would ensure freedom of slaves and

break up political power of old rebels

- ◆ Despite efforts of many, land reform never won widespread support

7  **Congress vs. Johnson**

- ◆ Early 1866 Moderate and Radical Republicans join forces
- ◆ They join forces because of widespread violence and death threats in the south towards African Americans and Southern Unionists
- ◆ One move made by Republicans is the Freedmen's Bureau
- ◆ Gives aid to millions of southerners left homeless and hungry from the war

8  **Congress vs. Johnson**

- ◆ Freedmen's Bureau also plays major role in providing African Americans with education
- ◆ Build lots of schools and bring teachers in from the North
- ◆ Northerners also help to set up several black universities; Howard University in Washington, Atlanta University in Georgia, and a couple others
- ◆ FB also helped to settle labor contract disputes
- ◆ Many though FB encouraged too many former slaves to sign labor contracts

9  **Congress vs. Johnson**

- ◆ African Americans still support Freedmen's Bureau and support legislation to keep it intact
- ◆ African Americans feel that FB's presence forces white southerners to recognize freedom of slaves
- ◆ President Johnson tries to weaken bureau by sending two generals to tour south
 - ◆ Hopes they will come back with complaints against bureau
 - ◆ Come back with widespread support for bureau

10  **Congress vs. Johnson**

- ◆ February 1866 Congress passes a bill to extend the life of the Freedmen's Bureau
- ◆ To the surprise of many President Johnson vetoes bill
- ◆ Cited constitutional, and financial reasons

- ◆ Stated “It was never intended that the Freedmen should be fed, clothed, educated, and sheltered by the United States”
- 11 **The Civil Rights Act of 1866**
 - ◆ Furious with the president, Congress quickly passes the Civil Rights Act of 1866
 - ◆ First civil rights law in nation’s history
 - ◆ Act declares everyone born in US was a citizen with full civil rights, did not guarantee voting though
 - ◆ Legislators design act to overturn 1857 Dred Scott Decision that declared African Americas were not citizens
- 12 **The Civil Rights Act of 1866**
 - ◆ President Johnson vetoes the bill arguing that it would centralize power in federal government
 - ◆ After veto President Johnson’s support erodes and Congress overrides President Johnson’s veto of Civil Rights Act
 - ◆ Then Congress passes another bill extending Freedmen’s Bureau and overrides another veto by President Johnson
- 13 **Fourteenth Amendment**
 - ◆ Republicans fear that a future Congress controlled by Democrats might repeal the Civil Rights Act
 - ◆ Therefore they write the Civil Rights Act’s provisions into the Fourteenth Amendment, passed in June 1866
 - ◆ Amendment requires all states to extend equal citizenship to African Americans and all people “born or naturalized in the US”
 - ◆ Denies states right to deprive anyone of “life, liberty, or property without due process of law”
 - ◆ Grants nation’s citizens equal rights that can be enforced by federal government
 - ◆ Did not guarantee African American voting rights
- 14 **Radicals Come to Power**
 - ◆ President Johnson tries to make 14th Amendment an issue in 1866 congressional election
 - ◆ Calls Radical Republicans traitors
 - ◆ President Johnson’s campaigning against radicals fails
 - ◆ Many feel deeply troubled about violence in South
- 15 **Race Riots**

- ◆ Memphis Riot of 1866
- ◆ May 1, 1866, 2 carriages collide in Memphis
- ◆ Police only arrest black driver, let white driver go
- ◆ African Americans protest, leads to 3 day riot
 - ◆ Violence results in 46 African Americans dead, 2 whites dead, 12 schools burned, and four churches
 - ◆ White rioters include police officers, firefighters, and citizens
- ◆ Riots reflect white anger towards now free African Americans

16 **Race Riots**

- ◆ New Orleans Riot of 1866
- ◆ July 1866 new election puts Confederate mayor in power of New Orleans
- ◆ Louisiana Governor James Madison Wells a Radical Republican supporter attempts to give African Americans the vote
- ◆ Does this to bar former Confederates from voting and forming new state government
- ◆ Actions lead to white uprising, 30 African Americans and 3 white Republicans killed in riot

17 **Elections of 1866**

- ◆ Because of Johnson's unpopularity he cost his candidates an estimated 1 million votes
- ◆ Northerners vote overwhelmingly Republican
- ◆ Republicans with Radicals at the helm seize control of Congress and Reconstruction process
- ◆ Republicans now decide they must give African Americans right to vote

18 **Reconstruction Acts**

- ◆ 1867 a bill granting African Americans right to vote in DC passed, Johnson vetoes but Congress overrides
 - ◆ Next this right gets extended to the country's territories
- ◆ Reconstruction Acts of 1867 divide former Confederacy into 5 military districts
- ◆ Union army troops are now stationed in areas to enforce order

- 19 **Reconstruction Acts**
- ◆ To gain readmission to Union, states are required to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment
 - ◆ Submit new constitutions that guarantee all men the vote
- 20 **Presidential Impeachment**
- ◆ To protect Reconstruction policies Congress passes Tenure of Office Act in 1867
 - ◆ Act requires Senate to approve a replacement before the president could remove appointed official approved by Senate
 - ◆ Johnson tests law by removing Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, friend of Radical Republicans
 - ◆ House of Reps responds by voting to impeach the president
- 21 **Presidential Impeachment**
- ◆ House charged Johnson with violating Tenure of Office Act and making “scandalous” speeches and bringing Congress “into disgrace”
 - ◆ Some Senators argue these are not impeachable offenses and worry Congress is threatening the checks and balances of US Constitution
 - ◆ [Impeachment Process](#)
- 22 **Presidential Impeachment**
- ◆ Now case is brought before the Senate
 - ◆ Trial lasts eight weeks
 - ◆ May 16, 1868 Senate votes to acquit president
 - ◆ Falls one vote shy of 2/3 needed to convict Johnson and remove him from office
 - ◆ 7 Republican and 12 Democratic Senators vote for acquittal
 - ◆ 35 Senators from Johnson’s party vote against him, his power was broken
- 23 **Election of 1868**
- ◆ Republicans nominate Ulysses S. Grant
 - ◆ Inexperienced but a war hero
 - ◆ Democrats chose Horatio Seymour
 - ◆ Grant wins a very narrow election
 - ◆ Election is decided by new African American voters who vote

Republican

- ◆ Southern Democrats used economic threats to try and get African Americans to vote Democrat

24  **Fifteenth Amendment**

- ◆ “The right of citizens of the US to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the US or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude”
- ◆ Passes Feb. 1869, ratified 1870
- ◆ Gives African Americans right to vote but does not guarantee ability to hold office
- ◆ Does not prevent states from limiting voting rights of African Americans through discriminatory requirements