

Chapter 15, Reconstruction and the New South

The Abandonment of Reconstruction (pp. 442-427)

Party concerns between the Republican Grant administration and the Democratic southern militias and local leaders made the reconstruction process related to the politics and not protecting freed slaves. By the end of the Grant administration, democrats had taken over ("redeemed") local governments. By 1876, all federal troops had left the South.

- I. The Southern States "Redeemed"
 - A. In the upper South (mostly white), men regained suffrage and needed to organize and vote
 - B. In the deep South (50% black or more), whites intimidated blacks with terrorism
 - 1. Ku Klux Klan
 - 2. Knights
 - 3. White Camellia
 - C. Red Shirts and White Leagues (parliamentary organizations) "policed elections," forced blacks to be Democrats
 - D. The Ku Klux Klan was the most effective organization
 - 1. General Nathan Bedford Forrest (Confederate) founded it in 1866
 - 2. Absorbed other societies, created language, rituals, costumes
 - 3. "Midnight Rides"—intimidated black communities with white costumes
 - E. Societies worked as a military force to fight the North and establish:
 - 1. Planter Class
 - 2. White Supremacy
 - 3. Democratic dominance
 - F. The most powerful weapon against Republican blacks was withholding land, credit, etc. (economics)
- II. The Ku Klux Klan Acts
 - A. The Enforcement Act (KKK Acts), passed by rep. Congress, were very radical
 - 1. States couldn't stop voting based on race
 - 2. Federal gov't could prosecute violators of law (instead of state courts); federal attorneys prosecuted conspirators
 - 3. Denied habeas corpus (individuals are freed from jail unless they are formally charged with a crime), military could be used
 - 4. Oct. 1871, Grant sends federal troops to 9 counties in SC, arrests Klansmen
 - B. Decline of the Klan, effective although rarely severe, the KKK Acts brought KKK decline by 1872
- III. Warning Northern Commitment
 - A. When blacks were allowed to vote (1870), northerners thought blacks could now take care of themselves, Enforcement Acts were the peak of commitment
 - B. Old Radicals (Charles Sumner, Horace Greeley) now "Liberals," very much like democrats; many Southern Republicans joined Liberals and then Democrats
 - C. Impact of Social Darwinism
 - 1. Panic of 1873, economic crises caused Northern industrialists to look for a scapegoat or at least an explanation for trouble
 - 2. Social Darwinism—those who fail in society are the weak; strong prevail, survival of the fittest
 - 3. Unemployed and poor Southern blacks were misfits
 - 4. Support for land redistribution and willingness to spend money to aid freedmen waned; South ended services to blacks because of lack of money
 - 5. 1874, Democrats take the House, after 1876 (following terrorism), Democrats took SC, LA, FL, only remaining Republican states
 - 6. Federal troops left (who had kept Republicans in power) and left Democrats in power
- IV. The Compromise of 1877
 - A. Hayes vs. Tilden
 - 1. Republicans decline Grant and select Rutherford B. Hayes (general, congressman, governor, champion of civil service reform)
 - 2. Democrats pick Samuel J. Tilden
 - 3. A bitter campaign between two conservative moderate reformers
 - 4. Tilden had victory but territories had votes and could sway the election
 - 5. Congress had to decide (Senate was Republican, House was Democratic)
 - B. Special Electoral Commission
 - 1. 5 senators, 5 reps, 5 judges compose commission to break deadlock (1/1877)
 - 2. 7 Republicans, 7 Democrats, 1 independent, sympathetic to Republicans
 - 3. Awarded disputed votes to Hayes, Hayes was inaugurated
 - 4. During Democratic filibuster, Republican senate met with Southern Democrats to allow Hayes
 - 5. Southerners would abandon filibuster (intended to mess up Commission Report), if Republicans removed federal troops from the South
 - C. Compromise of 1877
 - 1. Southerners actually required: appointment of a Southerner to the cabinet, and economic provisions (railroad, internal improvements) because troops were already withdrawing; wanted to industrialize South
 - 2. Hayes was hated by Dems, said he wanted "wise, honest, and peaceful local self-government" in the South but was still attacked, called "his Fraudulency"
 - D. Republican Failure in the South: tried to make a "new Republican" organization from "Whiggish conservatives" but Reconstruction was hated and abandoned along with the efforts to control Southern politics, and help blacks
- V. The Legacies of Reconstruction
 - A. Reconstruction largely failed and there would be no attempt to help the problem of race for about a century

- B. Ideological Limits
 - 1. Errors of the directors of reform helped to cause racial issues to be fixed
 - 2. Also, the Constitution did not allow the federal government to encroach on state issues, private property, and free enterprise
 - 3. African Americans were believed inferior, it is a wonder that Reconstruction achieved anything
- C. The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments (citizenship, the right to vote) would lead to a “Second Reconstruction” later on although they were ignored now

The New South (pp. 427-439)

Although the Compromise of 1877 did not establish a Republican party in the South and even strengthened the white Southern allegiance to the Democratic party, the South changed in the following years in some ways that the framers of the Compromise had hoped.

The “Redeemers”

- A. Bourbon Rule
 - 1. By the end of 1877 the southern governments had been “redeemed” or restored in political power to the Democrats
 - 2. Some rejoiced in “home rule” but others felt pressured by the Bourbon (aristocratic) oligarchy that would control the southern governments
 - 3. In some places (Alabama) retained their planter elite as the ruling class
 - 4. In most areas, there was a new ruling class (merchants, lower classes moving up, planters, and northern immigrants) who supported conservatism and economic development.
 - 5. Most governments nationwide were corrupt, the Bourbons were no exception and were worse than the Reconstruction governments
 - 6. Bourbons lowered taxes, spending, and government services (public schools, Reconstruction accomplishments)
- B. The Readjuster Challenge
 - 1. By late 1870s, dissenting groups challenged Bourbons, protesting service cuts and supporting the paying off of prewar and Reconstruction debts at the original rates of interest; they were often either lower class whites or blacks
 - 2. In Virginia, “Readjusters” gained control of legislature in 1879, supporting the paying off of debts and public service improvement; got governorship and Senate seats; other states followed
 - 3. By mid-1880s, through racial prejudice, conservatives regained control

II. Industrialization and the “New South”

- A. Henry Grady
 - 1. Many, including the editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, Henry Grady, supported industrialization because they believed that it was the North’s biggest advantage in the War.
 - 2. Supported thrift, industry, and progress
 - 3. Southerners were not totally willing to break ties with their past and often talked of the “Lost Cause,” especially in literature
 - 4. Joel Chandler Harris’s *Uncle Remus* idealized slavery; Thomas Nelson Page praised the old Virginia aristocracy
 - 5. New South leaders “faced their future with one foot still in the past” with the romanticism of the Old South
 - 6. New industry was established by processing good in the South (textiles, James B. Duke’s NC-based American Tobacco Company, Alabama’s steel industry)
- B. Railroad Development
 - 1. In an attempt to modernize, the South increased railroads and adjusted its track gauge to that of the North
 - 2. The South really only regained what it had lost during the war (10% of industry was in the South)

III. C. Industrialization

- 1. Average Southern income was 40% that of the North at 1900 (>60% in 1860)
- 2. Industrialization required a larger workforce (mostly women)
- 3. Wages were lower than the South, hours were long, families hired, unmarried women too because of war casualties
- 4. Company owners suppressed workers (owners went to South because they could pay less), they sold goods to workers at inflated prices
- 5. However, a strong sense of community established in mill towns
- 6. Racial harmony grew in mill towns although textiles excluded black
- C. “Convict-lease” System
 - 1. Companies leased convicts from states, paying the states fees
 - 2. Convicts were mistreated and killed, and labor was denied to the public because of the cheap system

III. Tenants and Sharecroppers

- A. The South remained largely agrarian but with problems such as a tenantry, lack of diversity in crops, and absentee ownership
- B. Farmers often rented land (crop-lien system), 70% was held by tenants in 1900
- C. Sometimes farmers had supplies but most (many blacks) were supplied with equipment and money in return for a large share of the crops: “Sharecropping”
- D. The Transformation of the Backcountry
 - 1. Backcountry, independent farmers, little slavery, rugged lives
 - 2. Cash crops took over food crops to pay debts
 - 3. Before, the backcountry (and American West) had open ranges with fenced off crops, now fence laws required fencing off livestock
 - 4. Backcountry farmers lost independence and would comprise protest groups in the 1880s and 1890s
 - 5. African American felt the effects of the crop-lien system harshly

IV. African Americans and the New South

- A. Black Middle Class
 1. Slave-heritage Blacks elevated themselves into a significant middle class beneath the white middle class by being doctors, lawyers, and businessmen for Blacks; Maggie Lena was president of the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank
 2. Blacks supported education and increased the institutions
 - B. Booker T. Washington
 1. Booker T. Washington, founder and president of the Tuskegee Institution (Alabama) was the chief advocate of Black and Black education
 2. He believed that blacks should adopt the habits of the White middle class through an industrial education (not classical)
 3. Blacks should focus on self-improvement and prepare for equality
 4. In 1895 GA, he delivered the Atlanta Compromise, outlining his philosophy that Blacks should not challenge racism but should improve themselves because then they will not be ostracized
- V. The Birth of Jim Crow
- A. After 1877 when federal troops withdrew, the South and the Supreme court did what it could to establish racism and white supremacy
 - B. They allowed institutions to segregate (14th only specified state governments)
 - C. Plessy v. Ferguson—as long as accommodations were equal, segregation was allowed
 - D. Cumming v. County Board of Education—schools did not even have to be equal accommodations
 - E. Working from subordination to segregation
 1. Black electorate was kept in some places to be manipulated
 2. Some states removed black voting immediately
 3. Conservatives were afraid that poor blacks and whites would unite against them, increased regulations for voting
 - F. Restricting the Franchise
 1. Had to get around 15th that said that you could not restrict the vote because of race
 2. Two devices, property restriction and understanding test for the Constitution
 3. Restrictions were applied unequally but affected poor whites as well as blacks
 4. Some states passed “grandfather laws” that allowed people to vote if their ancestors voted before Reconstruction (no blacks) but most elite liked to see blacks and poor whites (opposition) barred from the poles
 5. Grandfather laws banned, in Williams v. Mississippi, literacy test validated by Supreme Court
 - G. White Control Perpetuated
 1. Blacks were segregated in almost all aspects of life by 1900
 2. Jim Crow laws maintained in the urban South what had been maintained by custom in the rural South
 - H. Lynchings
 1. Lynchings were killings by mobs because a victim either committed a crime or violated his proper station
 2. Blacks composed 80% of 187 lynching victims a year in the 1890s
 3. Celebrated lynchings in cities, approved by authorities, of black prisoners in huge public displays
 4. More frequently, the families and friends of a supposed victim gathered secretly for a lynching
 5. In efforts to control blacks through terrorism, lynchings were used frequently for ridiculous “crimes”
 6. Victims of lynchings could not try to prove innocents or use laws
 7. Often accused to sexual advances toward white women, because white men feared blacks would attract women
 8. Anti-lynching efforts by Ida B. Wells, a white journalist (Memphis, TN)
 9. She wrote anti-lynching articles (black journalist), she wanted a federal nation anti-lynching law, supported by whites in the north and south, especially women so the federal government could punish those responsible for lynchings
 - I. White Unity
 1. Whites united between classes in support of white supremacy, strengthened Bourbons
 2. So, since the government was focused on white supremacy, it ignored economics
 3. White supremacy was a burden to blacks and poor whites alike

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.