1. Reconstruction and the West
1.1 Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution, 1865-1877

1.2 “Go West, Young Man!”: 1865-1900
1.1 Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution, 1865-1877
1.1.1 Wartime Reconstruction

1.1.2 Presidential Reconstruction

1.1.3 Radical Reconstruction
1.1.4 The Grant Administration

1.1.5 Black Lives in the Postbellum South

1.1.6 Retreat from Reconstruction
Key Questions

1. How do we bring the South back into the Union?

2. How do we rebuild the South after its destruction during the war?
3. How do we integrate and protect newly-emancipated black freedmen?

4. What branch of government should control the process of Reconstruction?
1.1.1 Wartime Reconstruction
President Lincoln’s Plan

10% Plan

- Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction (December 8, 1863)
- Replace majority rule with “loyal rule” in South.
• He did not consult Congress.

• Pardoned all but the highest-ranking Confederates.

• When 10% of the voting population in the 1860 election took a loyalty oath, the state would be restored.
Wade-Davis Bill (1864)

• Required 51% of the 1860 voters in each Southern state to take an “iron clad” oath of allegiance

• (“I never voluntarily aided the rebellion…”)}
• Required a state constitutional convention before the election of state officials.

• Enacted specific safeguards of freedmen’s liberties.
13th Amendment

• “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the U.S. or any place subject to its jurisdiction.”
• Ratified in December, 1865.

• Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
Freedmen’s Bureau
(1865)

• Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

• Who were the “carpetbaggers”?
  • mostly former northern abolitionists
  • Union soldiers
• Who were the “scalawags”?

• Southern Republicans / poor Whites

• Voted against secession / for Douglas or Bell in 1860
Freedmen’s Bureau through Southern Eyes
1.1.2 Presidential Reconstruction
President Andrew Johnson

• Jacksonian Democrat.
• Anti-Aristocrat.
• Champion of poor whites.
• Agreed that states had never legally left the Union.
“Damn the negroes! I am fighting these traitorous aristocrats, their masters!”
Johnson’s Plan (‘Ten Percent 2.0’)

• Offered amnesty upon simple oath to all except:
  • Confederate officers & large land-owners (> $20,000)
  • Those individuals applied directly to Johnson
• New constitutions must repudiate slavery, secession and state debts.

• Named provisional governors in Confederate states.
Black Codes

- Purpose:
  - Guarantee stable labor supply post-emancipation.
  - Restore pre-emancipation racial hierarchy.
• Forced many blacks to become sharecroppers [tenant farmers].
Congress Opposes the President

• Congress bars newly elected Southern reps
• February, 1866: Johnson vetoes the Freedmen’s Bureau bill.
March, 1866: Johnson vetoes Civil Rights bill.
Congress quickly passes both bills over Johnson’s vetoes
1.1.3 Radical Reconstruction
14th Amendment

• Ratified in July, 1868
• Provided a constitutional guarantee of the rights and security of the freedmen
• Insured against neo-Confederate political power
• Guaranteed the national debt; repudiated Confederate debt

• Southern representation reduced proportionally if Blacks disenfranchised.
The 1866 Interim Elections

• Referendum on Radical Reconstruction.

• Johnson travels cross country to promote his plan.
• Republicans win a 3-1 majority in both houses

• Gain control of every northern state.
Military Reconstruction Act (1867)

- Military supervision of state governments
• New state constitutions required Black suffrage and ratification of the 13th and 14th Amendments.

• Divide the 10 “unreconstructed states” into 5 military districts.
Tenure of Office Act (1867)

• The President could not remove appointed officials [e.g., Cabinet members] without the Senate’s consent.
• Designed to protect incumbent (Radical) members of Lincoln’s government.

• Law may be unconstitutional.
President Johnson’s Impeachment

- Johnson removed Secretary of War Edwin Stanton (February, 1868).

- The House impeached Johnson two days before actually writing formal charges by a vote of 126 – 47.
The Senate Trial

• 11 week trial

• Johnson acquitted 35 to 19 (one short of required two-thirds vote).
1.1.4 The Grant Administration
The Civil War Memoirs of
Grant Administration Scandals

- Grant presided over an era of unprecedented growth and corruption.
- Credit Mobilier Scandal
- Whiskey Ring
- “Indian Ring”
I beg to repeat that these frauds on the government shall be probed to the very bottom.
The Panic of 1873

• Raises “the money question”

• Debtors seek inflation
  • Increased circulation of greenbacks.
• Creditors, economists support deflation.

• Keep U.S. on “gold standard”

• 1876 → Greenback Party wins several congressional seats by criticizing “The Crime of ’73”!
Legal Challenges

• The Slaughterhouse Cases (1873)

• When LA granted a monopoly to a single slaughterhouse, the power to do so was upheld because state and national citizenship were declared separate.
This undermined future attempts to use the 14th Amendment to protect civil rights against states.
• **U.S. v. Cruickshank (1876)**

• Overruled conviction of Whites who attacked blacks in Louisiana under the 1870 Enforcement Act

• Court ruled Federal government did not have power...duty to protect citizens fell to states.
1.1.5 Black Lives in the Postbellum South
Blacks in Southern Politics

• Core voters were black veterans.

• Blacks were politically unprepared.
• Blacks could register and vote in Southern states starting in 1867.

• The 15th Amendment guaranteed federal voting.
15th Amendment

- Ratified in 1870.

- “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”
• The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

• Women’s rights groups were furious. Why?
The "Invisible Empire of the South"
The Failure of Federal Enforcement

- “The KKK Act”

Obstacles

- “The Lost Cause.”

- Rise of the “Redeemers”
The Civil Rights Act of 1875

- Crime for any individual to deny full & equal use of public accommodations
- Prohibited discrimination in jury selection
• Shortcomings
  • Lacked a strong enforcement mechanism
  • Crippled by narrow judicial interpretations
  • No new civil rights act was attempted for another 90 years.
1.1.6 Retreat from Reconstruction
Northern Support Wanes

- “Grantism” (corruption/disinterest)
- Panic of 1873 (6-year depression)
- Distractions
  - Westward expansion & Indian wars
• Monetary issues

• Should war bonds be repaid in specie or greenbacks?
“The Compromise of 1877”
A NATIONAL GAME THAT IS PLAYED OUT.
Alas, the Woes of Childhood...

Sammy Tilden—Boo-Hoo! Ruthy Hayes has got my Presidency, and he won’t give it to me!
“The Art of the Deal”
1. What did the Democrats want in return for a Hayes victory?

2. Why was Tilden unlikely to win the Presidency once the electoral college tied?
3. Why were the Republicans so eager to officially end Reconstruction in exchange for securing the executive office?
1.2 “Go West, Young Man!”: 1865-1900
1.2.1 Native American Cultures and Policies

1.2.2 The “Wild West”? 

1.2.3 How the West Was Really “Won”

1.2.4 The Legend(s) of the West
1.2.1 Native American Cultures and Policies
Economic Activities of Native Peoples

- Diverse Subsistence Cultures
- Some natives inhabited permanent settlements; others lived in temporary camps
- Crop growing, livestock raising, hunting...
• **Slaughter of Buffalo**

• White migrants entered and competed with natives over natural resources

• By 1880s, only a few hundred of the 25 million buffalo remained from 1820
Indian Policy / White Man’s Wars

1860: Navajo raided Fort Defiance in Arizona

• Army responded by attacking and starving out the Navajo
• 1863-64… “Long Walk” from homeland to reservations
• Custer’s Last Stand

• Dawes Act: government distributed land to natives in hopes to assimilate them
1.2.2 The “Wild West”?
• Western movement brought territories to the threshold of statehood

• Lawlessness of the West

• Places like *Deadwood*, in Dakota Territory and *Tombstone*, Arizona

• Gave region notoriety and romance
• West attracted gamblers, thieves, and opportunists

• Earp brothers, “Bat” Masterson and “Doc” Holliday… operated on both sides of the law

• Feud between the Clantons and the Earps… shootout 10/26/1881 at OK Corral
Doc Holliday
Bat Masterson
1.2.3 How the West Was Really “Won”
Irrigation and Transportation

• Rights to water

• Prior appropriation: awarded a river’s water to the first person that claimed it
• Riparian rights: only those who owned land could appropriate from the water’s flow

• The river was owned by God

• Railroad Construction
Standard Gauge

• By 1880s, almost all railroad lines adopted standard-gauge rails so that their tracks could connect with one another
Standard Time

- Railroad schedules required nationwide standardization of time

- 1883, nation’s railroads agreed to establish four standard time zones
Commercialization

- Mail-Order companies
  - Montgomery Ward and Sears: 1870s and 1880s
  - Ward advertised “everything for sale that a person might want”
• Rural Free Delivery

• 1896… Government made RFD widely available

• Letters, newspapers, and catalogues now available at roadside mailboxes
Ranching Frontier

• *Vaqueros*
  • Indian and Mexican Cowboys
  • Tended the herds and rounded up cattle
  • Cattle raising became increasingly profitable
• **Open Range**
  - Vast pastures were needed to graze herds

• **Barbed Wire**
  - Cheap and durable means of enclosure
  - “Don’t Fence Me In” (Cole Porter)
1.2.4 The Legend(s) of the West
Frederick Jackson Turner & Buffalo Bill

- Turner looked at West as home of democratic spirit of America
- Buffalo Bill’s version was that of a battlefield
Government Land Policy

Railroad land grants (1850-1871)

• Granted 181 million acres to railroads to encourage construction and development
Homestead Act (1862)

- Gave 80 million acres to settlers to encourage settlement
Morrill Act (1862)

- Granted 11 million acres to states to sell to fund public agricultural colleges
Other grants

- Granted 129 million acres to states to sell for other educational and related purposes
Dawes Act (1887)

- Allotted some reservation lands to individual Indians to promote private property and weaken tribal values among Indians and offered remaining reservation lands for sale to whites (by 1906, some 75 million acres had been acquired by whites)
Various laws

- Permitted direct sales of 100 million acres by the Land Office