Freedman’s Bureau

- **Agency established** by Congress in **1865**
- Responsible for **securing rights of freed slaves in the south**
  - Establish **schools, hospitals and provide aid**
Land Reform

- Former *slaves believed* they *would receive a homestead* as part of reconstruction

- **Sharecropping** allowed people to **work** the **land in exchange for** a **portion of** the **crop**

- **Crop liens**: white **farmers borrowed money** from banks and would **pay back at harvest**
  - White and black **farmers forced into poverty**

Failures of Reconstruction (1865-1867)

- **President** Andrew **Johnson pardoned all southerners** who swore an oath of allegiance

- Most states passed **Black Codes**, which **limited** the **rights of African-Americans**
  - **Allowed to marry** and **own property**
  - **Could not** serve on juries or **vote**
Politics of Reconstruction (1868-1877)

• **Radical Republicans** wanted immediate equal rights regardless of race
  – **Civil Rights Bill of 1866 passed** after overturning president’s veto

• **Impeachment: Johnson charged** in Senate after ignoring congressional act, but **was acquitted**

New Southern Governments

• **South** was **still suspicious of union** sympathizers
  – **Carpetbaggers** were **northerners** who **moved South** for **economic opportunities**
  – **Scalawags** were **southern republicans**

2000 **African-Americans** served as **political officials** during reconstruction
Reconstruction Amendments

• **14th amendment** defines citizenship and protects right of all Americans

![Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution](image)

• **15th amendment** gave African-American males the right to vote

![15th Amendment](image)

Overthrow of Reconstruction

• Southern democrats accused republican govts. of corruption and inefficiency

• Taxes were increased to pay for improvements including schools and railroads

• Whites were unwilling to recognize blacks as their equals
Reign of Terror

• Violence against African-Americans was common during Reconstruction

• Ku Klux Klan was a secret society created to destroy the Republican party and prevent blacks from voting
  – Enforcement Acts (1870) outlawed terrorist groups

North’s Retreat

• Northern support of Reconstruction declined in the 1870s

• Resurgence of racism in the North: Corruption tied to black involvement in southern govts.

• Depression of 1873: Economic downturn shifted focus of the nation
Legal Retreat

• **Slaughterhouse Cases (1873):** Rights of citizens were controlled by the state, not federal govt.

• **Redeemers:** Democrats who regained control of southern governments
  – Violence and intimidation used to prevent blacks and republicans from voting

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Bargain of 1877

• **Republican Hayes could be president if he recognized Democratic control of the south and removed federal troops**

• **South would respect the civil and political rights of African-Americans**