**Chapter 15**

Reconstruction and The New South

*Reviewing Objectives*

**A thorough study of Chapter Fifteen should enable the student to understand:**

1. The conditions in the former Confederacy after Appomattox that would have made most difficult any attempt at genuine reconstruction.
2. The differences between the Conservative and Radical views on the reconstruction process, and the reasons for the eventual Radical domination.
3. The functioning of the impeachment process in the case of President Andrew Johnson, and the significance of his acquittal for this future of Reconstruction.
4. Radical Reconstruction in practice, and Southern (black and white) reaction to it.
5. The debate among historians concerning the nature of Reconstruction, its accomplishments, and its harmful effects on the South.
6. The national problems faced by President Ulysses S. Grant, and the reasons for his lack of success as chief executive.
7. The diplomatic success of the Johnson and Grant administrations, the role of the presidents in achieving them.
8. The greenback question, and how it reflected the postwar financial problems of the nation.
9. The alternatives that were available during the election of 1876, and the effects of the so-called Compromise of 1877 on the South of the nation.
10. The methods used in the South to regain control of its own affairs and what course of action it chose thereafter.
11. The reasons for the failure of the South to develop a strong industrial economy after Reconstruction.
12. The ways in which Southerners decided to handle the race questions, and the origin of the system identified with “Jim Crow.”
13. The response of blacks to conditions in the South following Reconstruction.

**Chapter 15**

**Pertinent Questions**

**The Problems of Peacemaking**

1. What effects did the Civil War have on the economy and social system of the South?
2. What special problems did the freedmen face immediately after the war? What efforts were made to help them?
3. What were the competing notions of freedom that existed in the post-war South?
4. What political implications did the readmission of the Southern states pose from the Republicans?
5. What were the differences between the Conservative, Radical, and Moderate factions of the Republican Party during Reconstruction?
6. What were the objectives and provisions of Lincoln’s play for Reconstruction? How did the Radical Republicans respond to it?
7. Describe Andrew Johnson’s approach to Reconstruction. How was it shaped by his political background and his personality?

**Radical Reconstruction**

1. What did the Southern state governments do during the “presidential Reconstruction” of 1865 and 1866?
2. How did Congress respond to the Black Codes and other Southern state actions of 1865 and 1866?
3. What did the congressional elections of 1866 reveal about the public attitude toward Reconstruction?
4. Explain the basic provisions of the congressional plan of Reconstruction of 1867. On what principle was it based?
5. What measure did the Radical Republicans take to keep President Johnson and the Supreme Court from interfering with their plans?
6. Why did Radical Republicans want to impeach President Johnson and why did they fail.

**The South in Reconstruction**

1. What three groups constituted the Republican Party in the South during Reconstruction?
2. What role did blacks play in southern political life during Reconstruction?
3. What was the balance between corruption and positive accomplishment by the Reconstruction-era state governments in the South?
4. What patterns of Southern education began to emerge during Reconstruction?
5. What changes in land distribution occurred in the South after the Civil War? How ere the hopes of blacks mostly dashed?
6. What economic advances did the freedmen make? How did the economic status of blacks compare with that of the average white Southerner?
7. How did the crop-lien system overshadow the economic gains made by blacks and poor whites?
8. How did freedom affect black family life?

**The Grant Administration**

1. How did Ulysses S. Grant’s political accomplishments compare with his military ability?
2. What were the scandals that came to light during the Grant Administration? What role did Grant play in these?
3. People in what financial condition were mostly likely to favor expansion oft the currency supply with greenbacks? What was done about the greenback issue?
4. What were the diplomatic accomplishments of the Grant administration?

**The Abandonment of Reconstruction**

1. What tactics did white Southern Democrats use to restrict or control black suffrage?
2. Why did Northern Republicans begin to take less interest in Reconstruction and the cause of the freedmen after about 1870?
3. Why was the presidential election of 1876 disputed? How was the controversy resolved by the “Compromise of 1877”?
4. What was President Rutherford B. Hayes’s objective in the South? Did he succeed?
5. Compare white and black expectations for Reconstruction with the actual result.

**The New South**

1. What were the socioeconomic and political characteristics of the “Redeemers” (Bourbons)?
2. How did the policies of the “Redeemer” governments compare with those of the Reconstruction=era administrations?
3. In what particular products was industrialization in the South most advanced? What factors attracted industrial capital to the region after the war?
4. How did industrialization in the South compare with that in the North?
5. Describe the composition of the industrial workforce in the South. What problems did the workers face?
6. Describe the typical pattern of Southern agriculture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. What problems confronted most farmers?
7. Describe the rise of the black middle class. How widespread were economic gains by Southern blacks?
8. What was Booker T. Washington’s prescription for black advancement?
9. How did the civil-rights cases of 883 and *Plessey v. Ferguson* (1896) substantially negate the effect of the equal-protection clause of the Fourteenth amendment?
10. What strategies and legal devices did the Southern states use to evade the spirit of the Fifteenth Amendment?
11. Explain how Southern whites used lynching to control the black population. How did some whites, both Northern and Southern, respond?

**Where Historians Disagree**

1. How have historians differed over the nature of Reconstruction?
2. What part has the public played in this debate and why is the era so controversial?
3. How have historians attempted to explain the origins of segregation in America?
4. How have social and political development in the United States influenced the debate over origins of segregation?

**Patters of Popular Culture**

46. How was the minstrel show both a testament to the high awareness of race and the high level of racism in American society before the Civil War?