

- ▶ Economic reconstruction
- ▶ Political reconstruction
- ▶ Blacks in Georgia politics
- ▶ The end of Reconstruction



Reconstruction Comes to Georgia

The spring of 1865 was a time of despair for most white southerners and of short-lived joy for most black southerners. For either race, it was a time of uncertainty about the future. The South was now a conquered land. The vision of an independent Confederacy was a painful memory.

That spring, war-weary Georgia soldiers returned home, leaving behind about 25,000 dead and missing. Upon returning home, Confederate veterans often found ruin and great confusion. From Chattanooga to Savannah, blackened chimneys—“Sherman’s sentinels”—marked the locations of once prosperous plantations. “Sherman’s neckties” (rails twisted around trees) and burned depots and bridges were all that remained of the state’s railroads. Cotton gins, mills, factories—all lay in ruin.

Georgia businesses faced a bleak future. They had no stock, no supplies, no equipment, no money, and few customers. For many farmers and plantation owners, the situation was equally bleak, for now there were no slaves to work the fields. Most planters’ wealth had been tied up in slaves. Now, that wealth—possibly the entire southern way of life—seemed “gone with the wind.”

At first, many whites hoped that their former slaves would stay on and work for wages. Some did, but most soon walked away.

Typical was John Banks, a 68-year-old Columbus planter at the time of the war’s end. He had seven sons who served in the Confederate army, three of whom were killed in battle. Shortly after the South’s surrender, Banks wrote in his diary details of the effect of emancipation on his Georgia plantation:



Snapshot

Repairing the massive devastation done to the railroads was one of the first tasks facing Georgians after the war.

Emancipation has been proclaimed by Lincoln and partially carried out. . . . I owned about two hundred negroes, in which my property mostly consisted. This leaves me poor.

Today many of my negroes left me. Celia, who has cooked for me more than forty years, left me. I made no opposition to it. Am now satisfied it [emancipation] will be carried out. George, my body servant, has left me. All the negroes about the yard are gone. . . . All have left me but such as are of expense to me. Wesley is about ten years old and drove me in the buggy to town today. Windsor, who came in the buggy with me (a good boy) this morning, when I called for him found he was gone. The negroes at the plantation are still there but so demoralized that they work but little.

In rural areas, bands of ex-slaves or army deserters roamed about taking what little there was from unprotected farms. Thousands of former slaves flocked to the cities, seeking food and a place to live. Finding neither, many became homeless. In the months after the war, whites also experienced terrible conditions—with no money, few clothes, and little food. As one Georgia woman wrote in her diary on May 27, 1865: “We are a poverty-stricken nation.”

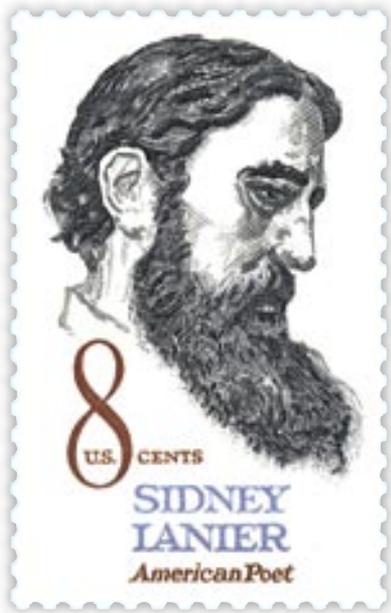
By the spring of 1865, state government had broken down. U.S. military authorities took control of Georgia and other southern states. The federal government planned to change the makeup of southern government, politics, and society. Its intent was to change—or *reconstruct*—Confederate states before allowing them back into the Union. Thus began an era known as **Reconstruction**.



After the Civil War, Atlanta adopted a new city seal. It showed the phoenix—a mythical bird—rising out of flames. The seal suggested that like the phoenix, Atlanta would rise up from its wartime destruction to a new life.

(Below) After Sherman left Atlanta, tracks were relaid amid the ruins of this locomotive roundhouse to get the trains running again.





Sidney Lanier, a famous Georgia poet, was also a Confederate soldier, teacher, law clerk, novelist, and a flutist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Economic Reconstruction

The Civil War destroyed much of Georgia's agriculture and industry. This destruction forced changes in the social and economic patterns of the people. Antebellum economy had been based on three main resources: land, labor, and **capital** (money). In **post-bellum** Georgia (the period after the war), the typical planter had plenty of land, but no slave labor to work it. The freed African Americans had their own labor, but most had no land. Neither had any money. Now, whites and blacks had to find new ways of working together to survive.

Land

After the war, many plantation owners had to sell off some of their land to raise cash. They needed money to pay taxes and buy equipment, livestock, seed, fertilizer, and the labor needed to rebuild.

So much land was available and landowners were so desperate for cash that land sold for a fraction of its prewar value. It became "dirt cheap." As a result, many more small farms came into being in Georgia. In some cases, blacks as well as whites became landowners through aid from the federal government. Still, the majority of Georgians of both races could not afford to own their own land.

Labor

After the Civil War, Georgia and other southern states faced a serious shortage of workers—particularly on farms and plantations. One reason was the great number of white males killed or disabled during the war. Also, after the war many Georgians left to start life over in such faraway places as Texas, Mexico, and even Brazil.

In 1869, Georgia's best-known poet, Sidney Lanier, wrote a poem about Georgians migrating to the west after the Civil War. In "Thar's More in the Man than Thar Is in the Land," Lanier writes about a Georgian named Jones, who "lived pretty much by gittin' of loans, and his mules was nuthin' but skin and bones." Jones has trouble making ends meet. He finally sells his land—

And Jones he bought him a waggin and tents,
And loaded his corn, and his wimmin, and truck,
And moved to Texas, which it tuck
His entire pile, with the best of luck,
To git thar and git him a little land.

An even more important reason for the South's labor shortage was the loss of its large pool of slave labor. After emancipation, some blacks stayed with their former masters and agreed to work for wages. But most left their old plantations. They wanted to



leave behind their former way of life—no matter how uncertain the future.

Now that they were free, ex-slaves needed to find ways to make a living. They could sell their labor—but they had little experience working for money. Most white landowners needed workers, but were short of cash.

Devising a new working arrangement between whites and blacks was not easy. Because of a shortage of money to pay workers, several approaches came into general use. Black Georgians seeking work would either work for wages, rent land, or sharecrop with a landowner. (See Chapter 16 for a discussion of sharecropping.)

Capital

There's an old saying that "it takes money to make money." To make money growing cotton, a planter needed capital—money available for spending—to buy work animals, plows, seed, fertilizer, and labor.

With emancipation and the war's end, capital that had been tied up in slaves was lost. Remaining capital in the form of Confederate money and bonds was worthless. Very few farmers in the South had any U.S. money. Other than by selling off land, the only way to get money was to borrow it. But many Georgia banks had collapsed with the Confederacy, and little credit was available. The shortage of capital would make Georgia a poor state for decades. ►

Atlanta, 1864. The remains of a burned-out bank stand on the corner. Despite great destruction by Sherman's forces, Atlanta rebuilt quickly. A New York reporter wrote that from morning until night, Atlanta's streets were alive with workers and wagons, loaded with lumber and brick.



► **Locating the Main Ideas**

1. Define: Reconstruction, capital, postbellum
2. Identify: Sherman's sentinels, Sherman's neckties
3. Why was land "dirt cheap" after the war? What was one result of land being so low priced?
4. Give two reasons for the labor shortage after the war.



Rebuilding Begins

Not every aspect of economic life in Georgia was bleak. Even though it would take Georgia a long time to rebuild, some bright spots marked the start of new growth. For example, in the parts of the state that had escaped war damage—the northeast and the southwest—farm production had resumed. In 1865 and 1866, a worldwide shortage of cotton helped the South revive. Demand for cotton by New England and European manufacturers was so great that Georgia farmers growing cotton could sell it at a high price. Some northern banks, and a few new Georgia banks, began lending money to cotton producers. Slowly Georgia agriculture improved, but as ever, it remained tied to the white fiber plant.

Other parts of the economy received a boost when northern bankers and businessmen began making investments in the South. Money from the North helped get Georgia's mills going, the trains running again, and new companies started.

Carpetbaggers and Scalawags

Along with northern money came northern opportunists, people looking for a way to take advantage of the South's economic and political turmoil. Some gained control of businesses or bought land cheaply to sell later at a profit. Others used their money and influence with federal authorities to gain high positions in Reconstruction governments. Because these persons often carried traveling bags made of carpet material, they were called **carpetbaggers** by white southerners. The carpetbaggers were likened to vultures preying on southerners' misfortune.

Likewise, white southerners who worked with the carpetbaggers received their own nickname—**scalawags**. The scalawags, often looked upon as traitors, were despised by most of their white neighbors.

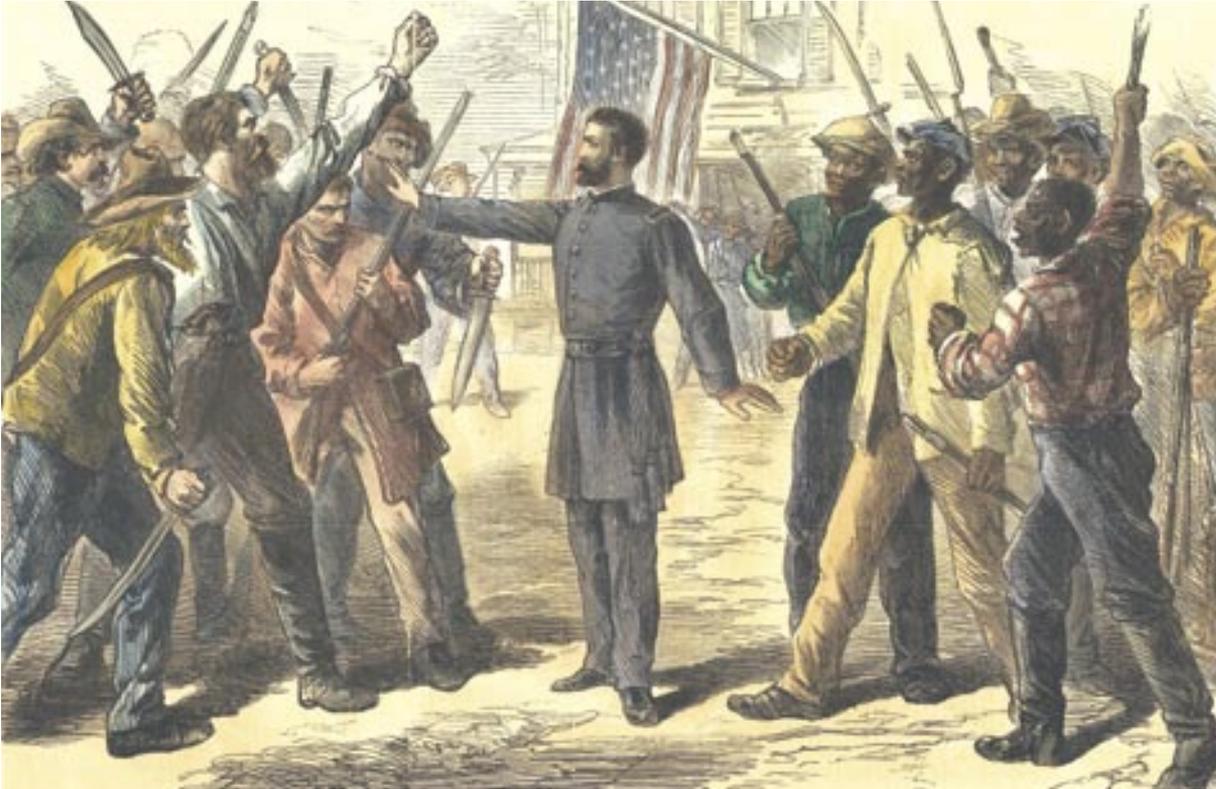
The Freedmen's Bureau had the overwhelming job of helping thousands of freed slaves start new lives.



Help for the People

In March 1865, the United States government set up the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. Popularly known as the **Freedmen's Bureau**, this federal agency issued food, clothing, fuel, and other supplies to needy white refugees and black freedmen.

At first the Freedmen's Bureau helped thousands of poor whites. Soon, however, it became an agency mainly to help blacks function as free persons. Under slavery, blacks had been denied any education, given few responsibilities, and prevented from making decisions for themselves. Suddenly they were free and responsible for their own lives.



A Union officer keeping the peace between a crowd of angry whites and blacks.

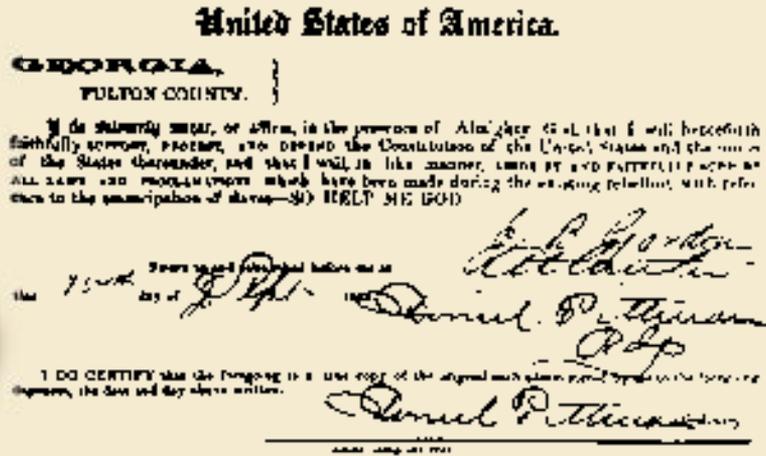
(Below) A Freedmen's school in 1866. Why would adults as well as children be in this school?

Many blacks were unsure about going back to work on plantations. They feared that white landowners would treat them badly. To overcome these fears, the bureau helped blacks and white landowners draw up labor contracts. Written contracts were designed to guarantee the workers a fair wage and job security and the employers a stable work force.

Because most blacks could neither read nor write, education was a primary concern of the Freedmen's Bureau. The bureau set up schools and assisted charity groups in doing the same. Sometimes the bureau acted for blacks in legal matters and encouraged them to take part in politics. It also helped blacks set up their own churches which became the focus of community life for African Americans.

Help for blacks also came from northern missionary and charitable groups, sponsored mainly by the Congregationalist, Methodist, and Baptist churches. Between 1865 and 1873, these groups sent 367 teachers—80 percent of them women—to Georgia. These teachers set up





Gen. John B. Gordon. In September 1865, Georgia's best-known soldier took the oath of allegiance to the United States. What is the probable reason Gordon took this oath?

schools across the state and taught both children and adults to read and write. They also stressed the virtues of hard work and good citizenship.

Such groups helped start the first colleges for African American students in Georgia. In 1867, Atlanta University, sponsored by the American Missionary Association, was established. In Augusta, the American Baptist Home Missionary Society founded Morehouse College (later relocated in Atlanta). The northern Methodist Episcopal Church founded Clark College.

Negative Reactions

White Georgians did not always appreciate the activities of the Freedmen's Bureau. At the time, many whites were suffering the same poverty as blacks but receiving little help from the agency. To them, bureau staff often seemed more concerned with helping the Republican party in state politics than with helping people in need.

Other people not always welcomed were northern missionaries and teachers who came south during Reconstruction. To many white southerners, the message they brought was one of raising former slaves to a position of social equality with whites. ◀

Political Reconstruction

In late 1863, President Lincoln had begun planning for reuniting the nation once the fighting ended. Lincoln saw reconstruction as a healing, not a punishing, process. In March 1865, in his second inaugural address, he had expressed this view:

With malice toward none, with charity for all, . . . let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds. . . .



► Locating the Main Ideas

1. Define: carpetbagger, scalawag, Freedmen's Bureau
2. Why was it easier for north-east and southwest Georgia to recover from the war?
3. How did carpetbaggers take advantage of Georgia in the postbellum period?
4. What was the purpose of the Freedmen's Bureau? How did its clients (the people who used it) change over time?



Presidential Reconstruction

Lincoln's plan for reconstructing the South was to bring seceded states back into the Union as quickly as possible. He would name a provisional (acting) governor for each state. Except for former Confederate leaders, southerners would be pardoned and granted full citizenship rights if they took an oath of allegiance to the United States. Once 10 percent of the voters took this oath, they could elect delegates to write a new state constitution. If this document did three things—declared secession null and void, abolished slavery, and canceled all war debts—the state would be restored to the Union.

But on April 15, 1865—only six days after Lee's surrender—Abraham Lincoln was dead, the victim of an assassin's bullet. His vice-president, Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, had been the only southern U.S. senator not to resign his seat in 1861. He assumed the presidency, determined to carry out Lincoln's program.

In June 1865, President Johnson named James Johnson, a Columbus attorney who had opposed secession, as Georgia's provisional governor. Governor Johnson called for an election to select delegates to a constitutional convention. That body met in October, and within a month had drafted a document that satisfied President Johnson. State voters approved the new constitution and elected a new governor and General Assembly. From the old state capitol in Milledgeville, Georgia's state government began operating much as it had before the Civil War.

When this illustration was published, the accompanying caption read, "Exciting scene in the House of Representatives, January 31st, 1865, on the passage of the amendment [13th] to the Constitution abolishing slavery for ever." How long did it take for the amendment to be ratified by the states?



Pres. Andrew Johnson

The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments

13th Amendment: Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

14th Amendment: No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge [limit] the privileges or immunities [or rights] of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

15th Amendment: 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.

Passed by Congress

Ratified by States

January 31, 1865

December 6, 1865

June 13, 1866

July 9, 1868

February 26, 1869

February 3, 1870

The First Vote. Freedmen go to the ballot box supervised by federal officials. This event was carried on the front page of the national newsmagazine Harper's Weekly, November 16, 1867.



In December 1865, Georgia's General Assembly ratified the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution outlawing slavery in America. It also adopted legislation recognizing certain rights of freed blacks. For the first time, blacks would be allowed to make legal contracts, sue, and hold and sell personal property. Still, there were many rights blacks did not have. The new constitution, for instance, only allowed white male citizens to vote (which meant that only white males served on juries). The 1865 constitution also prohibited the marriage of whites and "persons of African descent." Lawmakers further banned blacks from testifying against whites in court.

Certain that Georgia would be restored to the Union, the General Assembly chose the state's two U.S. senators—Alexander Stephens and Herschel Johnson.

Congressional Reconstruction

Not everyone was happy with the manner and speed of the South's "reconstruction." Some Congressmen, known as Radical Republicans, had strongly opposed Lincoln's plan for Reconstruction. Now with Andrew Johnson as president, they were even more upset. The Radicals distrusted Johnson, a former Democrat from Tennessee. Also, Johnson had gone beyond Lincoln's original plan and had pardoned many former Confederate officials and military officers.

Rather than welcoming southern states back into the Union, Radical Republicans felt the South should be punished. They especially wanted to keep Democrats who had been political leaders before the war from regaining political power. If southern states were allowed quick entry back into the Union, Radical Republicans feared Democrats would win control of Congress.

By 1866, southern states had met President Johnson's conditions for Reconstruction, but Radical Republicans were dissatisfied. Except for Texas, new state governments were functioning in

each of the former Confederate states. These new governments, however, were run by white Democrats—most of whom were ex-Confederate officers or officials. Though freeing the slaves, many of the southern legislatures had passed **Black Codes**—laws limiting the political and civil rights of former slaves.

Radical Republicans were furious. They decided to seize control of Reconstruction from President Johnson. In Congress, they refused to approve the new state governments or to seat their representatives. In the congressional elections of 1866, Republicans won a majority in both the U.S. House and Senate. President Johnson, lacking Lincoln’s political skill, was unable to prevent the Radicals from taking charge of Reconstruction. His relationship with Congress became so bad that the House later **impeached** him (filed charges to remove from office). By a single vote in his Senate trial, the president was saved from removal. Though able to complete his term, Johnson decided not to run for reelection. In 1868, Republicans nominated Ulysses Grant for the presidency. Grant had been commander of the Union Army in 1864–1865 and was very popular in the North.

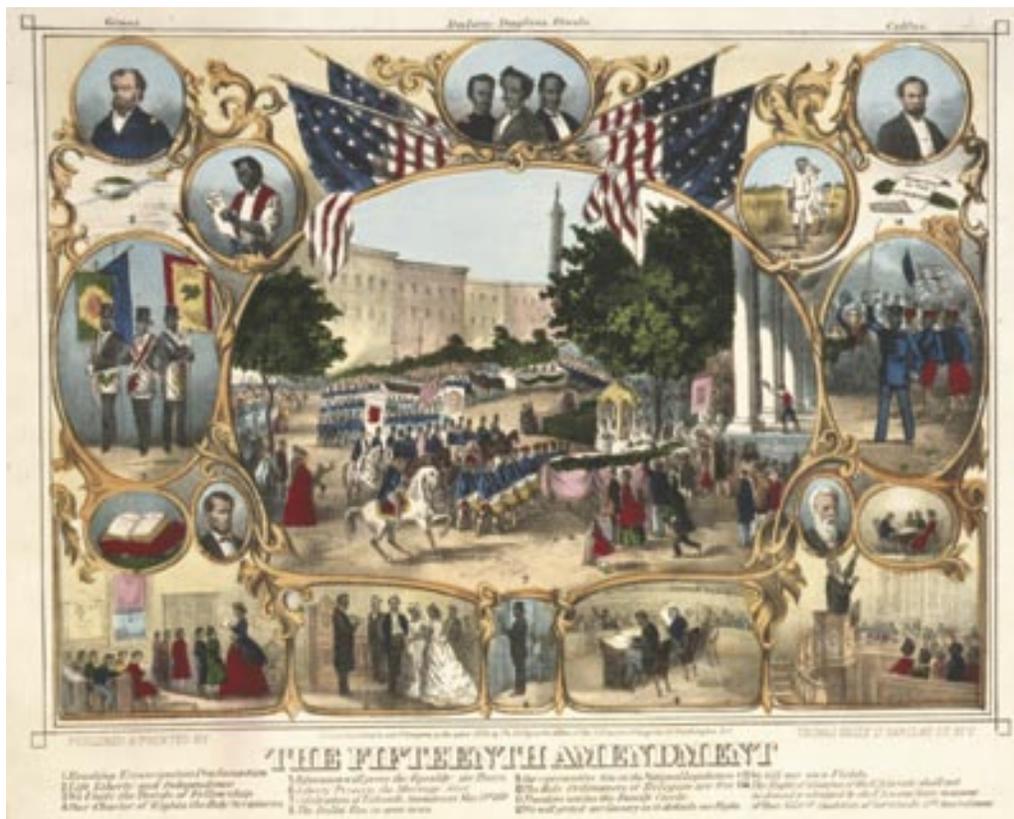
The Fourteenth Amendment

In reaction to the Black Codes, Congress in 1866 proposed a new amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Fourteenth Amendment made it clear that blacks were citizens of the United



Ulysses S. Grant was U.S. president during most of Reconstruction. Though a popular Union general, he was not very effective as president.

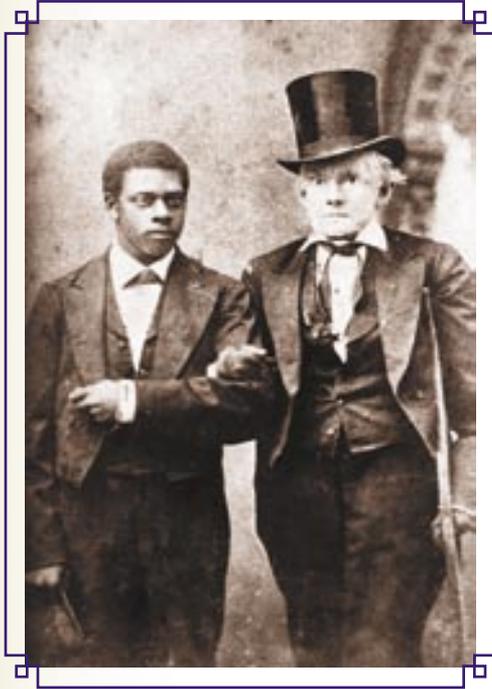
(Below) Why would a poster with pictures of leaders and illustrations of rights associated with the Fifteenth Amendment be useful to ex-slaves?



Georgians in History



Alexander Stephens



Alexander Stephens and his servant, Aleck Kent Stephens. The former Confederate vice-president, although in poor health, worked hard to get Georgia back in the Union. In this 1882 photo, he is on his way to be sworn in as governor of Georgia.



Like many other southerners, Alexander Hamilton Stephens felt it was his duty to support the Confederacy. His native Georgia had, after all, voted to break away from the Union. He is best remembered as vice-president of the Confederacy, but that role was not his

most important one. His 28 years of service in the U.S. Congress both before and after the Civil War made Stephens the most prominent Georgian of the nineteenth century.

Born on a Wilkes County farm in 1812, Stephens, orphaned at 14, was educated at the University of Georgia. There he proved himself to be a gifted student and outstanding speaker. Frail and slight, weighing about 100 pounds, Stephens suffered aches, illnesses, and depression throughout his life.

After setting up a law practice in Crawfordville, Stephens was elected to Georgia's state legislature in 1836 and to Congress in 1843. With a reputation for independent thinking, Stephens had generally opposed slavery until 1850. In Congress, he was widely respected for his skills as a speaker and was one of the South's most influential spokesmen. Stephens was not in favor of secession, but not even his great speaking ability could persuade his fellow Georgians to stay in the Union. Once that decision was made, Stephens supported it by helping to draft the Confederate constitution and serving as vice-president.

He spent most of the war at his Crawfordville home, opposing many practices of Jefferson Davis's government. Imprisoned in Boston briefly after the war, Stephens was never charged with "Confederate crimes" and was allowed to return to Georgia. He once again was elected to Congress in 1872, where he served 10 years before retiring at age 70 with severe health problems. Georgia's badly divided Democratic party immediately urged him to run for governor. Elected in 1882, Stephens was in office for only 119 days before he died, serving the state he had loved all his life.

States and of the state in which they lived. All citizens, regardless of race, were to be guaranteed “equal protection of the law.” The amendment also made the federal government protector of all citizens’ rights, regardless of where they lived.

The Fourteenth Amendment did not expressly give blacks the right to vote. (At the time, only six states in the nation—all in the North—allowed blacks to vote.) It did provide, however, that if a state denied any portion of its citizens their rights, it would lose a similar portion of its representation in Congress. Georgia and the other former Confederate states, except Tennessee, refused to ratify the amendment.



Campaigning for political office was a new experience for African Americans. During the Reconstruction period, many were elected to office at the state and federal levels.

Military Occupation Again

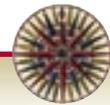
Early in 1867, Radical Republicans pushed an act through Congress to place the 10 southern states refusing to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment under military occupation. The states were divided into five military districts. (Georgia, Florida, and Alabama were in the Third District.) In charge of each district was a U.S. Army general, backed by federal troops.

Under this new setup, the first task was to register voters. All adult males, black as well as white, who took the oath of allegiance to the United States could register. Certain categories of ex-Confederates, however, were denied this right.

In each state, the new voters were to elect delegates to write a new state constitution (which had to be approved by Congress). When new legislatures were elected, they had to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment. Only after the southern states had done these things would they be free of military occupation and readmitted to the Union.

In April 1868, Georgia voters ratified a new state constitution. In it, race was removed as a qualification for voting. A provision was added that “The State of Georgia shall ever remain a member of the American Union.” All married women were guaranteed control of their own property. Imprisonment for debt was abolished. And, for the first time, Georgia was to have a free public school system for all children. This provision was not carried out until 1871.

In the summer of 1868, Georgia’s General Assembly finally ratified the Fourteenth Amendment. Nine days after that action, federal troops were withdrawn. But Reconstruction was not over. Federal troops would return and occupy the state a year later. ▶



▶ Locating the Main Ideas

1. Define: Black Codes, impeach
2. Identify: Andrew Johnson, Thirteenth Amendment, Alexander Stephens, Herschel Johnson, Radical Republicans, Fourteenth Amendment
3. Why were the Radical Republicans unhappy with President Johnson’s reconstruction of the South?
4. What did the Radical Republicans do about states refusing to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

Blacks in Georgia Politics

In 1867, African Americans voted for the first time in Georgia, selecting delegates to a convention to draft a new state constitution. Of 169 convention delegates elected, 37 were black. When the black delegates were denied rooms in Milledgeville hotels, U.S. Gen. John Pope, who commanded the Third District, ordered the convention moved to Atlanta. This move helped Atlanta in its long-standing bid to become Georgia's state capital, a move voters approved the following year.

Most blacks in the South considered the Republican party the “party of Lincoln” and consequently voted largely for Republican candidates. In 1868, Georgia African Americans cast their first ballots for federal and state offices. In the presidential election, they overwhelmingly supported Republican nominee Ulysses Grant (who won 64 percent of Georgia's popular vote). Georgia black voters also helped ratify a new state constitution. The Constitution of 1868 gave more rights to more citizens than previous Georgia constitutions. Black males gained full civil rights, including the vote. In the election that followed, 32 black Republicans were elected to Georgia's General Assembly. Of 172 state representatives, 29 were black; of 44 senators, 3 were black. In the same election, a white Republican, Rufus Bullock, defeated a popular hero, ex-Confederate general John B. Gordon, to become governor.

The participation by blacks in politics was not easily accepted by most whites. While the newly elected General Assembly ratified the Fourteenth Amendment, many of its white members looked for ways to remove the black members. Over the protests of the black members, the white majority, in September 1868, voted to expel 28 blacks. The argument for doing this was that the state constitution did not grant blacks the right to hold public office. Four mulatto members (persons of mixed black and white ancestry), however, were allowed to retain their seats.

The Rise of Terrorist Groups

The summer and fall of 1868 also witnessed the rise of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in Georgia. This secret organization, founded in Tennessee in 1866, began as an effort by southern white Democrats to regain control of their governments from Republicans.

Disguised in hoods and robes, Klan members used terror and threats of violence in their attempts to restore southern Democrats to power. This meant attacking the base of Republican strength in the South—the large number of freed slaves. But the Klan was interested in more than political parties. It sought to control the social and economic activities of blacks. Klan



Snapshot

Erected on the grounds of Georgia's state capitol in 1976, *Expelled Because of Their Color* is a tribute to the black state legislators who were elected and almost immediately expelled by white members of the General Assembly.

sympathizers—and there were many—argued that the KKK was necessary for white self-protection, particularly in areas where whites were a minority.

To achieve its goals, the Klan and other similar organizations attempted to **intimidate** (frighten) blacks into submitting to control by whites. Blacks who did not submit, and others who stood by them, faced having their houses burned, whippings, or even death. The Klan encouraged **lynching** (illegal killing, usually by hanging, by violent mobs) of blacks. In one month in 1868, the Freedmen's Bureau reported 142 terroristic acts against blacks, including 31 murders, 48 attempted murders, and 63 beatings in the South.

One way that the Klan intimidated blacks was at the polls. At the time, Georgia did not use the secret ballot. During elections, Klan observers would often watch to see which ballot—Republican or Democrat—a black voter would take. If the voter did not take the Democratic ticket, he risked being the target of KKK violence.

The activities of the KKK and other such organizations alarmed the Radical Republicans in Congress. In 1868, 1869, and again in 1871, Congress set up committees to investigate the Klan and other secret organizations.

The End of Reconstruction

The activities of the Klan, the expelling of black legislators from the General Assembly, and other problems led Governor Bullock to ask Congress for help. In December 1869, Georgia was placed under federal military control for a third time. An army commander ordered the General Assembly to reseal the expelled black members. In south Georgia, seven counties were placed under military occupation because of Klan terrorism. Various laws were enacted to protect Republican voters.

Now Georgia had to satisfy additional requirements before becoming part of the union. Congress ordered Georgia to ratify a new constitutional amendment—the Fifteenth—to protect the voting rights of blacks. In February 1870, the General Assembly ratified the Fifteenth Amendment and reapproved the Fourteenth. In October, it authorized the statewide system of public schools. The schools were to be “for the instruction of white and colored youth of the district in separate schools.”

Federal troops left the state, and in July 1870 Georgia was again one of the United States. That year, Jefferson Long, a former slave, became the first black Georgian elected to Congress. After the Civil War, Long had become active in the Republican party. He successfully ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and became the first black ever to make a speech in



Jefferson Long, a Macon tailor, became Georgia's first black congressman. After a short term, he resumed his business and remained active in Republican party politics.

(Above) Members of the Ku Klux Klan dressed in robes and hoods to disguise themselves and to make their appearance more frightening.



(Far left) Elected in 1868, Rufus Bullock was Georgia's first Republican governor. Though criticized as a corrupt leader, Bullock later became one of Atlanta's leading businessmen.

Henry McNeal Turner was a black legislator expelled from the General Assembly in 1868. During Reconstruction, he was active in organizing the AME church in Georgia and was elected its bishop. Disillusioned with white America, he became a national spokesman urging black Americans to immigrate to Africa.

that body. Long called for an end to lynching and other violence and spoke out in Congress against a bill that would make it easier for ex-Confederates to hold public office.

Once federal troops withdrew, the administration of Rufus Bullock, the Republican governor, was doomed. During his term in office, he and his aides had recklessly spent public funds. Newspaper editorials charged that Bullock's friends were filling their pockets with much of this money. The state also had run up a large debt in an effort to rebuild railroads.

As proof of corruption mounted, Georgians elected a solidly Democratic legislature that began looking into the financial dealings of the "carpetbagger" government. Facing impeachment, Governor Bullock resigned and returned to his hometown in New York. In a special election to fill the governor's office, Democrat James M. Smith was elected.

Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., Radical Republicans were losing their strength and their interest in punishing the South and helping southern blacks. In 1872, Congress granted **amnesty** (forgiveness) to all but 500 former Confederates, making them eligible to hold public office. The Freedmen's Bureau was abolished the same year.

In 1872, Governor Smith was easily reelected. Only four blacks were elected to the General Assembly. With the state firmly controlled by white Democrats, the *Atlanta Constitution* noted the passing of "the long night of Radical rule." The newspaper concluded, "Thank God Georgia is redeemed." ◀



► Locating the Main Ideas

1. Define: intimidate, lynch, amnesty
2. Identify: Rufus Bullock, John B. Gordon, Jefferson Long, Fifteenth Amendment
3. What event helped Atlanta to become the capital of the state?
4. What was the Ku Klux Klan attempting to do through its terroristic activities? How did Klan members justify their activities?
5. Why did Governor Bullock ask federal soldiers to return to Georgia? What happened to Bullock when the soldiers left?

Chapter Activities

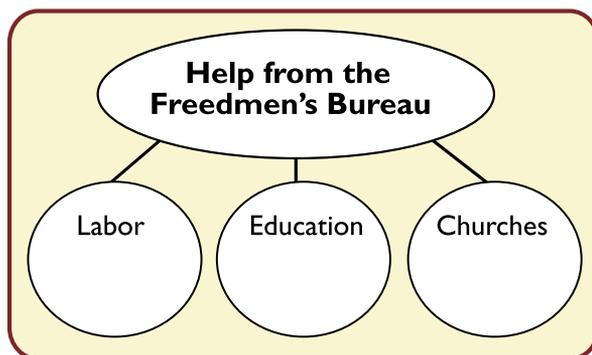


Reviewing the Main Ideas

1. How did Georgians continue to feel the effects of Sherman's March to the Sea after the war had ended?
2. Explain why capital in the South had almost vanished as a result of the Civil War.
3. Discuss land, labor, and capital in terms of who had them, and how that affected the rebuilding of the South after the war.
4. How did the Freedmen's Bureau help blacks and white landowners work together?
5. Why was education an immediate concern of the Freedmen's Bureau? How did colleges for black students get started in Georgia?
6. Why did white Georgians react negatively to the Freedmen's Bureau as well as other groups who had come south to help former slaves?
7. Describe the different views of Reconstruction as held by President Lincoln, President Johnson, and the Radical Republicans.
8. How did Georgia's Constitution of 1868 benefit women and children in the state?
9. Summarize the meaning of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
10. What became of the Radical Republicans in the 1870s?

Give It Some Extra Thought

1. **Identifying Problems.** Copy and fill in the graphic organizer to identify help provided by the Freedmen's Bureau. When completed, answer the question, why were slaves unprepared for freedom?



2. **Comparing and Analyzing.** Compare the impact of presidential and congressional reconstruction plans on white southern Democrats. Which plan was the most unfavorable to them? Explain why.

Sharpen Your Skills

1. **Pie Charts.** Make three pie charts showing the black and white makeup of the 1868 General Assembly as a whole and of each house. Look up the 1860 black and white population figures for the state on page 179. Were blacks represented in the General Assembly in proportion to their numbers in the population?
2. **Analyzing Visual Evidence.** Carefully examine the picture of "The First Vote" (page 230). What does the fact that it was on the front page of a national newsmagazine tell you about the importance of the event? Look at the way the first two men in line are dressed and guess what their occupations might be. What is the man in uniform doing? How does the artist show the voting being conducted? Is it a secret ballot?
3. **Demonstrating the Need for Rules in Society.** Give examples of how the Ku Klux Klan operated outside the law. How do its activities demonstrate the need for rules and laws in society?

Going Further

1. **Imagining.** Imagine that you visited Atlanta in the summer of 1865. Write a letter to your parents describing what you see and how you feel about it. You may want to look at some photographs taken of Atlanta during that time to help you imagine what your visit would be like.
2. **Collecting Evidence.** Find evidence in this chapter of Democratic and Republican activities to support the following statement. "In many ways the political reconstruction of the South was a struggle for control between the Democrats and the Republicans."