

## Reconstruction

- I. What are the origins of the Civil War
  - A. Myths
    - a. Myth 1: immorality of slavery caused civil war
    - b. Many Americans read back into consequences of civil war the consequences.
    - c. Slaves were freed. Men given the vote. Therefore that must be why the war was fought
    - d. Some remember Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, 5'2, Abe Lincoln 6' you're the little lady that started the big war
  - B. If you think slavery is the cause of the civil war in terms of mistreatment of black people in slavery, that is relatively unimportant to northerners
  - C. Very few Northerners cared about the pain and suffering of black people
  - D. The folk who did were called abolitionists
    1. small radical, minority in north
    2. persecuted minority
    3. isolated minority, John Brown
    4. a minority, beaten by northern mobs
    5. only the abolitionists said slavery is wrong to what it does to black people, physically, personally, and psychically
    6. slavery is wrong because slavery is a sin and you don't compromise with sin
    7. what you do with sin is root it out
    8. slavery is wrong because of its brutality and its destructive affects
    9. only this small group called for immediate freedom and abolition of slavery
    10. and only a small group of this small group believed in black and white equality
    11. The north is a racist society
    12. the north, however, is antislavery, but not because of its impact on blacks,
    13. Antislavery because of its affect on white people, the white way of life, white freedoms, white property, white prosperity, white future, t
    14. the north will fight and fight hard because fear slavery will hurt white future
    15. they are not fighting to end an immoral institution
    - 16.
- II. Final portrait of Southern Society Before the War (16 students up front)
  - A. in 1860 the year of the civil war,  $\frac{3}{4}$  white population of the south had not direct connection with slavery
  - B. 1 in 4 families in south owned slaves

- C. Of this  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  owned 10 slaves or less,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of small minority owned 10 slaves or less
- D. 1 % of slaveowners, 1%, 2300 families in the south owned 100 slaves or more
- E. Great majority of southern farmers
  - 1. self-sufficient
  - 2. grow a little cotton
  - 3. own no slaves at all
- F. But power of south is concentrated in the hands of the 2300 families
  - 1. the economic power
  - 2. the political power
  - 3. and the cultural power
- G. that minority of slaveholders and plantation owners that run south
  - 1. they own the best land
  - 2. they are the cotton growers
  - 3. they are also the political leaders (serve the needs)
  - 4. the senators and governors
  - 5. they set the pattern of society
  - 6. set the style of society
  - 7. they set the goals to which all others aspire in Southern society
  - 8. Their values and attitudes which are shared by common southerners
  - 9. they create the dream of southern society
  - 10. when they lead the south to war, and they will be the military leaders as well, when they lead the south to war the masses will willingly follow
    - a. but defeat comes when confederate government does the same thing as union
  - 11. revisit one point, they set the dreams and goals of society which in deference all others follow
- H. there is a second key factor to why all these people who had nothing to do with slavery are fighting for the confederates
  - 1. this is symbolized in a statement by the South Carolina democratic party in 1858
  - 2. Said the S.C democratic party in 1858 “ Freedom is not possible without slavery”
- I. Institution of Black Slavery lifted up all Southern white people
  - 1. Merely by having white skin you had power and you had status
  - 2. what goes with power and status is rights
  - 3. even the poorest white person in the south could gain status or influence because he or she is not black
  - 4. a white skin creates a floor you cannot sink below
  - 5. Issues of class and money not as important as race, whether you are black or white

6. without slavery white people who are poor have no security for equality
7. without slavery white poor will sink. They will lose freedom. They will lose control of their rights.
8. The dreams for the future and the fears for the present are going to compel millions of white southerners who have no contact with slavery at all to defend the institution of slavery, and in many cases die for it.

J.

### III. Westward Expansion

- A. If Slavery expanded west, white northerners felt they would be degraded.
- B. Expansion speeds up slave problem. New territory
- C.

### IV. War Unavoidable?

- A. War may have been postponed, but could not be avoided.
- B. The blame lies with both sides.
- C. All are responsible
- D. Conflict of values and ideals. No compromise between them
- E. In the period between 1800 and 1860, we can say the north and south grew apart
- F. Each section, north and south, develop a separate consciousness, different, ideals, values, beliefs, even heroes
- G. Speak English, but words of value are different
- H. Growing sense of difference equals growing sense of hostility

### V. Diverging Ideologies

- A. North and South develop different destinies
- B. We will find origins of war in growing ideological conflict between the north and the south and in the attempt by each side to win over the nation
- C. The growing sense of difference. The birth of different needs and different values.
- D. In other words the birth of these different values is rooted in two things
  1. Economic Change and Development
  2. You all already know this
  3. Econ transformation in America
  4. in North Industrialized
  - b. transportation
  - c. urbanization
  - d. immigration
  - e. commercialization of small farms
  - f. these changed northern society and ideals. What was created north of the Ohio river was a dynamic, industrialized, heterogeneous society and diverse economy and society
  - g. creates begging of a mass production and distribution society, as well as mass consumption, all based on free white labor

- h. such a society and such an economy has certain needs interests and values,
  - 1. in South King Cotton

E. South

- 1. North modern society railroads, canals, etc
- 2. Rural farming agrarian society
- 3. slower in tempo
- 4. different rhythm to life
- 5. dominate element in south is plantation, as you know, based upon slave labor,
- 6. in the south cities are small
- 7. factories basically non-existent
- 8. railroads unimportant
- 9. different than the north
- 10. different needs, values, and interests than northern society

IV. What was the Civil War about in terms of blacks?

- A. As we know the civil war “frees blacks” in 1863
- B. The Emancipation Proclamation in 1863
  - A. does not free a single black slave
  - B. EP says all black slaves living in states not under control of the Union and Union Army, you are free
  - C. Any blacks in areas under control of union army, Maryland, Kentucky, or Tennessee, their status remained as slaves
  - D. No one in south freed their slaves because of the EP
  - E. If asked Abraham Lincoln in 1858 or 1859 what is your solution to slavery problem in America
    - a. obvious solution. Free the blacks and send them back to Africa, because Lincoln did not believe in social economic and political equality of blacks and whites.
    - b. Liberia has been created. Send them back to liberai. Because two races cannot live in harmony
- C. During the war the intense amount of loss, the loss of more than a half a million Americans, everybody who dies is an American, that presses northerners, particularly radicals, to another solution that involves freeing black people.

V. Sharecropping

- A. Civil War Ends Slavery
- B. 3 Amendments are passed to the Constitution
  - 1. 13<sup>th</sup>-abolish slavery
  - 2. 14<sup>th</sup> make citizens
  - 3. 15<sup>th</sup> give vote
- C. Logical sequence

- D. That was the commitment of radicals, political rights for blacks
- E. Something missing what is it?
- F. These political rights built on quicksand, a house with no foundation
- G. Foundation for equality in this country, for civil liberties and civil rights in this country is always economic
- H. Give people jobs, allow them to have land
- I. Give them economic support and you will give meaning to citizenship
- J. People cannot be coerced if they have property
- K. There was the plan, break up plantations and give each slave family 40 acres and a mule. Give them economic rights and economic rights, economic power so there is meaning to their political liberty and their political rights.
- L. If you don't give them economic security. If you don't give them the power to uphold themselves economically they will be forever subject to coercion and harassment.
- M. The north could not go as far as 40 acres and a mule
- N. The north could not go to the idea of breaking up the plantations
- O. They could not accept the importance of economic liberty as well as economic liberty.
- P. What happens is a new institution appears that replaces slavery
- Q. A new institution that becomes as binding and powerful as slavery
- R. That is an institution called sharecropping
- S. White folks have the land. Black folks have the labor. How do you combine the two to raise up a crop?
- T. The idea was, as follows:
  1. we are going to allow black families to live on the land, but not own it
  2. they will raise up a crop of cotton or tobacco
  3. owner of land will give them money to raise up the crop
  4. come harvest time, in order to pay the debt black family will share the crop with the white owner of the land and the white provider of credit
  5. now sharecropping sounds like 50/50, but it is more like 20/80 with whites getting larger share
  6. but becomes tricky, because sharecropping family takes credit over the year. While raising cotton need food and clothes so must buy it but no money take credit from "master" but have to buy from him too,
  7. borrow money over year until harvest, interest up to 21%
  8. by end of the year still in debt to land-owner

9. every southern state passes a law: those still in debt at harvest time are required to stay on the land
10. return to cycle. 2n, 3 30<sup>th</sup> year further an duffer in debt.
11. not just the father or mother, but children as well, all members of the family bound to the agreement
12. which means no member of the family could leave the land
13. sharecropping became as binding as the institution of slavery
- 14.