

# U.S. HISTORY STUDY GUIDE

## CHAPTER 12: THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA, 1865-1877

### GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE (YOUR OBJECTIVES FOR THIS CHAPTER):

#### **SSUSH10 Identify legal, political, and social dimensions of Reconstruction.**

- a. Compare and contrast Presidential Reconstruction with Congressional Reconstruction, including the significance of Lincoln's assassination and Johnson's impeachment.
- b. Investigate the efforts of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (the Freedmen's Bureau) to support poor whites, former slaves, and American Indians.
- c. Describe the significance of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments.
- d. Explain the Black Codes, the Ku Klux Klan, and other forms of resistance to racial equality during Reconstruction.
- e. Analyze how the Presidential Election of 1876 marked the end of Reconstruction.

### KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE: DEFINE AND DESCRIBE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING

**amnesty** general pardon for certain crimes

**Andrew Johnson** Lincoln's Vice President and first U.S. President to be impeached

**black codes** laws that restricted African Americans' rights and opportunities

**carpetbagger** negative term for Northerners who moved to the South after the Civil War

**Civil Rights Act (of 1866)** law that established federal guarantees of civil rights for all citizens

**Command of the Army Act** requirement that all military orders of the President be approved by the general of the army

**Compromise of 1877** agreement by which Rutherford B. Hayes won the 1876 presidential election and in exchange agreed to remove the remaining federal troops from the South

**Congressional Reconstruction** plans by Radical Republican congressmen including military occupation of Southern states and upholding civil rights for blacks

**Enforcement Acts (aka Force Acts)** 1870 and 1871 laws that made it a federal offense to interfere with a citizen's right to vote

**Fifteenth Amendment (1870)** 1870 constitutional amendment that guaranteed voting rights regardless of race or previous condition of servitude

**Fourteenth Amendment (1868)** 1868 constitutional amendment which defined citizenship and guaranteed citizens equal protection under the law

**Freedmen's Bureau** federal agency designed to aid freed slaves and poor white farmers in the South after the Civil War

**impeach** to charge a public official of wrongdoing in office

**integration** process of bringing people of different races, religions, and social classes together

**Ku Klux Klan** organization that promotes hatred and discrimination against specific ethnic and religious groups

**Ku Klux Klan Act** an Enforcement Act aimed at curtailing violence and other criminal behaviors of the Ku Klux Klan

**Military Reconstruction Act** divided the south into five military districts, each of which was governed by a military officer

**Morehouse College** historically black college in Atlanta that evolved from Augusta Institute beginning in 1867

**Panic of 1873** world-wide economic depression

**Presidential Reconstruction** a lenient approach to reuniting the states that had rebelled during the Civil War.

**Radical Republicans** congressmen who advocated full citizenship rights for African Americans along with a harsh Reconstruction policy toward the South

**Reconstruction** program implemented by the federal government between 1865 and 1877 to repair damage to the South caused by the Civil War and restore the southern states to the Union

**redeemer** term for white southern Democrats who returned to power after 1870

**Rutherford B. Hayes** U.S. President, 1877-1881

**scalawag** negative term for a southern white who supported the Republican Party after the Civil War

**segregation** forced separation, oftentimes by race

**sharecropping** system in which a farmer tended a portion of a planter's land in return for a share of the crop

**share-tenancy** much like sharecropping, except that the farmer chose what crop he would plant and bought his own supplies

**tenant farming** system in which a farmer paid rent to a landowner for the use of the land

**Tenure of Office Act** requirement that certain federal officials could not be fired without the consent of Congress

**Thirteenth Amendment** 1865 constitutional amendment that abolished slavery

**Ulysses S. Grant** U.S. President, 1869-1877

**Wade-Davis Bill** required that a majority of prewar voters in the Confederate states swear loyalty to the Union before restoration could begin

### CHAPTER SUMMARY

Even before the end of the Civil War, Congress and the President disagreed over how the seceded states would rejoin the Union. The issues that arose and how they were dealt with would have consequences for generations to come. Before the Civil War, a limited number of powerful men had controlled the South. In the wake of the war, a very basic question needed to be resolved. Who would gain power and how would they use it? How this question was answered at the time would have both immediate and lasting consequences. In the end, most northerners came to realize what southerners already knew. The rebuilding of the politics, economy, and society of the South would not be easy, nor would it happen quickly. As reformers lost their resolve, old prejudices took new shapes. It would take generations of striving before some issues were resolved.

### KEY IDEAS AND CONCEPTS

1. List the U. S. Presidents and their terms of office from 1865-1877.
2. List the roles and goals of the U. S. Congress from 1865-1877.
3. Compare and contrast **Presidential Reconstruction** with **Radical (Republican) Reconstruction**.
4. Discuss the three goals of the Radical Republicans and Southern responses to their actions.
5. Describe military participation in Reconstruction.
6. Discuss the fates of ex-slaves.

7. Describe African American political activism and participation from 1865-1877.
8. Explain efforts to redistribute land in the South among the former slaves.
9. Explain efforts to provide advanced education to Southern blacks (e.g., Morehouse College).
10. What was the Freedmen's Bureau, and was it effective? Why or why not?
11. Discuss the social & economic effects of Reconstruction.
12. Discuss the Johnson Impeachment: what was it, why did it happen, and what was the result?
13. Discuss the Panic of 1873.
14. Discuss the Compromise of 1877.
15. What event is considered to have ended Reconstruction?

**LEGISLATION: Describe the purposes and achievements of the following (include dates):**

- |                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. 13th Amendment           | 6. Military Reconstruction Act       |
| 2. Wade-Davis Bill          | 7. Command of the Army Act           |
| 3. 14th Amendment           | 8. Tenure of Office Act              |
| 4. 15th Amendment           | 9. Enforcement Acts (aka Force Acts) |
| 5. Civil Rights Act of 1866 | 10. Ku Klux Klan Act                 |