

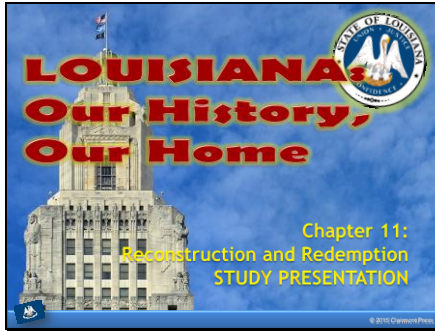


Louisiana: Our History, Our Home

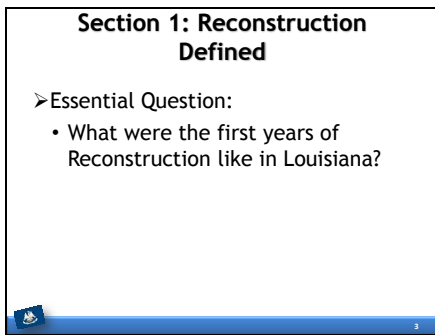
Chapter 11: Reconstruction and Redemption

Quick Notes

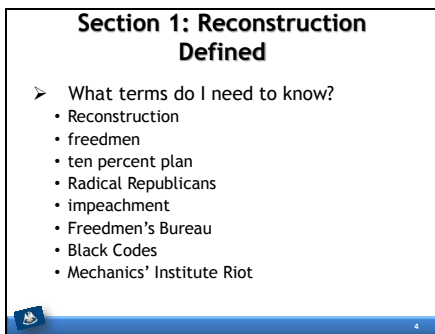
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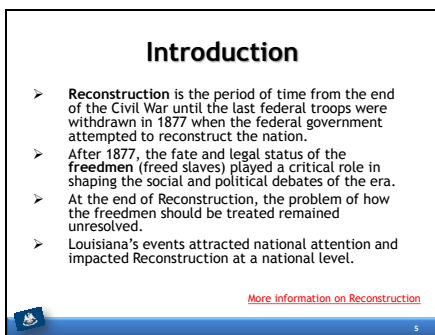
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Presidential Reconstruction

- In 1863, President Lincoln introduced the **ten percent plan**, which stated that once ten percent of men who voted in the 1860 election swore a loyalty oath to the Union, a state was allowed to begin the process of rejoining the Union.
- **Radical Republicans** felt that the plan was too forgiving on people of the South.
- Michael Hahn, a Union loyalist and Republican, was elected governor of Louisiana in 1864.
- The Louisiana Constitution of 1864 acknowledged the end of slavery but did not give the right to vote to former slaves or even men of color who had been free before the war.

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President Johnson and Reconstruction

- After the end of the war and Lincoln's assassination, President Johnson preferred quick reintegration of the rebel states rather than punishment.
- Congress became so angry with Johnson's leniency with former Confederates that they tried him on **impeachment** charges.
- Impeachment is the process of bringing charges of wrongdoing against a public official while that official is still in office.
- Johnson avoided being forced from office by a one-vote margin.

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The Freedmen's Bureau

- The government established the **Freedmen's Bureau** in hopes of resolving problems concerning freed slaves and white southern refugees.
- The Bureau's central focus was on trying to reestablish and regulate labor relations between former slaves and former masters.
- Other functions of the Bureau included: providing emergency relief to poor southerners, establishing schools for former slaves, and performing marriages between former slaves.

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Postwar Black Codes

- Many southern states passed **Black Codes** that placed strict conditions on freed people. Freedmen were required to sign a contract promising to work for a single employer for a full year.
- Louisiana passed the Black Codes in 1865.
- Passage of these codes created a strong backlash from northerners.
- Radicals in Congress were convinced they had to pass harsh legislation to protect the freedmen and to punish southerners.



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The Mechanics' Institute Riot

- The issue of whether slaves should be given full citizenship, including the right to vote, caused strong reactions in Louisiana and Congress.
- The 1864 Louisiana Constitution had a clause allowing later consideration of amendments concerning the freedmen.
- In 1866, the **Mechanics' Institute Riot** took place in New Orleans, which left 37 supporters of giving freedmen the right to vote dead.
- The riot galvanized public opinion in the North and led to the election of additional Radical Republicans to Congress.
- As a result, the Republicans could pass stricter legislation forcing the South to give the freedmen civil rights.

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Section 2: Military Reconstruction

- Essential Question:
 - Describe the upheaval and political turmoil during military reconstruction in Louisiana.

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Section 2: Military Reconstruction

- What terms do I need to know?
 - Reconstruction Acts
 - disfranchise
 - carpetbaggers
 - Knights of the White Camellia
 - returning board
 - Colfax Massacre
 - White League
 - Battle of Liberty Place

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Introduction

- In 1867 and 1868 Congress passed the **Reconstruction Acts**.
- These acts divided the states of the former Confederacy into five districts and put them under military control; some call this period Military Reconstruction.



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The Radicals Triumph

- The districts' military commanders were empowered to dissolve state governments where former Confederate Democrats had control.
- The Reconstruction Acts required the reconstructed states to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment and to register former slaves and free men of color to vote.
- Many former Confederates lost the right to vote because of the new rules in the Reconstruction Acts.

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The 1868 Constitution

- The Louisiana Constitution of 1868 contained more equality for the people of Louisiana than any that preceded it.
- It extended civil rights to former slaves and voting rights to black males.
- The constitution abolished the 1865 Black Codes.
- It formally **disfranchised**, took away the right to vote from, former Confederates.
- The outcome in the 1868 elections for state officials reflected the disfranchisement of many Democrats since Republicans took control of the state government.

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Republican Governance

- Republican Henry Clay Warmouth, from Illinois, was elected governor in the 1868 elections.
- Native-Louisianans referred to him as a **carpetbagger**, an insult that suggested he arrived from the North with only a small suitcase.
- Southerners suspected that carpetbaggers would take advantage of the chaotic postwar conditions.
- Oscar J. Dunn, Warmouth's lieutenant governor, was the first African American elected to statewide office in Louisiana.
- Democrats realized they would not be able to regain political office if African Americans continued voting for Republicans.

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Violence in Politics

- Many Democrats formed paramilitary groups after the 1868 Republican election victory to try and keep African Americans from voting by using intimidation and threats of violence.
- The **Knights of the White Camellia** was the largest of these groups.
- It is estimated that three hundred African Americans were killed leading up to the 1868 elections.
- Governor Warmouth established a **returning board** to see if elections were legitimate or the result of intimidation.
- During the 1872 governor elections, both John McEnery (Democrat) and William Pitt Kellogg (Republican) claimed to have won the race.

President Grant, a Republican, sided in favor of Kellogg.

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Tragedy at Colfax

- A dispute over who had won the elections for local offices in Grant Parish led to the 1873 **Colfax Massacre**.
- After claiming victory in a local election in 1873, Republicans, all of which were African American, occupied the parish courthouse. The Democrats also claimed to have won the elections. After a night of violence between 48 to 150 Republicans were dead.
- The tragedy was the deadliest single instance of politically motivated violence in the United States at any time during Reconstruction.

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Murders in Coushatta

- The **White League**, a paramilitary group, formed in 1874.
- Democratic paramilitary groups continued their violence without punishment after Colfax.
- White League members captured six white Republicans in Coushatta; the group was overtaken and the six were killed.
- Paramilitary groups killing not only blacks but also the groups' white Republican opponents created outraged.

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The 1874 Unification Movement

- A group of prominent men from both political parties met in New Orleans to discuss a solution for both sides.
- Proposals included dividing political offices between Republicans and Democrats, blacks and whites.
- The solutions were not satisfactory, and the group's proposals met a quick end.

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The Battle of Liberty Place

- White Leaguers were impatient to rid their city of Republican rule and to replace the current governor with a Democrat.
- The 1874 **Battle of Liberty Place** between Republicans and the White League resulted in the White Leaguers gaining control of the city's government.
- The group's plans were thwarted when federal troops arrived the next day.
- The willingness of Democrats to fight and the federal government's reluctance to intercede in southern states brought Reconstruction to an end.



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Section 3: The End of Military Reconstruction

- Essential Question:
 - How did the end of military reconstruction allow Democrats to regain power in Louisiana?




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Section 3: The End of Military Reconstruction

- What terms do I need to know?
 - Redeemers
 - home rule




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Introduction

- The 1876 election for governor and other offices had no clear winner; both Republicans and Democrats claimed victory.
- Both political parties set-up governments.
- Democratic governor Francis T. Nicholls ordered an attack on the Cabildo, which was home to the Metropolitan police and state Supreme Court.




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The Compromise of 1877

- The 1876 presidential election was hotly contested as there was uncertainty whether the winner was Republican Rutherford B. Hayes or Democrat Samuel Tilden.
- After several months, the Supreme Court decided Hayes was president.
- This decision angered many Americans.
- Hayes made promises to Southern Democrats such as removing federal troops from the South.
- By agreeing to this, he ended the government's commitment to Reconstruction and gave control back to Democrats.



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The Redeemers

- Democrats called themselves **Redeemers** and they enforced their **home rule**.
- The end of Reconstruction constituted a form of redemption for Democrats and their states.
- Francis T. Nicholls became the sole governor of Louisiana by 1877.
- Governor Nicholls struggled with many issues, including opposition within his own party.
- Democrats ended Nicholls' term as governor one year early in 1880.
- Disagreements continued to plague politics even after Democrats regained leadership.

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