**Unit 6: The Civil War Guided Reading Packet**

***SSUSH9 Evaluate key events, issues, and individuals relating to the Civil War.***

***a. Explain the importance of the growing economic disparity between the North and the South through an examination of population, functioning railroads, and industrial output.***

**Document Analysis 1**



**Northern vs. Southern Economies**

The North and South were vastly different regions in terms of their physical and economic resources at the time of the Civil War. Fighting the Civil War challenged both sides to field, equip, and maintain a military for the duration of the lengthy and costly war. The North had a better resume at the outset for conducting the war. There was a larger population in the North from which to draw soldiers, a more extensive transportation system to move resources, and much greater industrial output to equip soldiers to fight. The South was decidedly at a disadvantage in each of these categories. It would seem from the data that the war would be a swift and decisive victory for the North. The war was ultimately a Union victory, but it was hard fought and lengthy. The South made up for its shortcomings through strong military leadership that relied on efficiency and strategy to prolong the war.

The **disparity** between the North and the South had been many decades in the making. With the advent of the Industrial Revolution, the two regions developed differently. The North evolved into a more industrial economy with larger cities and a larger immigrant population to work in the factories for cheap wages. The North's wealth from industrial production was growing substantially by the mid-19th century. The South remained largely agricultural. Cotton was King, as the demand for Southern grown cotton was in high demand by Northern textile factories and other world markets. However, most farmers in the South were small-scale farmers and only a small percentage engaged in the large plantation operations that produced the greatest wealth.

Northern wealth from industrial production accumulated in **cash assets**. Southern wealth was often tied up in land and slave investments. Therefore, when the Civil War began, the North was better able to fund the military operation based on more available cash, the sale of government bonds, and taxation. The South struggled to finance the war and tried desperately, but without success, to secure a foreign alliance to supplement the Confederate operation. The Union **blockade** of the Southern coastline limited the ability of the South to export cotton during the war, which further hurt Confederate finances. The South printed large quantities of paper money to fund the war, with dangerous inflationary consequences. The factors of population, infrastructure, and industrial production reflect a wide gap between the North and South at the time of the Civil War. In each area, the North was in a favorable position to fight the war.

***b. Discuss Lincoln’s purpose in using emergency powers to suspend habeas corpus, issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, and delivering the Gettysburg and Second Inaugural Addresses.***

**Document Analysis 2**

*“Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.” Source: The Constitution: Article I, Section 9, Clause 2*

**Lincoln’s Use of Emergency Powers- Suspending Habeas Corpus**

President **Abraham Lincoln** was elected President in 1860. The immediate reaction by the states of the Deep South was secession. The eleven states that eventually formed the **Confederate States of America** (the "Confederacy") viewed themselves as a separate nation. Over the course of the Civil War, President Lincoln repeatedly demonstrated and spoke about his primary objective and purpose in the war, which was preserving the Union.

In Lincoln's **first inaugural address**, he tried to conciliate Southerners by saying that he was not going to abolish slavery and that he only wanted to preserve the Union. He went on to urge Southerners to abandon the idea of secession and rejoin the United States. President Lincoln believed preservation of the United States (the "Union") was the most important task for any President. He did not believe the southern states had the right to secede from the Union and thought they were merely rebelling against the government. As a result, Lincoln never considered the Confederacy a separate country. Confederate forces attacked the **Fort Sumter**, South Carolina United States Army fortification in April 1861, which marked the beginning of the long-feared Civil War. When Lincoln called for a large volunteer army to preserve the Union, more states - Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee - seceded to join the Confederacy. Although Lincoln often stated that he wished only to restrict the spread of slavery, not to abolish it, he did over the course of the war come to embrace the idea of ending slavery in the United States.

Not all Northerners supported President Lincoln's efforts to preserve the Union. Some were Confederate sympathizers (just as some Southerners were Union sympathizers). Throughout the war, in some states Lincoln suspended the constitutional right of **habeas corpus** - the legal rule that anyone imprisoned must be taken before a judge to determine if the prisoner is being legally held in custody. The Constitution allows a President to suspend habeas corpus during a **national emergency**. Lincoln used his emergency powers to legalize the holding of Confederate sympathizers without trial and without a judge to agree they were legally imprisoned. Over 13,000 Confederate sympathizers were arrested in the North. After the war, Lincoln's actions were partially repudiated by the Supreme Court decision Ex parte Milligan, 1866, which upheld the suspension of habeas corpus in times of national crisis. Lincoln's purpose in suspending habeas corpus was to help ensure victory in the war - even if it meant restricting individual liberties- and ultimately preserve the Union as he had stated many times.

**Lincoln’s Efforts to Preserve the Union- Gettysburg Address**

Lincoln's desire to preserve the Union can also be seen in his speech at **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**. The occasion was the dedication of a military cemetery at the Gettysburg battlefield in November 1863, just four months after 51,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were killed there in battle. When Lincoln rose to speak, starting with his famous words "Four score and seven years ago...," he spoke for just two minutes. Lincoln thought the speech was a failure because of the poor crowd response. It was not until the next day, when the Gettysburg Address was widely published by Northern newspapers, that Lincoln's words caught the imagination of the North. Lincoln's call to continue on with the fight for the fallen and to help preserve "...government of the people, by the people, and for the people..." helped to raise the spirits of Northerners who had grown weary of the war and were dismayed by Confederate victories over the larger Union armies. Lincoln did not support giving up the fight, which would have dissolved the Union created by the Patriots "four score and seven years" before. President Lincoln was reelected in 1864.

**Lincoln’s Efforts to Preserve the Union- Emancipation Proclamation**

Although Lincoln's objective was to preserve the United States, he also became more intent on ending slavery through the course of the war. In 1862, after the bloody battle at Antietam, Lincoln used executive powers to issue the **Emancipation Proclamation.** The policy emancipated (freed) all slaves held in the states engaged in rebellion. Lincoln did not expect Confederate slaveholders to free their slaves, but he thought news of the proclamation would reach southern slaves and encourage them to flee to the North. Lincoln believed one reason southern whites were free to join the Confederate Army was because slaves were doing their work at home on southern farms. Encouraging slaves to flee to the North would hurt the Southern war effort. Although the Emancipation Proclamation did not free slaves held in the North or in the Border States, free Blacks living in Union states warmly welcomed Lincoln's statement. The proclamation enlarged the purpose of the Civil War to include abolishing slavery and also opened the way for Blacks to join the Union Army.

**Lincoln’s Efforts to Preserve the Union- Second Inaugural Address**

His **Second Inaugural Address** is another example of a speech where his determination to preserve the union of states is evident. When the Second Inaugural was given, Union victory over the Confederacy was eminent and Americans foresaw an end to slavery. Instead of boasting about the victory, Lincoln expressed sorrow that the states had not been able to resolve their differences peacefully. However, he clearly stated that slavery was such an evil that the North was right to have gone to war over the issue. Nevertheless, he urged Americans not to seek revenge on slaveholders, their supporters, or the Confederate military. Instead, he urged reconstruction of the South in a spirit of "malice toward none; with charity for all." Lincoln formed what would become the popular memory of why the war was necessary. He said it had been fought to preserve the Union as an indivisible nation of citizens who would no longer profit from "wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces" - from taking their earnings from the labor of slaves.

***c. Examine the influences of Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, William T. Sherman, and Jefferson Davis.***

**Leaders in the Civil War**

The Civil War was conducted through the leadership of some very successful military and political leaders. At the time of the war's opening shots, the Confederacy had the advantage in terms of military leadership. Commanders from both sides were very familiar with one another, as many had trained together at the **West Point Military Academy** or served together in the Mexican War.

**Ulysses S. Grant**

General Ulysses S. Grant was promoted to full command of the Union Army in March 1864. He had demonstrated his skill and aggressive approach in battle through the difficult campaigns in the West. One of his greatest successes that earned him the promotion was at the siege of Vicksburg. His hard fought victory to control the Mississippi River achieved one of the main military objectives of the **Union's Anaconda Plan**. The Union wanted to split the Confederacy to restrict its ability to mobilize forces. Grant's victory at Vicksburg achieved that goal. Robert E. Lee ultimately surrendered to General Grant at **Appomattox Courthouse** in Virginia on April 9, 1865 to end the war.

**William T. Sherman**

Just as Ulysses S. Grant had been noticed for his aggressive military success, so too was General William T. Sherman. Grant and Sherman had fought together in the western campaigns at Shiloh and Vicksburg. When Grant was given full command of the Union Army, Sherman was also promoted to lead the forces in the West. Sherman is noted for capturing the key Confederate city of **Atlanta** and subsequently leading the Union **March to the Sea** through Georgia. Sherman's influence on the outcome of the war was to wear down the Confederate will to fight through the widespread destruction of property on his march through Georgia and the Carolinas.

**Jefferson Davis**

Jefferson Davis was not a military commander in the field but was President of the Confederate States of America. Davis did possess a military background, having graduated from West Point. He was also a well-respected United States Senator from Mississippi before the Civil War began. Davis was not able to secure for the Confederacy a diplomatic alliance with European countries. He was also at odds with many of the Confederate state governors regarding his war plans that strained the already scarce resources of the South. Davis's counterpart Abraham Lincoln proved to be a more capable political leader during the Civil War.

**Robert E. Lee**

Lincoln was frustrated early in the war by his Union commanders' inability to end the fighting quickly. Grant and Sherman finally emerged as the type of aggressive commanders Lincoln had been looking to promote. The Confederate commander, General **Robert E. Lee**, was thought to be one of the most capable military men in the United States. He was even offered a top position in the United States Army when the Civil War broke out. However, Lee resigned when his home state of Virginia seceded and joined the Confederacy. Lee's influence on the war was one of strong military leadership. Given all of the disadvantages the Confederacy faced going into the conflict, Lee was able to efficiently craft a military strategy that withstood larger Union armies and often a lack of supplies.

**Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson**

General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was considered a brilliant military tactician and was a great commander for Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army. He led his forces to victory at both battles of **Bull Run**. Like Lee, he was very skilled in the field through maneuvering his forces against often larger and better-equipped opponents. Jackson was shot at the **Battle of Chancellorsville** in 1863 and died a few days later. His death was a tremendous loss to General Lee and the Confederate Army.

***d. Explain the importance of Fort Sumter, Antietam, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Atlanta and the impact of geography on these battles.***

**Fort Sumter**

The **Battle of Fort Sumter** was fought in April 1861. Guarding the mouth of **Charleston Harbor**, Fort Sumter was one of the last forts within the seceding states that still remained under federal control. Because the South controlled the harbor, Fort Sumter was cut off from Union supplies and reinforcements. Lincoln had just taken office a few months earlier and the fort was quickly running out of food and supplies. The new President contacted the South Carolina leadership to alert them that the United States would be sending food - and only food - to the Union fortification isolated within Confederate territory. Thus, a critical juncture was reached. Either the Confederates would allow the fort to remain under Union control or begin the fight.

Confederate forces staged a 24-hour bombardment against the fort and, by attacking federal property, committed an act of open rebellion. To uphold the Constitution, President Lincoln believed he had no choice but to call for troops to respond against the Confederacy. As a direct result, the Civil War began. The Confederates won the battle at Fort Sumter after two days of relentless bombing from the Charleston shoreline. Not only did this battle begin the war, but it also prompted the states of the Upper South to join the Confederacy. Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas seceded within weeks of the Confederate victory at Fort Sumter.

**Battle of Antietam**

The **Battle of Antietam** was fought in September 1862. Confederate General Robert E. Lee marched his forces to Antietam Creek, Maryland, where he fought the war's first major battle on Union soil. Maryland was a Border State, which meant that it was a state that allowed slavery but remained loyal to the Union. The state was geographically important as a **Border State**. The Confederate forces believed if the war pushed into Maryland, the state would join the Confederacy. The Confederacy also hoped that a victory in a Union state would encourage European nations to join in a desperately needed alliance with the South.

The outcome at Antietam was not what the Confederates had anticipated. There was not a significant Confederate following in Maryland to supplement the attack. It was instead the deadliest one-day battle in American history, with over 26,000 casualties. It was also shocking in that neither side, secured a victory. As Lee withdrew to the South, Union forces might have been able to end the entire war by pursuing the Confederates. However, the Union did not follow Lee, even though they outnumbered the Confederate forces two-to-one. The significance of the Battle of Antietam was that Lee's failure to win encouraged Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

**Battle of Gettysburg**

The **Battle of Gettysburg** was fought in July 1863. Confederate General Robert E. Lee hoped once again that an invasion of Union territory would significantly weaken Northern support for the war effort. Lee's army was met by Union troops at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Approximately 51,000 soldiers were killed during the three-day battle. It was the deadliest battle of the American Civil War. Geography played a key role in the outcome of this particular battle. The small town of Gettysburg is surrounded by steep hills and rugged terrain. Once the Union Forces secured the high ground, it was difficult for the Confederates to overpower the enemy due to their fortified location. After three deadly days of fighting, the Confederates retreated in defeat.

Gettysburg marked the beginning of the end for the Confederate forces in the east. Lee gave up any further attempts to invade the Union territory. Four months later, Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery. The geographic position of Gettysburg, being in the northern state of Pennsylvania and having a rugged topography, were key components of the battle there.

**Battle of Vicksburg**

The **Battle of Vicksburg** was fought over a span of two months from May through July 1863. Union General Ulysses S. Grant laid siege to Vicksburg, Mississippi because whoever controlled the high ground there in the bend of the Mississippi River would control traffic on the whole river. Grant, aided by naval actions along the mouth of the Mississippi River during the seven-week siege, achieved one of the Union's major strategic goals in the west. Because the Union now controlled the Mississippi River, Confederate troops and supplies from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas were cut off from the East. This Union victory, coupled with the Union victory at Gettysburg, was **the turning point of the war**. The geographic significance of the Battle of Vicksburg is the proximity of the town to the logistically critical Mississippi River. The side that controlled the river had an incredible advantage in terms of transporting goods and soldiers. The Confederate loss of Vicksburg also meant they lost control of the Mississippi River and the ability to maneuver their forces and supplies efficiently.

**Battle of Atlanta**

The **Battle of Atlanta** was fought from July through September 1864. Union General William Tecumseh Sherman besieged Atlanta, Georgia for six weeks before capturing the vitally important center of Confederate manufacturing and railway traffic. Geography made Atlanta a key location for the Confederate operation. The city had emerged as a transportation hub due to its location below the Appalachian Mountains and above the coastal plain. Atlanta, at the time of the Civil War, was one of the few locations in the South that had a significant concentration of railroad lines and industry.

 Sherman's goal was to disrupt the Confederacy's capacity to resupply its troops throughout the South. Therefore, Atlanta was his prime target. Union troops burned Atlanta to the ground, then marched across Georgia to the Atlantic Ocean, and on through the Carolinas. During the **March to the Sea**, Sherman and his men destroyed the railways, roads, and bridges along the path. The Union force also destroyed the crops and livestock they did not harvest and butcher for their own nourishment. One result of this campaign that devastated the South was that the Confederates recognized that they would lose the war and the North recognized that it would win. Lincoln easily won reelection in 1864 against a candidate who wanted a truce with the Confederacy instead of pursuing the victory that was close at hand.

**Document Analysis 3**

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| **Document A** | **Document B** |
| *April 7th, 1865.* *To General R.E. Lee Commanding C.S.A. [Confederate States of America]:* *The results of the last week must convince you of the hopelessness of further resistance on the part of the Army of Northern Virginia in this struggle. I feel that it is so, and regard it as my duty to shift from myself the responsibility of any further effusion [loss] of blood by asking of you the surrender of that portion of the Confederate States army known as the Army of Northern Virginia.* ***From: Ulysses S. Grant*** | *April 7th, 1865.* *To General Grant:* *I have received your note of this day. Though not entertaining the opinion you express of the hopelessness of further resistance on the part of the Army of Northern Virginia, I reciprocate [agree with] your desire to avoid useless effusion [loss] of blood, and therefore, before considering your proposition, ask the terms you will offer on condition of its surrender.* *From: R.E. LEE, General.* |

***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.***

**Presidential Reconstruction and Lincoln's Assassination**

The end of the Civil War brought with it the monumental task of physically, politically, economically, and socially repairing the United States. Questions existed over how to most efficiently and effectively make this happen. There were two different approaches to Reconstruction. **Presidential Reconstruction** was the approach that promoted more leniency towards the South regarding plans for readmission to the Union. **Congressional Reconstruction** blamed the South and wanted retribution for causing the Civil War. Their approach required much more submission from the South as a condition for readmission to the Union. Both Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction plans recognized the importance of rebuilding all aspects of the nation. Where they differed was in the details for implementation.

Reconstruction became a conflict between the **Radical Republicans** and Presidents Lincoln and Johnson, who proposed more moderate requirements for the former Confederate states. The Radical Republicans wanted to severely punish the South for the Civil War. Lincoln and the moderates wanted to bring the South into the Union quickly. The process of rebuilding the South began before the war ended. Presidential Reconstruction refers to when Lincoln proposed the **Ten Percent Plan** in 1863. This plan called on Southern states to complete three tasks in order to restore their status in the United States. First, they had to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery. Second, states had to repudiate secession. Third, when ten percent of the voters from 1860 had taken an oath of allegiance to the United States, that southern state would be restored to the Union.

Radical Republicans objected to Lincoln’s plan saying the plan was too lenient and did not go far enough to protect the rights of the newly freed slaves. In response, they proposed the **Wade-Davis Bill**. In addition to ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment, the proposed law would have required 50% of the voters of a southern state to swear their loyalty to the United States. Southern supporters believed that this was an impossible task designed to keep the South dominated by Northern political interests. Lincoln vetoed the Wade Davis Bill. Before Lincoln could reintroduce his plan he was assassinated.

Lincoln was shot and killed on April 14, 1865, just a few days after Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox. The assassination took place at **Ford’s Theater** in Washington, where Lincoln and his wife were attending a play. **John Wilkes Booth** was an actor who supported the Confederacy and shot the President in anger over the Southern loss in the Civil War. Lincoln was a skilled politician who was poised to negotiate a flexible solution to the Reconstruction issue. His assassination resulted in more turmoil and political wrangling. The chaos was in part due to the new President set to fill Lincoln’s untimely loss – Andrew Johnson.

**Andrew Johnson** had been chosen by Abraham Lincoln to be Vice President for his second term in office. Johnson was a Democrat from Tennessee, who remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War even though he was a supporter of slavery. His loyalty to the Union was about bringing down the wealthy plantation owners. Johnson believed these aristocrats restricted the small farmers’ ability to make money. Johnson was added to Lincoln’s 1864 Presidential ticket because he was a Democrat from the South and would be a symbol of goodwill as the Civil War was coming to a close. Lincoln wanted to send a message of reconciliation.

**Congressional Reconstruction and Johnson’s Impeachment**

After the assassination of Lincoln, the Reconstruction task fell to the new President. Andrew Johnson's plan for Reconstruction was actually similar to Lincoln's. The new President sought to rapidly integrate Southern states back into the Union by appointing governors who would make the required political changes. There was significant opposition to this approach by Radical Republican members of Congress who wanted the South to be dealt with more harshly. The Congressional election of 1866 returned a Radical Republican majority to Congress. The group began pushing forward bills that favored their position and Johnson vetoed each one. Congress and Johnson were at odds with one another. The political struggle quickly escalated to a level not previously tested.

In addition to vetoing Republican legislation that came to the White House for Johnson's signature, the President was also firing many Republicans from the executive offices they had held under Lincoln's administration. To preserve the Republican influence in the executive branch, Congress passed the **Tenure of Office Act** over Johnson's veto in 1867. This law required Senate approval before the President could remove a federal official or military commander from a position in the government. Johnson ignored the law and fired Republican Secretary of War **Edwin Stanton** from his post. Congress responded by impeaching Johnson for breaking a federal law, but ultimately failed to remove him from office by one vote. The impeachment hearings lasted months and sidetracked the more important Reconstruction efforts of the government. Because the Congress had a Radical Republican majority, they were able to overturn any veto Johnson issued on proposed legislation. Rather than remove the President, the Radical Republicans simply waited out his term in office. This arrangement ushered in what is known as **Congressional Reconstruction**.

The **First Reconstruction Act,** which was passed over Johnson's veto in 1867, divided the South into five military districts that were administered by military governors. The law turned the clock back on any Reconstruction measures passed by Southern states. To be readmitted to the Union, the Southern states were required to guarantee former male slaves and free Blacks suffrage. The states were also required to hold open elections for both White and Black representatives to the state constitutional convention. The purpose of the state constitutional conventions was to create new state constitutions that recognized the three Reconstruction amendments to the United States Constitution **- the 13th, 14th, & 15th amendments.**

By 1870, all the former Confederate states had been re-admitted to the Union. Federal troops remained in the South to enforce the provisions of Reconstruction and to protect former slaves from mob violence. The Reconstruction process was contentious. Both Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction plans were intended to repair the badly fractured nation - politically, physically, and socially. However, the plans differed on how harshly the South should be treated. Presidents Lincoln and Johnson favored a more lenient approach. The Radical Republicans of the Congress wanted harsh punishment against the South for causing the war.

***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.***

**The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (the Freedmen’s Bureau)**

In March 1865, Congress created the **Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands** in order to ease freed slaves' transition from enslavement to freedom. The Bureau is often referred to simply as the **Freedmen's Bureau**. In addition to supporting former slaves in beginning their new lives, the Bureau was also intended to help the vast numbers of homeless whites who had been displaced or lost their property during the war. The federal government was operating as a relief agency tasked with overseeing the social welfare of the nation's citizens.

In addition to assisting with basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and medical assistance, the Freedmen's Bureau was also responsible for introducing a system of free labor, overseeing approximately 3,000 schools for freed persons, settling disputes and enforcing contracts between the typically White landowners and their Black labor force, and securing justice for Blacks in state courts. The Bureau also worked to reunite families and legalize the marriages of former slaves.

One of the greatest areas of success attributed to the Freedmen's Bureau is the basic education it provided to approximately 200,000 Blacks. During slavery, it was illegal in most Southern states to teach slaves to read and write. White Southerners were worried that literate slaves would be better able to communicate to plan rebellion or to read newspapers reporting on the abolitionist efforts. Once the Civil War was over, it was essential that former slaves develop basic reading and math skills in order to not be taken advantage of when negotiating work contracts with White landowners.

While the Freedmen's Bureau did help some former slaves acquire land unclaimed by its pre-war owners, Congress did not grant land or the absolute right to own land to all freed slaves. Such land grants would have provided Blacks some level of economic independence. Without it, and with few skills outside of farming, the newly freed slaves had few options other than entering the sharecropping, crop lien, or tenant farming system, where they often ended up working for former slaveholders in conditions very similar to slavery.

Most of those people helped by the Freedmen's Bureau were Black. However, some White Southerners also received ration assistance for food and clothing. There is also some evidence in the detailed records kept by the Freedmen's Bureau that some American Indians drew rations from the agency. The records document some Cherokee and Creek tribal members on the ration rolls.

As in the case of land grants, the Bureau lacked any enforcement authority on its own and lost its remaining ability to carry out its mission when Federal troops were withdrawn from the South. The lack of adequate funding restricted the number of agents working in the South. A Freedmen's Bureau agent was often the only Northern government representative in a former Confederate community. The agent was often harassed and threatened. Most White Southerners refused to support the Bureau's objectives and Northern politicians neglected to give it financial support, thus causing its demise. The Freedmen's Bureau ceased operation in 1872.

***c. Describe the significance of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments.***

**Reconstruction Amendments**

The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments are collectively referred to as the **Reconstruction Amendments**. They effectively ended slavery, extended citizenship, and allowed voting rights for former (male) slaves. These amendments are significant because they establish a federal mandate concerning the end of slavery in the United States. Even with these amendments to the United States Constitution, many states in the South passed **Black Codes**, or Jim Crow Laws, that restricted Blacks and denied them true equality.

The **Thirteenth Amendment** was adopted in 1865 and is very direct concerning the end of slavery in the United States. The amendment reads, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for a crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." Because the amendment ended slavery, it made null the provisions for slavery within the original Constitution. The overturned policies included a fugitive slave clause requiring runaway slaves to be returned to their owners and the 3/5 Compromise concerning the count of slaves as part of a state's population for representation in the Congress.

The **Fourteenth Amendment** was adopted in 1868 and is a little more complex than the Thirteenth amendment, which banned slavery. There are two main provisions in the amendment. First, it declares that all people born or naturalized to the United States are citizens. As a Reconstruction Amendment, this provision meant that former slaves were indeed citizens of the United States. The second provision of the Fourteenth Amendment requires that states protect the rights of all United States citizens. States are expected to provide “equal protection of the laws” and “due process of law.” This particular amendment is still often used by civil rights activists to defend against discrimination.

The **Fifteenth Amendment** was adopted in 1869. The text of this amendment is also very brief. The amendment reads, “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.” The second section adds, “The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.” The Fifteenth Amendment did little to limit the effects of **poll taxes**, the **grandfather clause**, and **literacy tests** implemented in Southern states to block Blacks from voting after Reconstruction ended. It was not until the 1950s and 1960s that Black Codes were struck down by Supreme Court rulings and Congressional legislation. An example of legislation that struck down discriminatory state policies was the Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed by the United States Congress.

The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments are together known as the Reconstruction amendments. They were intended to establish policy at the national level regarding the end of slavery and the process for ensuring a protection of rights for former slaves. Even with the power of these amendments, the Black population of the United States did not experience true equality until almost 100 years later with the passage of the **Civil Rights Act of 1964** and the **Brown v. Board of Education** Supreme Court ruling in 1954.

***d. Explain Black Codes, the Ku Klux Klan, and other forms of resistance to racial equality during Reconstruction.***

**Document Analysis 4**

*“No negro or freedmen shall be allowed to come within the limits of the town of Opelousas without special permission from his employers…. Whoever breaks this law will go to jail and work for two days on the public streets, or pay a fine of five dollars. No negro or freedman shall be permitted to rent or keep a house in town under any circumstances. No negro or freedman shall live within the town who does not work for some white person or former owner. No public meetings of negroes or freedmen shall be allowed within the town. No freedman shall be allowed to carry firearms, or any kind of weapons. No freedman shall sell or exchange any article of merchandise within the limits of Opelousas without permission in writing from his employer.”*

*Example of “Black Codes” from laws passed in Opelousas, Louisiana immediately after the Civil War*

**States Resist Racial Equality**

In the South, resistance to Reconstruction took several forms. Many White southern citizens refused to participate politically in opposition to the outcome of the Civil War. Southern states passed harsh laws that restricted the economic and political rights of freedmen. Racial equality was not fully achieved during Reconstruction.

**Black Codes** were enacted by many Southern states immediately after the Civil War. These state level laws were designed to regulate relations between White Southerners and newly freed slaves. While recognizing some rights, such as legalized marriage, ownership of property, and limited access to the courts, Black Codes denied Blacks the rights to testify against Whites, to serve on juries or in state militias, to vote, and to express legal concern publicly. Also the Codes were an attempt by plantation owners to secure the labor supply lost as a result of the Thirteenth Amendment by requiring all Blacks to provide proof of employment or be forced to work for White land owners. Black Codes enraged Northern Congressmen and the public who saw the laws as a re-introduction of slavery.

The **Ku Klux Klan** was founded in 1866. It was originally a Confederate veterans’ club but quickly became an organization closely associated with the worst forms of violence and intimidation. Initially, the Klan tried to scare Blacks into compliance and keep them from voting. When this method did not work Klan members attacked Northern Whites who came South. The racist organization also targeted Southern Whites who tried to support Reconstruction, and Blacks who were educated and participated in community affairs. Eventually, anyone who Klan members disliked could be attacked, beaten, or brutally murdered, often in front of family members.

Resistance to the Klan was difficult due to a lack of weapons among Blacks and control of the court system by the KKK sympathizers. Some states, notably Arkansas, Tennessee, and Texas successfully broke up the Klan with special police forces. Eventually, the Federal government used the **Enforcement Acts** to break up Klan activities. By 1872, Klan violence had greatly lessened as some Southern leaders urged the Klan to step down because federal troops would stay in the South as long as Blacks needed protection from society. The Ku Klux Klan re-emerged in earnest after Reconstruction ended and the federal soldiers were no longer in the South to provide protection.

***e. Analyze how the Presidential Election of 1876 marked the end of Reconstruction.***

**Presidential Election of 1876**

The period of Reconstruction has a definite beginning and a definite end. The efforts of the Federal government to direct the rebuilding of the physical, social, and economic features of the United States began at the conclusion of the Civil War and ended with **Rutherford B. Hayes’** election to the Presidency in 1876. Without federal government oversight, racial equality was not protected in the South. Political and economic factors contributed to the federal government’s abandonment of Reconstruction.

By the mid-1870s, there had been a change in state level politics in the South. The White Southerners who had refrained from voting and participating in government began to reclaim their position of dominance in state level politics. Until this point, **Black Republicans** had held many elected positions in Southern state legislatures following the Civil War. The Reconstruction amendments had guaranteed citizenship and voting rights for former slaves. The federal government’s military occupation of the South during the period of Reconstruction between 1865 and 1877 had helped to guarantee the safety of Blacks and allowed them to safely vote in many states. The result was the election of approximately 2,000 Black candidates to state, local, and even United State Senate positions. In fact, South Carolina’s majority slave population before the Civil War meant that the former slaves who exercised the right to vote in the state after the war held tremendous power. This was especially true since White voters across the South were refusing to participate in elections as a form of protest over their loss in the Civil War. The political power of Black Republicans in the South was brief and came to an end with the 1877 end of Reconstruction.

In the **Presidential election of 1876**, the Democrats nominated **Samuel J. Tilden** and the Republicans nominated **Rutherford B. Hayes** to be their candidates. The campaign was a bitter one. Tilden won the popular vote by 260,000 votes but failed to carry a majority of the Electoral College votes. The Electoral votes in four states (Florida, Louisiana, Oregon, and South Carolina) were disputed. A special federal commission was appointed to sort out the Electoral College dispute. The commission awarded the Republican, Hayes, the election along straight party lines. Democrats in Congress threatened to f**ilibuster** the vote count.

To stem the crisis, Hayes met with Democratic members of the House of Representatives and worked out **the Compromise of 1877**. In exchange for Democrats’ support, Hayes agreed to support internal improvements for the South, appoint a Southerner to the Cabinet, and withdraw federal troops from the South. A key factor in the North’s willingness to abandon Reconstruction efforts was the economy. The nation was faced with an economic downturn in the 1870s and the Reconstruction expenses put a significant strain on the federal government. The North viewed themselves as solely financing the military occupation and relief programs such as the Freedmen’s Bureau. Ending Reconstruction was a way to cut expenses. Shortly after his inauguration in March of 1877, President Hayes ordered the removal of federal troops from the South. Republican dominated state governments collapsed across the South and Blacks were slowly disenfranchised by state laws. Reconstruction had ended.