

Reconstruction Timeline

- 1865** The Civil War ends.
- Republican President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated.
Democrat Andrew Johnson becomes president.
- 13th Amendment to the Constitution passes.
- Congress creates the Freedmen's Bureau to help freed men and women transition from slavery.
- 1866** Civil Rights Act of 1866 allows African Americans to own property and to be treated equally in court.
- The Ku Klux Klan is founded.
- 1867** Radical Republicans take over the United States government.
- 1868** 14th Amendment to the Constitution passes.
- First African American elected to United States Congress.
- 1869** Ulysses S. Grant is elected president.
- 1870** 15th Amendment to the Constitution passes.
- 1871** Congress passes the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 in response to reports of widespread violence in the South.
- 1872** The Freedmen's Bureau ends.
- 1874** Democrats take control of the United States Congress.
Radical Republicans are no longer in power.
- 1877** Rutherford B. Hayes is elected President and officially ends Reconstruction. Hayes pulls all remaining Northern troops out of the Southern states.

Document A: The Reconstruction Amendments (Modified)

The 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the United States Constitution are sometimes called the “Reconstruction Amendments.” They were passed in order to abolish slavery and to establish the rights of former slaves.

13th Amendment: 1865

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their **jurisdiction**.

14th Amendment: 1868

Section 1. All persons born or **naturalized** in the United States . . . are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall **abridge** the privileges or **immunities** 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: 1870

Section 1. 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.

Vocabulary

jurisdiction: legal control
naturalized: made citizens
abridge: limit
immunities: rights