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Reconstruction Success and Failures

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Question 1: Analyze the ways in which Reconstruction was a success and a failure. Was it more successful than Unsuccessful?. Use evidence to support your argument.

The reconstruction period began in 1865 after the civil war entailing joining back the pieces of a shuttered country from ashes of the slavery to build interracial democracy. On successes, the initial one is Black Americans were freed from slavery and allowed to contribute to government levels. The substantial breakthrough was achieved by the state governments by eradicating some social challenges such as funding public schools open for all races. The Black community found the chance of creating vital institutions that were out of bounds for them during the slavery era such as religious centers, schools, and families (Barakat et al., 2005). The reconstruction period saw the demolition of plantations resulting in land redistribution. Congress enacted the 14th and 15th amendments crucial for the Black community to enjoy their full civil rights.

The reconstruction period also recorded failures with the initial one being on radical governments reluctant to implement land reforms necessary to offer former slaves with resources crucial to freed them from poverty. Racial discrimination remained a national challenge not only in the south as the northerners were more focused on industrialization ignoring the problems of the former slaves (Grimm, 2008). Black-white electorate coalitions could not be maintained by the republican states that would have helped political reforms.

The reconstruction period was more of a failure than success since it depicted that rights enshrined in the constitution can never be self-enforcing. The liberation of people from the jaws of slavery failed to eliminate the deep prejudices of former slaves neither did it guarantee permanent assurance for political and economic equality. Despite, the elimination of the southern

biracial authorities achieved greatly in watering down terrorist violence but legally enforced white supremacists ¹ continued for a long time.

References

Barakat, S., Chard, M., & Jones, R. (2005). Attributing Value: evaluating success and failure in post-war reconstruction. *Third World Quarterly*, 26(4-5), 831-852.

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