

APUSH Students: *This is your ticket into the seminar. The entire assignment must be completed in order to participate and not take zero for class participation on that day.* 😊

“When Johnson was sworn in early on the morning of April 15, 1865, he assumed an office coveted by virtually every other cabinet member present, none of whom thought him ideologically pure enough to step into Lincoln’s shoes. To most radicals, Lincoln himself had not been sufficiently vindictive, insisting only that blacks remain free and that former Rebel’s citizenship be restored quickly as was feasible. Had the Radicals dominated the government as they’d wished, they would have slapped every Confederate officer in leg irons and probably executed Rebel political leaders for treason. Instead Lincoln’s sentiments prevailed with Johnson.”

-Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen A Patriot’s History of the United States, 2004

***What is the author’s point of view concerning Lincoln, Johnson and Radical Republicans and their vision for a post-Civil War America?**

Please read ‘The New View of Reconstruction’ by Eric Foner and answer the following questions.

1. What is the pre-1960s version of Reconstruction?
2. What is the major fault of this interpretation of events, according to Foner?
3. Why was historian W.E.B. DuBois’ work important according to Foner?
4. What is the drastically different [historical] portrait that emerged?
5. Why does Foner consider Charles Sumner and Thaddeus Stevens work for black rights before there was ‘any conceivable political advantage’?
6. What were the achievements of/progress made by blacks during the Reconstruction period?
7. How was political corruption an issue outside of the Republican controlled South?
8. Revisionist historians re-evaluate the actions of *carpet baggers* and *scalawags* in what way?
9. What is the 1st Reconstruction? What is the 2nd?
10. What does Foner mean by ‘in the end, neither abolition of slavery nor Reconstruction succeeded in resolving the debate over the meaning of freedom in American life.’?
11. to what extent do you agree with W.E.B DuBois’ assertion that Reconstruction was a ‘splendid failure’?

Please read ‘Reconstruction: A Counterfactual Playback’ by C. Vann Woodward (CVW)

1. According to Woodward, what are that two ‘great failures that dominate the landscape of American history’?
2. CVW speaks to a possible ‘Third Reconstruction’ yet to come. What would this look like in America? Goals? Issues or problems solved?
3. Why does CVW want to compare Reconstruction to foreign experiences of slave societies that went through emancipation?
4. Why does he not consider Reconstruction as a ‘revolution’?

5. What were the 'revolutionary' measures other historians speak of?
6. What was Thaddeus Stevens' plan for confiscation? Why would Marxists advocate this position?
7. How was confiscation of property a precedent at the time of the Civil War?
8. Describe CVW's counterfactual history of Reconstruction. (This is what CVW believes would have to have been the situation in order for revisionist historians to be accurate in their assertion that Reconstruction was revolutionary and tried to right the wrongs of slavery effectively.)
9. How many acres of land were available b/w 1862-1878? How does this compare with the Stevens' Act? How does CVW use this example to show that the Radical Republicans were not champions of the poor?
10. What were the flaws of the Homestead Act?
11. What does CVW propose the Radical Republicans should have done to get rid of white Southern resistance?
12. Why does CVW compare the circumstances and the management of events of Reconstruction with those of the American West?
13. What do you think he means when he states that the thinking of 19th Century Americans was fatefully stuck with a perverse mystique of squatter sovereignty?