

Day 77 Mini DBQ

Questions: Was the term “radical” appropriate to describe reconstruction from 1866-1872?

Document A

Source: Thaddeus Stevens, speech was delivered to the United States Congress on March 1967 (Modified)

The North has the right to confiscate the land of the Southern rebels.

The cause of the war was slavery. We have freed the slaves. It is our responsibility to protect them, and help them until they are able to provide for themselves. Freed slaves should have the right to vote, but owning land is even more important.

I propose that each freed slave who is a male adult, or the head of a family, will receive forty acres of land, (with \$100 to build a house).

Four million people have just been freed from slavery. They have no education, have never worked for money, and don't know about their rights. Unless they become independent, they will have to once again become the servants of their old masters.

We must make the freed slaves independent so that their old masters can't force them to work unfairly. This can only be done by giving them a small plot of land to farm.

Document B

Source: Andrew Johnson, This campaign speech was delivered on September 3, 1866 in Cleveland, Ohio (Modified)

Before the Civil War there were 4,000,000 black people held as slaves by about 340,000 people living in the South. That is, 340,000 slave owners paid all the living expenses of the slaves. Then, the war began and the slaves were freed.

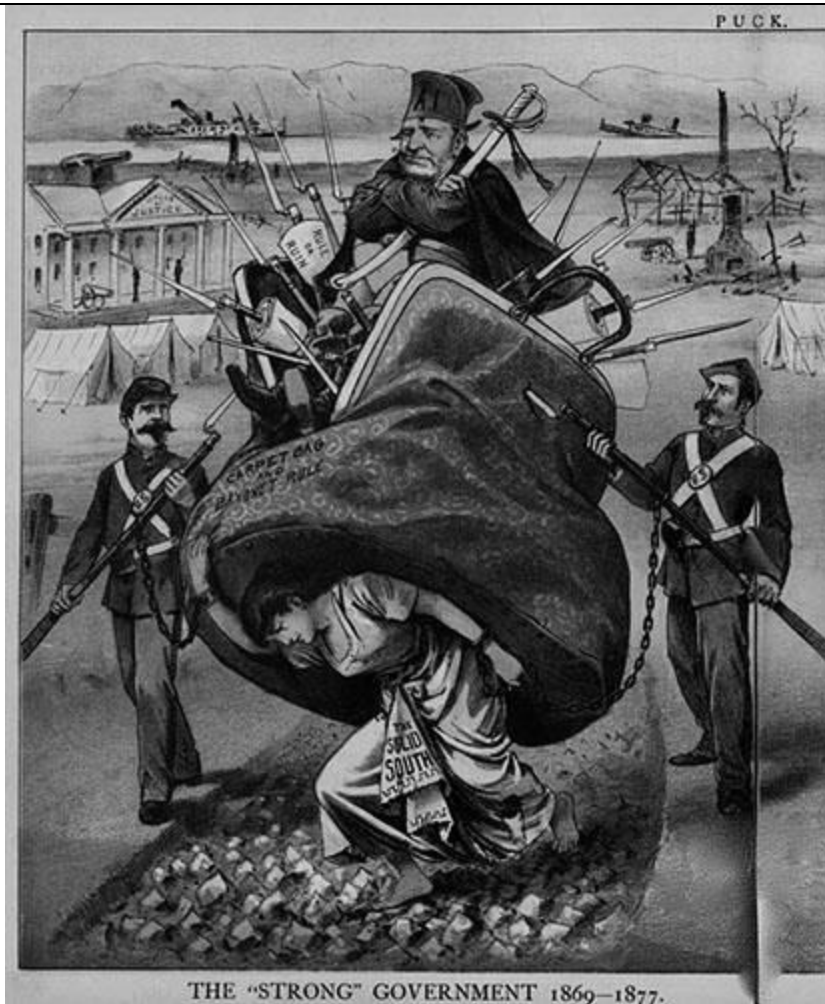
Now we come to the [Radical Republicans]. And what do they want? To spend \$12,000,000 a year to build schools and find jobs for these freed slaves. We have already spent \$3,000,000,000 to set them free and give them a fair chance to take care of themselves -then these [Radical Republicans] ask for \$12,000,000 to help them.

Document C

Source: Senator Lot Morrill (R-Maine), speech in Congress, February 1, 1866.

I admit that this species of legislation [Civil Rights Act of 1866] is absolutely revolutionary. But are we not in the midst of a revolution? Is the Senator from Kentucky utterly oblivious to the grand results of four years of war? Are we not in the midst of a civil and political revolution which has changed the fundamental principles of our government in some respects? . . . There was a civilization based on servitude. . . . Where is that? . . . Gone forever. . . . We have revolutionized this Constitution of ours to that extent and every substantial change in the fundamental constitution of a country is a revolution.

Document D



Document E

Source: Reconstruction Act of 1867

Whereas no legal State governments or adequate protection for life or property now exists in the rebel States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Texas and Arkansas; and whereas it is necessary that peace and good order should be enforced in said States until loyal and republican State governments can be legally established: Therefore, Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That said rebel States shall be divided into military districts and made subject to the military authority of the United States as hereinafter prescribed, and for that purpose Virginia shall constitute the first district; North Carolina and South Carolina the second district; Georgia, Alabama and Florida the third district; Mississippi and Arkansas the fourth district; and Louisiana and Texas the fifth district.

Document F

Source: Senator George Edmunds of Vermont, 1866

The joint select Committee on Retrenchment to whom was referred the bill to regulate the tenure of offices have had the same under consideration and have instructed me to report the bill back with a recommendation of certain amendments which being adopted the committee are of the opinion that the bill ought to pass. I beg leave to say in connection with this report that we have reported this bill and these amendments regulating removals from office and appointments to office so far as concerns officers whose nominations require the confirmation of the Senate

Document G

Source: XV Amendment to the United States Constitution, 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.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Document H

