



# THE ERA OF RECONSTRUCTION

1865 – 1877

# Long Term Effects of the Civil War

- Approximately 2%, or roughly 620,000 men, lost their lives in the war.
- Over 1 million others had been wounded.
- Expanded roles for women during wartime ex. working in fields, working in factories, served as head of household, served as nurses on the battlefield and volunteers in veterans' hospitals.
- The war devastated the economy of the South. Thomas Jefferson's dream of an agrarian empire faded, and the country was energized by industrialization.

# Wartime Acts Stimulated Settlement on the Frontier

- The Homestead Act of 1862 granted 160 acres to any family that would agree to farm it for five years.
- The Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862 gave federal lands to states for the purpose of building schools that would teach agriculture and technical trades.
- The Pacific Railway Act of 1862 approved the building of a transcontinental railroad that would transform the west by linking the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

# Lincoln's 2<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Address

## March 4, 1865

*“With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”*

# Assassination of Abe Lincoln



- 14 April, 1865
- Ford's Theater
- Washington, DC
- Shot in back of head by pro-Southern actor John Wilkes Booth

# Presidential Reconstruction

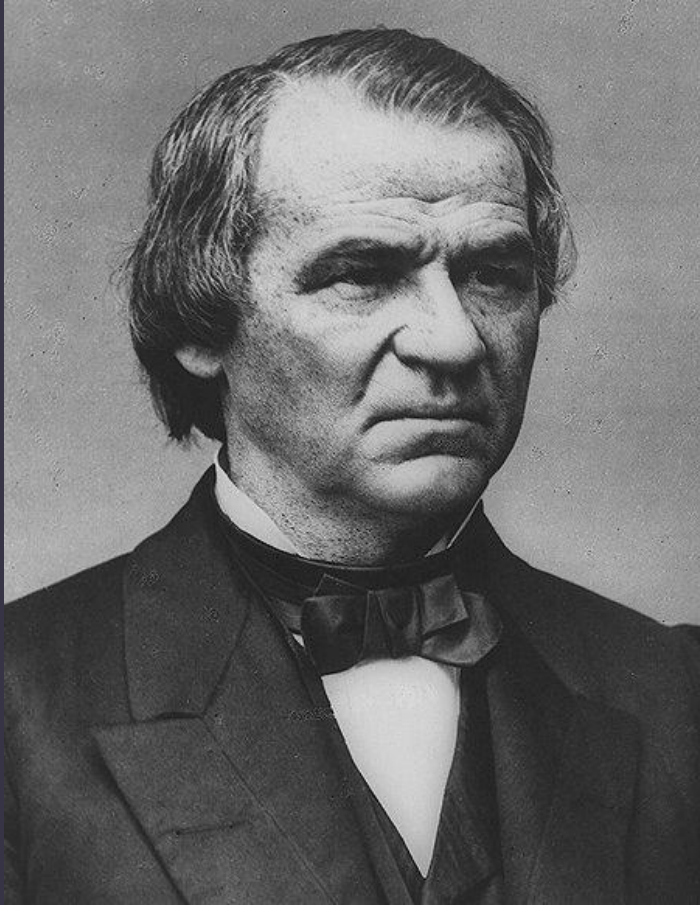
- Lincoln operated on a policy of *forgiveness* as seen in his 2<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Address.
- He issued the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction in 1863 as a way to bring Southern States back under the federal government.
- Lincoln's "10 Percent Rule" –as soon as 10 percent of voters in a state took an oath of loyalty to the Union, the state would be readmitted.
- If the states' constitution abolished slavery and provided education for African-Americans, the state would regain seats in Congress.
- Lincoln was willing to grant pardons to former Confederates.

# Presidential Reconstruction

- Other Republicans were not thrilled by Lincoln's plan to allow for leniency with former rebellious states
- The Wade-Davis Bill was passed by both houses in 1864 and required that 50% of Southern voters take the oath of loyalty and allowed only citizens who had not been active members or supporters of the Confederacy to approve of the new state constitutions.
- Lincoln "pocket-vetoed" the bill by refusing to sign it until Congress had gone into recess.



# Andrew Johnson (1865–1869)

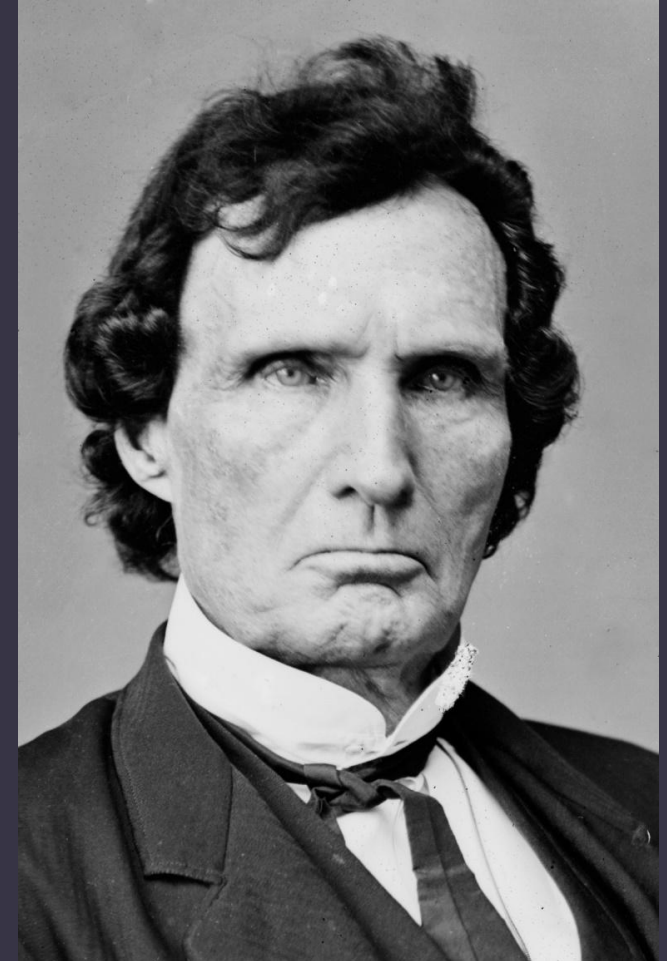


- Became President after Lincoln died
- Democrat
- Continued the policy of Presidential Reconstruction similar to Lincoln.



# Radical Republicans

- *Radical = extreme*
- Radical Republicans held extreme views about punishing the South for causing the Civil War and ensuring political rights for African Americans at a time when this was a controversial position.
- Veto-proof majority in House and Senate in 1866
- Congress could override Johnson's vetoes by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote and Radical Republicans made up more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Congress
- Led by Thaddeus Stevens (right)
- Wanted to keep South out of Union as long as possible; therefore, they opposed the 10% plan for being too lenient.



# Freedmen's Bureau

- Full organization name: The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
- Created in March 1865
- Provided food, clothing, and other assistance to former slaves, poor (and often homeless) whites, and some Native Americans (Cherokee and Creek)
- Primitive “welfare agency” supported by Radical Republicans
- Provided food, clothing and medical care to freed slaves and white refugees
- Helped reunite families and provided legal representation to African Americans
- Establishment of black colleges including Morehouse in Atlanta



How does the advertisement to the right seek to NEGATIVELY publicize the works of the Freedmen's Bureau?



# THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU!

AN AGENCY TO KEEP THE **NEGRO** IN IDLENESS AT THE **EXPENSE** OF THE WHITE MAN.  
 TWICE VETOED BY THE **PRESIDENT**, AND MADE A LAW BY **CONGRESS**.  
 SUPPORT CONGRESS & YOU SUPPORT THE NEGRO. SUSTAIN THE PRESIDENT & YOU PROTECT THE WHITE MAN.

IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE SHALL THOU EAT THY BREAD

**NEGRO TROOP**  
 \$300  
 Each as a Weekly

**WHITE VETERAN**  
 \$100  
 Each as a Weekly

**FREE LABOR**  
 \$6,944,500

For 1864 and 1865, the FREEDMAN'S BUREAU cost the Tax-payers of the Nation at least TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. For 1866, THE SHARE of the Tax-payers of Pennsylvania will be about 100,000 OF DOLLARS. **GEAR!** **CLYMER** is OPPOSED to it.

# Redistribution of Confederate Land

- General Sherman proposed a plan that would redistribute millions of acres of land to former slaves.
- He called this plan “40 Acres and a Mule.”
- These lands were either abandoned by Southern planters or confiscated by the federal government.





# Civil War Amendments

- During and after the Civil War a series of amendments to the Constitution were passed dealing with former slaves.
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment – abolished slavery  
[The Civil Rights Bill of 1866 was designed to destroy black codes (laws enacted in the South to limit the freedoms of African Americans) by giving African Americans full citizenship. Johnson vetoed the bill, and Congress overturned his veto. Republicans worried that the bill might be undone in the future by a Democratic majority in Congress, so they proposed the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment as a more permanent solution.]
  - 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment – granted citizenship and legal rights to all former slaves
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment – gave all African-American men the right to vote

# Political Tensions in the South

The Democrats remained the party of choice for Southerners, although the Republican party gained some strength through freedmen and Northerners who moved south.

- “Redeemers,” those who wished to return the South to Southerners, fueled resentment of Northern outsiders governing the South.
- Southern Democrats referred to Southern Republicans as “Scalawags,” meaning they were pirates who sought to steal from state governments to line their own pockets.
- Northern Republicans were called “Carpetbaggers,” meaning they were moving South seeking to make a fortune. The term came from the stereotype of Northerners that packed all of their worldly possessions in suitcases made of a carpet material.

# Southern Resistance to Black Equality

- Black codes – “laws” that sought to limit the rights of African Americans
- Black codes:
  - Limited Black Americans in choice of occupations
  - Kept Black Americans from owning land
  - Arrested Black Americans for not having a job





# Sharecroppers



- With little employment options thanks to the black codes, most slaves fell back into field labor.
- Many became sharecroppers; “rented” plots of land from former plantation owners
- Meager pay, difficult to escape the debts of “renting”
- Why might sharecropping be compared to re-enslavement of free Black Americans?

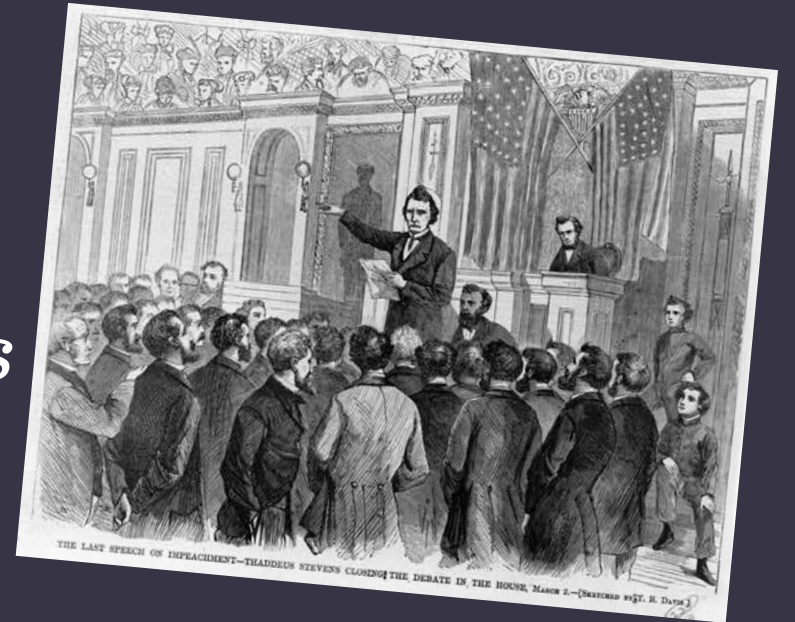
# Ku Klux Klan



- Founded in 1866 to resist new freedoms of Black Americans
- Opposition to Republican policies
- Used terror to incite fear and prevent blacks from voting: wearing ghost sheets, burning crosses, etc.
- Congress sought to abolish the KKK with the Force Acts of 1870 and 1871, which authorized the use of federal troops to subdue violence and enforce the 14th and 15th Amendments.
- The Force Acts were somewhat successful at limiting the Klan's activities but failed to abolish the group.
- The KKK reemerged in the 1920s in response to an influx of Southern and Eastern European immigrants.

# Johnson Clashes with Congress

- Democratic Johnson vetoed legislation passed by the Radical Republicans.
- Radicals had a veto-proof majority and passed legislation despite Johnson's vetoes
- *Congress could override Johnson's vetoes by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote and Radical Republicans made up more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Congress*
- This led to increasing tension between President Johnson and Congress.



# South Divided into Military Districts

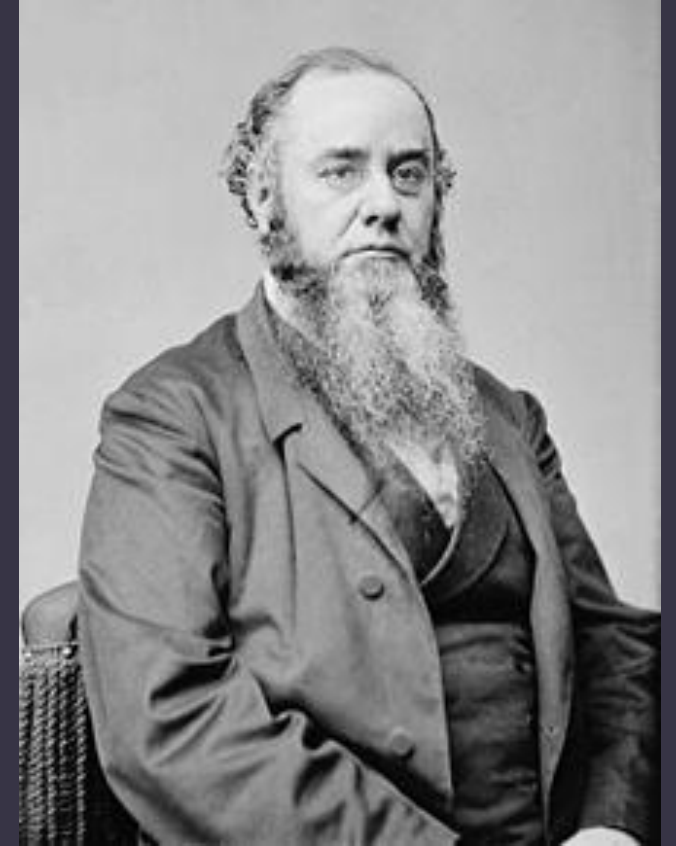
- 1867 – Radicals in Congress pass the Military Reconstruction Act over Johnson's veto
- Act divided the 10 southern states that had not been re-admitted in to 5 military districts
- Each district was commanded by former Union generals to ensure the states' cooperation in Reconstruction



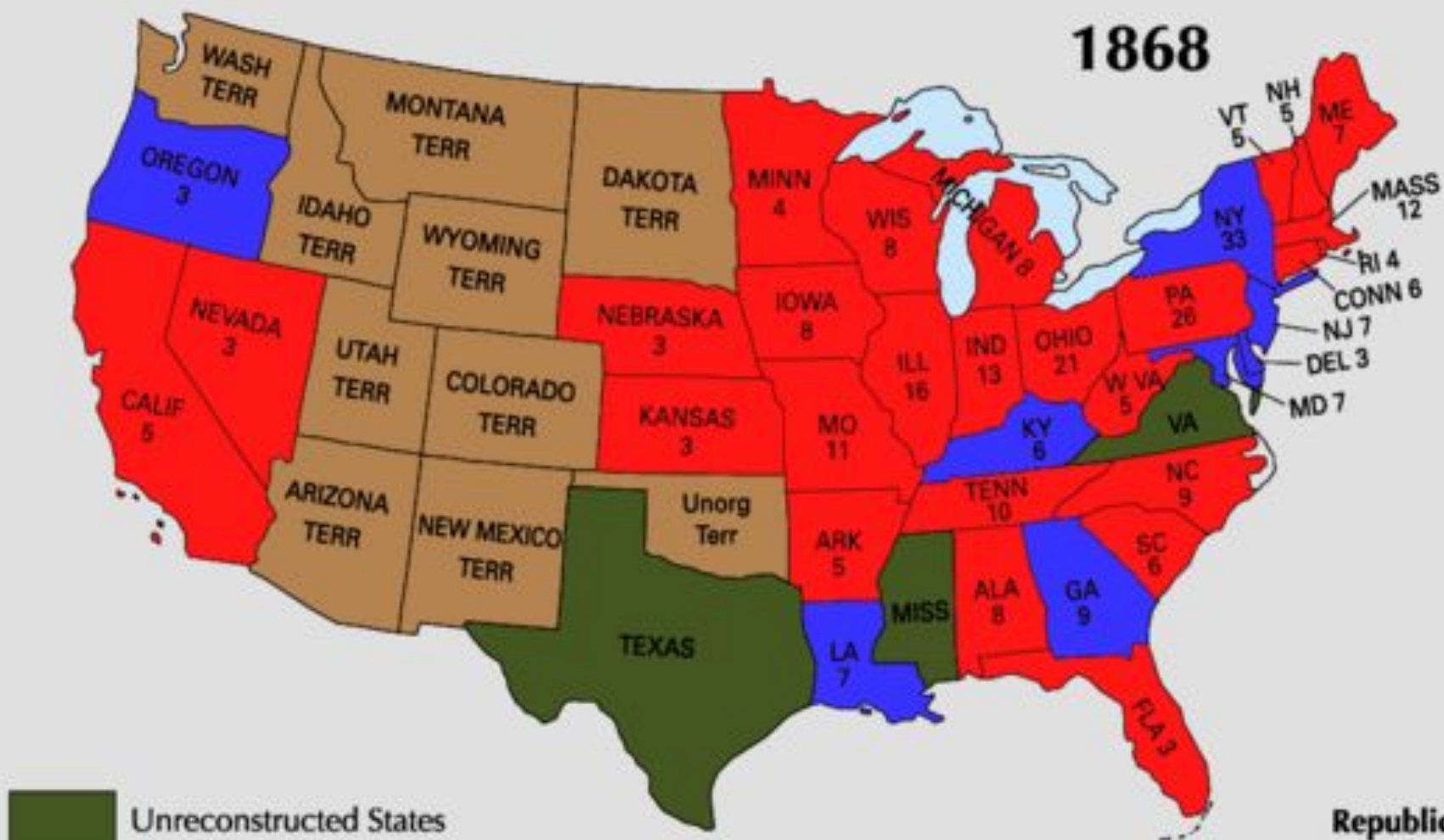


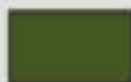

# Johnson Impeached



- Republican Congress passed the Tenure of Office Act of 1867 that required Presidents to secure consent of Senate before removing cabinet members.
- Johnson dismissed Secretary of War Stanton (right) despite the Tenure of Office Act.
- Congress immediately voted to *impeach* Johnson for violating Tenure of Office Act
- Impeach = a president goes to trial to decide whether or not to kick him out of office
- After promising to stop obstructing Republican policies, Johnson acquitted by 1 vote in Senate

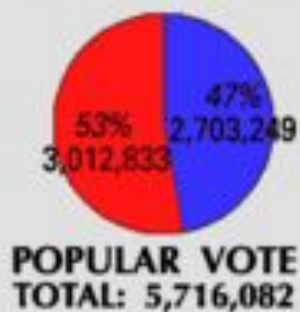
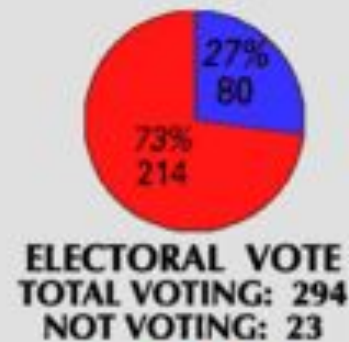


# 1868



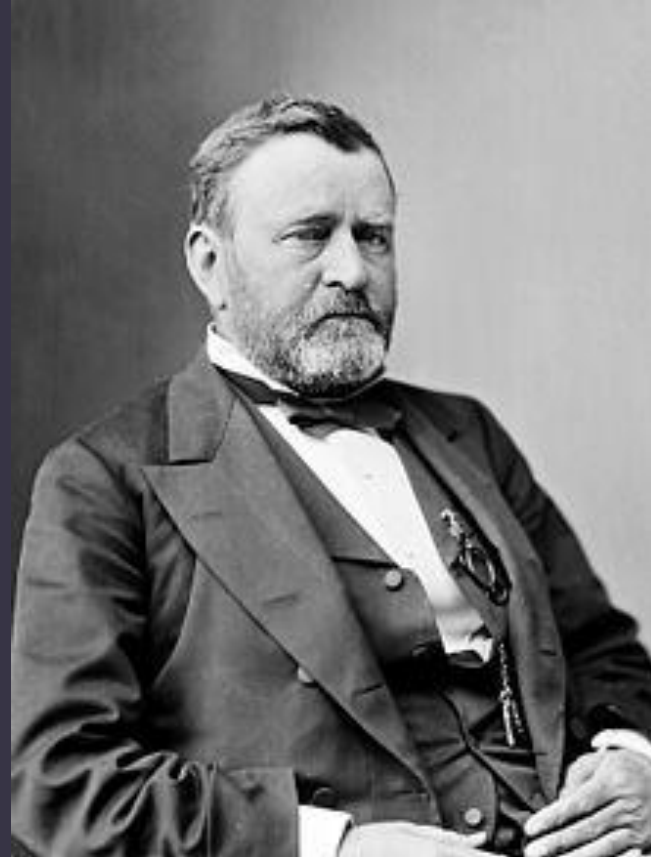
 Unreconstructed States  
 Territories

Republican (Grant)   
 Democratic (Seymour) 



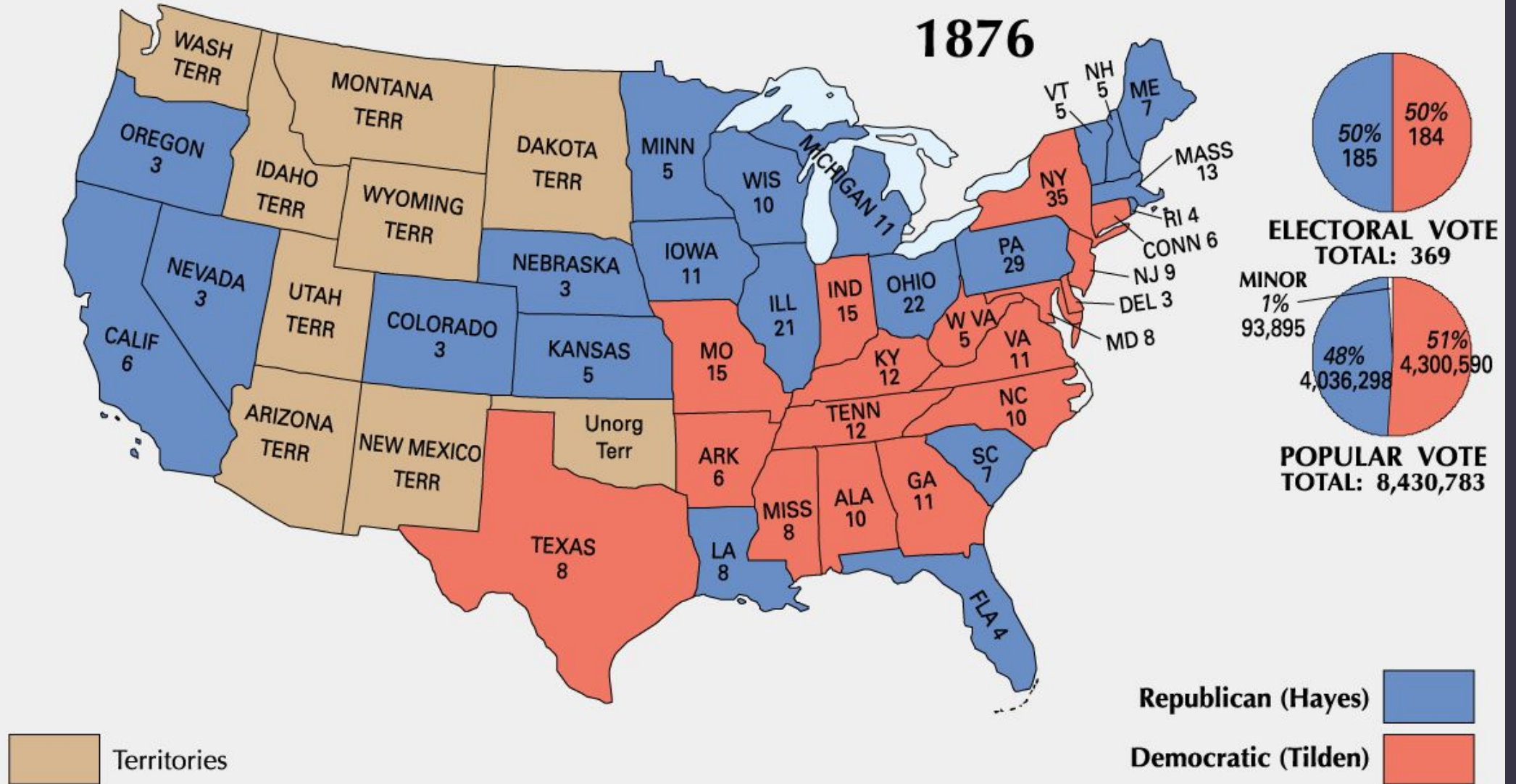
# Ulysses S. Grant

- 1868 – Former commander of the Union troops, U.S. Grant is elected President
- Highly popular President who enforced Reconstruction policies
- Administration was tarnished by numerous corruption scandals



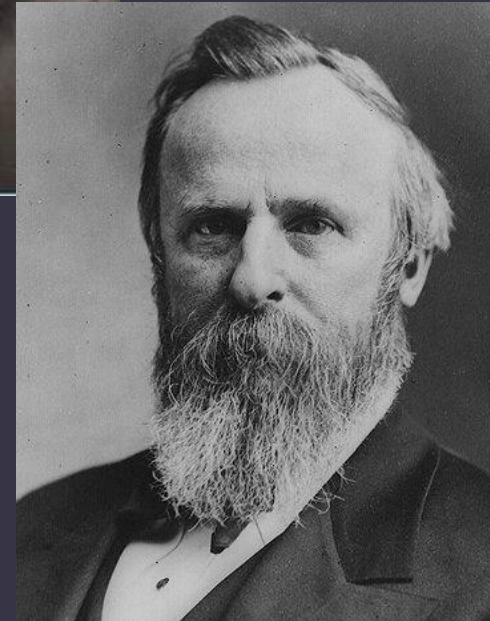
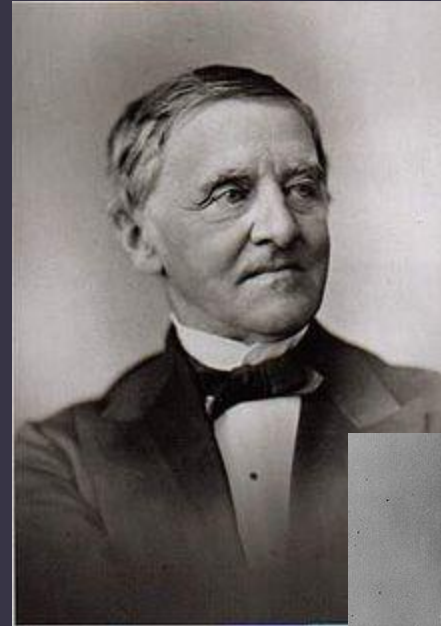


# 1876



# Election of 1876

- Democrat Samuel Tilden (top right) won the popular vote over Republican Rutherford B. Hayes (bottom right)
- Republicans claimed voter fraud in 3 Southern states that Tilden won
- When the votes were recounted in these states, Hayes end up the “winner” in all 3



# Compromise of 1877

- In order to avoid conflict over the election of 1876, Northern Republicans and Southern Democrats came to an agreement called the Compromise of 1877.
- Republican Hayes would be “given” the Presidency by 1 electoral vote.
- In return, all remaining federal troops were removed from the Southern states, effectively ending Reconstruction.

# Ticket out the Door

- After you have voted in the online poll, you will explain why you chose whichever “failure” you chose.
- To do so, you must either (1) compose a song/poem or (2) draw a visual explaining why you feel your choice was Reconstruction’s biggest failure.
- These will be due at the end of class.