

presidential and congressional reconstruction plans

worksheet answers

Presidential and congressional reconstruction plans worksheet answers provide a comprehensive overview of the pivotal period in American history following the Civil War. This era, known as Reconstruction, was characterized by significant political, social, and economic changes as the United States sought to rebuild and integrate the Southern states back into the Union. Understanding the differences between the presidential and congressional approaches to Reconstruction is essential for grasping the broader implications of this tumultuous time. This article will explore the key aspects of both plans, their objectives, successes, and failures, while offering insights into the worksheet answers that can aid students and history enthusiasts alike.

Understanding Reconstruction

Reconstruction was the period from 1865 to 1877, during which the United States worked to reintegrate the Southern states after the Civil War. The primary goals of Reconstruction included:

- Restoration of the Union
- Addressing the status and rights of formerly enslaved individuals
- Rebuilding the Southern economy

The period is often divided into two main phases: Presidential Reconstruction and Congressional Reconstruction. Each phase had distinct approaches and philosophies that shaped the future of the nation.

Presidential Reconstruction

Key Features

Presidential Reconstruction was primarily led by Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. It was characterized by a more lenient approach to reintegrating the Southern states.

1. Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan:

- Proposed that a Southern state could be readmitted into the Union once 10% of its voters swore an oath of allegiance to the Union.
- Emphasized forgiveness and reconciliation over punishment.

2. Johnson's Plan:

- Followed Lincoln's approach but was even more lenient.
- Offered pardons to many former Confederates and allowed Southern states to create new governments without stringent requirements.
- Required states to ratify the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery.

Objectives

The main objectives of Presidential Reconstruction were:

- To restore the Union quickly and painlessly.
- To facilitate the return of Southern states with minimal federal intervention.
- To encourage economic recovery in the South.

Successes and Failures

While Presidential Reconstruction had some initial successes, it ultimately faced significant challenges:

Successes:

- The rapid reintegration of Southern states into the Union.
- The establishment of new governments in the South.

Failures:

- The leniency towards former Confederates led to the rise of Black Codes, restrictive laws aimed at controlling the freedom and rights of African Americans.
- The lack of protection for the newly freed slaves resulted in widespread discrimination and violence.

Congressional Reconstruction

Key Features

In response to the perceived failures of Presidential Reconstruction, Congress took a more assertive role in

shaping Reconstruction policies, leading to the era known as Congressional Reconstruction.

1. Radical Republicans:

- A faction within Congress that advocated for more stringent measures against the South.
- Promoted civil rights for African Americans and sought to reshape Southern society.

2. Reconstruction Acts of 1867:

- Divided the South into five military districts governed by Union generals.
- Required Southern states to draft new constitutions guaranteeing African American men the right to vote.

Objectives

The primary objectives of Congressional Reconstruction were:

- To ensure the civil rights of formerly enslaved individuals.
- To impose strict conditions on Southern states for re-entry into the Union.
- To fundamentally change the social and political landscape of the South.

Successes and Failures

Congressional Reconstruction achieved several important goals but also faced significant opposition:

Successes:

- The passage of the 14th and 15th Amendments, granting citizenship and voting rights to African Americans.
- The establishment of schools and institutions to support the education of freed slaves.

Failures:

- Resistance from Southern whites, leading to the emergence of groups like the Ku Klux Klan.
- The eventual compromise of 1877, which ended federal military presence in the South and led to the disenfranchisement of Black voters.

Worksheet Answers: Key Comparisons

When studying the differences between Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction, students can use a worksheet to highlight key comparisons. Below are some answers that may appear on such worksheets:

1. Leadership:

- Presidential: Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson
- Congressional: Radical Republicans, Congress as a whole

2. Approach:

- Presidential: Lenient, focused on quick reintegration
- Congressional: Strict, focused on civil rights and social change

3. Major Legislation:

- Presidential: 13th Amendment
- Congressional: 14th and 15th Amendments, Reconstruction Acts

4. Social Impact:

- Presidential: Rise of Black Codes
- Congressional: Establishment of civil rights for African Americans

5. End of Reconstruction:

- Presidential: Rapid return of Southern states
- Congressional: Compromise of 1877, leading to the end of federal oversight

Conclusion

The period of Reconstruction was a critical chapter in American history, marked by contrasting visions for the future of the nation. The differing approaches of Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction reflected the complexities of reintegrating the Southern states and addressing the rights of newly freed African Americans. Understanding these plans and their implications is essential for grasping the ongoing struggle for civil rights and equality in the United States. By examining worksheet answers related to these reconstruction plans, students can gain a deeper insight into the historical context and significance of this transformative era.

Frequently Asked Questions

What were the main goals of the Presidential Reconstruction plans?

The main goals of the Presidential Reconstruction plans were to quickly reunite the nation after the Civil War, restore Southern states to the Union, and provide a lenient approach towards the South to promote healing and reconciliation.

How did Congress's approach to Reconstruction differ from that of the President?

Congress's approach to Reconstruction was more stringent and punitive compared to the President's. Congress aimed to protect the rights of freedmen and ensure that Southern states complied with new legislation, often leading to the implementation of military rule in the South.

What role did the Freedmen's Bureau play in Reconstruction?

The Freedmen's Bureau was established to assist freed slaves and impoverished whites in the South by providing food, housing, education, and legal assistance. It aimed to help integrate freedmen into society and promote their rights.

What were the key components of the Congressional Reconstruction plan?

Key components of the Congressional Reconstruction plan included the division of the South into military districts, the requirement for Southern states to create new constitutions guaranteeing black male suffrage, and the imposition of strict conditions for rejoining the Union.

What was the significance of the Reconstruction Acts of 1867?

The Reconstruction Acts of 1867 were significant because they laid out the process for readmitting Southern states into the Union, enforced military rule in the South, and aimed to protect the rights of African Americans through mandates for civil rights and suffrage.

How did the impeachment of Andrew Johnson relate to Reconstruction?

The impeachment of Andrew Johnson was closely related to Reconstruction as it stemmed from his opposition to Congressional Reconstruction policies. His violation of the Tenure of Office Act and failure to support the protection of African American rights led to his impeachment by the House of Representatives.

What were some criticisms of the Reconstruction plans?

Critics of the Reconstruction plans argued that they were either too lenient, allowing former Confederates to regain power, or too harsh, leading to resentment among Southerners. Others felt that the plans failed to adequately address the social and economic challenges facing freedmen.

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