

# U.S. History: 1865 to the Present

## USII.3 Study Guide – Reconstruction – 2020 update

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE STANDARDS OF LEARNING CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK 2015 STANDARDS  
Reformatted version created by SOLpass - [www.SOLpass.org](http://www.SOLpass.org)

### STANDARD USII.3A—13<sup>TH</sup>, 14<sup>TH</sup> 15<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENTS

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the effects of Reconstruction on American life by

- the impact of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States and how they changed the meaning of citizenship

The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America address the issues of slavery and guarantee equal protection under the law for all citizens.

#### Basic provisions of the Amendments

- The **13th Amendment bans slavery**, except for felonies, in the United States and all of its territories.
- The **14th Amendment grants citizenship** to all persons born in the United States and guarantees them **equal protection under the law**.
- The **15th Amendment** ensures all citizens the **right to vote** regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Although these three amendments **guarantee equal protection under the law** for all citizens, American **Indians** and **women** of all races, ethnicities, and nationalities did not receive the full benefits of citizenship until **many generations later**.

13th Amendment	bans slavery
14th Amendment	grants citizenship to all persons born in the U.S. and guarantees them equal protection under the law.
15th Amendment	ensures all citizens the right to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

### STANDARD USII.3B --RECONSTRUCTION

- The impact of Reconstruction policies on the South and North.

Reconstruction attempted to create legal equality for free and formerly enslaved African Americans.

The amendments to the Constitution during Reconstruction laid the legal foundation for the equality of all Americans, which we continue to pursue.

#### Reconstruction policies and problems

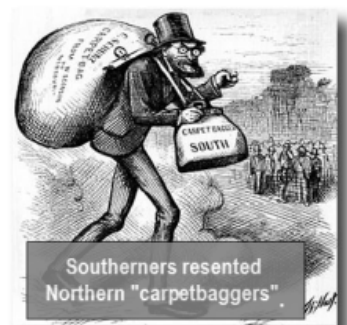
- The **Freedmen's Bureau** was established to aid former enslaved African Americans in the South.
- Southern states adopted **Black Codes** to limit the economic and physical freedom of former slaves.
- After the adoption of the Reconstruction laws, **former Confederate states could not be readmitted** to the United States until they held conventions to write new constitutions that **adopted the 14th Amendment**.
- African American men could vote** for delegates to those conventions and serve as **delegates**.
- Federal troops** supervised the South.

- The state governments under Reconstruction adopted laws to create **public education** and new **state institutions**.

- Most **white Southerners resisted the Reconstruction** governments and worked to replace them as soon as possible.
- One state after another came under the **control of the Democrats in the early 1870s**.

#### End of Reconstruction and its impact

- Reconstruction ended** in 1877 as a result of a compromise over the outcome of the election of 1876 and **troops were removed** from the final states still under Reconstruction governments.



- Rights that African Americans had gained were **lost** through “**Jim Crow**” laws that **segregated** black and white Southerners from one another.
- Starting in **1890**, every Southern state wrote **new constitutions** that **prevented** African American men from **voting**

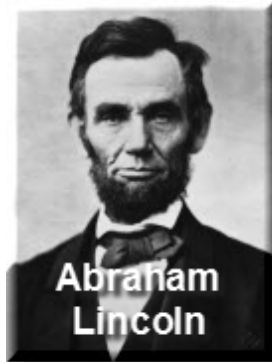
## STANDARD USII.3c – LINCOLN, LEE, DOUGLASS

c) describing the legacies of Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and Frederick Douglass.

**The actions of Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and Frederick Douglass created lasting impacts.**

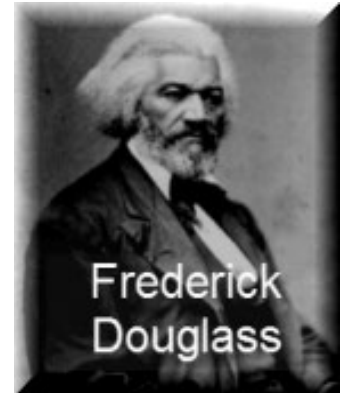
### Abraham Lincoln

- His **plan for Reconstruction** was **not fully formed** at the time of his assassination in April 1865.
- Sought to reconstruct the nation by bringing **Southern states back into the Union** when 10 percent of voters accepted the end of slavery and reunion.
- The **resistance of white Southerners** to the rights of formerly enslaved people, in **Black Codes** and **violence**, led Lincoln’s party to begin a more thorough **Reconstruction** two years after the war’s end.



### Frederick Douglass

- Fought for adoption of **constitutional amendments** that **guaranteed voting rights**
- Was a powerful voice for **human rights** and **civil liberties** for all until his death in 1895.



### Robert E. Lee

- Urged Southerners to **reconcile** with Northerners at the end of the war and **reunite as** Americans when some wanted to continue to fight.
- Remained **silent** as laws to create **equality** for African Americans were proposed and **did not encourage** white Southerners to cooperate
- Died in **1870 before Reconstruction** was fully in place
- After his death, Lee became the leading symbol for the “**Lost Cause**” **movement**, in which white Southerners **celebrated the leaders** of the Confederacy as fighters for a **just cause** rather than the creation of a new nation based on slavery.

