

A black and white photograph of a destroyed city during Reconstruction. The foreground is filled with rubble and debris. In the background, several skeletal remains of buildings are visible, with some showing window openings. The sky is bright and overexposed.

Reconstruction

1865-1877

Chapter 12

Houston Holloway was ready for freedom. By 1865 the 20-year-old enslaved man had toiled under three different slaveholders. President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, delivered in 1863, had freed him—but only in theory. The proclamation freed enslaved persons in the Confederacy, but because the Union could not enforce its laws in Confederate territory, many African Americans in the South continued to endure a life of bondage. Holloway knew that his only hope was a Northern victory in the Civil War.

Freedom finally came in the spring of 1865 when Union troops overran his community in Georgia. Holloway rejoiced upon being freed:

“I felt like a bird out of a cage. Amen. Amen. Amen. I could hardly ask to feel better than I did that day. . . . The week passed off in a blaze of glory.”

—quoted in *A Short History of Reconstruction*

• Reconstruction

• Physical

- Buildings
- Cities
- Farms

• Society

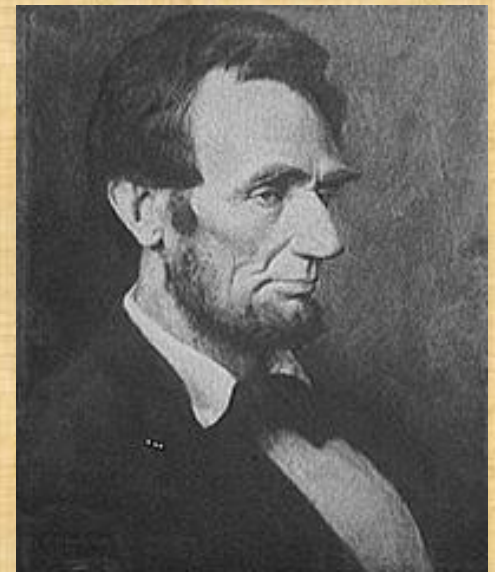
- Restructuring society
- Classes





Swords into Plowshares





- Lincoln's plan

- Amnesty
- Slaves free
- Lenient

"With malice toward none, with charity for all"

- Radicals Republicans' plan

- Many former abolitionists
- Wade-Davis Bill
 - Vetoed by Lincoln
- Harsh
- Punish
- Charles Sumner
- Thaddeus Stevens

"The oath of allegiance shall be taken . . .but every person known to have held or exercised any office, civil or military, state or confederate, under the rebellion, or to have voluntarily borne arms against the United States, shall be excluded, even though he offer to take the oath."

- Wade-Davis Bill (radical Reconstruction)

• Radical Republican Goals

- Punish former Confederates
- Republican Rule in South
 - Black Republicanism
 - Legislators
 - school boards
 - Congressmen
 - Mayors
 - Graft & Corruption
- Federal Gov. to help former slaves
 - Politically
 - 15th Amendment (voting)
 - Socially
 - 14th Amendment (equal protection under the law)
 - Economically
 - Freedmen's Bureau (40 acres and a mule)

Congress must see to it that the man made free by the Constitution is a freeman indeed; that he can go where he pleases, work when and for whom he pleases...go into schools and educate himself and his children; that the rights and guarantees of the common law are his, and that he walks the earth proud and erect in the conscious dignity of a free man.

Presidential Reconstruction Review

1. Many Radical Republicans had been _____ before the Civil War.
2. Under the Republicans' Reconstruction plan, before former Confederate states could elect people to Congress, they had to ratify the _____ Amendment
3. The _____ Bill was pocket vetoed by _____ and made the Radicals very angry.
4. The _____ was to help ex-slaves integrate into society.

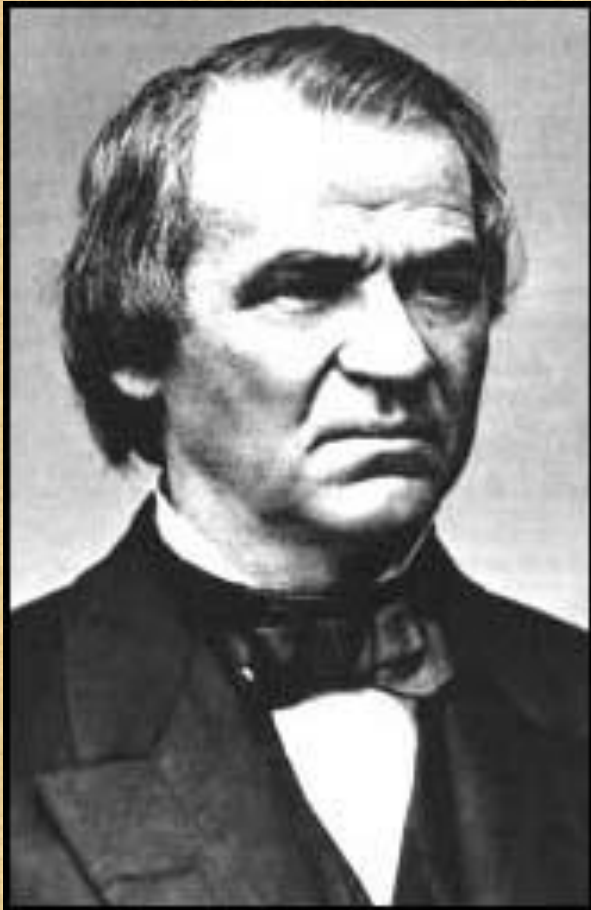
Tensions ran high in the nation's capital as Congress reconvened in December 1865. President Andrew Johnson had implemented his Reconstruction plan, which was lenient toward the South, despite strong opposition by many members of Congress. One of the more vocal critics was Massachusetts senator Charles Sumner. Sumner advocated greater rights for formerly enslaved people and stronger punishment for the South. Just days before Christmas, Sumner expressed his distrust of the former Confederate states:

“They will continue to assert the inferiority of the African, and they would today, if possible, precipitate the United States into a foreign war, believing that they could then reassert and obtain their independence. . . . On the whole, looking at the affair from all sides, it amounts to just this: If the Northern people are content to be ruled over by the Southerners, they will continue in the Union, if not, the first chance they get they will rise again.”

—quoted in *Charles Sumner*

- Johnson's Plan

- Amnesty/pardons
- Punish rich planters
- Forgive commoners
- Opposed African American rights



"I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do . . . hereby grant and assure to all white persons who have...participated in the existing rebellion...a full pardon, but upon the condition...that every such person will . .will never assert, right or title to slaves, and that every such person will never thereafter own a slave or any interest therein."

- Andrew Johnson, "A Proclamation"

- Tenure of Office Act
 - Fires Sec. of War Stanton
 - Johnson impeached
 - Not convicted by one vote
 - Might set bad example to remove a president b/c did not agree with congress
- Black Codes
 - African Americans kept in near slavery
 - Pre-Jim Crow Laws
 - Opposed 14th Amendment
- 1866 election
 - Southern congressmen sent home
 - Were former Confederates



COURTESY OF HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

• Radical Reconstruction Results

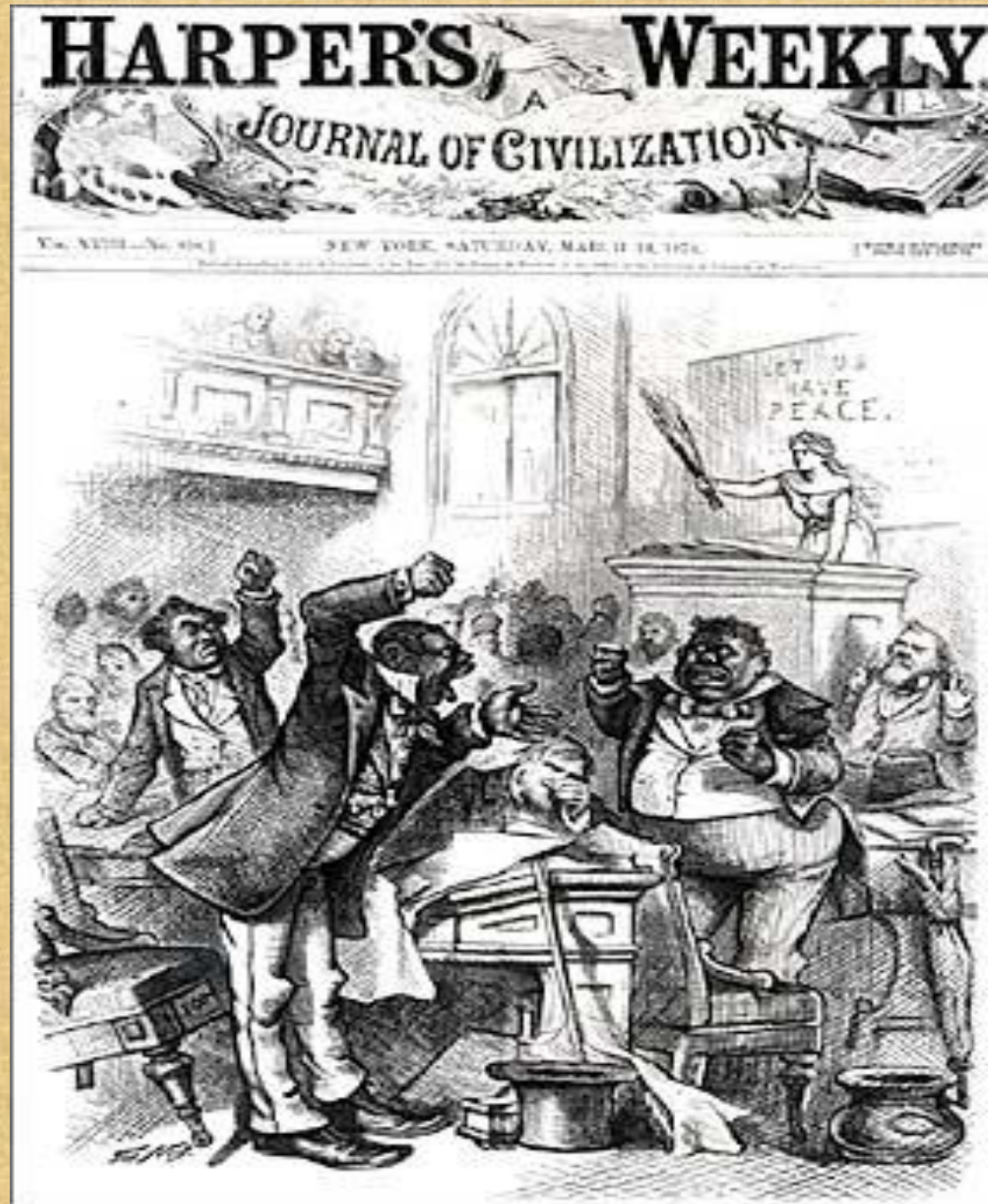
- Military Reconstruction Act
 - South's 5 military districts
 - Must ratify 14th Amendment
- 13th Amendment
 - Frees slaves
- 14th Amendment
 - Equal Protection under the law
 - Due process of law
- 15th Amendment
 - Equal voting rights



HARPER'S WEEKLY MAGAZINE

Southern Occupation

- Carpetbaggers
 - Northerners
 - \$
- Scalawags
 - Southerners
 - Small farmers
 - Vote republican
- Freedmen
- State governments filled with graft and corruption



- **African American Communities Finding their own American Dream**

- **Education**

- Public elem. Schools
- Black Universities
 - Fisk
 - Atlanta
 - Morehouse
 - Hampton
- Vocational and trades
 - Tuskegee Institute



- **Churches**

- AME
- Baptists



On a moonlit December night in the late 1860s, Essic Harris, a formerly enslaved man, woke suddenly after hearing loud noises outside his small home in Chatham County, North Carolina. He peered out his bedroom window and a wave of terror rushed over him. Thirty men in white robes and hoods stood around the house. Many held shotguns. They were members of the Ku Klux Klan, an organization that used violence and intimidation to force African Americans and white Republicans out of Southern politics. They had come to harass Harris, who was active in local politics.

As Klan members began firing shotgun blasts at his home, Harris pushed his family into a corner and grabbed his own shotgun. He rushed to the front door and fired back, then shouted to one of his children, "Boy, bring my five-shooter!" Harris had no such gun, but his bluff worked. The Klan members cursed Harris and rode off, but they would return. They continued harassing Harris until he abandoned his home and moved to another county.

—adapted from *The Fiery Cross*

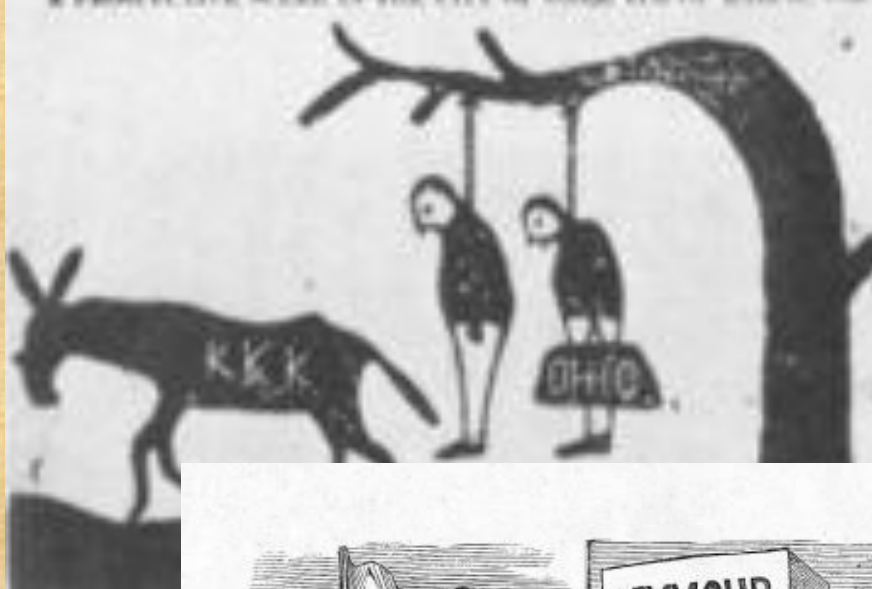
Southern Resistance to Reconstruction

- Ku Klux Klan
 - Violence
 - Lynching
 - Blacks & Whites terrorized
- Union League
- Enforcement Acts
 - Arrest of thousands of Klan members
 - Few convictions



Ku Klux Klan

- Goal
 - Democratic Party rule
 - Drive Union troops out of south
- Terrorize
 - Carpetbaggers
 - Scalawags
 - Freedmen



1864.

1868.

'TIS BUT A CHANGE OF BANNERS.

Reconstruction Review

1. President _____ was impeached but not removed from office.
2. President Andrew Johnson opposed the _____ and _____ Amendment.
3. _____, _____, and _____ were part of the network of African American colleges and universities that grew out of academies begun in the South during Reconstruction.
4. _____ was removed by president Johnson thus leading to his _____ trial.

Ethelbert Barksdale could hardly contain his excitement as the 1875 election campaign in Mississippi wound down. For the past several years, Democrats had steadily regained power throughout the South, winning back various local and state offices from Republicans through political organizing and through intimidation and harassment of African Americans and other Republican supporters.

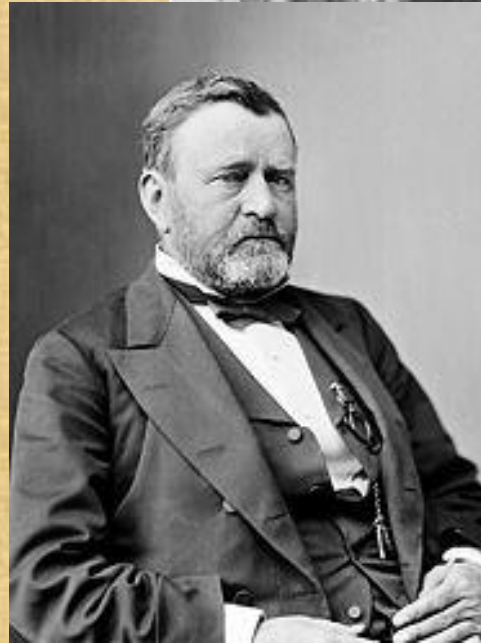
Barksdale, the editor of the *Weekly Clarion*, a Democratic Mississippi newspaper, now watched with joy and anticipation as Democrats prepared to recapture numerous political offices in his state. To Barksdale and many other white Southerners, the efforts by the Democrats to regain political control was nothing less than a revolution to free the South from despised Republican rule. "When a government is oppressed with very bad rulers, and national affairs are tending toward corruption, the people . . . bear these grievances for a long time hoping that a reformation may come," he wrote on the eve of Election Day.

—adapted from *Reconstruction and Redemption in the South*



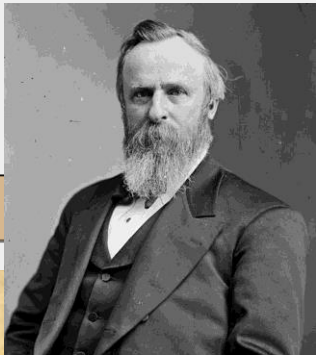
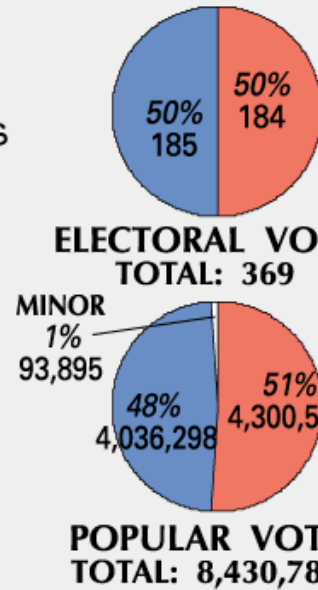
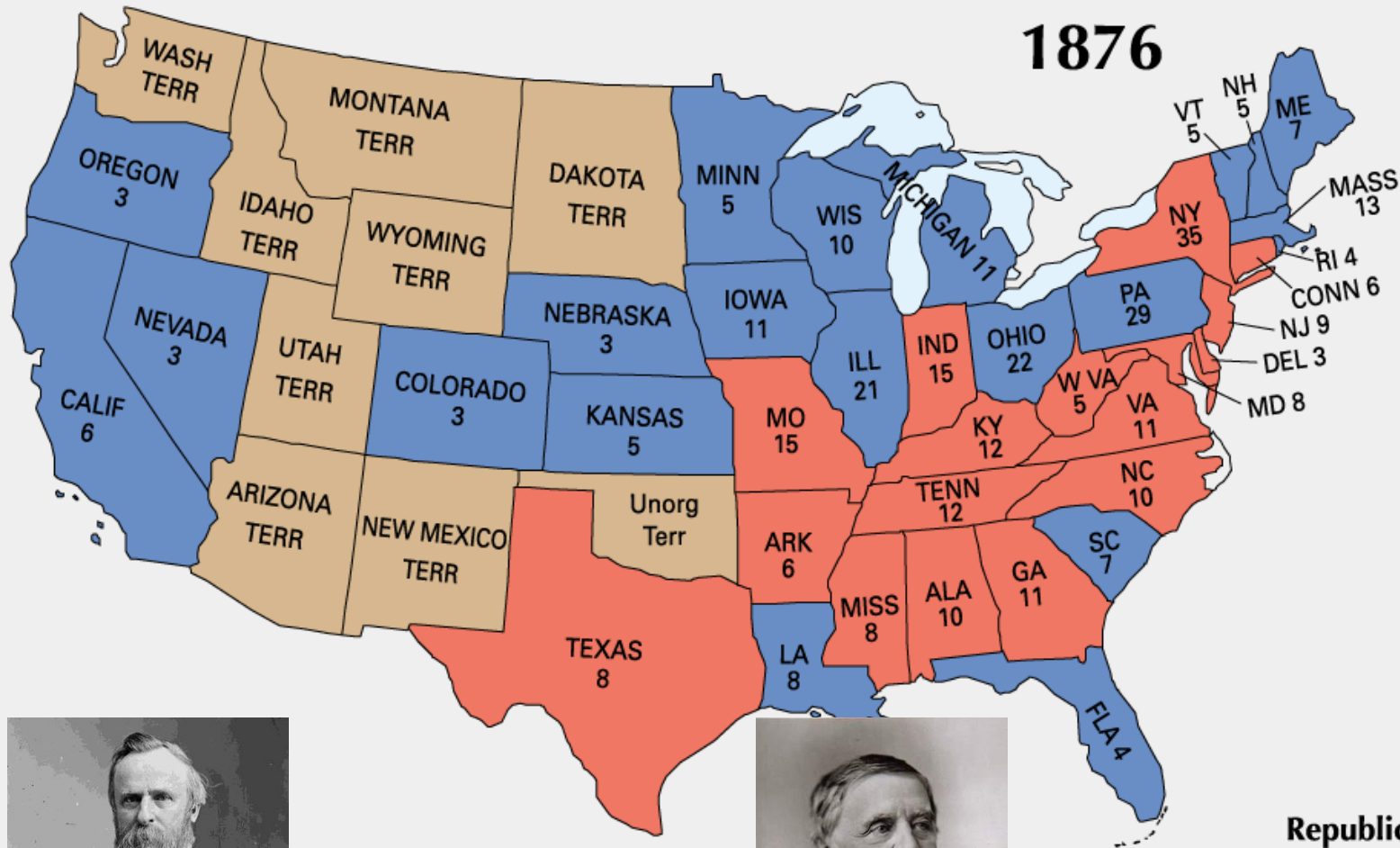
Reconstruction Ends

- 1868 Election
 - Southern Freedmen Republicans give Grant votes
- Grant's Pres.
 - Believed he should only carry out the laws of congress
 - Corruption
 - Belknap Scandal
 - Whisky Ring
 - Graft (corruption)
- Panic of 1873



Corrupt Voting & Fraud!

Election of 1876



Hayes



Tilden

Republican (Hayes)

Democratic (Tilden)



Redemption

The Old South Returns

- Compromise of 1877
 - Hayes-Tilden Deal
 - What each party could get
 - Rep. win Pres.
 - Hayes removes troops from south
- Dem. End reconstruction





- ***"Tilden and the Democratic Party accepted a Republican victory, while Hayes pledged to withdraw federal troops from the states of the former Confederacy, effectively ending Reconstruction.***
- ***With the departure of the Federal Army, Republican governments in the South fell as former slaves were prevented from voting by legal maneuvers, intimidation, and terrorism.***
- ***Loss of the vote was quickly followed by segregation laws and other discrimination against blacks, and it would be eight decades before the nation redressed the legacy of 1877."***

–Thomas H. Neale

The New South

- Industrialization
 - Cotton
 - Textiles
- Sharecropping
 - Never-ending poverty
 - Crop liens
 - Tenants
 - Debt
- Racial Segregation

ENCOE



- ***The sale of every sharecropper's part of the cotton to be made by me when and where I choose to sell, and after deducting all they owe me and all sums that I may be responsible for on their accounts, to pay them their half of the net proceeds.***
- ***Work of every description, particularly the work on fences and ditches, to be done to my satisfaction, and must be done over until I am satisfied that it is done as it should be.***

A Typical Sharecropping contract

Radical Reconstruction Review

1. The election of _____ resulted with no clear winner and resulted in the _____ deal to determine the next president.
2. Reconstruction would officially end when _____ pulled troops out of the south.
3. _____ became the primary cash crop in the south following the Reconstruction.
4. Two scandals during Grant's presidency were _____ and _____.