The Union victory in the Civil War and the contested reconstruction of the South settled the issues of slavery and secession, but left unresolved many questions about the power of the federal government and citizenship rights.

I. Reconstruction Plans of Lincoln and Johnson
   A. Lincoln’s Policies
      i. Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction
         a. Lincoln began planning Reconstruction during the Civil War. His focus was on restoring the Union, not guaranteeing rights to freedmen.
         b. Lincoln believed that since secession was illegal, Confederate governments in the Southern states were illegitimate and the states had never really left the Union. He believed that Reconstruction was a matter of quickly restoring legitimate Southern state governments that were loyal to the Union.
         c. Lincoln believed that to reunify the U.S., the federal government should not punish the South, but act “with malice towards none, with charity for all…to bind up the nation’s wounds.”
         d. His lenient plan to readmit the South was known as the Ten Percent Plan. It required loyalty oaths and the acceptance of abolition. When 10% of a state agreed to those terms, it could be readmitted to the Union. Only those who had taken the oath could vote or participate in the government.
      ii. Wade-Davis Bill
         a. Radical Republicans proposed the Wade-Davis Bill, which said that a majority of those who voted in 1860 must swear and “ironclad” oath stating they were now loyal and had never been disloyal. This bill was vetoed by Lincoln.
      iii. Freedmen’s Bureau
         a. The Freedmen’s Bureau was a federal agency which sought to provide education, employment, and health care to freed slaves.

B. Johnson and Reconstruction
   i. Johnson’s Reconstruction Policy
      a. Like Lincoln, his focus was restoring the Union.
   ii. Southern Governments of 1865
      a. In many Southern states, former Confederates were elected to Congress and race riots broke out in New Orleans and Memphis.
   iii. Black Codes
      a. Black Codes were enacted in Southern states; they were intended to place limits on the socioeconomic opportunities and freedoms open to Black people.
      b. The codes forced Black Americans to work under conditions that closely resembled slavery.
   iv. Johnson’s Vetoes
      a. Andrew Johnson battled Congress over Radical Reconstruction over issues such as Black rights and punishing the South.
II. Congressional Reconstruction
   A. Radical Republicans
      i. Civil Rights Act of 1866
         a. The assassination of Lincoln enabled Radical Republicans to influence the
            process of Reconstruction in a manner much more punitive towards the former
            Confederate states.
         b. Whereas Lincoln and Johnson felt that the South had never truly left the Union,
            Congressional Republicans viewed the South as conquered territory.
      ii. Fourteenth Amendment
         a. The Fourteenth Amendment made the former slaves citizens, thus invalidating the
            Dred Scott decision.
         b. The Amendment provided for equal protection of the laws for all citizens.
         c. It enforced congressional legislation guaranteeing civil rights to former slaves.
            One such example was that public school systems in the Southern states were
            improved.
      iii. Military Reconstruction
         a. Military occupation of the South was permitted, and the former Confederate states
            were divided into five zones governed by military leaders rather than being
            readmitted immediately.
         b. Punishment of Confederate leaders became policy to deter future challenges to
            federal authority.
   B. Impeachment of Andrew Johnson
      i. During Congressional Reconstruction, restrictions were placed on the power of Andrew
         Johnson. The Army Act reduced the president’s control over the army and the Tenure of
         Office Act prevented him from dismissing Cabinet members without Senate approval.
      ii. The House of Representatives impeached Johnson because he obstructed enforcement of
          the Reconstruction Acts. The Senate did not vote to remove Johnson from office.
      iii. After his impeachment, Johnson became a lame duck and Congress had full authority to
          impose Radical Reconstruction.
   C. Reforms After Grant’s Election
      i. Election of 1868
         a. Grant was elected president and served during most of Reconstruction.
         b. Grant urged Radical Republicans not to be harsh with former Confederates.
         c. He advocated rights for the freedmen and opposed retribution directed at the
            defeated South.
      ii. Fifteenth Amendment
         a. The 15th Amendment guaranteed African Americans the right to vote.
         b. The women’s rights movement was both emboldened and divided over the 14th
            and 15th amendments to the Constitution.
      iii. Civil Rights Act of 1875
III. Reconstruction in the South
   A. Composition of the Reconstruction Governments
      i. “Scalawags” and “Carpetbaggers”
         a. Scalawags were Southern Whites who joined the Republican Party and formed a
            coalition with freedmen and Carpetbaggers to control local and state governments
            in the South.
         b. Carpetbaggers were Republican Northerners who moved to the South during
            Reconstruction and formed a coalition with freedmen and Scalawags for
            economic and political benefit.
      ii. African American Legislators
         a. In addition to being able to vote, Black Americans were elected to the House and
            Senate.

   B. African Americans Adjusting to Freedom
      i. Building Black Communities
      ii. Sharecropping
         a. Tenant farming and sharecropping replaced slavery as the primary form of
            agriculture in the South.
         b. Southern plantation owners continued to own the majority of the region’s land
            even after Reconstruction.
         c. Former slaves sought land ownership but generally fell short of self-sufficiency,
            as an exploitative and soil-intensive sharecropping system limited blacks’ and
            poor whites’ access to land in the South.
         d. Sharecropping and the crop lien system led to a cycle of debt and depression for
            Southern tenant farmers.
         e. The freedmen did not receive 40 acres and a mule.

   C. Evaluating the Republican Record
      i. Accomplishments
         a. Efforts by radical and moderate Republicans to change the balance of power
            between Congress and the presidency and to reorder race relations in the defeated
            South yielded some short-term successes.
         b. Reconstruction opened up political opportunities and other leadership roles to
            former slaves.
         c. The 14th and 15th amendments eventually became the basis for court decisions
            upholding civil rights in the 20th century.
      ii. Failures
         a. Reconstruction ultimately failed due to both determined southern resistance and
            the North’s waning resolve.
         b. Segregation, violence, Supreme Court decisions, and local political tactics
            progressively stripped away African American rights.

IV. The North During Reconstruction
   A. Greed and Corruption
      i. Grant had no experience and no firm political positions so he relied largely on his
         instinctive loyalty to his friends and other politicians who propelled him into office.
      ii. Grant’s administration was known for its many scandals, notably Credit Mobilier (phony
            railroad company that stole millions of government dollars) and Whiskey Ring (bribes).
B. Panic of 1873
   i. The Panic of 1873 was caused by railroad overspeculation and contracted currency. It ended the popularity of the Republicans and turned public opinion away from Reconstruction and towards the economy.

V. The End of Reconstruction
   A. White Supremacy and the Ku Klux Klan
      i. Southern Democrats referred to as Redeemers vehemently opposed Radical Reconstruction.
      ii. White supremacists appealed to the Scalawags and eventually won them over and regained control of the South.

B. Election of 1876
   i. Samuel J. Tilden polled more popular votes than Rutherford B. Hayes.
   ii. Tilden won 184 of the 185 electoral votes needed for election.
   iii. There were 20 disputed votes in four states, 3 of which were in the South.

C. Compromise of 1877
   i. Democratic (Southern) Concessions
      a. The Democrats agreed that Hayes would take office.
   ii. Republican (Northern) Concessions
      a. Hayes promised to appoint at least one Southerner to his cabinet.
      b. The Republicans agreed to withdraw all federal troops from the South.
      c. The Republicans agreed to support internal improvements and industrialization in the South.
   iii. Democrats regained control of patronage in the South.
   iv. The Civil Rights Act of 1875, which guaranteed equal accommodations in public places and prohibited racial discrimination in jury selection, was not enforced.
   v. The Compromise gave the South a “free hand” in race relations. As a result, White conservatives returned to power, lynchings increased, and Black voters were disenfranchised.