

Notes 14-3

The South During Reconstruction

Who's In Charge?

- **Republicans** controlled Southern politics
- African Americans were important as **voters** and **elected officials**
 - **Blanche K. Bruce** and **Hiram Revels** were elected as Senators
- **Scalawags** were Southern whites who supported Reconstruction
- **Carpetbaggers** were Northerners who moved to the South to work on Reconstruction
- Southerners did not want African Americans to have more rights
- Societies like the **Ku Klux Klan** formed

Some Improvements

- Improvements in education for blacks and whites
 - **Public schools** were started in the South
 - Most schools were **segregated**
- Freedmen's Bureau helped some African Americans buy land
- Most farming was **sharecropping**
 - Farmer rents the land
 - He pays his rent with a portion of the **crops**
 - Farmers end up owing more to the landowner than they make

Notes 14-4

Changes In The South

Reconstruction Ends

- Less Interest in Reconstruction
 - **Radical Republicans** leaving office/power
 - **Democrats** getting more control in South
- Election of 1872
 - **Ulysses S. Grant** against **Horace Greeley**
 - Grant won
- Amnesty Act of 1872
 - More Liberal Republicans
 - Gave **amnesty** to almost all white Southerners
- Democrats gain control with the help of groups like Ku Klux Klan
- Election of 1876
 - Too much **corruption** in Grant's administration
 - Republicans choose **Hayes**
 - Democrats choose **Tilden**
 - No clear majority – HR has to choose
 - Compromise – HR picks **Hayes** but Reconstruction ends

South After Reconstruction

- Power in the South shifts to the **Democrats**
- New ruling class of **business leaders**
- Southern leaders push for more **industry**
- **Sharecropping** was still main form of agriculture

Divided Society

- Limiting Black Votes
 - **Poll taxes** – had to pay to vote (blacks can't afford it)
 - **Literacy Test** – had to read to vote
 - **Grandfather Clause** – allows whites who could not read or were poor to still vote
- Segregation
 - **Jim Crow Laws** – laws to require segregation
 - *Plessy v. Ferguson* – Supreme Court Case that supported "**separate but equal**" segregation
 - Truth – "separate but NOT equal"
- Violence
 - Groups like Ku Klux Klan harass blacks
 - Lynching was common
- Impact of Reconstruction
 - It did help **rebuild Southern economy**
 - It did end slavery but did NOT give blacks **equality**