

# [Reconstruction after the civil war](https://assignbuster.com/reconstruction-after-the-civil-war/)

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Reconstruction After The Civil War Andrew Johnson was a war democrat that opposed secession. In 1864 Johnson was tapped by Republican President Abraham Lincoln as his running   
  
mate to balance the Union ticket. He became president following Lincoln's   
  
assassination in April 1865, just days after the Civil War ended. As president,   
  
Johnson's desire to scale back Lincoln's Reconstruction legislation following the   
  
Civil War angered the Radical Republican majority that sought to punish the   
  
former rebels of the Confederacy. The stage was set for a partisan fight that   
  
would ultimately center around a single act. In February 1868, Johnson fired   
  
Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, who was sympathetic to the Radical   
  
Republicans and who was overseeing the military's Reconstruction efforts. A   
  
year earlier, Congress had passed the Tenure of Office Act, which prohibited a   
  
president from dismissing any officer confirmed by the Senate without first getting   
  
its approval. With Stanton's firing, the call for Johnson's impeachment began.   
  
I do not believe the House of Representatives quest to impeach Andrew   
  
Johnson was called for. It was nothing more than political opportunism. He was   
  
opposed to congressional Reconstruction so he blocked it. The Republicans   
  
decided this was a strong enough basis to throw him out so they tried though   
  
they were ultimately unsuccessful.   
  
There was corruption in the government after the Civil War. Many ex   
  
Confederate soldiers and members of the old planter class joined the Ku Klux   
  
Klan which targeted blacks who owned land, prospered, and any educators of   
  
the black people. Their goal was to keep them powerless and this supported the   
  
Democratic Party's desires. The Democratic platform in 1868 had called   
  
reconstruction policies " unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void." It demanded   
  
that Freedmen's Bureau be shut down. The white robed, gun-toting, horse riding   
  
Klansmen attacked Republicans. In every county where the Klan was active,   
  
Republican voters stayed away from the polls.   
  
The support for Radical Reconstruction was mainly due to the northern   
  
states need for racial equality. In 1876 the Democratic Party chose Samuel J.   
  
Tilden, governor of New York, to run for President. The Republicans nominated   
  
Rutherford B. Hayes, governor of Ohio. Under the Compromise of 1877, Hayes   
  
was elected President. In return, Hayes agreed to remove the last troops from   
  
the South. As soon as he became President, Hayes did just that. The last few   
  
Reconstruction governments collapsed. With them went black southerners' best   
  
hope for equality. Reconstruction ended in 1877 and was effective in reaching its   
  
goal which was to improve the South socially, politically, and economically.   
  
Although the South did not fully recover, many of the problems that arose after   
  
the Civil War were solved. The Confederate states met various requirements for   
  
readmission, and all rejoined the Union by 1870. Congress passed laws and   
  
proposed constitutional amendments to protect the rights of the former slaves   
  
and to give them the right to vote. However, the Reconstruction governments   
  
failed to win enough support from Southern whites to survive without aid from the   
  
North. Most Southern whites considered these governments illegal, and some   
  
whites used violence to prevent blacks from voting. Many blacks ended up   
  
working for whites because sharecropping created economic inequality. As a   
  
result, many blacks lost their political power as well. Reconstruction didn't totally   
  
recover the South, but it did help to improve the South and was an important part   
  
in U. S. history since it still effects our lives today.