

The War Between the States: America's Uncivil War

Chapter 35 – Black and White

Summary:

With the decade of the 1860s coming to a close and the shooting war nearly half a decade past, life in America, and particularly the South, appeared quite different than most Americans in any section would have hoped. Some profited greatly from both the wartime and post-war economic climate. But those profits themselves, many of them birthed in corruption and fraud, contributed to a general patina of social, economic, and political unsettledness and harshness. Indeed, corruption in both the public and private sectors seemed to abound on all fronts, and in all sections. Groups of people aligned themselves—or were aligned by other influences—against one another: Northerner and Southerner, black and white, liberal and conservative. For the great sweep of white Southerners, loss and struggle continue to dominate life. But freed blacks, promised great things by the Radical Republican U.S. government, found the reality of emancipated life in a war-ravaged South, peopled with heartbroken, sometimes vengeful whites, far more challenging and even dangerous than they had planned. Even in the North, racial prejudice against black grew worse, in many ways, than before the war.

Multitudes of Americans, black and white alike, from all sections, labored to live lives of peace, honor, and charity. And new laws spearheaded by the Radical Republicans, such as the Fifteenth Amendment, sought to promote these and other virtues. But the challenge to live by such principles and laws—laws themselves often prosecuted through questionable means, motives, and even legality--did not end with the end of the war. As former Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens famously said, “Hate does not create war, war creates hate.” Hate blossomed in America in the late-1860s, much of it from wartime actd, and more now by post-war deeds, kindled by greed, corruption, further violence, and racial, regional, ethnic, and religious prejudice.

Identification:

1. “Sound Money” system
2. Black Friday
3. Hiram Revels
4. Fifteenth Amendment
5. George W. Kirk
6. Enforcement Acts

Completion:

1. _____ and _____ were the two brilliant but amoral New York businessmen who engineered the historic 19th century-attempt to corner the entire American gold market.
2. _____, related to President Ulysses S. Grant as his _____, was exposed as a participant in the great scheme to corner the American gold market.
3. The war destroyed _____ percent of all property value in the state of South _____.
4. Did state budgets in the poverty-stricken, carpetbag-controlled post-war South rise, fall, stay the same, or none of these? _____
5. Colossal fraud in the post-war and Reconstruction industry of _____ led to the _____ of 1873, which provoked one of the worst economic _____ in American history.
6. _____, _____, and _____ were among the giants of American industry whose rise to power generally paralleled that of the railroads.
7. Famed former Confederate General _____ apparently issued an order in 1869 to disband the post-war vigilante organization named _____.
8. Among the numerous controversial directives of the Radical Republican-dominated Congress's _____ Act was giving President _____ the right to suspend the Constitutional right of _____ for thousands of former Confederates.
9. A significant wing of the Reconstruction-Era Republican Party, called the _____ Republicans, grew disgusted with what they considered the Radicals' vindictive and corrupt policies. They broke from them and (unsuccessfully) ran their own Presidential candidate, _____, against Grant in 1872.

Thought Questions:

1. List the ten planks of the Communist Manifesto, as well as the means through which the Radical Republicans planned to institute each of them in America.

2. Tell the story of the railroads as they spread west with America. Include positive and negative features and consequences.
3. Describe Colonel Kirk's post-war rampage through North Carolina.
4. Name and discuss both positive and negative features and consequences of the Enforcement Acts.
5. Summarize both the majority and minority reports on the 1870s Ku Klux Klan. How and why do you agree, and/or disagree, with the conclusions of each?
6. What was the disturbing quote of Robert E. Lee near the end of the chapter? What do you think he meant by it?
7. Discuss the various post-war experiences of blacks in the South that are mentioned in this chapter.