

Kentucky Class Notes

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859.252.NOTE

HIS 109 Chamberlin
Fall 2010
Test 1

- Tuesday, August 31st
- Reconstruction I
- **RECONSTRUCTION:** The Process that put the nation back together after the Civil War
- Questions:
 - What is to be done with Confederate leaders who committed treason?
 - How should new governments be formed in the south?
 - What should be done with Confederate debt?
 - Who would rebuild the south?
 - What was to be done with freed slaves?

Post Civil War America

- South had been devastated, suffered the most
- North had 360,000 casualties; South had 260,000 (casualties included 50 men)
- South had a smaller population => fewer casualties
- 30% drop in property values in the South
- Railroads destroyed in South, transportation ruined
- \$4 billion lost from investment in slaves, no labor source anymore
- Cotton, sugar, rice crops destroyed

GENERAL WILLIAM T. SHERMAN

- Decorated general in North
- Destroyed confederate army in war
- Headquarters/Capital in Savannah, GA
- Sat down with freed blacks in Savannah; spoke of freedom
- Freed from oppression, full citizens (voting rights), economic equality for slaves
- **SPECIAL FIELD ORDER #115:** Stated that land in South occupied by Sherman's army was to be split into 40-acre chunks and given to black families (along with a mule)
 - Mules were useful to pull plows, haul loads
- Economic independence for freed slaves

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Black's Vision of Freedom

- Could own dogs and guns, travel, purchase alcohol
- Chose to travel to reconnect with separated family
- Moved to cities for opportunity (work)
- Founded institutions
- Black churches
- Churches = place of education, worship, social events
- Leaders founding institutions = leaders in black community
- Black schools (no longer denied education)
- Increased literacy
- Politics
- Participated in community's political system (voting)
- Land ownership, employment
- Seized land where they had been enslaved

Family

- Mirrored white society- men work, women stay home

Southern White's View of Freedom

- Destroyed property, devastated