

HST 202: ONLINE U.S. History W19 (Escobar)

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Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Joe Escobar](#) - Saturday, February 23, 2019, 7:44 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Reconstruction Cartoons topic.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, which clearly describes the cartoon name/number you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Reconstruction Cartoons

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Cartoon Interpretations
by [Madeleine Howard](#) - Thursday, February 28, 2019, 10:52 PM

This cartoon was very striking to me in that it was a cartoon behaving like a renaissance painting; that is a holy layout with evil surrounding in grotesque imagery.

Cartoon 5 seems to represent the north and south dealign with Emancipation. It's commentary on the post-emancipation area paling in comparison to the expectations for that time period, where they must've felt like they were getting a break for once. The left side represents the South, hard truth of these brutalities and aggressions (the bottom left corner depicting slaves being whipped, the top left showing a slave auction) existing in the reconstruction era as the residue of so many years of injustice. The happy family in the middle of the cartoon, adorned with heavenly figures towards the top, serves as the picture they were sold or maybe were believed they'd be given with emancipation and the Civil Rights bills. It appears to be a multi-generational, happy family. The word "EMANCIPATION" in all-caps at the top presents itself as a holy vision surrounded by clouds and saluting figures. I believe the right side seems to represent the North. The bottom portion shows a black man looking haggardly as he approaches the cashier for his presumably minuscule pay. This illustrates how emancipation did not bring equality. Children are going to school in the top right portion, which I believe references the Freedmen's Bureau education efforts.

Image 4 was very striking to me as well, how much more clearly could an artist depict the Southern Democracy stripping black people of any kind of suffrage? White men dressed in warrior/knight-like outfits cheering from the sidelines, adding to the narrative of the Southern Democracy being "reclaimed."

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Re: Cartoon Interpretations
by [Daniela Rosales Name](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 2:24 PM

This is a really interesting take on the Emancipation cartoon because the way I interpreted it was that the two sides symbolized the before and after of emancipation. I think the cartoon was meant to celebrate the results of emancipation rather than criticize it. The left side is pretty straightforward; it shows what things looked like before emancipation with all of the images that you detailed. On the right, it seems like the images are meant to be more positive. In the middle, there is a mother sending her children off to public school. They look happy and carefree — and even have a puppy. They seem to be coming out of their own home rather. All of these are significant changes from the left side of the picture where parents and children are being sold.

On the bottom right-hand side it seems like African-Americans are getting paid for the work that they are doing — again a rather significant change from the opposite side where they are being whipped. As I zoomed in I realized that right beside the larger image there is a smaller one that depicts African-American workers tipping their hats off to the plantation owner on the horse who treats them with respect. There is a smaller image on the left side that shows the exact same scene but in this one the plantation owner on the horse is whipping the African-American slave on the fields.

On the bottom center image, I first thought it was a white man hurting an African-American slave. But, on closer inspection, the white man is an angel who is extending his arms towards the African-American — who also has his hands extended to the angel. I can't quite see what they're doing but I can infer that it isn't hurtful to either party.

In the big middle image the family seems to be happy and relaxing in their own home together. Which I see as significant because before emancipation families of slaves were often separated and sold with no regard to keeping the family together. On their stove there is a sign reads Union so which I take as a celebration to the Union and what it had accomplished. In particular the accomplishments of Abraham Lincoln, which they seem to have a framed picture of in the top of the frame — of this i'm not entirely sure of but it closely resembles the image of Lincoln that I attached.



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Political Cartoon #2

by [Morissa Parliament](#) - Thursday, February 28, 2019, 11:51 PM

I believe the overall main idea that is trying to be portrayed in this political cartoon is where America's government stood after the war. There is so much happening in this one picture that speaks volumes to what was happening during that time. The first thing I noticed was the American flag on the ground and to me that is portraying a broken America and

especially a broken government. The white man is standing on the young African American and that shows his as the suppressed minority. Even the background is dark and messy and to me that shows that everything was a mess and things were all over the place.

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Re: Political Cartoon #2
by [Breanna Lindsey](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 8:27 PM

Hi Morissa!

I thought your observation was interesting! I didn't even think about how the American flag was on the ground. I think one could look at it and say America has fallen or is being torn apart. I do agree that it could mean America is broken and that the government is broken too. I also think that the white men are oppressing the African-American man or displaying a leverage over the man. I think the cartoon was trying to show that the white men will always be above and superior to African-Americans. In the cartoon at the very top it also says, "This Is A White Mans Government" this shows how many citizens were not ready to allow blacks into the government and lifestyle. Your observation about the background was also interesting, I personally didn't really notice anything big. I do agree that it could totally mean that the reconstruction era were dark days for many people. It shows the darkness and corruption that still lingers in the air. I also think it is valuable when observing this cartoon to notice the details. I think this cartoon represented the resentment towards blacks and allowing them to vote. It also valuable to look at what types of people the characters were and who they stood for. It looks like they are confederate and they aren't supportive of African-Americans or the new amendments America has put into place and is working on.

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Who Gets Rights? White Traitors or African Americans of the Union Army?
by [Brianna Caridio](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 12:17 AM

Editorial Cartoon #2

“This is a white man’s government”

Three white men stand each with a foot on the back of an African American, their right hands joined in the middle and their left hands extended up, each holding an item of importance.

The man in the center is in a military uniform, holding a knife inscribed “The Lost Cause” as well as CSA (Confederate States of America) on his belt buckle showing that he must have been a part of the Confederate Army. To be in the image, presumably he would have been a general or war hero, the letters on his had read NB.F. which may stand for Nathan Bedford Forrest. Forrest was a Confederate General known to be a part of the Ku Klux Klan (Murrin pg. 576). He also has what appears to be a whip in his back pocket, a gun in a holster, and a pin on his jacket with a skull, however the writing is illegible.

The man to the left holds a club inscribed “A VOTE,” his hat band says “5 Points” and has a cross (Catholic) and he is drawn with simian facial structure. The Five Points Gang was an Irish gang in the Five Points area of Manhattan in New York City. Of the three, he has the most disheveled appearance, wrinkled and ripped clothing, cuffed pants and work boots. The holding of the club may be representative of how African Americans were forced by [violence](#) to vote in elections for the Democratic Candidate, a great example being the Mississippi Election of 1875.

The man to the right holds a folder that says “Capital” and “Votes.” He is the best dressed of the three white men in a tailcoat, a democratic politician. His cufflinks and the folder appear to have the initials “A.B.” or “J.B.”

The African American man is clutching a Union Army flag and his hat has fallen off, but it is a Union Army hat, showing that he had fought in the army during the Civil War. The Radical Republicans “believed that white men who had fought against the should not be rewarded with restoration of their political rights while black men who had fought for the Union were denied those rights” (Murrin pg. 563). At the bottom of the image is a statement of the Democratic Platform “We regard the Reconstruction Acts (so called) of Congress as usurpations, and unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void.” The white men in this cartoon are most likely all from the Confederate Army and denied rights because they fought against the Union Army in the war, protesting African American rights

and the laws passed to enforce reconstruction. As African Americans (men) were supposed to have the right to vote under the reconstruction laws, these men embody those that did not agree with the laws and did not want to make the switch from Ethnic Nationalism to Civic Nationalism.

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Re: Who Gets Rights? White Traitors or African Americans of the Union Army?
by [Madeleine Howard](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 6:06 PM

I enjoyed your interpretation largely for its attention to detail, you seemed to explain everything very well with good examples.

It's interesting to me that the man to the left, with, as you said, the 'Simian facial structure,' is clearly the poorest and presumably least-respected of the 3 but he still stands over the black man. Thinking of America's hatred for Irish immigrants and catholicism, it is indicative to just how harsh it was to be the lowest of the low in a country built on your people.

Although the cartoon does depict 3 white men holding down a black man and is rather symbolic of how they managed to keep black people down, I also think that it represents how much the country depended on black soldiers and prior to the war, slaves. Black labor was the backbone of America's building, and the country continued to exploit them in ways that would help others (whites) succeed.

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Re: Who Gets Rights? White Traitors or African Americans of the Union Army?
by [Brianna Caridio](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 11:59 PM

Madeleine,

I like that you brought up how the Irish man is still above the African American even though he is obviously the lowest in class of the white men. Irish Americans made up over 90% of the paid laborers in the US prior to the Civil War, and were despised by others, even thought of as being a separate race or species. You also brought up how they're Catholic as well, some of the Editorial Cartoons in the last forum dealt with the anti-Catholic part of Nationalism. Yet even the Irish man has more rights than the African American patriot. African Americans fought on both side of the war and were crucial to its outcome. The reconstruction period is very interesting to learn about, especially the 'sleeping giant' laws that were basically ignored until the Civil Rights Movement nearly 100 years later.

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Re: Who Gets Rights? White Traitors or African Americans of the Union Army?
by [Daniela Rosales Name](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 1:40 PM

Hi Madeline,

I like how you both point out the "Simian facial structure" of the cartoon that represents the Irish man. I agree with your assertion that he is clearly the poorest and least-respected out of the three men but above the Black man. One thing that stuck out to me in relation to this is how despite the Black man being below the Irish man the Black man's facial features aren't exaggerated to fit in with stereotypes despite the Irish man's features doing this. In fact, the Black man looks almost sad and humanized. This leads me to believe that the illustrator of this cartoon is criticizing the three white men not the Black man.

Brianna also mentioned that the three men belong to the democratic party and like you mention Madeline, the cartoon highlights the contributions of Black men to the war and society and had therefore earned the right to vote — all clues that I used to to make my assumption of the cartoon. These clues also lead me to say that I believe the point of this cartoon is to criticize the democratic party and reflect their discrimination towards Black people and their achievements.

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Re: Who Gets Rights? White Traitors or African Americans of the Union Army?

by [Breanna Lindsey](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 9:14 PM

Brianna,

I absolutely enjoyed reading your response and in fact it is probably my favorite one in the forum. You have a fantastic eye for detail and you answered all of my questions I had about the image. I wasn't quite sure what some of the pins and symbols represented, and you gave a very clear insight and answer to what those pins and symbols meant. I liked how you provided a background of the three men and why they might be featured in the cartoon. I think it is very fascinating how the radical republicans thought and the "rules or fallouts" if you served in the war. I have a lot of same observations as you and enjoyed reading your perspective.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by [Christopher Kinney](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 12:23 PM

Christopher Kinney
forum 3
3/2/2019

I chose to do picture number 5. The middle picture shows what the Emancipation was main goal was. but the outer pictures show the before and the after of the civil war. The pictures on the left show slaves being sold and whipped. On the right shows black people, after the civil war,trying to get paid and their children going to public school. The middle seperates these events by showing scenes from the civil war.

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#5 A Bright Future

by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 5:03 AM

This cartoon show's the artists support for emancipation by showcasing the past and future of African Americans. In the center we see a black family sharing a happy family moment around a "union" stove. To the left we see horrors of the slavery past whipping, branding, and slave auctions. While scenes on the right show blessings of a future because of union triumph and emancipation. We see public schools, payment for work, and the ability to farm ones own land. Along the top is the biggest support for emancipation. To the left we see runaway slaves being run down with dogs and guns. But then we pan the right and we see them being judged for that, this is represented by the woman with the scales with support from Union soldiers.

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#4 New Found Strength

by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 5:34 AM

The message being conveyed with this cartoon is that with the right to vote black men were given a strength in society that the democrats did not want them to have. This is a play on Samson from the bible, he was a man given incredible strength to do amazing feats with. But if his long hair was cut off he would lose his strength. The black man in the middle of this picture is Samson and with the right to vote he was given incredible strength. But the Southern Democrats feared this strength knowing the black man would vote republican so they want to take this strength away. The Republican party was the political party that most supported the freed slaves so they of course would have the majority of black men's votes. The woman who has cut off the mans hair which represents his right to vote is represented as the southern Democrats. As she cuts this off she is cheered on by members of the Democratic party such as Robert Lee. They are brandishing swords, wearing KKK breastplates and flying a slavery flag.

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#1 A Twist in Fate

by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 6:11 AM

The artist was showing the progress that had been made in a country that until recently had enslaved black men not elected them. This cartoon plays on the play Othello by Shakespeare. In this play the evil Iago schemes against the innocent and good Othello who is his commanding officer for promoting another man over him. Othello is represented by Hiram Revels sitting in a senate chair being warmly welcomed by fellow white senators. A senate chair that used to belong to Jefferson Davis, who Nast personally names as Iago. Portraying Davis as Iago because Davis as leader of the confederacy would have harbored much hatred towards a black man elected to his senate seat. The artist showcased that now we see the black man as the good Othello and the white man as the evil scheming Iago when just a short time before it would have been opposite for many. Time did indeed work wonders.

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"The Modern Samson" #4
by [Daniela Rosales Name](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 11:53 AM

The cartoon that I found most interesting was "The Modern Samson" by Thomas Nast. In the cartoon, I find that Nast is comparing African-Americans to Samson. Knowing Samson's story, I can deduce that the cartoon is saying that suffrage is to African-Americans what hair is to Samson. In other words, by taking away their right to vote Southern Americans we taking away African-American's power and strength; and therefore, leaving them weak. The Southern Democrat is represented with a drawing of Delilah — the woman who betrayed Samson by cutting off his hair.

In the background we have a group of men who are rioting in support of what "Delilah" did. The men are seen holding a flag that states "Slavery Lost Cause Regained," which as we saw in this week's lecture, is a Confederate ideology that supports that despite losing the war the Confederacy was a heroic cause. The men are also burning books and globes which are typically seen as symbols of knowledge.

In the background there is also a statute of Moses holding a bill that says "Veto." Underneath the statute is a list of names of prominent pro-confederacy men like N.B Forrest. This leads me to believe that the person who is being symbolized by Moses might have stopped or vetoed a bill that the men listed below the statue supported. There is also a column with the inscription of "The Democratic Barbecue" which typically was a political event where candidates rallied public support, much like the image that is pictured in the cartoon.

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#3 This is a White Man's Government
by [Vince Shumway](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 2:35 PM

This cartoon is very powerful and paints a sad picture of what society was largely like in the period following the Civil War. At the very first glance it is a saddening and frustrating picture showing three white men ganging up on a black man. The three men are cruel in their intent and I feel dejected for the black man.

On further analysis there are some interesting details in the picture. From my own interpretation it looks like the man on the right is a business man perhaps probably a Yankee business man probably of the Democratic party. I believe the man is also holding up money or "capital" high above his head. This makes sense because northerners held most of the capital in the country in the mid to late 19th century. On the money above his head also says "votes" which means the northern democrat probably has the intention of buying northerner votes and shifting them towards his own way which is against the black man. This could be the case if it was part of the Mississippi Plan's first step, "to persuade the 10 to 15 percent of white voters still calling themselves Republicans to switch to the Democrats" (p. 586).

The man in the middle looks as though he is a southern farmer, but not only just a southern farmer a southern slave holder. He has a pistol on his left hip and what I believe to be a whip on his right side. I also noticed his belt "CSA" which I know to stand for community- supported agriculture. Which pretty much sums up that he is a farmer. High above his head he is holding a knife with the words "The Lost Cause". The lost cause was the mindset of the federal government after tensions and [violence](#) had flared in the south. (video [Slavery by Another Name](#) 4:40)

The man on the right I believe may be a Irish Catholic. First, he looks much less human than the others which shows someone from a "lesser" race than native whites of the United States. His hat also has a cross on it which suggests some branch of Christian beliefs.

Finally, in the background there building set ablaze. This could be a reference to burning of the Freedmen’s school like on page 572 of our text books.

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 Cartoon #4, Samson and Delilah
by [Clifford Lyon](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 6:16 PM

In the cartoon “The Modern Samson,” there is an African American man who is portrayed as Samson, a judge in the Bible who was known to possess incredible strength which came from his long hair. In the biblical tale, Samson was granted his strength by a vow that his mother took with an angel before he was born. He was not supposed to cut his hair and in exchange he would be a servant of God all his life with incredible physical strength. When he fell in love with a woman named Delilah, he told her the source of his strength and she cut his hair off while he slept and turned him over to his enemies, the Philistines. Samson’s story ends with him regaining his strength and pulling down a temple of the Philistine’s God on top of himself as well as his enemies.

In the cartoon we see the African American Samson awakening from sleep while Delilah, clothed in “Southern Democracy” holds up his hair, or source of his strength, suffrage. To the left there is a mob of “Philistines” who are actually former Confederate leaders who are celebrating this great victory over Samson. In front of the Philistine’s is a pile of burning material including a bible, a globe, and other books and scrolls which I think represent the educational opportunities which Southern Democrats were trying to withhold from the Freedmen.

Behind Samson and Delilah is a statue of “Moses” who is actually Andrew Johnson. Instead of holding the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, he is holding a stone tablet with the word “Veto” on it. He is the Moses who is leading the Democratic party out of the wilderness of obscurity and back into political power. This is fitting because Johnson compared himself to Christ and his opponents to Judas, who betrayed Christ (Murrin 570). Underneath the statue of Moses are the names of several leading Confederates chiseled into the stone base. There is another monument in the background, but it is hard to make out exactly what it says on it. I can make out something about the Democrats being the best and truest friends of the black man. In the bottom right corner there is a satanic-looking serpent observing the scene and looking on with approval.

I think the overall message of this cartoon is that the retreat from Reconstruction was displeasing to God. God had granted the black man great strength through suffrage and it was being ripped away from him as his enemies cheered. The only bright side to the story is the hope that it will follow the biblical narrative and that Samson will destroy these enemies by pulling down their temple on top of them. There is a lot going on in this cartoon, but I think that it was made Nast’s cartoons so popular in his day. The attention to detail is immense and one has to take a lot of time studying this image in order to fully grasp all that is going on. The main takeaway for me is that as soon as the black man lost his voting rights in the south, it was all over for him. African Americans would have to endure another century of mistreatment before they were awarded the right to vote again in the south. I think this cartoon is a great representation of the betrayal which the African American community felt once Americans began retreating from Reconstruction.

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 Analyzing cartoon picture number 2
by [Breanna Lindsey](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 6:26 PM

I am analyzing the cartoon picture number 2. When I first saw this image I was a little confused by the whole cartoon. I had to look closely at each character and their accessories. I noticed one character looked like a monkey, it could be an Irish man. In one of the videos we watched cartoon artists from that era and they often drew them similar to monkeys. The man is holding above him a bat that says “a vote” and this man is also stepping on an African-American man. Something that I see in this cartoon is this character is oppressing the African-American verbally and physically. The 15th amendment allowed African-American men to vote. I think many people were angered by this, and didn’t think it was fair to allow this. This cartoon is displaying that the black man is just one vote and that he and his vote doesn’t really matter. The white character looks prideful and a bit crazy while the black man is filled with sadness and pain.

The second character is another white can who is holding a knife above his head the knife says, “The lost cause.” This character is also stepping on the black man. This man looks like a common fellow who is apart of the confederate states. He looks stern and has no remorse. He may be a confederate who is not adapting well to the new amendments I think the knife is saying that this black man is useless and also that this African-American has no power. It is showing that the confederates will always win or have leverage over black people.

The third character is a white man who looks like a politician or a banker. He is holding a wallet that says, “Capital Votes.” This man is also stepping on the African-American, and I think he may also be a confederate. I think this man is representing that he has gathered many votes and he may be thinking much more valuable votes than an African-

American vote. I think he is also showing that since he has so many votes already from (I'm assuming) white people that there is not need for black people to vote.

All three of these men are oppressing this African-American man and abusing him. These men are unified in one way and together they are pushing this man down. This shows a very toxic situation where the law now helps African-Americans due to the 14th and 15th amendment but other white citizens are not taking the new laws well. I think this cartoon shows a reality many black people faced. The law was changed for them but the people didn't change. There were a lot of symbols pointing towards voting. I think allowing black men to vote made the US citizens (not all but many) very angry especially the confederates. And I think this cartoon is meant to show their outrage and start a movement. This cartoon is very interesting and is a reality check. Showing the viewers the discrimination that black people had to endure.

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#4 the Modern Samson
by [Vince Shumway](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 8:24 PM

There is a lot going on in this portrait. A lot of different meanings, symbols, and writings. This portrait is based off the Biblical story found in the book Judges of the Old Testament. Samson had broken all the Nazarite vows but one. Once the last rule was broken Samson had broken his covenant with God and lost his strength. That last rule was broke when Delilah tricked Samson and cut his hair in his sleep which rendered Samson powerless against the Philistines who finally defeated him.

I think the main point of this cartoon was to show how the "blacks" (Samson) were tricked by "southern democracy" (Delilah) and lost their "suffrage" or voting power (strength) then finally the Democrats (Philistines) could defeat them and put them in their place. It is an interesting take because it shows how the black population did gain power with the right to vote. They could hold the Democrats off somewhat and they were finally free. It is interesting with the parallels with Israel as who were being oppressed by the Philistines until Samson got the power to ward them off and finally help deliver the Israelites out from under oppression, at least for a time being. Then democracy started to play the blacks. They got tricked and lied to by democracy, and then southern democracy finally got to them. With the "Black Codes" (p 566) they started to oppress the blacks and discriminate against their race. It only got worse from there. Then they burned the Freedmen's Schools (p. 572) then eventually the KKK rose up in 1868 (p.574) and terrorized the southern country side. With the "Mississippi Plan" (p.586) they "persuaded " and intimidated the blacks as well as Republicans to switch parties or to keep them from voting.

Another thing I noticed is the statue who I think is supposed to represent Moses holding the ten commandments. The statue looks like it may be President Andrew Johnson with the scowl he holds on his face. The commandments he is holding says "veto" which would maybe show that Johnsons beliefs or commands were to veto the new bills being passed in congress because he did not support the new laws which made the blacks as free as whites. Another interpretation the veto commandments may represent is a display of how Johnson and many others were stuck in the "old" way of doing things. They still followed the old original "commandments" or ways of life which supported slavery, and oppression of other races.

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Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction #3
by [Daniela Rosales Name](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 9:11 PM

This cartoon is comparing Iago, the villain in Shakespeare's *Othello* to Andrew Johnson and Othello to Black Union soldiers. I find this comparison very interesting because of the nuances between Iago and Othello in the play (I have been studying Shakespeare for a few years now so all of the claims I am making come from previous knowledge of the *Othello* and Shakespeare body of work.) In *Othello*, Iago is Othello's most trusted advisor who ends up betraying Othello. The analogy that I believe the illustrator is making is that African-American's trusted Johnson and believed he would bring change and ultimately are betrayed by Johnson's failure to protect the lives and rights of African-Americans. This can be seen in the contrast between the central image and the one in the lower half of the illustration. In the middle image Johnson (Iago) is comforting the Union soldier (Othello) as if to say that the soldier would have his support; in the illustration at the bottom of the page shows Johnson as a snake charmer luring the snake to wrap around the African-American. He is taking advantage of the African-American man in order to entertain the white men in the image. The dialogue that Nast includes from *Othello* is quite telling. In the play, the line comes after Iago hints at the fact that Othello has been cheated on by his wife. Othello reply's with "Dost thou

mock me?" or "Are you making fun of me?" to which Iago responds with "I mock you not, by heaven / Would you would bear your fortune like a man!" or "I swear i'm not. I wish you would take this news like a man." Within the context of the illustration I think one interpretation could be that the African-American wondered whether Johnson was using African-Americans to further his political career much like Iago was using Desdemona to manipulate Othello.

However, African-Americans aren't the only people who are disappointed and betrayed by Johnson's action the Republican party — his party — was also betrayed by his actions. Interestingly, Iago tends to be viewed as a bigger and more important character and role than Othello — despite the fact that the play is named after the latter — with Iago coming out superior even in number of lines. I think this can be taken as how — despite the fact that reconstruction impacted and was about African-Americans — Johnson had the power. He was making the decisions, he was the voice behind the movement. A defining characteristic of Iago as a character is that his motivations aren't clear within the text. The consensus is that — unlike most other Shakespeare characters — Iago betrays Othello because he is plain evil. Which makes me wonder if this was part of the commentary Nast was trying to make; if he was trying to figure out Johnson's true intentions.

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Reconstruction Cartoon #5
by [Letitia Hadix](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 10:51 PM

I was a little confused when I first looked at this image mostly because there is a lot going on. There are many little images wrapped into this one big message. Obviously this image has something to do with Emancipation, as it clearly has this word drawn across the top similar to a title. This picture can be separated into three main pieces: the circles in the middle (acts like a divider), the left side and the right side. The left side appears to be depicting life for blacks before the proclamation while the right side seems to be life after the proclamation.

The left side represents the past and the struggle for freedom. It shows the brutality of slavery; where families are broken apart and sold like livestock. It even shows people being sold as slaves on an auction block while others are being branded by white men. Soldiers with hounds are hunting blacks trying to escape to freedom; blacks are being beat, flogged and killed. A truly brutal and cruel, yet truthful showing of history. On the left side, things are looking up greatly. There are public schools so blacks may become literate and wages so they are paid for work. It shows cooperation between whites and blacks, in addition to sharecropping. You have a form of lady liberty holding balanced scales to show equality and shared rights. All things the blacks had fought for, they began to win. It did take some time for things to get all straightened out though, because most people were “...poor, illiterate, and landless. (578)” due to the poor economy in the South. Most whites who had previously had slaves, hired these freed peoples back as low-paid workers or made other arrangements. “Former slave owners asked their former slaves to work the land for wages or shares of the crop, and many did so. (567)” This actually strengthened relations between whites and blacks since everyone was just trying to get crops done so they could survive the winter and upcoming months.

President Lincoln appears in this image and holds as an important person for the people of that time. He stands atop the center circle at the emancipation point and appears as a mantle portrait in an improved living space for a freed black family. He had what seems to be a unique viewpoint in regards to the Union and slavery. The Union was foremost and slavery was seen as a means to protecting the Union. Lincoln once responded that, “If I could save the Union without freeing *any* slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing *all* the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that.” (pg 531) Lincoln carefully crafted this response, but appeared to find slavery an “unqualified evil” and [a] “monstrous injustice”(528) in contrast to the previous more ambiguous statement. To me, this picture almost seemed to be portray life before and after slavery due to the efforts of the Emancipation Proclamation, but the proclamation didn’t end slavery in the United States. It was only in response to slaves living in rebellious states and proclaimed, “...slaves therein [are] “forever free”.(531)” It also “...did not immediately liberate slaves in areas under Confederate control...(531-32)” because they **were** still under the Confederacy’s jurisdiction.

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3

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Reconstruction Cartoon #3
by [Letitia Hadix](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 11:49 PM

This image is a depiction of Andrew Johnson’s reconstruction policy and the various changes he made to it and the “promises” he broke. In the beginning, he “blamed the ‘stuck-up aristocrats’ for leading the South into secession” which also led him to make threats such as “Traitors must be impoverished They must not only be punished, but their social power must be destroyed. (564)” Johnson actually issued 2 proclamations initially, but soon had more following them. His reconstruction was skewed, “Johnson’s policy was clear: He would exclude both blacks and upper-class whites from the reconstruction process. (565)” which was clearly not what the Republicans wanted or expected.

This image is actually titled: “Andrew Johnson’s reconstruction and how it works” and the drawing has a couple of mini drawings within. You have a confederate white pointing and discussing something with Jonson on the right and the same men on the left with a role reversal. Jonson is accepting what appears to be a bribe, or could be handing out a pardon. On the right he appears to have been lectured by the confederate and is looking contrite. This shows that he is indeed a confederate in the end, but took bribes from the upper-class white southerners. He also was against [black suffrage](#), instead he was for white southern suffrage. When Frederick Douglass visited Johnson at the White House, Johnson made several rude and racist remarks in private after he left.(565) Johnson’s reconstruction was more geared to white favoritism and blacks suffered from it. Blacks also were forced into an almost slave-like existence which they had just escaped from. Johnson had also talked fiercely about punishing ‘traitors’ but “...after excluding several classes of them from his amnesty proclamation, Johnson began to issue special pardons to many ex-Confederates, restoring to them all property and political rights. (566)” In doing so, he also restored land that had been set aside during the Civil War for blacks to the ex-Confederates who had owned the land. One drawing within the image shows a snake charmer. Similar to how Johnson “charmed” his way in only to deceive the people who let him in.

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