

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

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## Forum 3

### Reconstruction Cartoons

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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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**Re: Reconstruction Cartoons**  
by [Miles Long](#) - Thursday, February 28, 2019, 11:05 PM

In comic number 5, the comic shows a few different scenes with the word "Emancipation" at the top. To me, it appears that the left side of the comic shows what life was like pre-civil war. The bottom left shows slaves being whipped, the middle left shows slaves being auctioned and the top left shows slaves working in a field. The right side of the comic shows blacks after emancipation during reconstruction. The bottom right shows blacks. in line at a market, and the middle right shows blacks going off to public school. The middle frame shows a black family, presumably an average family after emancipation. The top and bottom frames seem rather biblical. The very bottom shows a black man with what looks like an angel with a scripture and the very top where it says "Emancipation" almost looks like a heavenly setting. Christianity was by no means an anti-slavery institution, in fact some masters used religion to justify slavery, so it is interesting that Emancipation would seem like a divine thing. Though perhaps, to former slaves Emancipation could be like heaven compared to what they had to endure in the past. A normal life would be heaven compared to the horrors of slavery.

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**Re: Reconstruction Cartoons**  
by [Alvin Iskender](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 11:01 PM

You make some solid observations. I agree that the cartoon seems to be showing a "before and after" of slavery, showing the horrors and injustices on the left, while showing more benign imagery on the right. While it's true that religion was used to reaffirm the servile status of slaves, many abolitionists were themselves evangelicals, too, considering slavery to be a sin. I'm reminded of John Brown, who is described in the textbook as considering himself "anointed by the Lord to avenge the sins of slaveholders" (page 468). That being said, I can't say I'm too sure what to make of the religious imagery besides further illustrating the author's convictions. I suppose the idea of salvation and having shackles cast off of you is rather Christ-like.



**Re: Reconstruction Cartoons #2**  
by [Emilie Ormsby](#) - Thursday, February 28, 2019, 11:09 PM

In this post, I am analyzing the second Reconstruction Cartoon. Being that this cartoon is dated in the Reconstruction era after the Civil War, I can gather that this picture has something to do with the opposition the the ideas of Reconstruction; specifically the opposition of from the Democratic party during this time. The Democratic party was rather pro-slavery, and during the Reconstruction era, most of the south was siding with the Democratic party and strongly disagreed with the opposing party; the Republicans, who were striving to protect civil rights and suffrage rights for African American citizens. As stated in the text "When a state had adopted a new constitution that granted equal civil and political rights regardless of race and had ratified the Fourteenth Amendment, it would be declared reconstructed, and its newly elected congressmen would be seated." (Murrin pg. 572) This clearly directly opposed the ideas of those identifying with the Democratic party. Accordingly, during this time president Andrew Johnson, the man who assumed presidency after the assassination of President Lincoln who ironically was heavily opposed to Reconstruction, did everything in his power to interrupt it. "Johnson's purpose was to slow the process until 1868 in the hope that northern voters would repudiate Reconstruction in the presidential election of that year, when Johnson planned to run as the Democratic candidate." (Murrin 773) Between the images portrayed in this cartoon and the caption included "We regard the Reconstruction Acts (so called) of Congress as usurpations, and unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void."-The Democratic Party" and "This is a white man's government", one can clearly surmise the presence of Democratic opposition.

Within the cartoon I see three men, two of which I would identify as a stereotypical Irishman and a white southerner. The third man I am not entirely sure what to identify him as. The white southerner (the man in the middle) is holding a knife with the words "The Lost Cause" which by definition of the historian in the "The Lost Cause" video, is a confederate memory consisting of attempts to walk away with a defeat in attempts of some sort of honor instead of disgrace, as well as an argument that the Civil War wasn't about slavery, but instead about constitutional principles. There is no doubt that the Civil War was indeed over the issue of slavery, which further implies that this cartoon consists of Democrats opposing Reconstruction. I also noticed that in the background of the cartoon are two burning buildings and what might be someone that was hanged. This could be correlated to "The Burning of a Freedmen's School" pictured on page 573 of our textbook. "The Burning of a Freedmen's School. Because freedpeople's education symbolized black progress, whites who resented and resisted this progress sometimes attacked and burned freedmen's schools. This dramatic illustration shows a white mob burning a school during anti black riots in Memphis in May 1866." (Murrin 573)

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**Analyzing Cartoon 2**  
by [Alvin Iskender](#) - Thursday, February 28, 2019, 11:55 PM

This cartoon depicts three white men stepping on an African-American man. That man is seen clutching the United States flag, now also trampled. The caption on the bottom refers to the Democratic Platform of 1868, where the Democrats ran against the Republican reconstruction legislation in the presidential bid of that year (textbook p575). The buckle on the man in the middle reads CSA, referring to the Confederate States of America, and his knife is labeled "The Lost Cause", an ideology that claims that the Confederacy's cause was just.

The cartoon is illustrating the various ways in which black men were subjugated in the Reconstructed era. Many white factions, and the Democratic party, tried to stop reconstruction efforts that would grant civil liberties to African-Americans. The cartoon's labeling, as well as the upper caption, show the use of political and financial power as well as propaganda to continue to oppress the black population. The trampling of the American flag displays the author's belief that these actions are against American principles.

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**Re: Analyzing Cartoon 2**  
by [Emilie Ormsby](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 7:27 PM

I analyzed this cartoon and had a similar response as well! This cartoon is definitely a depiction of black people being subjugated during this time, and specifically a representation of the opposition against Reconstruction. Looking at the text on the bottom of the image, it reads "We regard the Reconstruction Acts (so called) of Congress as usurpations, and unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void."-The Democratic Party". Similarly, at the top it reads "This is a white mans country". With the captions and violent/aggressive/hateful imagery, Nast creates a domineering and informative tone of wrongdoing. I didn't catch the CSA belt buckle until I read your post. Good eye! The knife engraved with the words "The Lost Cause" represents the Confederacy attempting to find victory in their defeat. I did, however, notice burning building in the back round of the image. This to me, could have been directly related to the image of "The Burning of a Freedmen's School" pictured on page 573 of our textbook. "The Burning of a Freedmen's School. Because freed people's education symbolized black progress, whites who resented and resisted this progress sometimes attacked and burned freedmen's schools. This dramatic illustration shows a white mob burning a school during anti black riots in Memphis in May 1866." (Murrin 573)

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**Cartoon 4**  
by [Taylor Reid](#) - Friday, March 1, 2019, 5:59 PM

In cartoon 4 there is a lot going on. The African American is laying on the ground with woman holding suffrage above his head. To me this means that the woman is granting him the right to vote. Then on the side of the picture there is a group of men that look very angry. This group of men are the Confederates because you can see a man holding a sword labeled Lee as in General Lee. They do not agree with the man being rewarded suffrage. This related to the time of Reconstruction because that is when African Americans started being free and gaining rights.

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**Re: Cartoon 4**  
by [Taylor Dotson](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 6:53 PM

The image of the women holding the right to vote could represent the women's feelings. They have tried all the way back at Seneca when the women tried to get the right to vote. If they were not allotted the right to vote, then they would help to defend the right of others. By defending the right of others, it would help them to make their case to be allowed to vote as well. I would agree with you about General Lee being among the men in the riot against the Black men having a right to vote. In the bottom left you can see smoldering smoke from what looks like a fire. It looks as if they are burning books and literature which could be a symbol of trying to educate the Blacks. How not only should they not be allowed to vote but also not be allowed to educate themselves.

-Taylor

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**Interpretation of "A White Man's Government"**  
by [Alli Crank](#) - Friday, March 1, 2019, 11:13 PM

The message that Thomas Nast is trying to convey in his political cartoon "This is A White Man's Government", is that African Americans even after the Civil War will still be oppressed even with the abolition of slavery. Judging by his ape-like facial features and the "5 Points" written on his hat, the man on the left must be Irish. Judging by the "NB F" on his hat and the dagger engraved with the phrase "The Lost Cause", the man in the middle is Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was a confederate general and the founder of the Klu Klux Klan. However, I am having a harder time identifying the man on the right, judging by what he is wearing, he must be wealthy and judging by who he's with, he must be a democrat. All of these men are holding hands while stepping on an African American man that is reaching for a ballot box. The conclusion that can be drawn in this cartoon is that these men are in agreement that African Americans should not obtain suffrage.

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**Interpretation of "Emancipation"**  
by [Alli Crank](#) - Friday, March 1, 2019, 11:45 PM

In Thomas Nast's political cartoon "Emancipation", he is trying to convey the life of a African American before and after the Emancipation Proclamation. On the left side African Americans are shown being whipped and sold which portrays their life as a slave. In the middle in of the circle there is an African American family shown gathering under a picture of Lincoln and over a stove labeled "Union". On the right side, African Americans are shown attending public schools and voting which portrays African Americans living a "free" life. The conclusion that can be drawn is that the lives of African Americans will drastically and beneficially change after the "Emancipation Proclamation" is implemented.

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**Cartoon #1**  
by [Katie Lauck](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 2:18 PM

This cartoon labeled “Time Works Wonders” depicts many white men rallied around one seated black man who looks like he may be in a position of power. In the foreground of the drawing, there looks to be a white man dressed as a woman fleeing from the scene as if he is appalled or disgusted by what he is seeing. Knowing that this cartoon was made in the time of reconstruction, I believe this depicts an African American man who has has been emancipated from the civil war ending and finally is in a political position of power (house or senate maybe) among the white men. Although it was finally legal for black men to obtain these positions, there were still very few men in them. “In fact, blacks held only 15 to 20 percent of public offices, even at the height of Reconstruction in the early 1870s. Nowhere except in South Carolina did blacks hold office in numbers anywhere near their proportion of the population;”. (Chapter 17, pg 579) The times of reconstruction were still a very hard time for freed slaves. Just because they had been emancipated, does not mean the discrimination against black people stopped. Andrew Johnson, who became president after Lincoln’s assassination, revealed that even he was on the side of the confederates. “Reportsfrom the South told of neo-Confederate [violence](#) against blacks and their white sympathizers. Johnson seemed to encourage such activities by allowing the organization of white militia units... Johnson began to issue special pardons to many ex-Confederates, restoring to them all property and political rights.” (Chapter 17, pg 566) Reconstruction was also the time when the ku klux klan was formed. The members of this group constantly terrorized and murdered black people, with the goal of stopping them from being able to vote. But because of the first section in the fourteenth amendment, saying “all native-born or naturalized persons, including blacks, as American citizens and prohibited the states from abridging the “privileges and immunities” of citizens, from depriving “any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law,” and from denying to any person “the equal protection of the laws.” (Chap 17, pg 570), the Grant administration was able to arrest and convict around 600 members.

I think Thomas Nast is portraying what the times were like for African Americans in office at this time. Obviously they had many factors ruling against them, but nevertheless they persisted and gained their right to be among the white men. The black men is sitting at a table with the name Senator Reyels carved into the side, with who looks to be Andrew Johnson and three other prominent leaders. There are also spectators sitting in stands watching the men talk. The focal point of this cartoon though is the man running away from the scene. This person might have been a klans member sneaking in to listen to the ordeal that was happening, or perhaps a southerner who could not bear to see the sight of a black man in this position. Either way, the man has a horrible look on his face, really depicting how hated the blacks were during this period following the civil war.

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**Re: Cartoon #1**  
by [Emilie Ormsby](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 6:57 PM

I enjoyed your post and had a similar response to that cartoon as well! I think it was important to include the fact that just because a black man was emancipated and "had" rights does mot mean that discrimination against black people was finally stopped. It contrasts the positive aspect of a black man being in power during the time of Reconstruction, yet still adds to the fact that this was a great victory for African Americans. Much like the topics discussed in the video "[Slavery By Another Name](#)", this cartoon heavily depicts the fear of white men "losing" power to the black man. I absolutely agree that Nast is portraying information on how difficult it was to be in office as a black citizen during the Reconstruction period. I also think Nast puts a big emphasis on the

white man's attitude toward acts of civil rights and equality being carried out. Nast includes an important quote: Iago. (Jeff Davis.) "For that I do suspect the lusty Moor hath leap'd into my seat: the thought whereof doth like a poisonous mineral gnaw my inwards." This is from the Shakespeare play Othello. Featuring a black army general as the main character and protagonist, Othello, and the antagonist, Iago, a jealous deceitful Jewish man, who is full of envy. In this quote, Iago proclaims his hatred and jealousy of Othello and plots to essentially ruin his life to get even. This to me reflected a lot of the white attitudes as well.

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**Re: Cartoon #1**  
by [Emma Mather](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 11:42 PM

Your main response to this cartoon was actually pretty different from mine and you made some really good observations. You seem to be focusing on the black man being rallied behind in the his position of power. The thing that I noticed was the quote from Othello at the bottom of the cartoon; a quote that is very racist I and I believe was a character that was trying to ruin Othello's (the only person of color) life. From what I am gathering you seem to have taken this cartoon as more of a view where African Americans were freed and now are fighting for their right to be in power and I took it as a very racist cartoon that was making a point about the people that hated having African Americans in office which I think is very interesting how we both comprehended the cartoons so differently.

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**Cartoon 5**  
by [Taylor Reid](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 5:21 PM

In Cartoon 5 the artist depicts the before and after life of African American. The left side of the cartoon shows slaves getting beaten and sold. On the right side the African Americans are shown after the reconstruction. They are able to go to school and shop at stores in public, without the supervision of a "master". In the middle there is a picture of a family in a circle. I see that as no matter what is going on with the law people are people and they are just a family like every other white family. The whole picture is then labeled "Emancipation" to show the freeing of slaves and how it affected them.

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**Cartoon 5 response**  
by [Haylee Stevens](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 10:58 PM

I took away the same things you did from this image, especially how the family remained there now matter what and how they were always the same as the other white families. I think that the image also really captures how the war was around this period and is at the top and bottom of the image. To me this really signified how the war had a huge impact on the emancipation of the slaves. I like how you paid attention to detail and brought in the idea of how when they were emancipated, not only did they have the freedom to shop or go to school, but they didn't have the supervision of control of their "master" anymore.

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**Re: Reconstruction Cartoons #5**  
by [Taylor Dotson](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 10:04 PM

The cartoon on Emancipation has such symbolic representation in each part of the picture. At the center you have what looks like a wholesome African American family. They are gathered together at the fire while it looks like the mother is making food or tea. Few slaves had saved up to own a small plot of land. But in most cases slaves had stayed around their former owners and worked for them while few actually left and looked to work somewhere else. In the bottom right you can see men working while a white man approaches on a horse. It could be the white man coming to check on them to make sure they are doing their work. In this time share wages and sharecropping were prevalent. This is where black families worked a specific land and received part of the crop that was produced on that portion of land. Next to the image is pictured black men and women at what looks to be a cashier. In this time not many men had enough money and by going to the cashier it could be seen as an effort to get enough to buy

their own land. Education has been a big implication in the black community after the war. There were segregated schools and more African American schools had been made available for free slaves. Although black men were being free with emancipation, they still did not have all the rights as a white man. They had been excluded from juries and the ballot box as well as not being able to testify in a white court. In the bottom left it pictured black people being tortures and tied up. There were organization created to prevent the blacks from going to the ballots and voting. They used several tactics to scare them out of voting.

-Taylor

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**Re: Reconstruction Cartoons #4**  
by [Taylor Dotson](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 10:05 PM

The modern Samson shows a black man being protected by a woman with Southern Democracy printed on her gown and holding up some kind of plant with suffrage printed on it. On the other side you have a large group of men holding swords and torches. Many people did not believe the blacks should have to right to vote. In fact, the Ku Klux Klan was created to control the black population and had very political opinions. They were out to destroy the Republican Part through any means. They tormented voters at any cost even murdering its leaders. Many of these revolts were led by ex-confederate soldiers. The Fifteenth amendment had given the right to black for them to vote. It was said on ground no state can deny the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

-Taylor

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**Re: Reconstruction Cartoons #4**  
by [Isaiah Smith](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 6:25 PM

Good description and analysis. One thing I should mention is the men that you mention in your paragraph. Those are all democratic powerhouses that we have read about. If you look closely at the swords some of them hold, it has their last names on them. Also, using images from the book, I was able to depict the second one (moving left to right) is Robert E. Lee. This just goes to show, like what you were saying about the protection from the woman, that democratic tyranny was being halted by women suffrage.

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**Reconstruction Cartoons: My interpretation of the image: "Modern Samson."**  
by [Isaiah Smith](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 4:39 PM

I chose this cartoon, "Modern Samson," because it was intriguing to me and a lot of the aspects of the cartoon are easier to understand and comprehend. Let's start with the basic plot of the cartoon. The cartoon appears to ensue some sort of parody of the story of Samson in the Bible, this meaning is also revealed blatantly by the title. Firstly, I want to begin with the main protagonist of the image, being the black male, laying dazed on the ground holding his head. Behind the man, is a woman holding up what appears to be the mans hair, with the word suffrage written on it. She is holding in her left hand, a straight razor in which I'm assuming she used to cut the mans hair. This whole first depiction could mean that women back in those times were fighting for their right to vote (suffrage), which meant having to receive aid from democratic parties, whom weren't a fan of blacks in the first place.

This leads me to my second analysis of the image. The men in the background armed to the teeth with weapons and armor. These men are all democratic leaders, commanders and politicians. Hence why the woman is waving the hair of the black man in the direction of the democrats. These men are wearing armor with the Ku Klux Klan symbols, and banners that scream racism. We can only deduce that the democrats of the time were pro-slavery, pro-racism and anti-black.

Moving directly behind the woman, we see a statue of a man, depicted as "Moses," holding "the Ten Commandments," or in this case a list of things to be vetoed. This man is clearly not Moses, but instead our president at the time Andrew Johnson. I did some digging in the text book and the veto tablet he holds, directly correlates with his same Reconstruction Legislation veto. At the bottom right of the image we see some sort of devil or demon, scoffing at the scene. Also, at the far left we see Bibles burning and globes as well. This could mean that any sort of human value is being burnt away and is pointless.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons: My interpretation of the image: "Modern Samson."

by [Alvin Iskender](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 11:33 PM

Your analysis of the details of the image is pretty thorough. I do have one point of disagreement though. I too noted that "Samson" as referred in the caption of the image refers to the biblical Samson. I don't think the point of the imagery is meant to illustrate women fighting for African-American rights. In the story, Samson's hair gives him strength; when that hair is cut by Delilah, he loses that strength. Thus I think the woman is simply meant to be an analogue to Delilah in the story (the labeling of the woman makes it more specific, highlighting the various tactics used in southern democracies to prevent blacks from voting, such as [violence](#) [book p586]). Cutting hair in this cartoon seems to be representing abridging voting rights (thus the "suffrage" labeling), so the author is saying that by restricting the African-American vote, their power is being stolen.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons "Time Works Wonders"

by [Emilie Ormsby](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 6:42 PM

In this post, I am analyzing the first political cartoon entitled "Time Works Wonders". This cartoon, like many during this period, deals with the social and economic standards of living for african americans. The depiction of the upset white man and the black man appearing to be in power sparked memory of a sentence from the textbook, specifically page 578 (Murrin): "...most southern whites perceived it (Blacks in Office) as a symbol of conquest and humiliation." As african americans began to exercise more rights and gain positions of power in congress and the like, Democrats and white southerners grew more and more discontent with the way the country was heading. Not to mention at this point, black people in the south could vote and that they made up 80% of the southern Republican voters, and most were ex-slaves as well. African americans in office was an intimidating idea going directly against the southern opinion. This cartoon perfectly represents the reaction of the white man in regards to change and attempts at equality for all americans. As mentioned in the video "[Slavery By Another Name](#)", white southerners were very worried about african americans obtaining rights. They feared they would want revenge and that they would have to share their power.

This cartoon quotes the Shakespeare play "Othello: The Moor of Venice", which features a black army general as the main character and protagonist, Othello. The antagonist, Iago, a sneaky and deceitful Jewish man, who is full of envy. Thomas Nast includes the quote Iago. (Jeff Davis.) "For that I do suspect the lusty Moor hath leap'd into my seat: the thought whereof doth like a poisonous mineral gnaw my inwards." In this quote, Iago proclaims his hatred and jealousy of Othello and plots to essentially ruin his life to get even. This sounds much like the attitudes and views of those fighting to keep african americans subordinate to the white man. Nast portrays Jefferson Davis as Iago and Senator Revels as Othello creating a clear tone of the comic. After researching Senator Hiram Revels, I learned that he was the first african american senator, which naturally caused a major uproar from those opposing equality. I feel that Nast was trying to portray the fragility of the white man not getting their way and how evil and hatefully natured they are when something as crucial as equal human rights is on the line - being that Davis is symbolizing the jealous/evil Iago. This cast a positive light on the african american citizen because Othello is knowingly innocent and fair-minded, which is exactly what the confederates were not able to see or ever agree with.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons "Time Works Wonders"

by [Emma Mather](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 11:47 PM

I really like and completely agree with your parallels of the cartoon to the play Othello. It has been a while since I read the play but I did notice how similar the Jeff Davis and Hiram Revels are to Iago and Othello. I think adding the history and plot analysis to your post was a great way to help your argument.

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This is a White Man's Government

by [Jasmine Gutierrez](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 10:09 PM

In this cartoon, I interpreted it to be three political parties trying to stake claim to what the American government should be. What I take from this is the man in the middle is Andrew Johnson, to the right are Southerners or Radical Republicans, and the man on the left are scalawags. The more liberal man, which can be distinguished by his bat stating 'a vote' which could be referring to giving Blacks suffrage. He is drawn to look like an animal, a heathen. Of course, underfoot is a black man laying on the flag, almost like he's come to these men with the flag to discuss his freedom, but was trampled in the mens dispute.

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**image #2- Fight Our Wars, Stay Out of Our Government**

by [Haylee Stevens](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 10:13 PM

This image displays the "government" standing on top of a black soldier who was fighting in the civil war. The quote at the top of the image says " This is a White Man's Government". The quote at the top of the image shows how even though the government was letting black men fight in their armies and die for it, they still weren't allowed in the government and they weren't allowed to vote. Even when the men were free, white men still found ways to keep the black men from voting. It shows that they think they're superior even though they should be equal.

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**The Modern Samson**

by [Jasmine Gutierrez](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 10:14 PM

This political cartoon is clearly mocking the whole institution the liberals were advocating for. Every part of the cartoon is meant to antagonize the new viewpoint in America. The woman, who is supposed to be Delilah, is cutting suffrage from a Black mans head. The protesters are holding flags that say 'Slavery: the lost cause regained.'" The base piece behind the woman has 'Democratic Barbecue' on it. The cartoon is meant to show how ridiculous suffrage for a black man was and how little the southerners see these new beliefs. They mock the new adjustments to society through though political cartoon.

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**Image #5- Before and After Emancipation**

by [Haylee Stevens](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 10:48 PM

This image portrays different moments in the life as a slave during the era of the civil war and during the time of reconstruction. At the top and bottom of the image it shows the civil war portraying how the slaves fought in the civil war. On the left side of the image it shows the life of a slave before emancipation and how harsh it was. In the bottom corner it shows a woman being beaten by her owner and above it, a man being hung in front of people. On the right side of the image, it shows the life of slaves after emancipation and how things as simple as buying something or attending a public school were now something the slaves could do. In the middle of the image though, is a family. This to me is the constant in the picture, and the thing that never changes. It shows how even through all the times that were bad, and good, their family remained.

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**Time Works Wonders**

by [Emma Mather](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 11:04 PM

This cartoon I think is trying to promote the idea that the idea of an African American in politics is “like a poisonous mineral” that “gnaws my inwards”. The quote is taken from the play Othello which has some very racist moments. I think that using a well known Shakespeare play could have made the cartoon more relatable or easier to understand for the time. One thing I noticed is by the desk on the ground are a couple books. I don’t know what they say but I think that this could represent some of the illiteracy that we learned about this week and how there were quite a few African Americans who were in local offices that were illiterate. I think that the artist of this cartoon could be making a point about how not only should the viewers of this cartoon be disgusted with the idea that there is a black person in office taking the job of a white person but also making the people as a whole look unfit to be in positions of power.

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