

HST 202: History of the United States W14 (Escobar Meta 31101 31100)

Home ► My courses ► Winter 2014 ► HST 202 W14 (Escobar Meta 31101 31100) ► February 24 - March 2 ► Forum 3 ► Reconstruction Cartoons



Forum 3

Display replies in nested form

[< Previous \(Legacy of Reconstruction\)](#)

[\(Reconstruction Cartoons\) Next >](#)



Reconstruction Cartoons

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, February 22, 2014, 12:51 PM

This forum thread is for Reconstruction Cartoons posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the questions in your posts.

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. Do NOT simply leave it
RE: Reconstruction Cartoons

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Cartoon 4: A dilemma

by Rae Gardner - Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 12:07 AM

I look at this cartoon and I see the dilemma of deciding what was the right action to take after the war. Do they award the White man who fought against the Union their political rights and yet deny the black who fought for the Union their rights? In 4a. the caption states: "Pardon, shall I trust these men" depicting Lady liberty sitting above groveling white men looking for a pardon and in 4b: "Franchise, and not this man?" depicting Lady Liberty standing next to a single black man in uniform with a missing leg, one hand on his shoulder.

The message to me is more of a question. "What do we do?" No one is drawn in a mocking fashion. Even the black soldier is drawn with appropriate proportions. The detail and seriousness of the drawings come out as a sobering view of the issue at hand to be taken serious.

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cartoon 4

by Courtney Reeser - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 1:35 PM

This looks like lady liberty is showing everyone how this black man went to war for the people lost his leg in battle and still does not have the right to vote. This man is free but not really. Looks like the cartoon before that one lady liberty is annoyed that these white man have the white to vote but not the black man who also fought for the union. Seems like a lot of mixed emotions

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Re: cartoon 4

by Karlie Edwards - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 10:05 PM

This is exactly right, in the first cartoon Lady Liberty looks sad and almost ashamed that the white man is being acknowledged and has more privileges than the black man who gave his leg fighting for everyone, he didn't just fight for blacks but also whites, so why should he be deprived of something that he fought for, exactly like the white man. This cartoon would appeal to the minority fighting for equality and rights for blacks. It is a powerful message and a call to action.

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Cartoon #2

by Bryan Sanders - Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 1:30 AM

I was looking at this cartoon and noticed several things. First the people in the cartoon. One was an Irishman, who bears a resemblance to some Irishmen we saw earlier in the term. He's holding a bat with the words 'A Vote.' Next we see a Confederate soldier, wearing a belt with CSA on it and the words 'The Lost Cause' on the knife he is wielding. The third appears to be a Democrat politician. He's carrying a pocketbook that says 'capital' and 'votes.' At their feet is an African American man with the American flag next to him. The header at the bottom says it's the Democratic platform and specifically quotes it. This cartoon is essentially describing the Democratic platform and the effects it would have. It benefits rebels, Irish Catholics, and political Democrats at the expense of African Americans. More important is their trampling of the flag, indicating the unpatriotic nature of the Democratic Party.

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Reconstruction Problems

by Kevin Wright - Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 2:25 AM

The problems the United States is going to have because of the Civil War are going to be huge. Foner talks about the many things we tried to fix with ending slavery but not really enforcing the laws and amendments thru history. And in one of the videos in class it talked about how very little may have been done about slavery at that time but what has been done has set the gears in motion to finally one day end slavery.

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#4 Pardon vs. Franchise



by Brian Breedlove - Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 10:02 AM

The two cartoons involving Lady Liberty and two major post Civil War decisions that demanded attention, spoke strongly to at least one side of the still divided nation. In the North, although the executive power had been transferred to a Southern Democrat due to Lincoln's assassination, there was still a small feeling of hope and calm. Andrew Johnson had denounced Southern planters as "stuck-up aristocrats" and "was the only senator from a seceding state who refused to support the Confederacy." (Murrin 580) Then on May 29, 1865 everything changed when Johnson issued blanket amnesty to a majority of the high-ranking Confederate officials. This is what the first illustration speaks to...

Lady Liberty looks almost bored in dealing with the pleading Southerners, most notably General Lee. These are very nicely dressed individuals possibly portraying the rich and once powerful government officials and plantation owners. Their hands are clinched and some have fallen to their knees looking for a pardon. Many, at the time this cartoon was created (Aug. 5, 1865), had already been pardoned by President Johnson and had returned to their homes...whether Lady Liberty liked it or not.

The other image to me seemed much more self-explanatory. Franchise, to many, was the next logical step for the freed African Americans who had fought so bravely for the Union and suffered so harshly at the hands of the Confederates. The right to vote was, especially at this time, a cornerstone of what the word "Freedom" meant. Lady Liberty is much more involved in this illustration (showing the Northern influence on these cartoons) standing and almost presenting this honorable wounded soldier. He stands on the rug of liberty, ready to follow it to the American dream. How could we ever pardon these "Evil Southerners" and not grant those individuals who fought and bled for our cause the right to vote!? Seems a little over the top indeed, but I believe this is the feeling that is trying to be presented by the artist and I find it awfully effective.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Cartoon #2



by Austin McQuaw - Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 11:13 AM

Cartoon #2 was interesting to me. Illustrated is an Irishman wielding the power of "a vote" against black men. There is a confederate man with the blade of what was the idea of the "lost cause". To round out the three portrayed as villains in this cartoon is a Democratic politician using "capital" to produce fraudulent "votes". Clearly, the black man is the prey of these three individuals in the cartoon. The cartoon is fairly straight forward as everything is

captioned. The cartoon portrays crookedness among the three standing upon the black man. I thought it was interesting that while possibly being somewhat in opposition to racism, the illustrator was willing to depict the Irishman in an offensive way.

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Cartoon 4-

by Amanda Daniels - Thursday, February 27, 2014, 2:55 AM

As I look at these cartoons the one that stands out for me is the last one 4a & 4b

I think it is showing the attitude of I am assuming that is supposed to be Lady Liberty representing the North and showing the confederates begging for forgiveness or a pardon from I don't really know if it's the North she is representing the Northerners but if she is I think maybe the second picture is a little misleading in the attitude of the North after the war. From what it seems to me, the majority weren't really that accepting of the blacks or freedmen they really just didn't want slavery attached to the United States anymore but they didn't necessarily want them living within their society either sharing the same freedoms as other white men. It must have been an extremely hard time for blacks living in this time period.

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Re: Cartoon 4-

by Karlie Edwards - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 7:35 PM

I agree that the second picture is misleading, there was a small minority who wanted blacks to actually have the same rights as them and be able to hold the same jobs in society, most people after the war were on board with ending slavery, but wouldn't go as far to fight for their equality, which is very heart breaking. Although I admire the few who did stand up because they played a part in where we stand today.

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Reconstruction Cartoons

by kazu Inaba - Friday, February 28, 2014, 1:44 PM

Cartoon number 2 is the most powerful for me because I can see that the democratic party were trying to remove blacks from government, and the black guy is holding a American flag because of they got free. Also, I feel that black people were probably harder to live than before the civil war even though they got citizenship and opportunity of voting because they had had a house, and been provided foods when they were slave. I totally can see these backgrounds from the cartoon.

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cartoon 2

by Courtney Reeser - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 1:19 PM

I also agree that cartoon 2 was very powerful. You can see the three white men on top of the freedman basically stomping away his freedom. With the quotes this is a white mans government above displays how much these men don't want these African people to have their freedom. Especially since the reconstruction blacks were treated worse free than they were as slaves

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by Maisie Smith - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 8:58 PM

I agree that this cartoon is very powerful, but when I look at it I see a southern confederate, a northern man, and an irish man. These men are obviously white, but before and somewhat during the reconstruction era, these three "races" did not get along in the slightest, hence the Civil War, but during the reconstruction era they all bonded over the mutual dissatisfaction that blacks are now considered free. However, when I look at it closer I see that this cartoon is regarding the right of black men to vote. This makes more sense because even most northerners were against giving blacks the right to vote, so the black man is holding the flag to show that he is free and with that freedom comes the right to vote in presidential elections.

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Cartoon 1: Iago of Reconstruction era

by Linh Tran - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 3:23 PM

Cartoon 1 shows the image of Jefferson Davis when he was replaced by Hiram Rhodes Revels – a black politician as the new senate from Mississippi. Clearly, the cartoon has negative view on Jefferson Davis. Most people interpret his outfit in this cartoon is woman's clothes as the rumor of that he was captured in a women's dress. But more accurately, Thomas Nast dressed him up as Iago from Shakespeare's Othello. The Shakespeare's quote at the bottom of the cartoon: "For that I do suspect the lusty Moor Hath leaped into my seat: The thought whereof Doth, like a poisonous mineral, gnaw my inwards" describes the bitterness of the leader of Confederacy fighting for maintaining slavery as being kicked out of office, being captured, and now being replaced by a former slave. The choice to deliver the image of Davis as Iago also reflects the position of the cartoonist when illustrating Jefferson Davis as one of Shakespeare's most sinister villains.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 1: Iago of Reconstruction era



by Courtney Reeser - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 6:42 PM

I agree that this one has a very Shakespearean feel to it. Iago is one of Shakespeare's biggest villains so if this is what they were trying to portray Jefferson Davis as it makes sense seeing he is kind of glaring at the table in the background of the black man sitting at what looks like a senator's desk. I mean being replaced is one thing but being replaced by a black man was way harder for Davis to handle

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 1: Iago of Reconstruction era



by Brian Breedlove - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 7:12 PM

I also like the Shakespearean reference as it certainly fits the bill, but I also see Jackson's dismay as going farther than just being displeased about being replaced. The way the room is fixated over Revels gives almost a Heroes feel to the illustration. There are even individuals in the gallery with binoculars, peering down to witness the historical significance. The gentleman leaning on Revel's desk gives the feeling of... "What is he going to do next?" I assume Jackson can envision the changing of the guard that is taking place.

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Re: Cartoon 1: Iago of Reconstruction era



by Maisie Smith - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 9:05 PM

Your perspective on this cartoon stood out to me because when I looked at this cartoon, I, like most of our classmates, saw Jefferson Davis as being dressed in women's clothing as those were the rumors created during this era. I never considered that it could be that he is dressed up as a villain, but that would make perfect sense. I also get the sense of shame from this cartoon. Shame because Davis was replaced by not only a new senator, but a black one at that. With all the people above in the balcony watching, he was probably mortified, hence the look of hatred on his face.

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Cartoon 2: The Anti-reconstruction Democrats.



by Linh Tran - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 4:39 PM

Cartoon 2 delivers a negative view of Democratic Party as "the party of white men" and anti-black, which suppresses the rights and threatens the safety of black Americans (opposition to Reconstruction legislation). The ape-looking man on the left can be assumed as an Irish-American as the alcohol bottle in his pocket and the word "5 Points" on his hat referring to the Irish immigrants' neighborhood in New York City. The one in the middle is in a Confederate uniform with a lash in his back pocket – symbolizing slavery. He is holding a

knife with "The Lost Cause" on it and is ready to plunge it into the black man. The last one on the right has an apparel of an upper-class. He is holding a stack of paper, in this case can be assumed as a packet of money to buy votes. The three white men are stepping on a black man who is in a Union uniform and holding an American flag as he earned his freedom and rights to vote by enlisting and fighting for the Union. The purpose of that Nast portraits the Democrats trampling the American flag and the black man is to imply that they are attacking the American principles of nation as a whole, not only minority. That this cartoon appeared at the time of the new election campaigns has its own significant impact to the era.

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Cartoon #3

by Tamara Gould - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 5:17 PM

There is so much detail in this Thomas Nash cartoon; I was a bit blown away. Beginning at the top, with the headline of "Radical Riots," shows white men, beating, stabbing, and shooting freedmen. The background of the riot depiction to the left shows a burning sign that says Lincoln Chapel and just behind it a school that is also aflame. The riots to the left seem to be labeled as Memphis, and to the right, New-Orleans. The box in the top middle, says "Southern Rights...What they were," and shows the auctioning of slaves; with one black man being whipped and another bound.

The rest of the cartoon seems to be focused on Andrew Johnson. Titled, "Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction...And How It Works," showing President Johnson dressed in a costume that looks very dated Shakespearean clothing while standing with a black Union soldier. To the left there seems to be an endless stream of pardons with a sign stating "Pardon to the Rebels;" and to the left a stream of vetoes. The Bills that are legible say, "Freemen's Bill" and "Civil Rights Bill" with a sign that says "Vetoes to Union Men." Beneath is a line from Shakespeare's play "Othello," which leaves me believing that Johnson is dressed as the character Iago, who is deceptive and manipulative. There is also another reference to Othello in the bottom left corner, I can't make out what it says exactly but begins with a line from Iago, "The Moor is of a free and open nature..." Parallel to this, is what looks like a letter from Andrew Johnson. Above both texts are drawings. I am not certain what exactly is transpiring in these pictures, but what it looks like to me is a Confederate soldier is handing over his weapon to a Union Officer. The drawing on the right is dated 1866, and it now looks as though it is a reverse situation, possibly like the former Confederate Officer is giving orders to the Union Officer. I feel I am way off in this but this is my best guess. The flags in the background are of a U.S. flag on the left and a

shredded C.S.A flag on the right.

In the bottom center is another drawing of Johnson, this time he is a snake charmer. The snake is strangling a black man that is undressed. On the back wall there is sign that says "Vetoed and Pardons," there is more but I can't read it; also the words on the snake and the flute are illegible.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #3

by Maisie Smith - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 9:27 PM

When I first looked at this cartoon, I was overwhelmed. However, you deciphered this picture very well. The section of this cartoon that stood out to me more than others was the snake charming going on in the bottom center picture. This was the first time I had ever seen a cartoon like the snake charming one, and I guess I was surprised because it is much different to the typical drawings. It's an interesting take on what had happened to people who were pardoned. While I doubt that they were attacked by snakes being charmed, they were abused and in many cases killed by means of being shot, hung, or any other means that were deemed acceptable in this era of reconstruction.

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cartoon #2

by Kevin Wright - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 8:18 PM

This cartoon has an Irish man, a Southern General, and a politician standing on a black man. It is playing on the fact that nothing has actually changed for the slaves. The Irish man has a club in his hand with the words "A vote" written on the side. The Caption on the bottom says that the Confederate States of America doesn't think that the Reconstruction act from congress is constitutional. The black man is lying on a Union flag. The Black Man looks like a Union Soldier who is being oppressed by the white southerners. The southern states didn't like that they were being forced to treat the blacks as equals they passed laws that still oppressed the newly freed slaves.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #2

by Kevin Wright - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 8:37 PM

The laws the south passed prohibited blacks from voting, excluded from juries, and making it so that they could only pick cotton. The so called freedom and equality was just a white vale over what was really going on and that was the continuing practice of slavery without

calling it slavery by proxy of the law. Blacks could be jailed and fined for not having a job and since they didn't have any money they couldn't pay the fines. The blacks were forced to enter into a work contract to work on farms and pick cotton until the fine was paid off.

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Military Occupation



by Kevin Wright - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 8:49 PM

I thought it was interesting that the South was occupied by military force. The terrible aftermath of war has devastated the South and the North comes in to help rebuild the industry and reform the social order. Isn't this what every country does when they destroy another country. They rebuild it and place their own set of laws and force people to live by their rules.

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Re: A Proud Lady Liberty



by Amanda Daniels - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 11:40 PM

I felt the last two cartoon 4a and 4b were possibly created by that small minority of people who wanted to not just end slavery but who believed in equal rights for everyone. In 4a you see Lady Liberty sort of bored and almost disgusted, rolling her eyes even as the men of the South beg her for a pardon after the war. Then in 4b you see her smiling and seeming proud as she escorts this black soldier after he has returned from the war, which resulted in the loss of his leg. She seems to be presenting him to possibly to the men of the South from the previous picture or maybe just the world in general, showing her approval and acceptance of him, which we have learned was not the case with most folks. I feel she is honoring him by placing her hand upon his shoulder and stating that he is just as deserving of the same rights of any other white man who fought for his country during this war.

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