

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

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Reconstruction Cartoons

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, February 22, 2014, 12:50 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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...as the south burns

by Agina Hale - Saturday, February 22, 2014, 3:27 PM

#3

I found this image to be the most striking. It brings a very visceral level of emotion to the surface of this problem. It doesn't surprise me that this was published in the Harper's Weekly. I saw this as The North, South and even Catholics have rights above the black man. Jefferson Davis holds the knife of "the lost cause" because he became the poster boy for the failed union succession. Johnson is seen holding the congressional votes over the head of the black man, and he also has the capital (presidency). All three of them are O.K, while the South burns behind them, and the black man is under their feet.

The image as a whole puts a picture to how a lot of us view the civil war being characterized as the emancipation of african-americans. They were pawns in a bigger game, and their "interest" wasn't really ever a part of the war. Especially since they were contraband, and freed from work force from the south, to be used as a work force in the

north in certain situations or marginalized in general. The african-american in this image is tightly holding onto the flag, which doesn't appear to be a concern for anyone but him. Not sure if i'm reading too much into this, but my modern view sees that he is the only one who thinks that the flag has any meaning. Perhaps because the idea of a democratic ideal is something he is longing for. What is he reaching for? A square hourglass?

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Forgiveness Cartoon #4

by Connor McCabe - Monday, February 24, 2014, 9:24 AM

I personally found the content of this two page cartoon very telling of the equal rights views of the period. The message appears to me that we, at the time of the Civil War, would sooner admit back and forgive the men that were shooting at and killing our fathers and brothers than honor the sacrifices made by a black man. The black man despite being segregated, despite being shamed, and despite the discrimination shown to him, fought for his country and made the sacrifices any other patriotic man would have done for the Union.

The first picture shows General Lee on one knee and the rest of the Confederates begging for forgiveness and trust from Lady Liberty. The Second has Lady Liberty showing the sacrifice made by a black soldier from the Union. The Southern Confederates were readmitted and given trust when they joined back with the Union but the African American men that fought for the Union were never fully trusted or given the respect they deserved from the general public.

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Cartoon 4

by Brian Davis - Monday, February 24, 2014, 5:14 PM

This cartoon depicts the white confederates asking for a pardon from lady liberty for their treason. Then it goes on to show a black man who fought for the Union and sacrificed obviously his leg and probably more for it who is asking to be franchised. The cartoonist does a good job of illustrating the extent to which Lady Liberty is questioning deeply her decision to pardon these white confederates and not give black Union soldiers the right to vote. It shows quite well how unfair it is to trust one group of people who have proven to be at one point fought against the Union possibly killing people for their cause and not trust a man who fought for the Union in defense of civil liberties but just happens to be black. It reminds me of how this war wasn't fought to end racism and bring equality, to me it was all about a free labor society.

This brings to light some of the deep questions and struggles politicians faced during the reconstruction process. What do we do with all these blacks now that they are freed? Who can we trust from the confederates? How should we go about electing representatives who won't be closet confederates still pushing their agenda? It was a tough job where there were no precedents to analyze in order to give guidance.

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#4 The Judgement of the Confederacy

by Zachary Embree - Monday, February 24, 2014, 5:49 PM

This cartoon has several different points of interest. It depicts the southern army and government coming before lady justice asking for pardons. In the forefront of the picture I noticed that lady justice has a bored expression on her face, as if she thinks little of this plea for forgiveness. The two men nearest to her chair a politician and General Lee, give both the background and the issue at hand. One man holds a list of Pardons as if asking for her approval, while Lee kneels down his sword beside him in the traditional manner of surrender hilt towards the victor, the other hand grasping the fallen Confederate flag. To me it seems as though they used Lee his sword and the flag as the symbol of complete Confederate defeat. In the background it depicts many of the southerners as begging with clasped hands, which I viewed as unrealistic to actual ex-Confederate thoughts of the time. Finally there is the caption below the picture which I think poses one of the bigger problems of reuniting the country, could the south be trusted by the north if pardoned.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Shall I trust these men?

by Melissa Moser - Monday, February 24, 2014, 8:29 PM

While I found all of the political cartoons to be interesting, it was the fourth that really jumped out at me. I felt that Thomas Nast very clearly depicted how the actions of government contrasted the very basis of the American ideology, as words would express. In a nation claiming to be free and just, we were re-granting privileges to traitors before so much as giving the freedmen who had fought for the Union a chance.

In the first panel of the cartoon, we see Columbia looking bored and unimpressed while apologetic Southerners prostrate themselves at her feet, begging forgiveness for their misdeeds. The flags above her as tattered as the country she represents, she seems to look upon the groveling General Lee with disdain. *Shall I trust these men...* she asks, showing her doubt in their trustworthiness and new-found loyalty. Now that the war has ended, the Confederacy has begun to change their viewpoint on it. The "Lost Cause" stance seems almost an attempt to downplay the war and the damage it caused. It would seem, to a modern observer, that maybe they were trying to make their uprising appear more bumptious than, honestly, treasonous.

In the second panel, we now see Columbia standing side-by-side with a black Union soldier, who is missing a leg as a result of war. She finishes her question from the first panel with *...and not this man?* Her body language shows her trying to convince or impress the point upon someone that this man fought bravely for a country of which he isn't even a part, and that he deserves some recognition for that. He stood behind the beliefs of the Union and put his life on the line; now, as a free man, he deserves for the Union to stand behind him and give him a chance at citizenship and suffrage. Nast displays that, while the federal government is speaking in honeyed words, they obviously haven't grown enough to see beyond race and grant the privileges of suffrage and citizenship upon those who

deserve it.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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This is a white mans government

by Erik Long - Monday, February 24, 2014, 10:35 PM

This cartoon I believe is the southerners after the war claimed that the war was not over slavery but rather a constitutional principle, and who was the true inheritors of the founding generations and they said they were. In this cartoon the author is showing some southerners shaking hands like they are friends, and their feet on the back of a black man on the ground who is a Union soldier and they are holding up a knife saying with the words "lost cause".

This is about the southerners saying that the reason for the war was over other things than slavery but really they knew that it had been over slavery, and I think that this is what this cartoon is depicting.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Held down by the white man

by Cameron Holliday - Monday, February 24, 2014, 10:39 PM

#2

This photo caught my interest the most. First off because I saw the 1800's depiction of what looks like an Irish male. I was under the impression that the Irish were thought to be just as inferior as blacks so him standing with white Americans over an African American was a little puzzling to me. Also, the black man is wearing what I could guess is a Union uniform while clutching the American flag. I think that it shows that even when we freed the slaves and. The whites (and Irish) still thought blacks were not deserving of the right to vote and that it was all a lost cause. If you look close you can see that as the white men beat down the black man they have a club and a knife. On the club it says "A Vote" and on the knife it states "The Lost Cause" You would think that after all those years there would have been a little more equality through out the nation but the picture clearly shows otherwise. As the cartoon shows that the white man is once again victorious over the black man and his entire race it shows the harsh realities of those times.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Held down by the white man

by Melissa Moser - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 9:17 PM

I generally agree with your description of this cartoon. I found this one so depressing! I mean, they all are, but this one in particular because it displays not only one well-known bias, but a second as well, and they're depicted in a sort of hierarchy! I felt like showing even an Irishman over the freedman was telling. We already knew that both

groups were largely loathed by their respective halves of the union, but this being a white man's government, the Irish would still "rank higher" on the social ladder. Even more so, in standing over him, the artist is showing that the Irishman still wanted to remain "above" the blacks in regard to labor availability, and would use their votes (Democrat) to keep it that way.

I think the depiction of Jefferson Davis holding out his knife emblazoned with "Lost Cause" was also pertinent. The knife is usually a last resort fighting tool, once all else has run afoul. The Civil War may have been a "Lost Cause", but the former Confederates were going to hold on to every bit of their beliefs that they could, and most of those were either directly keeping the blacks down or were a direct product thereof.

Lastly, Andrew Johnson's presence just goes to fortify the effect of the other two, really, as that's what his presidency did. During his time in office, Johnson was so firmly up the arses of the nation's white democrats that he was willing to put aside prejudices against planters and try to extend the nation's good will to the Irish just so as to keep the freedmen as subjugated as possible.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon 2: This is a White Man's Government



by Blake Allen - Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 2:49 AM

In this cartoon, you see three white men standing over a black man with a burning city in the background. The three men are Andrew Johnson (President), Jefferson Davis (Confederate President), and an Irish man. The Irish man standing over a black man is odd because at the time, Irish folks were considered to be in the same class as blacks. Not only is he standing over him, but holding a club saying "a vote," as if taunting him that although he is lowly thought of, he still has more rights than the black man. Jefferson Davis standing over him is no surprise considering his views and position within the South. He is wielding a sword with "the lost cause" on it, referencing the long odds the South perceived they had in the war. Andrew Johnson, the last man standing over him and the POTUS at the time, is represented in this picture because of his continued opposition towards the african-american race receiving rights. This cartoon demonstrated that although the north won the war and Abraham Lincoln preached equal rights for blacks, accomplishing that would not be easy with the old ways of thinking still alive and well.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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#2 The Physical Appearance



by Scarlett White - Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 9:11 AM

In this cartoon, there are three white men standing over a black man each with one foot on the mans back. Their right arms are piled together with their left hands in the air, each holding a different symbol. The man to the far left is an Irish man, who is physically portrayed the same as the cartoon in the previous forum. His clothes are ripped and he is holding a weapon that could be seen as "barbaric" but it says vote. This shows that the Irish man is higher than the black man simply because of the color of his skin. As for the other white men, they are dressed in clean cut clothes and have their mouth closed, a more

seriously expression than the Irish man. It is interesting to see that although the black man is below the Irish man, his clothes are not seen as ripped or dirty.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: #2 The Physical Appearance



by Jonathon Shimmon - Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 3:41 PM

You bring up a good point in my opinion about the black males clothes not being ripped, and the Irish man having ripped clothes. I guess it could suggest that the white Americans thought the Irish man was still inferior to them, but not quite as bad as the black male. The fact that he looks like an ape could be showing that they treat him better because he is a pet to them, and will do what they want him to do, whereas they feel like the blacks would rebel. It also looks like the Irish man's hat says "5 points" further claiming that the white men treat him like their pet and the points could be signifying something like when you give a pet a treat. But they obviously still give him praise over the black man.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: #2 The Physical Appearance



by Blake Allen - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 10:35 PM

I didn't notice the clothing when I was looking at the cartoon, that does raise an interesting question. It's a little curious that the Irish man has more tattered clothing. It could be related to the fact that black man fought in the war and it is emphasizing the fact that he fought for essentially nothing.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Cartoon #2 and its reoccurring themes



by Dylan Ornas - Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 9:56 AM

Cartoon number 2 caught my eye immediately. What drew me right away was the caricature of the Irish man. We have seen this same style before in previous cartoons. However in the previous one, we had the poor northern Irish sitting on a scale with poor southern blacks. There is somewhat of a schism formed between the two in this. In cartoon 2 we see, what I assume is, a stab (no pun intended) at the fact that shortly following the war, it seemed that the slavery issue that so well provided a cover and moral reason to continue the bloody conflict was tossed aside. We see poor Irish joining hands with a confederate and a northern politician. All standing on a black man in Union Military dress. Basically I believe this is saying that the issue of oppression of African Americans was almost nearly discounted following the end of the war.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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4th Cartoon, to trust or not to trust



by Jonathon Shimmon - Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 11:28 AM

It was this cartoon in which I felt as though I got the most out of when I looked at it. There were many details that went into it, in the background, like the American flags that were sagging and looking very run down, as the country was. As well as ones that were starring you in the face, like the black man who was missing the leg in part B. Part A clearly shows white confederates begging for approval by a lady that represents liberty. As the war had just ended, and it was obvious the confederates had been defeated, they now needed to gain the trust back from the union that they once had. They had been bloodied up enough already and could go no longer. However, the lady doesn't look like she is too fond of their pleas. The bottom has writing; "Shall I trust these men," men who were clearly fighting against the people they are begging to be a part of now. She has reasons to look down upon these men, and in particular general Lee.

In part B it shows a black male who apparently lost his leg fighting in the war for the union, and looking patriotic as ever, standing tall and confident, even with the one leg. On the bottom here it reads "and not this man?" clearly implying the question of why should we trust prior confederate soldiers and not a whole hearted loyal union soldier, just because he is of different color. The liberty lady does not look displeased with him at all, in fact I see her as looking like she is in awe that people would rather have free confederate troops with more rights (like the right to vote) then black ones. If that were the case, isn't that giving potential for these men slowly rise to power and try to succeed over time again?

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#4a and 4b



by Joseph Foley - Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 1:25 AM

This was a great cartoon to observe, and especially since Professor Escobar was just covering the history of pardons during Reconstruction. The ten percent plan (Lincoln) was initially used as a guide, and Andrew Johnson appeared to oppose even the idea of the wealthy southern farmer. As time went on, he pardoned more and more planters. We learned in class that he wanted relations with whites to be repaired, but he thought blacks should be back in their place as a subordinate. He thought the white planters could assist in this process if they were given their lands back.

The first page of the cartoon shows Columbia (lady liberty) sitting over Robert E. Lee and other southern leaders who seem to be begging for forgiveness (on their knees) and a pleasant landing after the Civil War. Lady Liberty looks to be puzzled and contemplating their request. The cartoon is titled *Pardon, and it says,* "Columbia-Shall I trust these men..."

On the second page you see Columbia standing next to an African American Union Soldier who appears to have sacrificed his right leg in the Civil War. Columbia seems to be compassionately gesturing towards the soldier, using him as an example. This side of the cartoon is titled *Franchise, and it says,* "and not this man?"

Lady liberty seems to be asking how we can pardon the southern leaders who seceded from the union and killed our fathers, brothers, and husbands, and not offer the basic rights

of a citizen to the African Americans who fought and sacrificed everything for the Union? As we learned in class, many of the wealthy southerners were fully pardoned. In fact, Johnson was giving so many pardons that he had a hard time keeping up with the paperwork. Sadly, it sounds like he was in part partial to giving the southerners lands back so that they could help subdue and control newly freed slaves. The illustrator of this cartoon could obviously see the sad irony in these digressions during Reconstruction.

The illustrator is artistically gifted. They are making strong points with the gestures utilized on both cartoons, but the characters used on are not exaggerated, more so life-like. There is a realness used with all parties. It also asks a big question that America struggled with for decades in regard to the place in society of the white southerners and African Americans.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: #4a and 4b

by Zachary Embree - Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 9:26 PM

You really captured what I saw from these cartoons, lady liberty asking how the nation can trust and forgive the actual rebels faster than black Union soldiers. The policies that where in place at the time has to be one of the most ill thought out and prejudiced government operations I have ever studied. The idea that a return to almost a exact replica of slavery was necessary to control and get the black population to work had to have been the response of a pro slavery mindset befitting a plantation owner. What galls me the most however is that on top of that President Johnson began pardoning the very people who started the war in the first place at the same time. This was spitting on the sacrifices of the Union army in the name of discrimination, and a sad irony indeed. Ultimately I definitely agree that this comic was effective at getting the disparity of the Reconstruction process across.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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3 The Big Picture

by Robert Johnson - Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 3:23 PM

There's a lot going on in this cartoon it seems like to me, various scenes, pictures and backgrounds all in one spot. To me all of these images in this cartoon are used together by the artist to expose the big picture here, which to me is about Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction.

Although I cant read most of the bottom portion or a few other spots, because its a little blurry, some of what I can read in this cartoon can be found in our history book.

Near the top, under Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction it says " Treason is a crime and must be made odious, and traitors must be punished." Those were the words spoken by President Andrew Johnson himself, Page 581. We have learned in class that in contrast to his original position, President Andrew Johnson suddenly had a change of heart about reconstruction, also on pages 582 and 583. We have learned that he in fact was a slave owning, racist democrat, who favored his kind. And to me it seems as though he really just wanted put every thing back the way it was before the civil war.

To me the big picture here is about the difference between what President Andrew Johnson said, and what he actually done.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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#2 : 1868 Election Campaign Message ?

by Robert Johnson - Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 5:02 PM

This cartoon relates to the article, *The Election of 1868* in chapter 17 of our book, pages 591-592.

Its clear to me now, after reading about it in our book, what this cartoon is about. It's pretty much an exact visual to go with this article where, the quote at the bottom of this cartoon, can also be read.

Well dressed white man standing on the right, collecting votes, perhaps either Horatio Seymour or Frank Blair in the book. The white man wearing a confederate uniform standing in the middle, could possibly be Gen. Robert E Lee, or at least a confederate soldier. Irish man standing on the left is advertising for the vote of the mass poor irish population, who were also racist and wanted to keep the black man beneath them. Obviously the black man on the ground with these men's feet on his back, is a black union soldier, beat down and held down by the democratic platform in this time period, Their so called " white mans government ".

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: #2 : 1868 Election Campaign Message ?

by Scarlett White - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 10:52 PM

You bring up an interesting point which could explain why the black man's clothing is not tattered, as I mentioned in my previous post. It could be displaying the "Contrabands" because although the North was fighting for the abolition of slavery, they still believed that the white race was superior. Slaves would become union soldiers and become portrayed as equivalent since they were fighting along side white man even though they are technically being used, defined by General Benjamin Butler, as "contrabands of war." We talked about in class how Northerners did not treat freedman the same as white men, and this cartoon portrays that.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons #4

by Sophia Swanson - Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 7:21 PM

When looking at this picture I first noticed that the top picture with the text that said

"southern rights. What they were." When looking at this collage of pictures as a whole, it struck me that the "Southern Rights. What they were" picture wasn't as chaotic as the other ones portrayed underneath "The Reconstruction". The blacks under "The Reconstruction" were standing up (in the literal sense) and were fighting back. But in the southern rights picture the blacks were tied up and the picture wasn't as chaotic. It seems to me that this entire picture as a whole is portraying how nothing changed after the civil war other than the fact that there were more riots and the south fought back. In one of the pictures in the corner there's a black man in the midst of a battle and he's reaching for who I think may be Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln is shown to be reaching back for the man's hand, appearing like he's trying to save him, all the while in Lincoln's other hand he's pointing a gun at the man. I think that the meaning of this is that they said they were going to free the slaves when really they weren't implementing the laws and were making things worse. At the bottom of the entire picture there's a quote that says, "And how it works". The small picture above this quote is of government officials who are shown snake charming snakes that are coiled around a black man. I interpreted this as the idea that the blacks were still under their control even after they had been "freed".

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Ohhh Miss Liberty..... Cartoon #4a + #4b



by Zachary Ogborn - Thursday, February 27, 2014, 8:14 PM

Honestly, Lady Liberty sold me on this one (not to mention caught my eye). Her appearance at the foot of a pedestal draped with an American Flag and underneath a clear sign of an American Decoration/Crest is one of pity, embarrassment, and disgrace. I come to this conclusion due in fact to the large group of men gathered before her, laying down the CSA flag along with a sword (representing their surrender of the armed conflict and by no other than General Lee himself). I envision the representation of Lady Liberty to reflect the Union and all the forefathers who fought for independence, constitutional rights, and liberty its self. I see this cohort being placed in a position of judgement and regret. The Title located at the bottom of the illustration simply says "Pardon; Columbia - 'Shall I trust these men' " and considering that, along with the vivid imagery of the depiction, I came to my conclusive decipher of this cartoon. What really sold me on this illustration was in fact that it had two parts to it. I can vividly imagine this duo running side by side in a news print of that time.

Part two of the pair suggests to me that the true meaning of Liberty and Courage are being represented and showcased by an African-American Union soldier who, according to Lady Liberty herself, is the true embodiment of a just cause. Considering the simple Title located again at the bottom of the image, Lady Liberty calls into question 'Why not THIS man? This honourable man who as a matter of fact, fought valiantly for his country/union. Should HE not be given fair and just treatment in the very nation he fought to protect?'

This depiction really hits home for me in many ways. Seeing as African American Civil rights were not called into question or even really enforced until the 1960s, just shy of a century later, the reality of African American Suffrage begins to sink in.....

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Cartoon #1

by Joseph Foley - Friday, February 28, 2014, 11:45 PM

Cartoon number one is a political cartoon featuring former Confederate President Jefferson Davis. He appears to be hiding behind a wall, sadly gazing at a political world he once led, which is now includes elected African Americans. Professor Escobar mentioned on Thursday that the African American at the desk in this cartoon was newly elected Senate Member Hiram Revels (Mississippi).

Davis appears to be in a Shakespearean like outfit and covered with a cloak or shall, perhaps a Shakespearean nod to the poetic justice this sketch offers. We also learned that when Davis was caught, his wife had put a shall over him because of the rain, this was of course exaggerated by northerners in their version of the capture. Either way, he looks like a defeated and bleak man in this cartoon, forever trapped by the irony of the situation.

Although certain individuals were punished for their decision to secede, the progressive politics during reconstruction did not last, nor were they given the necessary support. The progress for African Americans was given a brief glimmer of hope when gaining voting rights and fellow African American candidates, but the tide turned quickly. The south transformed back into what some consider to be worse than slavery. Voting became impossible in some areas, lynchings and murders increased, and countless struggled with the hopeless sharecropping life.

Before studying Reconstruction I had not realized how progressive some of the movement was in regard to African American rights following the Civil War. I also had not fully comprehended the extreme turn for the worse African American rights suffered in the South shortly after gaining citizenship. Civil rights don't always progress in a forward motion.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon #3

by Brendan Gibbons - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 8:03 PM

Cartoon #3 caught my eye because of all the different people represented in it. Starting on the left we have what seems to me an Irish catholic. I believe this because of the ape like facial features that were used to represent Irish immigrants, and second because of the cross on his hat. In the middle we have a southerner represented by the "CSA" on his belt buckle and the knife engraved with "The Lost Cause". I find it interesting that the artist

chose to put that slogan on a knife. To me a knife is someones last fighting tool, perhaps this could illustrate how the war was a hopeless cause for the south yet they gave it all they had and fought valiantly. Lastly we have what seems to be a northerner on the far right. I believe this man is a northerner because the clutch he his holding says "capital" and the northerners were the most capitalistic region at that time. The way he is dressed also pushes me to believe he is a northerner.

All three of these men are standing atop a black man who is clutching onto an American Flag. I would also guess that the black man was a union soldier represented by the army type hat laying next to him. I believe that the black man laying on the ground is the piece that brings this cartoon together. To me the main message of this cartoon is the ironic truth that the war seemed to start because of slavery yet at the end the black man is still the loser. The black man was able to say he was an american citizen now, represented by the US flag, but sadly that still didn't mean too much since blacks were still unable to vote at the very end of the war and still faced terrible racial prejudice.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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A Revel in disguise (bad pun I know)



by Dylan Ornas - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 11:38 PM

I am going to take a shot at cartoon number 1. I had seen it when the forum opened but until last class I had no idea what was going on. I believe this to be Jefferson Davis (actually now I know it to be after some research) dressed in his so called "womens clothing". Senator revels carved into the side of the desk depicts Hiram Revels, the first African american Senator. I can not make hide nor tail of the three white people surrounding him, I assume other senators. This cartoon obviously from a northern perspective, combines the humiliation of the cross-dressing rumor surrounding Jefferson Davis and the election of the first African American senator Hiram Revels.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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