

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

Sum of ratings: -

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#Cartoon 1

by Jacob Sanders - Saturday, February 22, 2014, 7:15 PM

I chose to analyze the first image, which portrayed a disheveled and outcast Jefferson Davis. The image shows a cowering Jefferson Davis in the corner, who is being usurped more or less by a black man. The image conveys a sense of disenfranchisement by the south, as their power and importance had been stripped after the war. The placement of the senators around the black man is key, as it portrays them paying very close attention to what the black man is saying. This further emphasizes the feeling of power-loss that the south felt after the war. Not only had they been beaten, but their former slaves (in this image) were now in higher political standing than they were.

I also took note of the onlooking crowd, which elevates the level of embarrassment for the slumped Jefferson Davis. Not only has the South lost their political and military power, but it appears as though they are being ostracized.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: #Cartoon 1



by Michelle Coming - Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 9:49 PM

Not only were they obtaining higher political standing but it was almost as if they were taking their places as we see in the case of Jefferson Davis and Senator Revels. Blacks were just slaves/property under the control of plantations owners with no rights as humans then all of a sudden they hold higher political standing. This must have been a huge blow to the already shattered ego of the South. In this cartoon Jefferson Davis embodies the attitude of the South after the war, resentful, a bit angry, but also submissive (to some extent) to the victorious Union.

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Re: #Cartoon 1



by Danny Lopez - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 11:05 AM

I agree with your take on the cartoon #1, after the civil war change was coming, and Jefferson Davis was overwhelmed with Black men uprising from being slaves to having a vote in the country. Jefferson was embarrassed that he had failed the south, and he had to hide from his failures. This image shows that he was an outcast, and how the attention has shifted towards the black man being a senator.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Cartoon #4b and Liberty



by Kenneth Green - Saturday, February 22, 2014, 9:11 PM

Cartoon #4b appears to be Lady Liberty championing the cause of a wounded black Union Soldier. The Artist used the image of a man with an amputated leg. Since, as we saw in class, the iconic images of the Civil War were amputees, we can assume that the black man in the cartoon lost his leg fighting for the Union. The cartoonist seems to point out that this man deserves Liberty, since he fought and earned it. We see the image of the American flag on the steps of a grand structure with a carpet rolled out. As if the Lady were introducing or "presenting" this former soldier to the cause of Liberty. She is asking us to "consider" this man, and his contribution to the cause of Liberty. The imagery suggestion, "I present you this man." It is his injury that also suggest whites might actually be seeing him, as a man who deserves Liberty, for the first time. It's hard to actually say for sure this is Lady Liberty, but if I'm not mistaken the Statue of Liberty "Lady Liberty" was presented as a gift in the late 19th Century so this would be an appropriate image for the cartoonist to use. At any rate, she is honoring this black soldier.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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At the Side of Liberty

by Kira Iantorno - Sunday, February 23, 2014, 5:33 PM

Franchise and not this man was the image that I have chosen. I see an African American Civil War veteran with one leg standing next to who I assume is lady liberty. They are standing in a building most likely holding politicians making decisions during reconstruction. The building looks marble with flags as decorations. Lady Liberty is displaying the broken man with her hand on his shoulder I believe symbolizing him as a hero and one worthy of franchise or the ability to vote. He had fought for his county and for union, yet he is not given what is seen as his right. With so much anticipation after the civil war, the halt of progress from Johnson must have been infuriating to many newly freed slaves many of who had fought in the war.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: At the Side of Liberty

by Danny Lopez - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 11:14 AM

I agree with your take on the image you have chosen, and I do see the same with this veteran sacrifice himself to help the union fight in the civil war as many of the freed slaves, that a helped the union. This sure symbolizes that was one of many heroes in this war, and now their ability to be part of the union to vote, and not being known as just a slave. These freed slaves that helped in the war didn't just fought to beat the south, but show that they are fighters and part of this country too.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Columbia

by Timothy Wilson-Haley - Monday, February 24, 2014, 11:29 AM

Taking cartoons 4a and 4b together, we see that a question is being asked. 4a shows a confederate soldier and many pro-confederate politicians bowing to Columbia (a precursor to Lady Liberty? I remember a cartoon of Manifest Destiny that featured her), seeming to be apologetic, while she asks "Shall I trust these men?". 4b shows her supporting a wounded African American union soldier who stands alone, and asks "and not this man?". It illustrates a major political argument during reconstruction: why let pro-confederates back into the union so easily without also granting citizenship and voting rights to many of the people who shared in the victory against the traitors?

It seems to me that that together, they rhetorically ask "what good is victory if things stay the same?" I think it's a legitimate perspective. It shows these men over here have proven their loyalty to the Constitution, while these others have proven their disloyalty. Yet, those who have proven their loyalty are being denied any rights, while proven traitors aren't even being punished.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Columbia



by Danny Lopez - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 11:37 AM

I agree with your view on these two images, I also that that these confederate men look like they are begging lady liberty to look at document or some sort to approve. It could make sense with that image you have mention, and how they can be trusted, and its true because these men were fighting against the union, and now wanting join in. They are traitors and traitors can't be trusted. Image 4b, I agree with you too. It does give that this freed slave that helped in the civil war was a hero to sacrifice himself to be considered an equal man like the white men.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon # 4A - Message of the radical Republicans



by Louis Gambee - Monday, February 24, 2014, 3:27 PM

In this cartoon, there seems to be a radical republican message. This group was led by Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner who not only wanted to enfranchise blacks, but also wanted to punish leading confederates as punishment for their treason. Our textbook describes that president Andrew Johnson's amnesty granted special pardons to many ex-Confederates (except the highest officials), which restored their property rights, while excluding blacks from this. In return for accepting this amnesty and pledging their oath of allegiance, they would also be given voting rights as well. Radical Republicans feared that this would lead to a similar system of oppression that was seen with slavery. Eventually, Johnson began to issue special pardons to many ex-Confederates, which gave them all property and political rights. Thousands of prominent ex- Confederate men applied for pardons in the hope of gaining the mercy and good favor of Andrew Johnson.

This event is depicted here with a large group of ex-Confederates looking up to a women on a throne, who is meant to represent lady liberty. Below the cartoon, we see the words, "shall I trust these men," which is meant to symbolize the notion of radical Republicans who believed that it was preposterous to place trust in these treasonous men, after they had recently seceded from the union. The expression of lady liberty symbolizes this lack of trust that was common amongst the radical Republicans. The various facial expressions in the crowd are mostly of anger and discontent with the union, which also reflects the belief that these southerners were not to be trusted. These men are submitting to the will of Johnson in order to be somewhat reimbursed. They are acknowledging that they had lost the war, in the hopes of gaining power and sympathy.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Cartoons 4a and 4b



by Samuel Tapfer - Monday, February 24, 2014, 4:10 PM

In the fourth cartoon it appears to have Lady Liberty sitting in a chair looking down upon a group of white males. These men look up to lady liberty in a sense of that they need to be guided. In the second part of the cartoon it shows Lady Liberty with a wounded African

American soldier. He is standing upright and on the same level as she is. It shows him on crutches, missing a leg that seems to have been lost fighting in the war for the Union. Lady Liberty looks as if she is saddened by the group of white men, while holding up her head on her hand. In the cartoon with the African American man, Lady Liberty looks as if she is presenting the man to a group of people so the he can be recognized for what he gave up in the war. He gave a part of himself in the war, while the white men are looking almost for acceptance. It is shown in these cartoons that she accepts the actions by the African American more so than the actions of the white men.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Image #1

by Joe Hoover - Monday, February 24, 2014, 9:43 PM

In this cartoon it shows a Jefferson Davis who looks ashamed and embarrassed, he is outcasted into the corner covering himself in a blanket. He also looks to envious and disgusted with the black man who has all the attention on him. On the desk that the black man is sitting at it says senator revels who was the first black senator. This picture shows all of the people listening very closely to what Revels, which I'm sure infuriates the Jefferson Davis even more.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Image #1

by Kenneth Green - Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 6:13 PM

This is particularly interesting given the lead up to the Civil War, as Davis became a leading voice for Southern interests. It's also interesting that if one studies Davis it is difficult to conclude the Civil War was not about the issue of Slavery, since it was the debate of expanding Slavery into the new Territories that gave Davis his rise to power in the first place.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Image #1

by Danny Lopez - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 12:52 PM

I agree with you, that Davis was an embarrassment, and didn't take well the changes that were occurring with black men having the right to vote, and now as displayed on the image the attention has shifted to black man becoming part of the senate, and how Davis hated this because he was a failure of the south he thinks he was the cause of this. So he had to dress up like a woman to hide, but then he was captured later on.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons image 1

by Marcus Mcphaul - Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 8:56 AM

This image shows Robert E. Lee looking disgraced at the fact that there is a black man in office, so disgraces he can't even look in his direction so he covers himself with his blanket solidifying him as an outcast. Not only is it making him a outcast but also his old fashioned way of thinking that is still shared by many in the south is now looked at as a bad mind set not just a different one.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Jefferson davis

by Matt Blackshear - Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 12:07 PM

I believe it is showing Jefferson Davis. Due to the fact that his name is mentioned under the cartoon. It also looks as if the black man is sitting in a seat of power, and Jefferson was the President of the Confederacy. He looks ashamed and betrayed seeing as how he has lost his power to the black man.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Jefferson davis

by Michelle Coming - Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 9:37 PM

Jefferson Davis losing power to a black man seems a bit ironic also, since most of his career was in repressing them and keeping them enslaved in the south.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Jefferson davis

by Marcus Mcphaul - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 10:31 AM

You are very correct I misread the cartoon, I now see it with the way the media portrayed him in women's clothing which he was known for surrendering in. It is funny to me that he tried to deny citizenship to a whole race of people and once they received it he receives a little bit of Karma when he is stripped of his.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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#1 Hide from your failures

by Danny Lopez - Thursday, February 27, 2014, 8:52 AM

I selected the first image where the artist is making fun of Jefferson Davis of the confederate. The artist drew him as he was trying to disguise himself in drapes looking like

a women. Jefferson Davis was now a outcasted when the war over, and he was looked as a failure from the south. The the artist shows a black man surrounded by it looks like senators or some sort of government, and signing some sort of document. Making the black man equal to the white, and shows the dominance power of the North (union) , and made the south look weak and destroyed after the war was over.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: #1 Hide from your failures

by Louis Gambee - Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 8:12 PM

I agree with you. Jefferson Davis is not only shown as an outcast, but also looks to be in a state of sadness and disgust. In regards to the black politician, those that surround him look angry and annoyed with this new political system. This reflects the fact that although slavery was overwhelmingly unpopular in the north, racism towards African Americans was very much prevalent, in which most people were against equal rights for blacks.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon 2

by Haden Peterson - Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 8:11 PM

I chose cartoon number 2 because it was the one I somewhat understood the quickest. It appears three white (democratic) men are standing on top of a black man. The man on the left seems to be an irish american due to the monkey like facial features and also he's got an alcohol bottle in his pocket. The middle figure seems to be a former confederate soldier with a whip in his pocket representing his beliefs in slavery. He's holding up a knife that says "The Lost Cause" on it and in the lost cause showing the effort of the confederates in the war. The man on the right I can't recognize. He seems to be holding an envelope of what I'm guessing is vote ballots of something. The black man seems to be a civil war veteran holding an american flag. In the background seems to be burning buildings caused by the riots in New York. This to me symbolizes that even though this man fought in battle, these democrats don't believe he deserves equal rights, including voting rights.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 2

by James Price - Friday, February 28, 2014, 12:28 AM

I agree that this cartoon is showing the Democratic Party as being responsible for keeping freedmen from exorcising their right to vote. The picture of three people, each from different groups from within the Democratic Party, keeping a black union soldier on the ground just out of reach of a ballot box paints the Democrats as a unified force against civil rights.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 2

by Matt Blackshear - Friday, February 28, 2014, 12:42 PM

I believe the man on the right is a northerner/unionist cause it says capital on his folder and with him in the picture you have the North, South, and white immigrants. I think you have the cartoon spot on. It sad how the black soldier is reaching for the ballot box as if its all he wants yet he has all these "opponents" against him. Its just out of arms reach.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 2

by Jacob Sanders - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 5:12 PM

I agree with your assessment of the image. What really struck me about this cartoon was the implication that despite the differences these 3 political groups had in the past, they were capable of uniting under their shared hatred and subjugation of black people. The three white men look somewhat victorious atop the black mans body, while the black man looks helpless reaching for the fish bowl, which was used to cast their votes.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Time Works Wonders: Cartoon #1

by Michelle Coming - Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 9:33 PM

This cartoon depicts a sad disheveled looking Jefferson Davis being cast out of the Senate. At the center of all the attention is Senator Revels, and African American. Jefferson seems to be dressed in different attire than is customary for the time, this could be in reference to the assumption that he dressed in woman's clothing to escape capture, it's hard to tell from the little that I can see. In the cartoon Jefferson seems to be cast out just to be replaced by the kind of people he tried to keep enslaved. His anger and resentment ties in with the quote said by Iago from Othello. With this assumption and further scrutiny I can only assume that the attire is in reference to the Shakspearean play, (the feather in the hat and the puffy sleeves) comparing Davis to the character of Iago. The blanket wrapped around Davis represents the shawl he was captured in.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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A White Mans Government - Cartoon Two

by Matt Hauge - Friday, February 28, 2014, 12:02 AM

This cartoon is strait to the point. It shows three white men, One is an Irishman holding a

club that states "a vote" which is most likely symbolism of the violence towards African Americans in the northern states. It is easy to depict the Irishman because of the racist popular culture in depicting the white minority. He is drawn to look ape like and has a cross on his hat that depicts catholicism. Furthermore, his hat 5-points depicting that he lives in the notorious Irish neighborhood in New York. The second white man is a southern confederate soldier. I am not sure if he is a person of significance. His belt clearly reads CSA which means Confederate States of America. Moreover, he is holding a shiv that reads *The Lost Cause*. As professor Gary Gallagher sums up the lost cause was, "not about slavery, but about constitutional principle. Which side were the true inheritors of the legacy of the founding generation and they said, they were!" Also, to redeem their honor from the devastating defeat they claimed that the war was a losing effort from the start, and they fought to preserve the founding ideas of our country. The last white man who is standing on the Black Union soldier looks to be like some sort of banker or financier from the North. In his hand he holds an envelope filled with money. Together these three white men hold are united against Black male suffrage. It is a horrific irony that many African Americans were not able to vote in the North after the war. The south seemed to be punished by forcing the legislatures to allow black suffrage.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: A White Mans Government - Cartoon Two



by Bart Golden - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 5:43 AM

I think this is a pretty accurate assessment , I would add that the burning of black schools suggests it may be during the race riots in New York City also I think that third white man is Nast's depiction of a unionist, the campaign button on his chest appears to read 5 av cpl but im unable to translate the meaning

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Liberty's Question



by James Price - Friday, February 28, 2014, 10:01 PM

Taken together, cartoons 4a and 4b show the tough position Lady Liberty is put into after the Civil War. In one cartoon she is sitting above a bunch of Confederates. The soldier is laying down his arms and the others are pleading to be let back into the Union while she sits there looking skeptical. The caption at the bottom of the cartoon says "Shall I trust these men[...]" In the other cartoon she is standing next to a black Union soldier as if she is presenting him to someone with a caption that says "and not this man?"

This cartoon probably represents the radical republican point of view in that it shows Lady Liberty questioning the apparent hypocrisy of readmitting and re-enfranchising Confederates while at the same time denying black Union soldiers citizenship and keeping them disenfranchised.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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A look @ cartoon #3

by Bart Golden - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 6:41 AM

#3 is a very busy Cartoon that I believe has yet to be addressed. There is so much here to tackle I'm just going to give it a brief analysis. First off we have Andrew Johnson and Fredrick Douglass center stage, Johnson dressed as Shake spear and Douglass in a union army uniform and behind them is written love thy enemy. On top to the left is a display of the Memphis riots and to the right New Orleans is presented. Between the two riots is a illustration of the south under slavery. All together this seems to tell the story of the black (slave) struggle and journey to freedom.

The bottom tells a different story, one of the session of the south. To the left you see what I believe to be Jefferson Davis and he seems to be swearing in Lee as his Army commander in 1862 and adjacent is Davis being ran out in 1866 by a uniformed man

Bottom center is a room with 4 white politicians dressed as a snake charmer (Johnson?) and the rest in Shakespearean costumes, on the floor is a Blackman being squeezed by snakes, and to the top the words "this is how it works" to me it shows the ciaos the nation experienced during reconstruction.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: A look @ cartoon #3

by Timothy Wilson-Haley - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 10:25 PM

This is a very complicated illustration and we could spend an entire week on this one alone. I don't understand many of the references, as I haven't read Shakespeare's *Othello*. The top pictures seem to juxtapose the riots and violence against African Americans with their condition under slavery. It shows that little had changed, but what had changed was for the worse.

The center images show, among many things, the irony and disloyalty of Johnson's granting of "pardons to rebels" and "vetoes to Union men". Johnson is wearing maybe a Shakespearean costume standing next to a wounded Union soldier. I don't know what the illustration is doing with that, other than the African American Union soldier looks very angry or distrusting while Johnson looks like he's up to something. The writing on the wall behind them is contradictory, maybe to criticize Johnson for being two-faced.

The left and right images on the bottom are even more ambiguous. On the left, I think that is a Union soldier (kind of looks like Benjamin Butler) taking the battle saber of a Confederate soldier in front of the American flag. But this is labeled 1862, so it would

only make sense to me if it was illustrating that the goal in 1862 was Confederate surrender. On the right, there is a ragged and tattered Confederate flag with what looks like a Confederate soldier banishing a Union soldier, which is dated 1866. Taken together, it seems that "Union victory" is being questioned.

There is much more to discuss, and I'm not sure that my interpretation is accurate. But, overall, this illustration is very unfavorable to Johnson and his plans.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: A look @ cartoon #3

by Bart Golden - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 11:28 PM

This Cartoon was the most difficult to interpret by far and you are spot on in saying we could spend a week on it alone. I'm not at all surprised that we saw some different perspectives. It would certainly have been interesting had more people took a shot at it. I thought that the Union soldier looked like Fredrick Douglass and I struggled to come up with any interpretation on the bottom half especially in the middle, anyway it was fun to give it a shot and I appreciate your observations

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Time Works Wonders - Cartoon One

by Matt Hauge - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 7:40 PM

In this cartoon, I had a much more difficult time identifying many of the political figures. Our first culprit is Jefferson Davis, President of The Confederate States of America. Before the war Davis was a senator. The cartoon is also host to Hiram Revels, and Charles Sumner. I do not know who the other politicians are, but I am assuming that they are other prominent Republican leaders of the era. Jefferson Davis, is made out to be Iago from Shakespeare's play *Othello*. Iago is the antagonist of the play whom is both jealous and hates Othello. In the play Iago acts as Othello's friend and is one of his military colleagues. In this cartoon Hiram Revels is supposed to be Othello or "the moor". After the civil war many of the secessionists tried to re-enter their seats that they once held in congress and the senate including, Jefferson Davis the former President of the CSA. Many of the victors were outraged that these "traitors" came back to reclaim their seats and were later banned from this privilege. This is the irony of the cartoon. Jefferson Davis former senator of Mississippi, slave holder, and President of the CSA. He lost his seat to a African American the very people he believed were inferior to him and the whole of the White race. To quote the cartoon or more precisely Othello, "For that I do suspect the lusty Moor hath leapd into my seat: the thought whereof like a poisonous mineral gnaw my inwards."

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon 4



by Matt Blackshear - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 10:38 PM

The lady in the dress represents the North, and the men bowing to her represent the South. Judging by her body language and the look on her face she is not to pleased about the men at her feet. Symbolizing that the north wasn't to enthusiastic about readmitting the south or "traitors" as they now saw them.

In part two, she is showing the wounded black union soldier and finishing the question, "Shall I trust these men and not this man?" I believe this cartoon was written by a radical republican because it bringing to attention that the men on the ground and the black should be equally trusted. Also there is a voting bowl in the background where she stands with the black soldier.

This cartoon was written to have people think about how men are equal and could be equally trusted.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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