



Search forums

Forum 3

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

Move

Add a block

Add...

**Legacy of Reconstruction**

by Joe Escobar - Friday, February 20, 2015, 9:50 PM

This forum thread is for Legacy of Reconstruction posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. For purposes of encouraging discussion, you may decide to separate your responses into SEPARATE 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: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Citizenship in 19th Century**

by Jonathan Emerald - Saturday, February 21, 2015, 5:01 PM

The citizenship in the 19th century was that whites were citizens and blacks were not. The whites didn't see blacks as citizens just people that bought and did their work. Mentioned in the video he says that citizenship the 19th Century is the same has immigration today. He goes on and says that when a woman that is illegal alien has a child that child is considered legal in the US because of the laws in the US(LofC)1. He says shouldn't they be both be illegal because the woman is still illegal(LofC)2. I agree with that statement because the woman was originally an illegal alien. I also agree that citizenship there and now is the same because blacks weren't considered citizens and "illegal aliens" simply says it in the title (he/she aren't aloud in the US , therefore their not citizens).

Legacy of Reconstruction Video -1

Legacy of Reconstruction Video -2

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Passing Laws vs. Enforcing Laws**

by Hannah Donner - Sunday, February 22, 2015, 3:37 PM

In the Reconstruction time period, one of the significant goals that was carried out

was “the enforcement of the equal civil and political rights” for blacks (Textbook pg. 607). To implement this objective the 14th and 15th Amendments were ratified, which enabled blacks to have equal rights including the right to vote. As Eric Foner stated in the podcast “the civil rights movement of the United States did not need a new constitution...they needed the old constitution to be enforced.” He goes on to state that in the course of time it was enforced a century after the Reconstruction period.

During this period of Reconstruction these new amendments were passed but not necessarily enforced. For instance, the Mississippi Plan is an example of the 15th Amendment not being enforced. In the Mississippi state election of 1875, Democrats were the minority party so to ensure that the state would be under Democratic control they decided to frighten black voters away from the polls by using violence. Governor Adelbert Ames requested federal troops to control this terrorization, but because Grant didn't want to lose Ohio to the Democrats he decided against intervention. Due to this lack of intervention, the Mississippi Plan worked and Mississippi became a Democratic majority in 1875. This example demonstrates that although blacks suddenly had more rights in the Reconstruction time period, in many cases they couldn't exercise these newly appropriated rights.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1) 3

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Citizenship prior to the Civil War was defined by race.

by [Candice Oster](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 7:32 PM

I agree with what Eric Foner stated in his podcast, that many people know little, if anything about this period of history, I am one of those people. We always hear about the civil war and the emancipation of slavery; however the understanding of the effects and how the nation had to be reconstructed is not discussed or defined.

We heard Foner remind us that the citizenship was for white people only. Even the free blacks who were born in the United States did not get to be citizens before the Civil War. They had no rights based on their race no matter how many generations had been born on American soil before.

Then came the 14th amendment in 1866 where section 1 defines “all native-born or naturalized persons, including blacks as American citizens” (text book pg. 587) This birthright citizenship plays out in present day that any person born in the United States is a citizen, even if the mother is in America as an illegal alien. Race is not part of the equation as it was prior to the Civil War.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Citizenship prior to the Civil War was defined by race.

by [Thea Van Kessel](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 9:53 PM

I also agree that many people know little of this period of history. I think that most people have a very limited knowledge of what the country went through for the African American population to be completely regarded as equal. I believe most people think of the Civil War and then jump straight into the time period around Martin Luther King and reconstruction is often overlooked. With the end of the Civil War came the end of slavery, however many African American people were treated basically like they were slaves and even though the civil war had ended, there was still a lot of violence. The time period was extremely dangerous for African Americans as well as abolitionists because both had to fear violence from groups like the KKK and other racist whites who would try to intimidate them in order to resist reconstruction. Even if a black man wanted to vote, he would have the KKK, or some other person opposed to black suffrage, armed and threatening him.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

**Re: Citizenship prior to the Civil War was defined by race.***by Nicklas Moyer - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 6:17 PM*

I agree with Foner as well, The Reconstruction period is probably one of the most least understood periods of American History. I know that for me personally, it is probably the era that I had the least amount of knowledge on, and that, in my opinion, is something that should change. Everyone knows that the civil war lead to the slaves gaining their freedom, but a lot of people are unaware of how the events after the civil war deprived the "freedmen" of civil liberties. The failure to implement the amendments passed after the civil war, and the passing of black code laws by the states of the south, are basically the reason why it took over a century for Martin Luther King Jr., and other civil right activist to gain civil rights for African Americans. Its crazy that many people, including myself, were not, or are not aware of this reality of American history.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Reconstruction and birth right citizenship***by Thea Van Kessel - Monday, February 23, 2015, 9:28 PM*

As stated in the video, one of the big issues post civil war was what the status of all the emancipated slaves was going to be. They now had their freedom and slavery is out of the question now, however the United States wasn't about to just jump right into allowing the black population to become citizens. A very important aspect that relates to this today is with natural born citizenship is that if an illegal immigrant comes to the United States and has a child, that child is a citizen but the mother is not. Back then however, natural born citizenship was not a thing so even if a black woman were to have a baby in the United States, that baby would not be a slave of course, but it wouldn't have any of the benefits of citizenship solely based on that child's race.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Progression and Retrogression of Freedoms in America***by Jesse Bowman - Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 12:57 PM*

Eric Foner makes a claim that historically, freedoms in America did not start out perfect nor did it continually to rise in a trend absent of falls. I find myself agreeing with this statement very much so. However, the progress of freedom is very subjective and regional, so I am not making the argument the OVERALL things are not better, rather that historically the trend is not just a straight line of more freedoms being gained regardless of events that have taken place.. There are often trade-offs for liberties and protection between people and their government.

If one reads the Bill of Rights carefully, we can see how it EXTREMELY limits the government and their ability to wage their agenda on the people, yet today is it uncommon for the government to regulate your water? How fast your drive? How much money you make? What your child studies in school? These are absolutely infringements upon our "rights" yet we seem to sacrifice some portion of these rights for the benefits of "protection and luxury".

Foner made a very good point that I might just make the title of my post when he said inferred that our American history has theme "Progression and Retrogression" of some rights will be given up for time period, in order to be fought for another day. (1:03)

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Progression and Retrogression of Freedoms in America***by Hannah Donner - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 7:49 PM*

I also agree with Eric Foner's statement that the Reconstruction Era illustrates that our

"history is a more complicated...story of ups and downs, of progress and retrogression." An example of this is the United States' history of our interracial democracy. During the Reconstruction period the U.S. became the first interracial democracy in the world due to the 15th Amendment being ratified in 1870. This amendment enabled African Americans to have political representation in Congress, but as we learned during a lecture the African American representation in Congress decreased after 1877 and didn't have any members between 1901 and 1929. It wasn't until after the Civil Rights Movement that the numbers of African American representatives started increasing. Reconstruction created a "legal basis for the Civil Rights Revolution when it arose in the 1950s and 60s" (Eric Foner). The most significant point to remember from this time period is that it created the groundwork for equal rights for African Americans today.

Source: www.senate.gov/CRSreports/crs-publish.cfm African Americans of the United States Congress 1870-2012

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The Reconstruction period: the change from racial nationalism to civic nationalism

by [Hannah Donner](#) - Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 3:04 PM

During the Reconstruction period there was a significant change regarding nationalism in America. Prior to the period of Reconstruction, the U.S. had an ethnic nationalism that was focused on race; even if a slave had been born in America and their family had lived in the U.S. for generations they could never be a citizen. According to Eric Foner, abolitionists were the only group prior to the Civil War that fought for the idea of U.S. citizenship without focusing on race. In 1866, Congress passed the 14th Amendment which "defined freedpeople as citizens with equal legal rights" (Textbook pg. 587). Although many of these new rights that African-Americans had obtained were ignored throughout the Reconstruction time period, this change made the U.S. what it is today – a civic nationalism which accepts citizens whatever their culture, religion, ancestry, or race.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



backwards progress

by [Jonathan Blake](#) - Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 3:54 PM

Eric Foner confirms that yes, reconstruction did not improve the freedoms of Freedmen in the United States. However it did lay a foundation for change that occurs a century later during the civil rights movement. It's as if the belief of the Union and their fight for the abolition was one step forward and the reconstruction following the war was two steps back in the effort for civil rights of blacks.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Reconstruction...a revolution that went backward

by [Candice Oster](#) - Thursday, February 26, 2015, 4:11 PM

This is what Joe has talked about all week during the Reconstruction Chapter. Violence was very real during Reconstruction. Yes, changes did take place. We added the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to our Constitution. Great! But what was the price and how did we get there?

Like the other issues in history we have the spectrum. We have the Radical on one side and the Conservative on the other. The majority was the Radical Republicans and on the conservative side we have the Democrats. The Democrats wanted a whites only government and wanted to keep the blacks as close to slavery as they could with the passing of the "Black Codes". With the racism came violence. Not only violence towards

the blacks but also towards the whites that supported the freedman and wanted the freedman to have the rights that they deserved.

We saw that progress and freedom in our country after the Civil War did not come without cost. Violence broke out, lives were lost, military rule had to come out to enforce the laws and states were basically forced to ratify the Amendments that would only give a bit of freedom to the black men.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The progress of Freedom

by [Nicklas Moyer](#) - Thursday, February 26, 2015, 7:58 PM

Eric Foner, throughout his discussion, explains many different themes that were occurring during the Reconstruction Era. One of his latter statements that he made revolved around the naive idea that 'The American System' is a perfect system, and its trajectory has only increased as time has gone on; this clearly is a incorrect perception of American History. Foner continues to explain why this is a naive perception, and that throughout the history of our nation we have gone through an awkward progression of ethnic and moral progress that sometimes takes one step forward, and then two steps back. Its pretty crazy how true of a statement that is, at least when pertaining to the history of African Americans.

One reason for this naivety on American history would probably be because of the lack of understanding of what happened in the Reconstruction Era. As Foner states," the Reconstruction era is the least understood era of American history", most U.S. citizens are aware that the 13th amendment was a result of the civil war, and that the slaves gained their freedom, but a lot are unaware of what occurred after the war to actually implement these laws, or lack thereof. This is an example of the perception that moral and ethnic progress has always been on an upward trajectory, because everyone believes it was a step forward for slaves to gain their freedom, which it was; but it was also a step back because of how the American government tried and failed to implement their freedom in the Reconstruction Era. The legacy from that failure resulted in the south implementing black codes which persecuted and turned African Americans into second class citizens. The Reconstruction Era, and its failures, are why the civil rights movements of the 1950's and 1960's took place, many to this day are still not aware of that reality.

If you were to ask me why their has been a failure in the positive progression of freedom and liberty, it would be because of the differences between passing laws and implementing them. In my opinion, this struggle between passing and implementing laws is correlated with the up and down spiral of progression. The step forward made for slaves with the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendment were back tracked by the failure of our government to implement them, this failure lead too step backs in the progression of African Americans in our history. This failure of our National Government to force its rules on states lead to a 100 year set back, until finally the constitution could enforce its rules and help gain another step forward for African Americans, nearly a century later.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: The progress of Freedom

by [Jesse Bowman](#) - Thursday, February 26, 2015, 8:46 PM

You're absolutely right! When Escobar pointed steps that it took in order former slaves to votes, it was a clear sign of ups in downs in the freedoms granted in America.

The retrogression of freedoms still continue to this day! The most recent event that comes to mind (besides the Health Care Bill) was the Patriot Act. The most famous part of the act that is continually talked about to this day is the section 215, under this section scrutiny of "any tangible thing" and the issue raised by the people because of this is any "thing" includes everything from papers, books, text messages, Facebook posts, and all other forms of documents can be searched. The Patriot Act overrides probable cause. The FBI only needs to tell a judge that the search protects the country against 'terrorism'. Needless to say, this is a broad and vague definition and a strong use of the "Necessary and Proper" clause of the Constitution.

Source: <http://www.scn.org/ccapa/pa-vs-const.html>

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: The progress of Freedom

by [Gina Savage](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 11:15 PM

I agree with both of you, Jesse and Nicklas, that back-tracking is due to "the failure of our government to implement [the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments]." However, I don't think they are the sole purpose for it. While yes, the government should be enforcing laws -- and thereby protecting the people the laws are supposed to protect -- American should be holding the government accountable and making sure that the government enforces them. In the case of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, the government did not enforce it's laws, but hardly anybody held the government accountable until the 1960's. The United States was designed as doubly-secured system: the federal and state government govern the people, and at the same time, the people govern the governments.

When the federal government stopped enforcing the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, there was definitely backtracking. But how much less backtracking would there have been if someone had said something about it in the 1870's, or 1910's, or 1940's? If people were as responsive to racial injustices as they were when Martin Luther King Jr. gave his speech, wouldn't we have made much more progress in equalities by now? Yes, the government is at fault for leaving their guard post, but the people are also at fault for not dragging them back.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



19th century citizenship and today

by [Jonathan Blake](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 6:29 PM

African Americans had become free after the Civil War yet citizenship was still a major issue for them. Black children born in the states were not being recognized as citizens. Some southerners still did not support the Union in the abolishing slavery, which meant that the black man went from slave to unrecognized working man at the bottom of the chain. This in turn resulted in the 14th Amendment and gives us what we have today with our increasing numbers in illegal immigrants. With the 14th amendment passed, black children were then able to become citizens at birth, yet today the United States faces illegal immigrants who move to the states to give birth to a U.S. citizenship.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Legacy of Reconstruction

by [Carson Raz](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 7:51 PM

I just found it crazy that seven states were re-admitted in 1868 and when congress made the 15th amendment it required all the states to ratify it in order to be apart of the union. Definitley not a lot of power in the states at this time.

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Legacy of Reconstruction

by [Morgan Steinmetz](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 10:02 PM

I agree, but at the same time I also think that the only way to readmit the states was to make them ratify the 15th amendment or else there might not have been an agreement between the North and the South.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Legacy of Reconstruction

by [Carson Raz](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 4:28 PM

You're totally right it was necessary and all for the best. Just somewhat unconstitutional but I agree with you they never would have come to a mutual agreement otherwise.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Legacy of Reconstruction

by [Candice Oster](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 6:33 AM

It took two years to get the 14th amendment ratified. From the lecture I remember Joe saying that it was "at gunpoint" for the confederate states. There was defiantly force played out in order to get the 13, 14th and 15th amendments ratified. The Reconstruction Bills were passed on veto's after the 1866 congressional election that made it so congress could override the president.

There was Virginia, Texan and Mississippi that held out the longest so congress added that the state legislatures must ratify the 15th amendment before they could be readmitted to the union.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



From Ethnicity to Citizenship

by [Dichen Wu](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 12:12 AM

The most significant event of the period of the Reconstruction, in fact, was not whether liberated black men had gotten the same treatment in politics and finance; neither was that the South could recover after the war trauma. The period of the Reconstruction provided the whole conutry with an opportunity of amending past historical mistakes and transforming the the United States into a new mode, which included blacks, Irish immigrants and other groups. The country did not only belong to native white men any more, but also other residents in this land. That's why we can call America as a civil nation when that all persons born or naturalized in the United States were citizens of this country was established by the 14th and 15th Amendment to the Constitution. The U.S. was racial nationalism because it excluded all outsiders except the first batch of white citizens. The U.S. was civic nationalism because it admitted all races living legally in this land as citizens. Although the equality for blacks during the period were not carried out due to historical and cultural obstruction, it was also a milestone for the U.S. because all kinds of the changes in laws were showing that the country was determined to grow by unitifying all people. That's how the United States comes as a civic nation now. Therefore, that the period of the Reconstruction was important was caused by its juristical changes. The period got prone to citizenship's effect instead of the single ethnicity's interest.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Illegal Immigration

by [Aulani Aviles](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10:00 AM

Professor Eric Foner talks about the past and present issues due to illegal immigration. He states that nowadays an immigrant that has a child in the United States, the child is considered a U.S. citizen but the mother is not. He states that this was an outcome of the civil war and did not exist before that time. He says that now, they both should be illegal because the woman is not a citizen. I'd have to disagree with this because in my own experience my mother is an immigrant and now a U.S. citizen. Although, I was born before she became a citizen. I believe that it's right that I was born a citizen because I was raised in this country, not a different one. I grew up learning this language and this culture when I don't know nearly as much about the culture and language my mother grew up in.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Illegal Immigration

by [Candice Oster](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 1:48 PM

I went back and listened to Eric Foner again. I did not hear him say that "they both should be illegal because the woman was not a citizen". I did hear him say that birthright citizenship did not exist before the Civil War and that in most countries today it is still not the case. That a baby could be born in another country by parents who were citizens of a different country and would not automatically become a citizen in the country the birth took place in.

However, as a result of the Civil War there was a need to provide for the 4 million men, women and children who had gained their freedom from slavery and laws needed to be incorporated to meet those needs. Before the Civil War citizenship was based on race.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Illegal Immigration

by [Morgan Steinmetz](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 4:53 PM

I went back and watched the video again and what I took from it was also that citizenship wasn't granted upon birth before the Civil War and shockingly in some countries today, it still doesn't. I honestly am kind of torn on whether I believe you should be granted citizenship just solely based on being born in a country. But that's just one person's opinion. It is probably a good thing that it was the way it was pre Civil War though.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Illegal Immigration

by [Parker Denison](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 11:38 PM

I personally believe that know what matter where your family is from, you are a citizen of whatever country you were born in as long as you were raised there. Especially in America which is known as a country of immigrants, if you are born here you are just as American as anyone else. Of course back around the civil war it was a time of harsh discrimination and white americans did what ever they could to prevent black americans from citizenship, but now we should all acknowledge any who was born here as a citizen.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

Re: Illegal Immigration



by [Carson Raz](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 4:39 PM

I totally agree with you that if you're born in the US you're a citizen. It's not like you can choose where you're born. I also don't think people should be able to claim the earth (or parts of it) theirs when we are all creatures of the earth.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Illegal Immigration

by [Nicklas Moyer](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 9:15 PM

I agree with you man, I strongly believe in the notion that if your born in this nation, whether your mother is a citizen or not, that you are an American. I know that its a touchy subject and that their are plenty of different views on the situation both personally, and politically, but that's my stance on it.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Illegal Immigration - from an immigrant.

by [Gina Savage](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10:53 PM

A lot of people are replying to this with their thoughts and beliefs about civic citizenship. As a person born in a different country, but granted citizenship through my American mother, I feel that I have a unique perspective on this issue that I'd like to share.

To me, being a citizen requires a lot more than just being born here, or having parents that were born here. It means *participating* in the American system: voting, paying taxes, and educating oneself about political situations are just a few of the tasks being an active American citizen requires. To call oneself an American citizen but not participate, is talking the talk but not walking the walk.

With this in mind, when it comes to civic citizenship I am in a very similar position as that of a child born to an undocumented immigrant. Yes, my mother was a citizen, but at the time that I was born she had been living in a different country for over 11 years. Just like an undocumented citizen, she was not voting, paying taxes, educating herself, and so on; she was not a participating citizen, and in my book, not a full citizen. Because of this, I feel I was granted citizenship that I do not deserve.

In other families where the mother is a participating citizen, I believe it is right that the child should be granted citizenship. The mother will educate the child on citizenship, the child will go to school and learn ways to participate in American politics, and she will be exposed to issues that will affect her American life. Both mother and child will in the future, participate as a whole in American citizenship, so I think it is correct for the child to be granted citizenship.

In my family, my mother would not educate me on American citizenship because we were not living in America. I wouldn't learn ways to participate in the American politics because I did not attend an American school. I would not be exposed to American issues because I did not live in the US. My mother and I would not participate as a whole in American citizenship, so I don't think it is correct for me to be granted citizenship.

When it comes to a child of an undocumented immigrant, the child will grow and (hopefully) become a participatory citizen. She will receive all the education and exposure that the daughter of a citizen would, even though her mother will not participate in the same way she does. In the case of the 14th Amendment, all 4 million Freedmen (although they didn't receive the same education) had the chance to participate in American politics, even though their ancestors did not.

In my mind, this is really what the question of civic citizenship comes down to:

The child and the mother will not participate as a whole in American politics. *However*, if the American system of education is effective, America will gain another educated, participatory, and *full* citizen. Not only that, but a citizen who brings something new to the mix -- a citizen who will make the views of American citizens richer with her unique perspectives. What it all comes down to is this: is this new citizen (and all others that come from the mother) worth the troubles of an undocumented immigrant?

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



14th Amendment

by [Carson Raz](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 4:57 PM

The 14th Amendment states "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the State wherein they reside." That being stated African Americans, Asian immigrants, and Mexican immigrants that had kids in America had their kids gain citizenship but they weren't treated like male white citizens and to this day still aren't. We are still fighting for equality and even women are still paid less than male counterparts for the same work. I think to be a citizen everyone should be on the same level playing field with the same chances and opportunities.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Citizenship before and after the Civil War

by [Alec Schauer](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 7:43 PM

It is sad when Foner talks about people who do not know much about the civil war or reconstruction time period, because I am one of those people who did not know much about what had happened. Now with this class I have a much better grasp of this time period but even with my prior highschool history classes my understanding was that after the civil war the slaves were freed and they became citizens and everything was a lot better for them. I didn't understand that they would be fighting a new war of civil rights for the next hundred years. After the war ended the horror of slavery was finally defeated. African Americans were finally freed but now faced a new problem, their citizenship. Eric Foner brings up the most modern example of where if someone woman was illegally present in the U.S was to have a child born here, her child under the 14th amendment would legally be a U.S citizen even if she was not. In 19th century before the 14th amendment for blacks no matter where you were born or how long an ancestor had resided in the U.S you still were not a citizen. Citizenship belonged the White population of the U.S. Even with the slaves emancipated, they still in a way not entirely "free" in what was suppose to be their country. Many feared not to have the nation be a White citizenship and worked hard to keep the rights of citizens away from the freedman. But progress would be made through amendments for enfranchising and giving more rights to the former slaves, but along the way segregation becomes the next attack towards the African Americans.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Legacy of Reconstruction

by [Parker Denison](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 11:31 PM

The period of reconstruction is a very understood period of american history. The popular belief of post civil war-america is that slaves were freed and granted equal rights to white americans. However, it was far from an equal time. In the north things were improving and many freed slaves were starting to transition into equal times, but in the south things were hardly improving. With the black codes being implemented, many blacks in the south were forced to live a life very similar to slavery. They were still treated very poorly

and still had to experience harsh labor with very little pay. This is what the speaker in the video is talking about, how we started to make progress with the emancipation of slaves, but took a huge step backwards by still enforcing these strict rules on them. These blacks still were not accepted as citizens of america, and that is proof that the reconstruction period was still a rough time for blacks who saw little progress with gaining more equal rights.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Citizenship in the 19th Century and Reconstruction

by [Andrew Kline](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 11:49 PM

Citizenship before Reconstruction was nothing like it is now. Only white males could vote before Reconstruction. Like Professor Eric Foner stated on the podcast, black males who have lived there their whole life's couldn't even vote. Once the Civil War ended and Reconstruction started, the 14th Amendment came along. Now anyone that is born in the United States is a citizen. Eric Foner states that many illegal immigration problems of today relate directly to the Civil war and Reconstruction, that the idea of birthright citizenship was not around before the Civil War.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Legacy of Reconstruction

by [Gina Savage](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 11:51 PM

I really enjoy the idea that Foner explains about passing laws being different from enforcing them. I think that through focusing on this, we better understand the backtracking that happened, and it becomes easy to focus on the negatives that came out of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. Because of this, I really like one of Foner's last ideas, that rights that are written "in the books" provide a foundation for civil rights movements later on. Everything, including these amendments, have to start somewhere. From what I've studied, the bigger the change, the harsher it will be -- we can obviously see this in the amount of violence that occurred during reconstruction. Thankfully though, it eventually led to people taking a stand of their own, and receiving what the government had promised almost a century prior.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

[Moodle Docs for this page](#)

[HST 202 W15 \(Escobar Meta 31045 31046\)](#)