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**Reconstruction Cartoons**

by Joe Escobar - Friday, February 20, 2015, 9:48 PM

This forum thread is for Reconstruction Cartoons 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, and include the cartoon number. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Reconstruction Cartoons

Sum of ratings: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Reconstruction Cartoon #2**

by Carson Raz - Monday, February 23, 2015, 12:12 PM

I'm going to take a stab at reconstruction cartoon #2. To me it appears that three former enemies have come together to unite against 1 enemy. In this case I'm seeing on the far left a Irishmen because he has the monkey face. He also also holding a club that reads, "A vote" so he paperers to be happy now that he gained a right to vote. In the middle I see a southern democrat. I assume he's a southerner because of his sun blocking hat and his pistol on his side. Looks like a plantation owner. He is holding a knife that reads, "The Lost Cause" which I think is referring to their loss in the civil war. On the far right i'm assuming is a northern republican sharply dressed with voting slips in his hand. Lastly is the poor African American man that they are all happily standing on. Symbolizing that all the white men can get along as long as they all have the black men to hate. This leads into the type of racism that still exists today where people hate just because of color. The title above also makes it clear by reading. "This is a white mans government" and I think that's still pretty true considering a larger number of African Americans are incarcerated today then were involved in slavery in the 1850's.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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by Jonathan Blake - Monday, February 23, 2015, 3:36 PM

Cartoon #2 depicts a democratic view on what the result of reconstruction should establish. It depicts an Irishman who has a right to vote, a former southern

confederate supporter, and a democratic northerner who are standing on a black man. The cartoon would suggest that their actions mean to hold in place the inequality of blacks.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoon #2 "Without Blacks"

by [Dichen Wu](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 11:47 PM

I agree to your analysis of Cartoon # 2. And if my thought was right, there wouldn't be a more matchable title than "Spoils Without Blacks" for describing the environment during Reconstruction. Apparently, various political decision such as the Black Codes and social phenomena like KKK, were showing that Abolitionist movements after Civil War was not as complete as they advocate themselves; at least, equity including blacks still seemed empty. Though 14th and 15th Amendments granted liberated blacks in the South with citizenship and right of voting, the most urgent problem, the living conditions of blacks and social atmosphere, especially in the South changed little. Their economic expectation of forty acres and a mule could not come true while old slavery supporters handled public opions and economic force in the South, and only offered low wages. On the other hand, hostility towards blacks led by remnants of the Confederate weakened blacks' daily development in the South. As a result, we see in Cartoon 2 that free blacks did not benefit much from postwar reforms. A set of Amendments did not help blacks actually with their basic life. On the contrary, Irishmen took blacks' place, improving political status a lot. And old southerners did not reconcile with blacks. The federal government had no effective remedial measures except empty political promise like votes in amendments and comprise with old southerners. All of these were chaos during reconstruction. That's why I say that blacks were excluded from sharing reforms' bonus.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by [Christopher McCay](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 4:48 PM

Cartoon #2 shows that in the reconstruction of the union the blacks would be free from slavery but not equal to the white man, i.e. he could not vote, own land or even work for the same wage. Yes he can take home is wages but he wont get the same wages and rights as the white man. It does matter if the white man is question is an Irishman, southern confederate, or northern democrat. That is what I got from the cartoon, that even though the black man is free during the reconstruction process of the union they will still not be at all equal to their white counterparts.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Reconstruction Cartoons 4A & B

by [Matt Devine](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 6:37 PM

In the first cartoon a woman, who I'm guessing to be lady liberty, sitting on a throne in what looks like the supreme court, in front of her a bunch of southern confederates beg for forgiveness, and in the background a torn and burnt american flag hang a pillar (probably signifying the destruction the confederates did to the union). at the bottom of the cartoon the caption says "Pardon - 'shall i trust these men'. And on the next cartoon the caption reads " franchise - 'and not these men?" this cartoon shows the woman showing off a wounded black soldier on crutches as the american flag hanging above them. the cartoon asks the question, how could we forgive the southern states but not give the blacks slaves who fought and died for the union in hope of their freedom.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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**Re: Reconstruction Cartoons 4A & B***by Aulani Aviles - Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 11:30 AM*

I completely agree with you. To add on to that, it looks like the southerners are begging Lady Liberty for pardons because of the papers their hands. Also, because the cartoon is called "Pardon" and the other one is called "Franchise." It seems that Lady Liberty is trying to compare the two men expressing that there are no differences. So why should she trust the southerners and not the African American? When during that time, the black soldier did not have as many rights as the white men.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Reconstruction Cartoons 4A & B***by Carson Raz - Friday, February 27, 2015, 7:35 PM*

Great observation I didn't catch that the first time I looked at this.

Sum of ratings: (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Cartoon 1***by Kyle Quinoveva - Monday, February 23, 2015, 8:01 PM*

From what I can understand (and remember from English Literature) this cartoon is constantly drawing analogies from Shakespeare's play Othello. In this Image we have Jefferson Davis in his Venetian attire in the place of Iago, the main antagonist of the play whose jealousy and lies are the source of the majority of conflicts within the play. Similarly the African American who appears to be Senator Revels is being referred to as 'the Moor' the Othello's title based on his African origins.

Based on the text I suspect that this is alluding to the ex-confederate discontent over the enfranchisement and empowerment of African Americans in the southern states. The text talking about how the "lusty Moor has leapt into 'his' seat" specifically referring to the African Americans in political positions of power during reconstruction. Finally, Jefferson Davis as Iago may be alluding to how these ex-confederates may be using subterfuge to attempt to undermine and/or eliminate African Americans from positions of power. Which in the play, and ultimately historically with the end of reconstruction, is successful.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Cartoon 1***by Sarah Wood - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 9:46 PM*

I found what you said about the first cartoon very interesting. When I was looking at this cartoon I hadn't related it to Shakespeare at all, and frankly I don't know enough about Shakespeare to be able to know the references in this cartoon to Shakespeare, but I did find your comparison of the two very interesting since it was something I wouldn't have been able to notice myself. I agree that this cartoon is showing African American's gaining political power during reconstruction. I found it interesting how Jefferson Davis appears incredibly upset while the black man sitting is smiling and the white men surrounding him seem to be listening/talking with him without looking upset at all.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Cartoon 1***by Morgan Steinmetz - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 9:49 PM*

I'm glad that I wasn't the only one to think that this cartoon was in relation to Shakespeare's play Othello! I wasn't quite sure if it was or not so I didn't want to say anything but since someone else said it, I can completely say that it has an obvious connection. I also completely agree with your interpretation of the text and how it was an attempt to get rid of the African Americans having any sort of power.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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What does cartoon #2 mean?

by [Sarah Wood](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 8:28 PM

The first cartoon that I would like to discuss is the second one. At first glance I noticed what appears to be three white men stepping on/trampling a black man. After studying the cartoon more I noticed that the white man on the left has many monkey-like features leading me to believe that he is meant to represent an Irish-American man since that was common way to draw them during that time. I'm guessing that they including an Irish man above the black man because he had the right to vote while the black men were still struggling with the issue of voting. I'm not sure who the middleman and the man on the right are, but I did notice that the man in the middle seems to be representing the confederate army since his belt says CSA meaning "Confederate States of America." When looking at the black man that the three white men are stepping on I notice that he seems to be clutching the American flag and reaching towards a voting ballot that is just out of his reach. I'm guessing that he represents the black man's right to vote. In the background I notice that on the left side there is a street light with a man hanging from it. It looks like there are words above him, but I can't tell what they say. On the right side in the background is a building that has been caught on fire. I'm not entirely sure what these things in the background are meant to represent, but I found them interesting because I hadn't even noticed them until I was zooming in trying to get a better look at the three white men standing above the black man.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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This is a white mans government

by [Morgan Steinmetz](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 8:40 PM

The cartoon that I understood the most was cartoon #2. When I first look at the cartoon I automatically notice the African American man holding an American flag and being stood on by an Irish-Catholic man and two other white men who I honestly can't identify. I can notice that the middle man is wearing a confederate army uniform and just behind him is a burning building and also a man on a street light who was hanged. The man being hanged by the burning buildings made me first think of the draft riots, but I could be completely wrong. The man on the right looks like he is of the upper class judging by his nicer attire. I took note of the pouch in his hand what looks to be full of money. I also noticed the African American man reaching for what looks to be a ballot box. I then thought of voter fraud and linked the voter ballot box to the money in the man on the rights hand. I was a little confused about the knife in the middle man's hand. I understand that it is supposed to be portrayed as him stabbing the African American, but I can't figure out why.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Reconstruction Cartoon #1

by [Nicklas Moyer](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 8:59 PM

From what I can observe in this political cartoon, the cartoonist is portraying how the changing of the times effects our world. It has the label on the bottom that displays, "Time Works Wonders", while displaying a representation of Ex- Confederate president, Jefferson Davis, showing his displeasure. In the background reveals a joyous "freedmen"

who has been elected senator of his state and a group of white men with angry faces looking to talk to him. This cartoon resembles the rapidly changing world of Reconstruction America, and the effects it has on the ethnicity's of American Citizens.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoon #1

by [Candice Oster](#) - Thursday, February 26, 2015, 2:05 PM

I agree with your post and would just like to add that the white men are the Radical Republicans that were responsible for Congressional Reconstruction. The worry on Jefferson Davis' face makes sense as he is obviously concerned about what he thought it meant to have black men in office.

In the text book on page 596 it says, "The theme of "Negro rule" was a staple of Democratic propaganda." It goes on to say that blacks held only 15-20% of public offices and that only South Carolina had a majority of black leadership because of the higher population of blacks. Also, Davis had been the senator from Mississippi. As we heard in class today, this was one of the states that had held out on the Reconstruction Bills and because of that they were also told they would have to ratify the 15th Amendment in order to be readmitted into the Union.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Cartoon #1

by [Morgan Steinmetz](#) - Thursday, February 26, 2015, 10:34 PM

I too agree with your statement and interpretation of cartoon #1, but I personally don't see the white men's expressions as angry. I almost take the expressions as welcoming and trying to make him feel welcomed as the first African American in the senate.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #1

by [Nicklas Moyer](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 6:48 PM

Yeah I agree with you, after reflecting on my post and better observing the illustration, it appears that the politicians surrounding the elected senator are not so much angry, but content and willing to cooperate with the newly elected senator. Also, I found it pretty ironic and honestly just kinda funny that Jefferson Davis lost his seat in the senate to a "freedmen", its just such a great way too see justice be served.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon 2

by [Ryan Helmericks](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 9:13 PM

I find this cartoon very interesting. What I see is the people that are gaining from the freedom of slavery and what is will do to the United States. the figure on the left is drawn to look like an Irishman, The reason I believe he is gaining from this situation is because the public my no longer focus on them as the same as African Americans.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #2



by [Aulani Aviles](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 9:15 PM

In cartoon #2, I'm assuming these three men are coming from the democratic party because they are stepping on a black man and the title is "THIS IS A WHITE MAN'S GOVERNMENT." It seems that this cartoon portrays that black men who fought in the war, were able to vote because of the men stepping on him and one of them are holding up something that says "a vote." I believe the man the on the left is an Irish man because of his ape-like qualities, there known to be portrayed in that way. He also has old, raggedy clothes which shows that they were usually poor. It looks like the guy in the middle was a southern confederate that fought in the war because he's holding up a knife that says, "the lost cause." I'm not sure who the guy on the right is supposed to represent but he probably wealthy because he's wearing nice clothes.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon #2

by [Dongwook Lee](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 10:45 PM

In this cartoon, I think the author of it wanted to show people how he thinks that government of the time worked. From the title, "This Is A White Man's Government", we can see that even though after the Great War, black did not have equal rights as white did. White people have power to vote and more economical advantage that black did not have. The true meaning of nation, represented by the flag, is beaten under the interest of whites.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by [Alexander Stimson](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 11:05 PM

Cartoon #2 reminds me a lot of a previous cartoon in a past forum in which an African-American and an Irishman/Immigrant were portrayed with a scale to show that the prejudices they both face are very, very similar. However, in this instance, we see (what I interpret to be) an immigrant on the left, a former member of the Confederacy that is still clinging to old hopes and dreams of the CSA, and (what appears to be) a wealthy banker. In this instance, it appears they've each cut a bargain with one another, realizing that they all stand to gain from keeping their metaphorical foot on the backs of African Americans. If anything, it paints an incredibly demoralizing picture for African Americans at the time. This cartoon shows that even three years removed from the Civil War, there is still a large group of people - many of whom were formerly enemies themselves - that are strong and united against seeing progress in the form of rights for African Americans.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon #2

by [Alec Schauer](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 11:06 PM

This was the first cartoon that stood out to me and that I think I was able to understand quicker than the others. From what I see is a man who from previous cartoons and discussions is an Irishman hence the ape like facial structure drawn, then next to him seems to be an ex-confederate, and what I gather the other man being a northern democrat. Each of them has a foot upon a black man who is on the ground. Each of the three men are holding something in one hand and have their others touching eachothers hands. The Irishman is holding a club that says "a vote" which i feel represents the Irish-Americans as part of the democratic vote, the southern is holding a knife with the words "Lost cause" referring to what many confederates felt the war was according to the video, and the democrat holding a envelop with vote ballots inside. I feel this comic piecing it all together represents how each one of these people after the war and everything that

resulted, they continued to keep down the black population even after gaining freedom by voting against their rights to vote and their rights as Americans. The Irish-American seems to be created more equal in this picture (besides the drawing of their faces) because he is included with suppression of this black man. To me that feels that keeping the black community from being fully American was the most important issue to many southerners and democrats that even the Irish were treated with somewhat equality.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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Cartoon 2

by [Parker Denison](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 11:41 PM

In this cartoon, the publisher is trying to convey how the democratic party is still oppressing black people, and completely opposes any kind of reconstruction. Each person standing on top of the man represents a different demographic of the democratic party. On the left is an Irish man because of his ape like depiction, and he looks to be of the lower class because of his raggedy clothes. In the middle is a southerner who was a part of the confederates as shown by his belt buckle that reads "CSA". On the right is a democratic politician who belongs to the upper class. The overall message I got from this is that there are democrats of all types, but they had one common hate, and that was for black people.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Cartoon #1

by [Aulani Aviles](#) - Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 9:39 PM

My first thoughts after first glancing at this was that I see a scared man that looks like William Shakespeare. After examining this cartoon, I believe that the man dressed as Shakespeare is Jefferson Davis because of the quote at the bottom of the picture. In the background, it looks as though the men are in a political atmosphere with a black man sitting at a desk. I believe he may have taken Jefferson Davis' spot and elected him because the desk appears to say, "Senator Revels."

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Cartoon #3

by [Aulani Aviles](#) - Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 9:56 PM

At first glance, I noticed all of the riots and people fighting in the background. This obviously portrays the aftermath of the civil war, reconstruction. The man dressed as Shakespeare must be the president, Andrew Johnson. The African American is dressed in army clothes so it's apparent that he fought in the war and became wounded. The last thing I noticed was the poster that said, "Pardon to Rebels." I believe this stands for all the pardons they gave to confederates that fought in the war.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Cartoon #3

by [Jesse Bowman](#) - Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:05 PM

The person depicted as Shakespeare does seem to be Andrew Johnson and the man to his left I believe might be Frederick Douglass. I say this for a few reasons; The cartoon is written by Thomas Nast (A strong advocate of abolition) and would use recognizable faces when controversy arose. This controversy that I'm talking about, is the debate about Reconstruction the Douglass had with Johnson in 1866, "Johnson wanted to bring the South back into the Union on the basis of white suffrage; Douglass wanted black men to be granted the right to vote." (L.E.P, 582).

The poster "Pardon to Rebels" does seem to indicate the reference the elements Johnson's "pragmatic, partisan, and idealistic motives" when issued two proclamations without the consent of congress which provided a amnesty most of the Confederate officials and military officers and those with at least \$20,000 in taxable property (L.E.P, 581). I believe this angered a lot of radicals, like Thomas Nast (an abolition-a small minority) and caused this cartoon to be riddled with hints towards his Southern favoritism. i.e., the poster labeled "Plantations-Good for the Constitution", and "Vetoes to Union Men" which is directed at the Freedmen that served for the Union and are still denied the right to vote.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #3

by [Candice Oster](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 6:20 AM

Looking down further in this cartoon we see what looks to be Andrew Johnson again as a snake charmer. The snake, which seems to come up a lot in the cartoons as a negative, is wrapped around the black man. Andrew Johnson was all about a White North and White South—black men were not part of his plan. He was controlling this by pardoning the southern planters and giving them back there land, which then took the land back from the freedmen. From the lecture we learned of Johnson's Presidential Reconstruction that was harsh on Blacks. They would have to labor for everything—similar to slavery! Labor contracts were written up; they were back in the cotton fields working hard for very low wages. Johnson's plan was to keep freedmen as close to slavery as they could be.

We see this in the cartoon by Johnson controlling the black man...keeping him down. The other white men are just looking on. Can anyone else identify them? I am thinking they may be plantation owners who are reluctant to abolish slavery or elected leaders that were former confederate leaders. They do not seem able or willing to stop what they are seeing taking place.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Reconstruction Cartoon 4 A and B

by [Jonathan Blake](#) - Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 3:38 PM

Cartoon 4 A depicts the pardoning of confederate soldiers by lady liberty. The soldiers are shown begging almost in a forgiving manner. the caption questions the trust factor of southern society. Cartoon 4 B shows an American black soldier on crutches who has lost a leg. (obviously from the war) Lady Liberty also stands next to him with the American flag draped over head with the caption: "Franchise- and not this man." Both cartoons show Lady Liberty showing mercy to the confederate soldier rather the black American who fought for the preservation of the Union.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoon 4 A and B

by [Thea Van Kessel](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 10:19 PM

I think that the cartoons are trying to show lady liberty being torn between the two groups on what to do. In 4A she looks disappointed and almost bored with the Confederates begging for pardon back into the Union. In part B she seems to favor the black man and appears to be showing him as an example. The confederates fought against the Union and participated in a lot of death and destruction against the Union, but now that it is all over they are begging at her feet for forgiveness. The black soldier however, fought for his rights and even lost a leg in the war and I think that lady liberty appears to approve of this and the cartoon is intending to say that why shouldn't these black men have the right to vote when they fought for the Union for their right to

freedom. I don't really see Lady Liberty showing mercy to the confederate soldier. It seems to me that she thinks higher of the African American soldier than the confederates. In the cartoon with the confederates, she is slumped over leaning on her hand and the confederates are all on their knees begging and looking pathetic. In the second cartoon however, she lays a hand on the shoulder of and presents the black man in an honorary manner and the man stands upright and strong with confidence, regardless of the fact that he lost a part of the body during the war.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon 4a and 4b

by [Alec Schauer](#) - Thursday, February 26, 2015, 11:26 PM

in the first cartoon it seems many exconfederates begging for forgiveness by lady liberty. . The caption of the cartoon says "Pardon-shall i trust these men" and the next cartoon she is next to a black union soldier with a missing leg and it captions "Enfranchise-and not this man?" Putting the two together I see that she is saying why shall I trust the men begging for my forgiveness by asking for pardons back to the union when they were responsible for the destruction of the United States which I feel is represented by the flag torn up behind her. She is asking why these men should be pardoned for the wrong they did but why can't a black man who fought to keep the union alive resulting in loss of his leg not be trusted enough to have the right to vote in the country he fought for. I think this cartoon compares the two saying that if the ex confederates should be trusted to become part of the union once again then the black soldier should be trusted to become a citizen and be enfranchised, he has no right to be less trusted than the destructive southerns/

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 4a and 4b

by [Sarah Wood](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 9:26 PM

I agree with what you say about cartoons 4a and 4b. I hadn't realized who the people surrounding Lady Liberty were meant to be in cartoon 4a, but now that you mention them being the confederate army I can see that you're right. Especially when looking at the man directly in front of Lady Liberty as his outfit looks like an army uniform and the flag that says "CSA." I also noticed that the man in front of Lady Liberty is laying down a sword. I found it interesting that in cartoon 4b on the table behind Lady Liberty is a voting ballot. I also found it interesting that in cartoon 4b the black man is using crutches to stand and missing one of his legs leading me to believe he was a soldier.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon 1

by [Ryan Helmericks](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 7:56 PM

As simple as this cartoon is, I believe it means so much more. The south felt cheated after the civil war. The idea of their state being run by the very people that they owned was too much for them. Boycotting the polls however, was an extremely poor decision, almost handing the people they hated the most an office position.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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4b, My Favorite

by [Ryan Helmericks](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 8:23 PM

Looking at this, I see lady liberty standing up for the blacks of america. They defended the Union when it was needed and put their lives at risk to get the freedom for all their people. After the Civil War, the black were beaten down even more with the black code in the south and no respect. In many ways it was a worse time for them than slavery was.

They were unable to own land or even vote. I like this photo because it shows what the United States needed to do at this point. Help the blacks find their footing in a country that they have been in for generations.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Reconstruction Cartoon #1

by [Andrew Kline](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 9:36 PM

Cartoon number one is obviously Jefferson Davis glaring back at the new owner of his old seat. He's also looking at the supporters of this new owner. These men I believe are republicans. The man seating in Jefferson's old seat is African American. The same people that Jefferson was fighting to own. I also think the blanket he holds around him is suppose to represent the Southerners left with almost nothing left after Reconstruction. Pretty much saying they kicked him out in the cold.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Reconstruction Cartoon #2

by [Nicklas Moyer](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 9:49 PM

When observing this political cartoon, I must admit that it is rather appalling. I'm aware of the racism, distrust, and distaste for "freedmen", but to think that a cartoon could be made for the public, and be supported by politicians, and millions of people across the nation is shocking. As a white U.S. citizen I will admit that reflecting on our nation's history, and observing something like this is embarrassing. Regardless of my feelings on it, I will move on to the meaning and impact that this cartoon had on the nation at the time.

The artist here is conveying the alliance between the white men, whether they be "natives" or immigrants, and their attempts to show that they are above "freedmen" and that they should, as always, be running the government. The cartoon displays that, "this is a white man's government", which clearly indicates that whether the Slaves are free or not in the nation, the whites run this nation's government. Some key symbols in this cartoon include: The Irishman, which shows that in these desperate times for Democrats even immigrants are equal with whites above the "freedmen". The cartoon displays the middle man wearing Confederate clothing, evident from his belt that is labeled "CSA", and his knife that says "the lost cause". And finally the man on the right, who appears to be holding votes in his hand which in my mind means that he is unwavering in his belief that only whites have the right to vote. In the end, the ultimate message of this cartoon is that whites, whether they are ex-confederates, immigrants, or northerners; have the right to control this government, and that "freedmen have no right to sway the influence of government with their votes.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Reconstruction Cartoons #4a & 4b

by [Andrew Kline](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10:17 PM

Cartoon 4a starts by showing Lady Liberty being confronted by Southerners begging to be pardon for the war. The two Southerners kneeling in-front of Lady Liberty seem to be Jefferson Davis on the left and Robert E. Lee on the right. In cartoon 4b Lady Liberty then proceeds turn to what seems to be a former African American Union soldier who has been badly wounded from the war. Through both stories I think Lady Liberty is asking why she should pardon the former enemy when African Americans deserved to be enfranchised.

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Cartoon #3 Failed Attempt to Racial Equality

by [Dichen Wu](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 11:02 PM

I suppose that the Reconstruction, in some measure, was an a failed attempt to racial equality because Andrew Jackson was too concerned about the relationship between the North and the South. He intended to ease the tense situation caused by Civil War, leading to a policy that he comprised with the conservative white men in the South. Consequently, he pardoned most of forces in the South and let the remnant of the Confederation handle the power, which provided a shelter for former plantation owners to revenge liberated blacks. That's how KKK could appear and the conflict between whites and blacks grew so much. As Cartoon 3 shown, what Andrew Jackson did, exacerbated the weak harmony between whites and blacks after war, eventually resulted in vendetta, and even armed fights. Thus Andrew Jackson was disqualified for improving racial harmony by "Reconstruction" and should be responsible for the historical error.

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Reconstruction Cartoons #1

by [Jonathan Emerald](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 11:22 PM

In the cartoon there is a man bundled up in a blanket, and to the left there is an African American talking with the whites. The caption below says that the lusty moor has taken Jeff Davis' seat, and all he could think how he is disgusted with the man taking his seat. The desk the black man is seating at says Senator Revels. I assuming from the cartoon he was trying to say that Jeff Davis is upset and feels the poison the black man is preaching -- Senator Revels took Davis's spot as senator and he quivers from that, and the white men surrounding him don't look very happy. The authors point is that a black man shouldn't be a Senator or anything.

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Cartoon 3 - Violence

by [Gina Savage](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 11:39 PM

When I first look at this cartoon, the theme of violence pops out right away.

The cartoon shows a lot of the burnings, fights, and murders that were going on during the reconstruction period. Although I'm not sure if Thomas Nast did purposefully drew it this way, I find it interesting that the scenes portrayed closely resemble scenes of war and many of the photographs taken from the battlefields of the Civil War. I suppose (if it was done on purpose) it was to show that, as Escobar told us during the lecture, this period of time was just as bad, if not worse, than the war. Nast seems to be making the same statement. The little box at the top seems to add to the drama of the cartoon. It shows many African Americans tied together, one being whipped, with the caption of "Southern Rights: What They Were." To me, it adds even more to the message that nothing has improved, even from when slavery was still legal.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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