

Forum 3

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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](#)**White mans government**

by Jordan Towe - Saturday, February 21, 2015, 1:29 PM

At first glance i see that three white men are joining hands while trumping over a black man. The man on the left looks to have a different facial features and he looks more like an ape more than a human but still has more freedom than the black man. He has a club that has "A vote" on it and is holding it in a striking position making it seem like he is going to strike down a vote on the black man. The man in the middle looks to be a middle to higher class white man who looks like a police man of some sort. He is holding a knife that reads "The lost cause" which refers to the confederate war effort. He looks like he is going to stab the black man as he is laying on the ground. The man on the right looks like a high class wealthy man who is holding some kind of ballots or official paperwork in a file. The file says capital votes which means he could be stealing them so they don't count. The man on the left has a ribbon around his hat that says 5 points which could mean 5 points into why the war is going on or may have some other meaning. The man in the middle is wearing a belt Buckle that says CSA which could stand for Confederate States of America. He also has a thing that says NB.F which could be almost anything. Looking at the black man on the ground he looks like he is in a military uniform with his cover on the ground in front of him. His eyes look like he is helpless just looking for help or peace with the white men. He is holding onto the flag as it seems like the last bit of freedom he will have. He is reaching for the ballot glass on the ground in front of him trying to get his votes to be free. In the back i see that there on two buildings on fire i can't really read what is on them but there are two separate ones which may have a roll in history.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: White mans government

by [Benjamin Bross](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 10:29 PM

The first thing I notice when I look at this cartoon is the man on the left. In all previous cartoons that type of drawing was made to to represent the Irish. While in most comics we have looked the Irish were always looked at negatively and even equal to black people. If you look closely at the Irishman's hat you can see a cross to represent his catholic religion, which America was against. As I look at this comic more though I realize the three people standing are all supposed to be examples of "bad" white men. The middle guy is a confederate and the guy on the right looks to be stealing a ballot. They are standing over a black man reaching for one of the clear ballot boxes shown in class. It is clear the black man was a Union soldier due to the hat and Amercian flag next to him. Then when you look at the caption it becomes clear that the artist was trying to explain his disgust with the Democratic opposition of the reconstruction act. So with all of that in mind I believe the artist is using the three standing white men as the "bad" types of democrats that were keeping the black American down and stopping them from their getting the right to vote, which they had earned by fighting in the Civil War.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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A Union soldier's rights: ItCartoon # 4b

by [Trinidad Delgado](#) - Saturday, February 21, 2015, 3:56 PM

In cartoon 4B, the picture displays that the African American soldier is not getting the equal rights even after fighting in the Civil War. Perhaps, the artist is using the woman in the picture as a symbol of liberty for African soldiers, who wanted them to be emancipated. The woman is pictured in a courthouse trying to get the government to recognize the soldier, but it doesn't seem that her perseverance is doing any justice for him. The ballot jar in the background was drawn to signify whether African Americans should get the right to vote. She is quoted, "And Not This Man?" meaning that why this man was not granted rights after serving for the Union. In my perspective of all the pictures, it is determined that it focuses on the suppression of rights for black men. If the Reconstruction era of Andrew Johnson did not affect the South, then it was determining after the Civil war whether African Americans should have the rights like any other Union soldier.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: A Union soldier's rights: ItCartoon # 4b

by [Cesar Rodriguez](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 8:13 PM

I see where you're coming from and you make good points, and i tend to agree with on some of them. I would say though that the women in the cartoon isn't speaking towards the government but instead directly to Andrew Johnson and is criticizing his pardons towards the southern leaders and plantation owners asking why should the southerners regain their rights and leave out the freedmen when they were loyal to the union.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Starring Jefferson Davis as Othello. #1

by [Danielle Shanno](#) - Sunday, February 22, 2015, 12:36 PM

I was drawn to this political cartoon. The picture shows the first African-American senator Revels. The Othello reference is uncanny. Othello is a Moorish general in the army. Davis is dresses as Iago. Iago is a subordinate of Othello but is trying to frame him with lies by

using racism. The Iago quote works perfectly because Davis (along with many others) may have felt that the freed slaves were taking their jobs. Another thing I found interesting is that Revels is drawn like a human and not some one with more ape like features.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Starring Jefferson Davis as Othello. #1

by [Aj Glessner](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 4:25 PM

What makes the Othello reference even more fitting is that Revels took the same seat in the senate that Davis held prior to secession.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Starring Jefferson Davis as Othello. #1

by [Cesar Rodriguez](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 8:21 PM

Yes, but what you have to consider is that the author of the cartoon revised the ending, because in the play Iago ends up winning, and is this cartoon Othello the good guy who wins with an ironic outcome, props to the author using a Shakespeare play to put a story in a picture that's worth a thousand words.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Starring Jefferson Davis as Othello. #1

by [Benjamin Bross](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 8:17 PM

The first thing I noticed when seeing the cartoon is senator Hiram Revels. I believe this might be the first Nast cartoon we've looked at where an African-American is actually depicted as a human. Previously, it was a much more ape-like appearance. The second thing I noticed was it made it seem as if Davis felt threatened by Revels due to him taking his seat. He as well as many southerners in this time were afraid their positions would be overtaken by freemen and in this case Davis' position actually was.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Pardons and Franchise. #4

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Sunday, February 22, 2015, 2:17 PM

This cartoon; or rather, set of cartoons really speaks out about the feelings of the time. In the first image we see the personification of America as "Lady Liberty" sitting before a group of white men, gazing down on them is a look of sheer disappointment. Some of the men with folded hands, others holding out papers with looks of sorrow on their face begging to be forgiven. In the lower center there is a man; possibly Jefferson Davis, although it is hard to tell; laying down a flag inscribed with the letters "CSA", the flag laid down symbolically after the sword which already lay on the steps.

In the second image we see "Lady Liberty" standing; not sitting, along side of this black man. This man clearly represents to black regiments of soldiers who fought for the union in the late portion of the war. It is also clearly represented by his amputated leg that black soldiers sacrificed and risked life and limb just as well as white soldiers.

The artist is obviously anti-confederacy, and it's extremely likely not from the south. I would also put forth that the artist is an abolitionist based on the second image portraying blacks as equal to whites. The artist really makes a good case here; how can you forgive the ex-confederates after having taken up arms against the union, but not then recognize the God given rights of black men; I cite men in particular as women suffrage has not yet

manifested; to vote and contribute to the political process after having fought for the union in the war? I think it addresses important racial issues of the time to do with northerners still not terribly pro black. It's a very abrupt message telling the people that black soldiers hold a certain amount of credit for saving the union and should be recognized accordingly.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Cartoon 4a: Shall I Trust Them?

by [Trinidad Delgado](#) - Sunday, February 22, 2015, 10:26 PM

In cartoon 4b, the woman, who I presume to be is Lady Liberty, suggests whether she should accept Confederate allegiance; more importantly trust them. Notable political people that is in the picture: Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis, bowing before the woman, and pleading to accept their pardons. The artist is proposing whether Lady Liberty should trust these men, or will they go back on their word. The cartoon correlates with 4a, where it shows a black soldier deserving the rights of a union soldier. All the pictures demonstrate the oppression on African American rights, and Andrew Johnson opposing the 14th Amendment, which would give black people citizenship. He wanted to create his own Reconstruction era, which he offered amnesty to any states who remain loyal to the Union.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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#4A a pardon for the South.

by [Erik Fischer](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 12:33 PM

The general in grey bowing with the sword and flag represent the South asking forgiveness for the war. The men surrounding him are the North and they are showing news papers to show what the Confederates did wrong and are concerned because they don't want the woman (the US) to be too lenient to the general when letting him back into the Union.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: #4A a pardon for the South.

by [Aj Glessner](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 4:36 PM

I believe all the people in this cartoon are supposed to be Ex-Confederates. If you look closely at the papers they are holding, they say "Pardon" on them. I think this is in reference to the south's asking for forgiveness and pardons for their crimes against the Union.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Harper's weekly: a white mans government

by [Erik Umenhofer](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 2:43 PM

I believe this photo is saying even though the north won the war, blacks are still being treated bad simply because the government is full of white individuals. You can distinctly see 4 different classes of people of the time and how they were depicted in the 1860's. The man on the bottom is definitely a black male and like most blacks of the time he is being show as the bottom of society. The individual on the far left definitely has more prestige over the black man, but by no means is the top of society. He is show to have a monkey like face, in which I believe is to show that he is not much better than the black man in regards social status, but yet he holds higher class simply do to his white skin. The middle man looks like a confederate and has the belt buckle (CSA) to prove it and a knife saying "the lost cause" which speaks about the confederate war effort. The man on the far right is a wealthy man, maybe even a politician from Washington. This picture

shows him stepping on the black man. You can see quite clearly from this photo that the black has it extremely hard in the society at the time run by men that were sliding the racist way.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Harper's weekly: a white mans government

by [Trinidad Delgado](#) - Thursday, February 26, 2015, 12:26 PM

When I first seen this photo, I thought the same thing about the artist's depiction. The end of the Civil War did not end racism because it still very much flourished in the North. What I considered in the photo is that the three figures represent where they stand in a political party. Clearly the picture represents how the artist felt about the opposition to the Reconstruction. Moreover, the figures in the drawing showed how they didn't value a black veteran's rights by suppressing them again. Like in the other pictures, they showed similar instances of oppression among the Africans.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Harper's weekly: a white mans government

by [Aj Glessner](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 4:50 PM

Another cause of mistreatment of blacks came from the lenient presidential reconstruction policy allowing for southern states to implement systems such as sharecropping and passing racist laws to keep blacks as close to slavery as possible.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Pardon 4A

by [Michael Silva](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 3:35 PM

I was really drawn to this image for the reason that I feel it really represents the ishhuues of the time. You see lady liberty sitting in her chair holding an almost motherly pose deep in thought on the fate of these men. Around her men holding pages with the word pardon on it are begging her to consider it. All of this brought together perfectly with the simple sentence "Should I trust these men" it pulls the piece together. It shows how even though they are rejoining the union its hard to trust someone who has done you wrong.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Pardon 4A

by [Aj Glessner](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 4:52 PM

I find it interesting that all the men in this cartoon are pleading, when, as we saw in class, many Southern States were reluctant to join the Union on congress's terms.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Shakespearian References #1

by [Aj Glessner](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 8:06 PM

This cartoon takes a quote from the play Othello, portraying Jefferson Davis as the villain Iago. Davis is looking at a black man in a congressman's chair with envy and disgust. The black man is smiling at his desk while being crowded by other congressmen who are looking sternly at him. One of whom appears to be Fredrick Douglass. This cartoon seems to portray the rise in rights that black men received during the reconstruction period and the great disapproval of white Democrats.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Lady Liberty's Trust #4a and #4b

by [Aj Glessner](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 8:11 PM

These two cartoons show a very simple message. Lady Liberty is asking if she should trust the rich, white, southern men, or the black soldiers who lost life and limb in the war. This is an empowering cartoon for blacks during reconstruction, denouncing the racism that was present in southern governments.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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"This is a white man's government." Cartoon #2

by [Rachelle Diffenderfer](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 8:20 PM

"This is a white man's government." Cartoon #2

After a close review of this cartoon I feel as if it speaks volumes to how the U.S. still viewed itself after the assassination of Lincoln in 1865. This cartoon was published in 1868. The depiction of how the Democratic Party saw the social divide is extremely evident as well.

First my eye is drawn to the Black man whom is lying and the ground being stepped only the other three men. It is interesting that it portrays the black man as a soldier (assumption due to the uniform style clothing and cap lying adjacent to him) as he may have fought in a battle or war to gain some sort of promised freedom. It is interesting that he is holding tight to the "new" American flag and reaching for a globe encased in a box. My guess is it represents some part of justice and freedom, but the globe is just out of reach and the white men are holding him down and back from reaching it.

The next man in question would be the one that has "Ape-Like" features that from previous classes we can determine as a working class Irish or German man. My guess is Irish due to the cross (Irish-catholic) on his hat and the lack of a major alcohol reference (barrels or jugs) other than that of the bottle slightly concealed on his hip. Also the man is obviously not as well regarded as the others due to his clothing and appearance most likely from doing manual labor. Also the fact that he is holding a bat or club rather than a civilized weapon to potentially beat the black man with. The club has the words "a vote" inscribed on it maybe referring to the black man getting a vote but not without enduring some pain as well.

The man in the center is clearly a confederate democrat that may have had a history as a soldier due to his buckle on his pants. I also assume that he is or once was a slaveholder due to the whip that seems to be in his back pocket. And the lack of wear on his clothing he was an overseer not a doer. He is defiantly dressed better than the Irish man to his right but seems to not be as well off as the man to his left. Perhaps he is a farmer due to his straw cap. The weapon he yields is a dagger that reads the lost cause, this may be referring to the black race in general and his feelings or that what the black man is trying to defend what is a lost cause and independence and freedom will not happen for him or any other black man. And he is willing to kill to make sure the black man's dreams are not reached.

The final man is that of wealth and prominence. He is clearly not afraid to show the wealth and association to the government that he claims for himself. The suit, pocket watch, and polished black shoes show the wealth. While the campaign pin on his lapel and envelope in hand is addressed "capitol votes" show his loyalties to a political party. And associations to the capitol inter workings. He is holding the envelope over the black man as a treat saying that a black will not sway the government because the white men have the upper hand and power.

All three men are united in not allowing the black man the ability to get up. Yet the black man clings to the flag as a form of allegiance. I'm not sure what the lamppost with

someone hung from it is and or why there is a burning building in the background of the cartoon but I'm sure that they are of some significance.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: This is a white man's government." Cartoon #2

by [Benjamin Bross](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 10:37 PM

I noticed a couple of things that vary or are just added on to your post when I zoomed in a bit more. First, on the Irish man's hat it reads 5 points which was a primarily Irish neighborhood in New York at the time. The second thing I noticed was that the pin on the wealthy man was actually not a campaign pin. It reads 5th Avenue, which according to wikipedia in the 1860s was considered one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in New York. Lastly, what I think you believe you think is a lamp is actually one of the old school ballot boxes as we saw in class.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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#4. Who's to be trusted

by [Michael Leopold](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 9:04 PM

Cartoon #4 shows a woman named "Columbia" by the cartoonist in two different pictures. In the first photo, Southern white men are depicted laying down their arms and confederate flag and are kneeling before the woman, whom I presume to represent the U.S., and asking for forgiveness. In the second photo, she is standing next to a black man who is obviously a veteran of the Union army and has his leg amputated. The cartoon asks the question of why the Southern white men, who have seceded from the Country and spent four years in a bloody battle against the U.S., be trusted but not a black man who is a war hero. I feel like this cartoon was directed at folks in the North who were ready to allow the South back in to the country but were not entirely ready for the integration of blacks. On pg. 587 in our textbook, it states, "Racism was still strong in the North, where most states denied the right to vote to the few blacks living within their borders." Perhaps this is an attempt by Thomas Nast to support suffrage for black citizens by showing that if we can trust the Southerners to rejoin the country and vote after shooting at us, why can't we allow black men, who fought for the North in the war and lost limbs if not their lives for the cause, be afforded the same right.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by [Michael Leopold](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 9:07 PM

One thing I also noticed that I was confused about was the wooden frame with the sphere inside that was in two different cartoons. They both were near black men and I wonder what it symbolizes. At first I thought that it was an hourglass, purporting that the time for black suffrage and/or freedom was nigh. But, it doesn't look like an hourglass, other than the wooden frame around it. We're not allowed to look things up so I haven't, but I'd really like to know what it represents. Anybody have any ideas?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by [Cori Ross](#) - Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 8:52 PM

I believe those are the ballot boxes like the one we saw in class. Probably to represent the equal rights they were fighting for.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Time Works Wonders

by [Tanner Olson](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 9:41 PM

This first picture out of the group grabbed my attention the most. It shows Jefferson Davis around a corner looking upon the African American senator and the other men with despise. This suggests that Jefferson Davis is unwelcome in the room full of men. The man sitting at the table is Senator Revels, who was the first African American to serve in the US Senate, representing Mississippi in 1870 and 1871. He is given a look of importance by his desk, documents in front of him, and the interest of the other white men in what he has to say. It puts much more emphasis on his importance by having the men putting sting eye contact on Revels, and even more with the man leaning over his desk to listen to what the Senator has to say. Jefferson Davis is perceived to have a look of disgust and hate towards what is going on. He lies back into the shadows away from this new action taking place. The quote at the bottom shows the hate that an African American took Jefferson Davis's seat in the senate, the feeling and effect on him is that of poison in his inwards. This puts emphasis of the despise and hate he felt towards this new action.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Time Works Wonders

by [Tanner Olson](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 12:56 PM

A couple more thoughts came to mind after Thursday's class. It puts so much more emphasis on the replacement of Davis and resentment because he was the President of the Confederacy. There is no greater insult to Davis than to be replaced by an African American who took the seat right out from under him. The best part is the timing of all of this, which was only possible by the Southern powers being taken from them. With all of the things the South had to do to re-join the Union and be considered apart of the US government again, they had no choice or say in anything besides what they were told to do. The government played their cards perfectly with the Reconstruction Bills and only making the bills more strict based off of resistance.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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white men cartoon

by [Cori Ross](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 10:59 PM

What I see in this cartoon is 3 white men standing on a black man that had been fighting for his rights of freedom. The black man is holding the flag that represents the land of the free. The white man on the left looks like an ape so he must be an Irish man. He is holding a club that has the words "a vote" on it which I feel he is going to beat the black man with his higher voting power. The middle white man maybe slightly higher class, looks to be standing on a box. I'm thinking this might be a ballot box that black men were excluded from using when the "Black codes" where in place. (Liberty, equality, power textbook page 583.) The middle man is also holding a knife with the words "the lost cause" on it is talking about the confederate war effort, his button with a skull on it and the whip in his pocket makes me think he is part of KKK or a similar branch of the Klan. The last man is a wealthy man who seems like maybe his votes mean the most.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Cartoon #2

by [Luis Murillo](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 11:44 PM

The man on the left is clearly a Irish man. Irish men were shown as having a ape-like face. He is also catholic because he has a cross on his hat. And he is also carrying a

bottle in his pocket because most Irish were seen as drunks. The man in the middle is a Confederate as you can see from his belt buckle. He is holding a knife about to stab the black man reading "The lost cause" symbolizing the confederate war effort. The man on the right looks like a wealthy white man and seems to be holding what I think are voting ballots. At last the man at the bottom is clearly a black man. He seems to be a union black soldier because of his uniform. He is holding a flag as he is reaching for a box that could be a voting box.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #2

by [Luis Murillo](#) - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 11:34 PM

Learning from thursdays class I now understand and know more of this cartoon. The man in the middle is Nathan Bedford Forrest who was one of the founders of the first Ku Klux Klan. The man on the right is August Belmont who was a jewish financier who in this cartoon is representing wealth. The three white men in this cartoon are not allowing the black man to vote as he reaching for the ballot box.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Johnsons "reconstruction era"

by [Nick Dadey](#) - Monday, February 23, 2015, 11:45 PM

After choosing the third reconstruction cartoon you see a African union soldier standing next to Andrew Johnson dressed in Shakespearean timed clothes behind him you the poster saying love thine enemy to the left of Andrew Johnson you see the words pardon to the rebels and right next to "pardon to the rebels" these are pardons and promises that were made by Johnson, but you see the Louisiana riots and Africans being assaulted with weapons. i think this is ironic because of the violence towards Africans during this times makes "reconstruction sounds not possible especially without equal rights in politics.

Below the main picture you see a smaller picture with Andrew Johnson and his cabinet members Johnson is playing the role of a snake tamer while two snakes seem to be squeezing the life out of an African i don't know what type of snakes they are or if they mean anything their is small writing on the instrument used by Johnson but is to small for me to clearly read.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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white mans government Cartoon #2

by [Derek Muniz](#) - Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 12:43 AM

Three white white men standing over a black man hands raised together with joined hands with the words above " This is a Whites mans Government". Amidst a what looks like a race riot with buildings on fire and a black man strung up on a lamppost . Each man represents a symbol, the man on the right represents a catholic Irish Voter in his hand a club thats states "A vote" and on his hat "five points" with the cross. The man in the middle is a confederate slave owner with his whip, belt buckle C.S.A. and the knife "The Lost Cause" possibly representing the lost of the war and the man on a right looks like a politician a Democrat possibly, within his hands are papers of votes with capitol written on the folder. The Black man the three men are standing on is a union soldier gripping the union flag, and reaching for what looks like a hour glass.

The artist here is trying to show that no matter what laws are passed or what the black man has done for the union. he will always be below the white man.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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Time works wonders

by [Cesar Rodriguez](#) - Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 1:42 AM

In this Political Cartoon we see Jefferson Davies looking back in fear, disgust or maybe jealously at the black senator Revels. The quote at the bottom I recognize as from a Shakespeare play. The author seems to be making Jefferson Davis into Iago a villain in the play, and Revels seems to be playing the part of Othello a more or less "good guy" in the play. What I find interesting though is roles seem to be switched, and the triumph is Othello's and not Iago's. If this is the case I think the author of this cartoon is very clever in using a Shakespeare play to add a story in his cartoon and to portray a significant moment in American politics. Another thing I find interesting is this cartoon is the white men, who I assume to be Senators also, are greeting Revels as an equal in the Senate; as he replaces Jefferson Davis in the Senate.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Time works wonders

by [Aj Glessner](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 4:16 PM

I also found this cartoon interesting, but I am somewhat undecided on the white senators around Revels. Some look neutral and some look stern or even angry. Given the general public opinion of blacks at the time I don't think I would say that other senators greeted Revels as an equal, rather, they greeted him begrudgingly.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Cartoon 2 - Democratic Platform

by [Amanda Hagstrom](#) - Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 2:57 AM

Cartoon number two is a depiction of the election season in 1868. This is indicated by the date "September 5, 1868". I don't know much about the *Harper's Weekly* but the cartoonists' point of view is that of a Republican or even a radical Republican because it shines a negative light on the Democratic Party. We know that the 3 main characters in this cartoon are supporters of the Democratic platform of 1868 because of the quote down below, "We regard the Reconstruction Acts (so-called) of Congress as usurpation, and unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void." which was "their militant platform denouncing the Reconstruction acts"(592)

Our text book on pages 591 and 592 actually helped me out on this one to figure out what was going on in this cartoon. A little help from google, the movie *Gangs of New York* and the better eyes of other students helped me out with the rest.

The clear victim portrayed in this cartoon is the black man that is being stepped on by the three other characters. The black guy is probably a war veteran from the Union army judging by the U.S. military hat that is presumably his lying on the ground. He is reaching towards a ballot box but the three other men are stepping on him, determined to prevent him from voting. He is clutching on to the American flag, this might be as a representation of wanting his freedom to vote, or his liberty and rights as a citizen.

The man on the far right of the cartoon could be the Democrats presidential candidate, Horatio Seymour, "the wartime governor of New York"(592) The hint that this character is a New York Politician was the 5th Ave button on his suit (that Benjamin Bross, from class, points out in one of his posts), which indicates a well-off New Yorker. I snooped around a little on google and it doesn't mention anything about Seymour living on 5th Ave (the richest neighborhood in New York in the late 19th century) This makes me question if this character is some other rich Democrat from N.Y that could have some financial persuasion over the votes because of whatever it is that he is holding in his hand. This guy is not the vice presidential candidate, Frank Blair that the book mentions as "the point man for the Democrats" because Blair is from Missouri, so the 5th Ave Button wouldn't make sense and google shows many pictures of Frank with a very large mustache, which

this guy does not have. The character is stepping on this poor black man because the basis of the Democrats campaign is the "abolition of the Freedman's Bureau and all political instrumentalities designed to secure negro supremacy."(592) He doesn't believe black men should be able to vote nor become citizens.

The man in the middle was easily identifiable as a Confederate and an advocate for slavery. His CSA belt buckle screams Confederate States of America sympathizer and the whip sticking out of his pocket (that Rachelle Diffenderfer points out in her post) suggests that he could be a slave holder. The *Lost Cause* phrase on his knife threatening the life of the black Union soldier under him represents the Confederacy's objection to the abolition of slavery and further more intergrading black men into the Army. My next thought was could this character be a Confederate soldier? He has the army jacket and a big pistol on his hip. The text gives it away as it talks about the Ku Klux Klan and their violence towards blacks to intimidate them from voting and then they name drop Nathan Bedford Forrest, a former Confederate general, as being one of the higher Klan member positions. Then I noticed the initials N.B.F. on the guys hat so it has to be him.

The character on the far left is a representation of an Irishman of the late 19th century. We've learned in class the ape-like features was a common trait they used to draw the Irish back then. The cross on the hat could be associated with Catholicism which is another stereotype for the Irish. The big Irish clue for me was the *Five Points* written on the characters hat. 5 Points is a predominantly Irish populated city from New York (which I learned from watching the movie *Gangs of New York*). Rachelle Deffender also points out the bottle of booze in his pocket in her previous post that is another stereotype that hinted at the Irish. This character is holding a club with the phrase "A VOTE.", appearing as if he's ready to beat the black man with it. This is another representation of Democrats resistance to allowing blacks to vote by reminding us of the draft riots. This character indicates the violence of other poor minorities that didn't want blacks to earn the right to vote because that would mean blacks were no longer a "lower" class than them.

This brings us to the background of the cartoon. There is a lynched man in the back from the lamp post and burning buildings in the back. I assume this is correlating the draft riots violence towards blacks of the early 1860's to the Ku Klux Klan's violence and murders to intimidate the blacks in the election of 1868.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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common threads between cartoons

by [Rachelle Diffenderfer](#) - Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 11:20 PM

I think its very interesting how all of these cartoons are from the same time period and all translate to the same depiction in one way or another. It's interesting to see the ballot box represented in each cartoon in some for or another. But the thing that catches my eye the most is the symbolism of the flags and the transformation of time in the three (or four depending on how you view them). In cartoon two you see the black man grasping a "current " flag showing his support for the changing times and looking to the future. In the cartoon 3 at the top right hand you see the 13 starred colonial flag and as the cartoon evokes you to see the transformation of before and after from top to bottom you see that the flag has changed to the "current " flag. In 4a and 4b i think you get the best flag transformation of all. In 4a. you see the colonial flags tattered and torn hanging on the wall in the back ground, Lady Liberty seems to be resting herself on the "Current" flag ans well as a "current" flag hung prominently in the center foreground just gathered and bunched as to not be so recognized at first. But in 4b. the "current" flag is hung more predominantly is less gathered at the top and larger. The colonial flags are still in the background but more tattered and torn then the 4a cartoon. Also I think that having the black soldier walk on a carpet runner with stars and stripes eludes to the acceptance that the blacks were looking for at the time and makes him look more equal.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: common threads between cartoons

by [Aj Glessner](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 4:46 PM

I think the easiest way to understand why all these common elements exist in the cartoons would be that they are all by the same cartoonist, Thomas Nast. So it would make sense that he would use many similar elements in his cartoons to symbolize various ideas, such as the vote being shown by the ballot box, and the Union being shown as a woman in a white robe.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #3

by [Maggie Van Wey-Wells](#) - Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:58 PM

This cartoon is about Andrew Johnson and how the freedmen were treated by the democrats during the Reconstruction Period. There was promises made to the freedmen of land and equality though what ended up happening was that they weren't even aloud to own or rent land, but they could work for white plantation owners if they wanted to. This cartoon was made by the perspective of a Republican, someone who wanted to show how the freedmen were treated by the president and democrats. It shows the discrimination and abuse which the freedmen had to endure during this period of time. There was riots again'st the 14th and 15 Amendment which the C.S.A refused to ratify though it depended on their readmission in the union. On the left it says "Pardon to rebels", because Johnson wanted to give the confederates back their land and farms. On the right it says "Vetoos to union men" because Johnson would veto every bill and act Congress tried to pass. Though, because the Republicans were able to override the Democrat party they were able to throw out the Presidents veto. All around you see images of the war and blacks being killed and abused by the white men. It shows Johnson talking down to a freedmen though he just been injured from the war fighting for the union. Johnson in the quote below basically tell the freedmen that he will not have the equality he was once promised.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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cartoon 2

by [Evan Kossow](#) - Friday, February 27, 2015, 12:37 PM

The time of these cartoons was a time when we as a nation saw our first African Americans in the senate and house. After the passing of the 13th and 14th the issue of race was charged, in your face, and allowed to be discussed with at least one nationally recognized side coming from a fair and open perspective. Cartoon 2 shows an effeminate and pathetic looking Jefferson Davis after his senate boot being replaced by a black man. Civic progress replaces racism and its right in Davis' face and out in the open. I saw this modern cartoon depicting Hillary Clinton "discussing" race in a different way as it may apply today. If this cartoon holds a fair perspective its fair to say the nation may not be over the race issue.



Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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