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Legacy of Reconstruction

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 9:46 PM

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Racial vs. Civic Nationalism

by [Cheree Scott](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 8:50 PM

In the podcast Foner spoke about how the reconstruction affected the black community, the 4 million men, women, and children who were freed slaves. During the early parts of our country, the United States had no laws stating how a person was considered a citizen of America. They went of “race”. Racial nationalism is what was being used until this passed century. Even during the reconstruction and the 14th amendment that gave the freed slaves citizenship, it was hard fought into the civic rights movements of the 1950’s and 60’s. In the text it spoke about the KKK, it was and still is a good example of racial nationalism. They don’t recognize anyone who isn’t white as a citizen of America.

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Re: Legacy of Reconstruction–Birthright citizenship and illegal immigrations

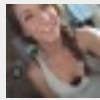
by [Sohni Maan-Davie](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 10:40 PM

One important consequence of the reconstruction is the development of birthright citizenship. Essentially this means that anyone born in this country is thereby a citizen with all the rights and privileges of any other citizen. This applies to a child born to undocumented aliens in this country.

Prior to the civil war, there was no such thing as birthright citizenship. In fact no black person was allowed to become a citizen whatever the circumstances were. On June 13 the first section of the Fourteenth Amendment, did black people born in the United States get to become citizens.

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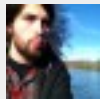


Re: Legacy of Reconstruction
by [Jennifer Jones](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 11:19 PM

As Professor Foner states that passing laws or “having rights” is not the same as enforcing the laws or exercising rights. When the constitution was changed to allow free slaves, it was not immediate. That wouldn't be immediate for generations to come, and still to this day. The United States is a place that violated laws that were made by the national government but didn't proceed to abide by them. While the 13th amendment was created, and was not really relevant then; it was a legal basis for the 50's and 60's during the civil rights movement. Even though the law was passed for the right of citizenship and freedom and did not become apparent, it created the platform for the generations to come.

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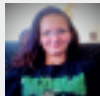


Birthright Citizenship and Illegal Immigration
by [Aidan Middleton](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 11:25 PM

I thought the comparison that the video drew between the issue of citizenship for former slaves and immigration questions we face today was an interesting one. The fact that we have birthright citizenship as a right protected by the constitution in our country, which most other countries don't have, is a reflection of our history as a nation. As mentioned in the video Americans like to believe that we are defined by “civic nationalism” rather than “racial nationalism”, meaning anyone is capable of being a citizen; not based on race but a commitment to American ideals like freedom, equality and individual rights. That is essentially true today, but before the Reconstruction Period citizenship was absolutely based on race. Luckily we were able to move past that as a nation. It's easy to see how this distinction plays into immigration issues. If an undocumented immigrant comes to America to pursue the American dream and has a child on American soil they are, by legal definition, an American. Whether or not this is good is up for debate, but the precedent was set during Reconstruction and it endures to this day.

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Re: Birthright Citizenship and Illegal Immigration
by [Cheree Scott](#) – Thursday, February 25, 2016, 9:08 AM

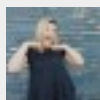
What you said Aidan is true. That any child born on American soil is an American. But there are a lot of hurdles that the parents have to go through. And if not done right they face years of being barred from entering the US.

source:

<http://www.alllaw.com/articles/nolo/us-immigration/can-child-undocumented-immigrant-become-citizen.html>

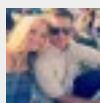
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Progress and Freedom
by [Emma Knutson](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 9:33 AM

Foner had talked about how as Americans now, we think that our country was founded perfectly and that we live in this perfect government. But in reality, we have had trials and errors. Our founding fathers are not horrible and deceitful men, but they were men doing what they thought was right in that time, that is my interpretation. He also talked about how our nation came to terms with dramatic changes after the civil war. It shows that our country may have made horrible decisions, but at least they were able to make changes and adapt to new tactics after the war had ended. I think that there was progress in our country. From coming from a pre civil war government where African Americans were not aloud to become citizens, to an ending war where they were soon going to be able to have that opportunity. All of these things cant be done all at once or in a perfect manner, but at least the amendments passed in time.



The right vs. the reality.
by Benjamin Glaeser – Friday, February 26, 2016, 12:48 PM

Foner makes it clear that after the civil war and during reconstruction blacks recieved many rights that they were in no way shape or form entitled to before. However just because we have rights does not always mean we are able to put them to use. Eric Foner says that even today Americans have many civil rights that are being infringed upon. Which the first things that comes to mind to me is the patriot act.

He also talks about how the civil war changed the definition of what it means to be a citizen in the united states. Pre civil war we had a an ethnic culture of citizenship meaning only whites could be citizens due to the Dred Scott ruling. However post civil war that culture changed to what we have today which is a civic nationalism meaning anyone can become a citizen. This coming from the 14th amendment and birthright citizenship.

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