



Search forums

Forum 3 Reconstruction Cartoons

• [Subscribe](#)

◀ [Reconstruction Cartoons](#)

[Reconstruction Cartoons](#) ▶

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

Move



Reconstruction Cartoons

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 9:45 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Reconstruction Cartoons topic.

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, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Reconstruction Cartoons

Sum of ratings: –

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



#4: "Shall I trust these men?"

by [Jessica Driver](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 12:13 PM

Cartoon #4 is a brilliant, moving expression of republican sentiment concerning reconstruction policy. The democratic President Johnson pardoned the aristocratic confederate traitors, but allowed loyal blacks who had sacrificed for the Union to participate in the rebuilding of their home states. This angered the republicans, one of whom (Thomas Nast) drew this cartoon in protest.

On the first page, Columbia sits enthroned. She represents the newly reunited union and the government thereof. Her laurel wreath and loose dress are reminiscent of Ancient Greek culture, which gave us democracy. The trappings of her throne and hall are very patriotic, and confederate symbols are nowhere to be seen, except in the hands of the confederate leaders kneeling before her. This fact emphasizes the supremacy of the Union. Lee is the most prominent of the confederates, kneeling with his head bowed. He is surrendering his sword and a flag bearing the letters "CSA", which stand for "Confederate States of America". He represents military surrender. Beside him, Jefferson Davis kneels and looks to Columbia, pleading for pardon (as stated by the boldface caption). The two are surrounded by other confederate leaders. Columbia looks disgusted with these penitent rebels. "Shall I trust these men?" she asks.

On the second page, Columbia appears to have risen from her throne and crossed the room. Again, the room is decorated with patriotic symbols, which serve to emphasize and inspire patriotic pride. Her hand rests on the shoulder of a black Union soldier who lost a leg in the war. Behind her, on a pedestal, is a glass ballot box that looks something like half an hourglass. The issue at stake is the franchise, as is stated in the caption.

"Shall I trust these men...and not this man?" Columbia asks. The message is clear: The former confederates are less worthy of the nation's trust than the black soldiers who helped fight against them, so why were they being treated better by the democratic president? This is Nast's argument, and I find it very powerful today. Perhaps it

would be less so to the racists of the day, but it was still a powerful statement.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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



Cartoon #4

by [Justin Smith](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 10:03 PM

In the first picture of this cartoon Lady Liberty is sitting in her throne looking down upon representatives of the Confederate States of America who are kneeling before her begging for mercy to be let back into the union without and consequences. Lady Liberty has a very distraught face and slouchy posture which shows her lack of interest in what they have to say. At the bottom of the picture it says, "Shall I just trust these men," In the second picture, Lady Liberty is standing next to a black amputee union soldier that lost his leg fighting for his country. At the bottom of this picture it says, "And not this man?"

I think this is a very powerful cartoon for a number of reasons. It is making a comparison between politicians who decided to secede from the Union and put all of the liberties that the United States had gained from becoming free from Britain at risk and a black soldier who put his life on the line fighting for the Union cause of equality to all men, hence the support from Lady Liberty. I love how the artist portrays each of the people in each picture. In the first picture all of the men are in a begging position and our looking up to Lady Liberty, whereas in the second picture; the soldier is standing tall along side Lady Liberty.

This is definitely from an artist who believed that blacks should be given the same rights as white men!

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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



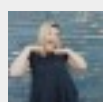
Re: Cartoon #4

by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 11:48 PM

This is a great explanation of the cartoon. It is obvious that Lady Liberty lacks the enthusiasm to grant the high ranking members of the ex- Confederate Nation a pardon when they believe they should receive one. She obviously believes the blacks who fought to save the Union should be enfranchised before any Confederate sympathizers should be accepted back into the Union. Nast depicts the feels of many radical republicans of that time.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



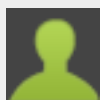
Re: Cartoon #4

by [Emma Knutson](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 11:11 AM

I would have to strongly agree with what you said. I think that Lady Liberty is displeased and uninterested in what the white men are trying to plead her with. Lady Liberty was an idea of freedom and it baffles me to think that these white men are on their hands and feet trying to convey her while they are acting in opposing ways to what liberty actually is. Then in the second cartoon, there is a black man who is earning his liberty by giving his life as a soldier. Lady Liberty's face and mannerisms seem to be annoyed and her being like really, come on, look at what he has done to earn his liberty.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



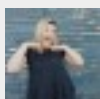
Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by [Evan Andrade](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 4:57 PM

What look like what is going on here in picture #3 is that the white men are taking advantage of the loyalty and hard working blacks. It shows how hypocritical the white men are, there are signs saying to love their enemies but it all the pictures there are pictures of blacks being murdered and tortured. It is a gruesome set of pictures that show how poorly the blacks were treated during the reconstruction period and it is arguably worse than during the slavery period

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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

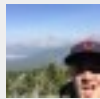


Re: Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Emma Knutson](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 7:31 PM

I completely agree with this. I thought the same thing, you just worded it better. I think the part of how hard the blacks worked is spot on. Like what Joe talked about in class about how in a sense they worked for a sharecrop. But without the blacks working, the plantation owners wouldn't be able to make a profit and have an incoming profit. Where it then gave the blacks the opportunity to still receive some of that profit. But in the end, the blacks were even more depicted in a negative way in this cartoon.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



Re: Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 6:44 PM

Cartoon 4A and 4B illiterates the franchising of black men after the civil war. In 4A you have members who supported the confederates such as Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee begging Lady Liberty for forgiveness. In the cartoon Jefferson Davis and the man standing to the right of him are holding papers that resemble the constitution and trying to argue that the north were the ones who were abridging the constitution. A lot of major Confederate sympathizers argued that they did not fight to protect the institution of slavery but because the north was acting against the Constitution. Lady Liberty is drawn looking down at these men in disgust and dissatisfaction, the caption at the bottom says, "Shall I trust these men?" In 4B Lady Liberty is standing and gesturing toward a crippled black man in a Union uniform with a sub-quote, "And not this man?" The illustrator obviously supports the franchising of the Freedpeople and believes that they should be forgiven and granted opportunities for their service in the Union Army. On the other hand the men who fought against the Union should not be forgiven for their actions against the Union. This is a very loaded message and probably got a lot of criticism because the over all message of the cartoons believes blacks should be forgiven and white men should not.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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

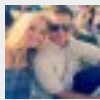


Re: Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Nicole Tapia](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 11:59 AM

I agree with what you are saying about how they were showing that they weren't against slavery but they were showing lady liberty that the north is basically "tampering" with the constitution and that it's all their fault for the troubles that are being caused but in reality it's the south's fault for being unjust. Lady liberty, I believe is a great symbol because she represents us, the freed people in America. And when she looks at the men in disgust and says "Shall I trust these men?" It's her realizing should and why should I trust the men who hurt other men or brothers because of the color of their skin. She looks disgusted that she should help men who clearly discriminate and believe that the government is for the white man only.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



Re: Reconstruction Cartoons 4a 4b
by [Benjamin Glaeser](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 7:44 PM

I agree with everything you said in this post, especially the part about this being a controversial cartoon. Something that came to mind when reading this post was that even though the blacks who fought for the union did make a great sacrifice many northerns still believed them to be second class citizens. Yes many believed slavery was wrong but many were still very racist. Only radical rebuplicants believed they should be made citizens and given the right to vote. That's what makes this cartoon very controversial to me. Not only was this cartoon unpopular in the south but the north as well.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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



Re: progress and freedom in U.S History
by [Summer Smith](#) – Monday, February 29, 2016, 10:37 AM

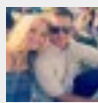
In relation to the reconstruction in the south, the fourteenth amendment was passed giving African Americans

citizenship or freedom in the US. But, this does not mean the the US is moving in a positive trajectory considering what happens later in history. In the book, evidence states on page 569 that evidence is still strong in even the North and they did not want to give blacks the right to vote. So, on the topic of racism I can't say that in relation to the reconstruction that the U.s History didnt move in a positive way.

Post made in wrong topic – this discussion is for the cartoons

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



Re: Reconstruction Cartoons 4a, 4b

by [Benjamin Glaeser](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 7:37 PM

In the cartoon picture 4a and 4b, I think the woman represents lady liberty in both pictures. However in 4a it looks like a confederate general is asking for a pardon, i believe he is a confederate soldier due to his grey uniform. Everyone in this cartoon seems to be disgruntled or angered by this, which leads me to believe they are northerners. An interesting thing i noticed were the tattered flags hanging in the room. I saw this as a symbol of the damage done and signifying that this cartoon was drawn post war.

In the second part of this cartoon lady liberty is shown with her hand on the shoulder on a northern black shoulder with the word "franchise" below it which we learned in class means the right to vote. The black man is clearly a northern soldier due to his dark color uniform (blue) as well as his missing leg.

Combining these two cartoon its clear that lady liberty has a dilemma. Southern soldiers wanted pardon for their actions and descisions in the civil war. But this cartoon shows that how could she pardon southerners without giving the right to vote to the northern black men who fought for the union? This cartoon in my opinion is clearly done by a northerner, one that also supported black rights.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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



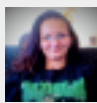
Re: 4b cartoonist black union soldier

by [Brian Hunter](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 8:00 PM

After much hesitation, Lincoln finally allowed black men to serve in the union army. Approximately 180,000 black men fought for the union. In this drawing the cartoonist is saying that if a black man can give his life or limb for the union then why would he not be able to vote. Is his life or limb worth less than one of a white union soldier?

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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



Re: 4b cartoonist black union soldier

by [Cheree Scott](#) – Thursday, February 25, 2016, 9:13 AM

What did you think of 4a?

Sum of ratings: (1)

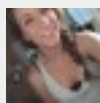
[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: 4b cartoonist black union soldier

by [Brock Hinds](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 11:21 PM

I totally agree with your post and I really like the explanation that you gave. It is a shame to see how poorly African Americans were treated during the Reconstruction period. After all they fought in the Civil War and like you stated in your post, they gave their lives as well as there limbs sometimes against their wishes because of the draft. It would only make sense if we allowed them to vote after what they gave during the Civil War. And I really like your question in your post! African Americans had fought along side the white union soldiers. They even sometimes payed the ultimate price of their lives. But they were still treated poorly and not given any equal rights. So to answer your question do I think his life or limb is worth less than one of a white union soldier? NO not at all! But ask somebody the same question during Reconstruction and you may get a different answer..



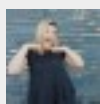
Cartoon #4
by [Jennifer Jones](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 8:37 PM

What I see in the cartoon is the confederate states of America asking for forgiveness from Lady Liberty? While she seems conflicted on trusting the men of the South and seems like she is asking these men if it is just to trust the confederates but not trust the black men in the second picture of the cartoon.



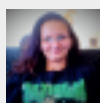
Re: Cartoon #4
by [Victoria Hayles](#) – Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 9:08 PM

I think you missed a few details in the cartoons that are important in interpretation. At the bottom of the first picture it says "pardon" showing that the men were not the whole of the confederate, but just the rich landowners and confederate leaders looking for a blanket pardon and receiving it. In the second picture it says "franchise" and there is a glass voting box showing that the black man wants the right to vote. Lady Liberty(the Union) is asking why the rich southerners, the traitors, are getting full pardons, while the black man can't even have the right to vote.



Cartoon #3
by [Emma Knutson](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 8:42 PM

I believe that cartoon #3 resembles exactly what was happening during the reconstruction era. Andrew Johnson, who was obviously on board with the black slaves becoming part of the union, made the rest of the people uneasy. This can be easily seen on the corner drawings with white men, holding weapons and trying to shoot the blacks, or beat the blacks to the ground. Whereas, in the front and center, Johnson is with a black man in that they are consulting the new reconstruction era and what is next to come. Along with that, in the background of the man with Johnson, there are still drawings of articles published talking about the plantation owners still having anger towards their slaves. In my honest opinion, I think the author was trying to portray the different emotions that were happening over the course of the reconstruction beginning.



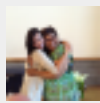
4
by [Cheree Scott](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 9:08 PM

4a

What I am getting from this image is that the men who run the country are asking for a pardon, to be forgiven for their crimes. Not just the North but also the South. They are all on bended knee to what looks like Lady Liberty. Lady Liberty looks to be saddened but unsure of how to respond. But there are four gentlemen in the background hidden by shadow who seem angry at the men who are asking for the pardon.

4b

In this cartoon, I see Lady Liberty pointing to a black Union solider who lost a limb and is on crutches. And is asking what the leaders mean by they won't give this man franchise when he fought with them for his own freedom. He almost paid the ultimate sacrifice for his freedom.



The First Cartoon
by [Angelina Rivas](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 9:33 PM

The first cartoon was interesting. On the side of the desk there are the words: Senator Revels. As you could see

president Johnson seems to be negotiating with the African American and Davis seems to be looking back at the group of people talking to the Black with disgust. As seen in his facial expression and his body language; for example, he is covering himself with a blanket or curtain which could mean shielding himself from the sight, and the way his arms wrap around his body. While in the comic Johnson seems interested with what the black had to say the rest of the men in the comic (besides Davis) seem to be disinterested in what the black man had to say, or just concerned.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



Cartoon #4

by [Brock Hinds](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 9:45 PM

After looking at this two part cartoon I believe I have a theory about what the artist was trying to say. I am under the impression the the women in the cartoon is suppose to be "Lady Liberty". I believe the artist was trying to promote equality between whites and blacks. If you look at the bottom of the cartoon you will notice two sayings. The first one being; Pardon, shall I trust these men. The picture is showing a room full of what appears to white northerners. Lady Liberty almost seems less interested in this picture I hope somebody else finds this strange. And finally the second one being; Franchise, and not this man? This picture shows Lady Liberty with her arm around a african american civil war solider. His leg is missing it was more than likely lost to amputation at least that's what I think. I wonder why Lady Liberty has a different attitude it seems in this part of the cartoon? I believe the artist was trying to promote equality between whites and african americans and also reunite the nation in a way.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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



Re: Cartoon #4

by [Nicolle Tapia](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 12:02 PM

I definitely agree that Lady Liberty is promoting equality because she looks at the white men in disgust. She thinks why should I trust these men when the black man is hurt and injured trying to fight for his right to be a freedman. Lady liberty has doubts to help someone like the white man who clearly does not care about the black man because in the cartoon she is portraying racial equality.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



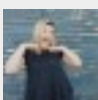
Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by [Philip Engel](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 9:56 PM

I am choosing to analyze the second political cartoon which shows 3 whites standing on top of a african American stating that this is a white government. I believe the artist is trying to show the retaliation of southern whites to the representation of African Americans in the government in this period of time following the civil war.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by [Emma Knutson](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 9:10 AM

I also think that this cartoon shows the line being cut between all whites. Whether they be from the north, south, confederate, union, or anything else, they are all equal because they are white. Whereas all blacks are nothing, no matter how they have contributed to the nation. It is very pitiful to see that our ancestors were cruel in deceitful just for a vote.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

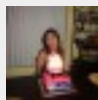
by [Philip Engel](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 11:30 PM

That is a very good point that you recognize, in this time period most whites were equal regaurdless of

where they were from when being compared to African Americans. I believe these acts against African Americans were a retaliation to their new status in the United States. It was such a huge change in our nation and it seems to be a recurring theme in this country following big political and social changes.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Cartoon #3
by [Nicolle Tapia](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 10:17 PM

In cartoon 3 I think the message that the cartoonist is trying to give out is that the three white men standing over the black man on the floor with their arms in the air do not believe that blacks should be free. The war ended in mid 1860 but the date of this cartoon is 1868 so this means that even after the war they believe that free blacks and them not being slaves is “unconstitutional” which is also written on the bottom of the picture.

Another part of the picture that shows that these men strongly disagree with free blacks is the quote “This is a white mans government” meaning that the government should only have white men running and controlling what happens to the people.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Cartoon #3
by [Philip Engel](#) – Thursday, February 25, 2016, 12:36 PM

I really like how you included that this picture wasn't just depicting that whites were upset about having blacks make decisions in our society but that it was unconstitutional for them to be free in the first place under their southern beliefs.

Sum of ratings: (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Cartoon #3
by [Brock Hinds](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 11:37 PM

I really like your explanation of this cartoon! When I looked at this cartoon that was one of the first things that I did notice was the date on the bottom. I wonder why 8 years later it seems like the attitude of the white people towards the blacks has not changed one bit. I still have a very hard time grasping the fact that the whites believed that it was "unconstitutional" for blacks to be free and not slaves. I just wonder what could have caused so much hatred towards the Freedman during Reconstruction? I understand that whites could possibly see African Americans as a threat because they would be competing with them in the workforce. But I feel like the treatment during Reconstruction was worse than during slavery. I really hope somebody else agrees with me on that.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Carter Ellis](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 10:24 PM

The Cartoon I chose is 4a and 4b.

What I see in this cartoon is some inter turmoil going on in this lady. All she has ever been taught and know is to probably only trust the white man. But in her heart it seems as if she is starting to realize that there are no differences between the two and all that the slaves wanted was freedom also. So you have a wounded slave who is fighting for his freedom or what he believes in most and she is seeing that.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Jennifer Jones](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 1:42 PM

I really like how you made the point that all she has ever known is to trust the white man and she is starting to see that there is no difference between the two. I believe that is a really good point to see and hopefully the people of America saw that to when this cartoon was published.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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



Re: Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Thursday, February 25, 2016, 9:00 AM

That is a good way to understand Lady Liberties feelings in this picture. I think it is important to know that the men who are begging for her forgiveness are the leaders and generals of the Confederate States. As Joe stated in class, Jefferson Davis never became a citizen of the united States again and in this picture you can see he is begging for something. In his one hand he has paper, I am assuming it is the Constitution and he is using that to argue his innocence.

In 4b she is obviously in a position where she is making an argument that, this man though he is black should be pardoned and franchised.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



Pardon and Franchise
by [Kevin Smith](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 10:52 PM

Pardon and Franchise are displayed together, clearly recognizable by the frame of the painting, a portal plus tympanum shaped design outlining cartoon, and the same woman in both cartoons. The two cartoons are similar in style, but are purposefully juxtaposed in content. Pardon portrays what would appear to be rebels and confederacy members, with a ranking confederate officer laying his sword down before what would appear to be lady liberty, or some personification of justice of the union. Comparing the groveling officers to the black Union soldier who is has clearly fought and suffered for his country outline the issue the cartoons address, why shouldn't the black man be enfranchised? The positioning of both sets of men is an interesting technique used by the illustrator. Those who are assumed dissenters from the union are all kneeling on the ground, below the chair level of their judge, while the Union soldier stands eye level to his judge, on an elevated plateau, clearly some steps above what ground level of the building is. This would be symbolic of where each member would stand in terms of stature in the eyes of the illustrator, the submitting rebels beneath the justice of the country, while freed slave and blacks in general have elevated their stature in comparison.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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



Re: Othello
by [Benjamin Hardiman](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 11:03 PM

Ben Hardiman

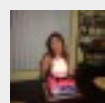
Forum 3 Response

2/22/16

Time Works Wonders

I found it very interesting that Shakespeare’s “Othello” kept popping up in these cartoons. Othello covers most the ideals of reconstruction era south: Hurt pride, loss of power, treason, and racism. Jefferson Davis plays the role of Iago in this cartoon, he is clearly hurt and envious of his loss in the political area. To make matters worse, the black man now holds the seat he once held. In our readings we’ve learned how proud the southern people are and the civil war represents a total loss, not only in casualties and finances but a huge blow to their pride. In Othello, Iago’s ego hurts because of his position as the second in command to Othello. The powerful members of the south are now terrified that the tides of power will shift towards the African Americans. The idea of losing power to a race that is the bottom rung of the social ladder is probably the biggest loss in the eyes of the south. I think the idea of losing power to African Americans perpetuated the Reconstruction Era. The themes in Othello help capture the ideals and mentality of Reconstruction Era south.

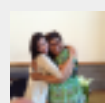
Sum of ratings:3 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Othello
by [Nicolle Tapia](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 3:04 PM

I didn't see the connection you made between what we have been studying and "Othello." The way you connect Davis to Iago and how they are together in terms of political power is correct because the southern people did not want to lose their power and they did whatever possible to make sure everyone knew they were in charge and they white man was superior to the black people. The idea of losing power to someone inferior to you would be taking a loss socially because you are considered powerful but now that the blacks are coming up and also getting a chance in government, the white men are scared their power will be take away. And you clearly made that connection to "Othello"

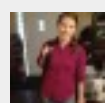
Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Othello
by [Angelina Rivas](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 9:26 PM

I enjoy thoroughly that you compared the comic to one of Shakespeare's plays. Although Shakespeare may be hard to understand given the time era it was written in, I can see why you compared it to Othello. Othello is most likely one of the few Shakespeare plays that concerns racism, but not the only one that has the theme of hurt pride, loss of power and treason. Those three could also be found in Hamlet, with his uncle. Claudius has those traits because he was under the shadow of king hamlet, lost his power by getting murdered by hamlet, and treason for killing his brother and technically marrying his sister as seen in those times. Shakespeare tragedies have at least one prideful character in Romeo and Juliet it was Tybalt. The only thing that Othello has that the other ones I mentioned doesn't have, is the concept of race, and for that props to you.

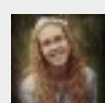
Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Othello (and cartoon #3)
by [Jessica Driver](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 6:10 PM

I really liked the insight in Ben's post. I think the Othello connection can be clearly seen in the third cartoon as well. Unfortunately, I hadn't even heard of the play Othello before he mentioned it, and I can't zoom far enough into cartoon #3 to read the text from the play in the bottom corner, so I have to rely on Ben's description of the play to interpret the cartoons.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

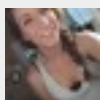


Time Works Wonders
by [Victoria Hayles](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 11:53 PM

I really liked the first cartoon because it references a Shakespeare play that is obscure to many people now, but was then a bit easier to understand. Also how the artist connected Davis to Iago is very interesting, and shows how deeply racist and bitter Davis was towards blacks then.

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

Sum of ratings:1 (1)



Re: Time Works Wonders
by [Jennifer Jones](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 11:44 AM

Do you think Othello had a prominent part of how they viewed black men? Do you think it made them feel any different? When we read Othello in present time we see how a black man was once viewed as a incredible military man that went crazy in many of the peoples eyes in a rage of jealousy. After so many black men fought in the war and returned home, do you think many people compared black men to Othello? Aka had respect for them because they fought, but did not want them to have the same rights as them and live their lifestyle.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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

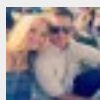


Re: Time Works Wonders
by [Victoria Hayles](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 7:27 PM

I did not actually think about that, but it would make some sense. What I was pointing out in my previous post was that they not only read Shakespeare plays, but understood them and referenced them in order for other people to understand their point of view. Historically I think that is valuable information to know and understand.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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

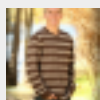


Re: Reconstruction Cartoons #2
by [Benjamin Glaeser](#) – Thursday, February 25, 2016, 7:22 AM

In this political cartoon there are four people. the First is clearly a confederate soldier holing a dagger that says the lost cause. The second in a northern Irish or German man due to the fact he is drawn like a monkey that is holding a club that says the vote. The third man is also a northern white man who might be President Johnson, i"m not sure. But he is holding an envelope type object that says votes and capital on it. And lastly there is the black man, who appears to have been a union soldier being stepped on by the other three white man. The last important object is the round ball in the corner that i think is a ballot box. This political cartoon is racist not only toward blacks but northern immigrants. In my opinion this cartoon is showing that no matter the faults of the southerners or some northerners at least they are white. The author of this cartoon is showing that he would rather have whites votes than blacks even if they fought for the union.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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



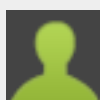
Cartoon #2
by [Justin Smith](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 2:14 PM

In my opinion, the three white men in this cartoon are as follows: Irish immigrant, ex-confederate, and Andrew Johnson. This picture ties in with President Johnson's "reconstruction" plan. He started out by attacking the rich white farmers of the south and blacks, but being very lenient with the poor white farmers of the south. Then as his presidency went on he just became more racist towards blacks and much more lenient towards all whites that were part of the confederacy. If you look at the cartoon you can see the three men shaking hands with one another which just symbolizes the fact that these men don't care what their back ground is, they just don't want to blacks to have any power socially or politically.

I think another interesting thing about this cartoon is the return of the Irish immigrant. The portrayal of the man is still incredibly racist, but it makes a powerful point that they were seen much higher than black men were seen in society.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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



Cartoon #3
by [Kevin Smith](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 10:31 PM

In #3 of the reconstruction cartoons, the mirroring pictures labeled “1862” and “1866” are an interesting feature to the cartoon as a whole, as they appear to be the inverse of each other. 1862 depicts a union official accepting the sword of a confederate officer by terms of surrender. An intact American flag hangs on the back wall, the door on the left. 1866 has similar features, but conversely has a tattered CSA flag, the door on the right, and what I would assume to be a Union officer, hat in hand, addressing either a southern politician or confederate officer, based on the shading of their clothes. In 1866, a desk is portrayed in the back, with documents unreadable in the format presented, but a noticeable addition as it is the only difference in features between the two panels. These two panels represent the differences between the administration of Lincoln, during the civil war and leading into reconstruction, and Johnson’s administration, as he took office at the end of the war and the beginning of reconstruction. Though it is obvious that the ushering of in of Johnson reverses the position of North and South, the varying details helps to solidify his narrative. The elimination of the union flag, the addition of a tattered confederate flag as a reminder of their resistance, plus the reversal of the direction (north and south) of the doors are indicators to of how the illustrator sees the nation changing.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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



Cartoon #3: Top portion

by [Jessica Driver](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 1:59 PM

The top portion of Cartoon 3 sets a background for the rest of the cartoon. It involves depictions of horrific treatment of blacks. In the middle is a portion labeled "Southern Rights – what they were". It shows white men whipping and auctioning blacks. The implication of the heading is that this is what they were really fighting for.

Riots in Memphis and New Orleans (mentioned on pg 570 of the textbook) are shown with whites attacking black men, women and children from either side of the page, despite a white flag held by a black man on the right portion. In the background, buildings are burning, including a school and "Lincoln Chapel", which represents Lincoln's ideals and moral rightness being destroyed.

In the foreground, an American flag lays on the ground beneath two dead men, one black and one white. This serves as a vivid picture of what this violence does to the nation.

As a whole, this top portion illustrates the horrible treatment of blacks. When considered in the context of the rest of the cartoon, the center part provides perspective on the background, and the side pieces are a statement about the disasters taking place because of Andrew Johnson's reconstruction.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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



Cartoon #3 Centerpiece

by [Jessica Driver](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 6:13 PM

The heading of the centerpiece in Cartoon #3 reads, "Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction". The cartoon is a critique of Johnson's racist reconstruction policies, as can be seen in the depiction of anti-black violence. The theme is set up by the papers on either side of the circle, which reflect the two panels of cartoon #4. One side has a poster that says, "Pardon to rebels" and a cascade of "pardon" papers. On the other side is a poster reading, "Veto to Union men" and a cascade of "veto" papers. Above the poster, a paper reads "Freedmen's Bureau Bill". The artist is criticizing Johnson's quickness to pardon confederates and veto bills that help freedmen (discussed on p. 566 and p.570 of the textbook, respectively).

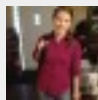
The bottom of the circle has quotes from Shakespeare. The injured black veteran in the picture has Othello's line, while Johnson (in costume)has Iago's. This comparison to Shakespeare seems to have as much significance than the lines themselves, as (according to Ben) Othello had higher status than Iago. The black men of the day must have felt insulted by Johnson's treatment of them, as indicated by Othello's line.

The situation they are referring to is depicted in the background. Blacks, including women and children, are being attacked and killed in a horrific riot. The posters on the wall indicate Johnson's statements and claims. Page 564 of the textbook mentions the "traitors" quote. Neither the instructor nor the book mentioned Andrew Johnson claiming to be the "Moses" the blacks were looking for, or claiming that "I am one of your best friends". However, a very close look at the bottom right-hand corner of the cartoon reveals a quote in which Andrew Johnson says these things.

His true thoughts, however, are revealed by one showing a slave being whipped (with the text "Plantation [illegible]: good for the Constitution" on it) and one proclaiming vetoes on the Freedman's bureau and Civil Rights bills. Over the top of this last poster is written: "All for your good – A. J.". The indication here is that Johnson is claiming he will punish traitors and help freedmen, but in truth he is vetoing bills that would help them and claiming it is for their good.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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



Cartoon #3 Bottom panel

by [Jessica Driver](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 6:15 PM

At the bottom of cartoon #3 is a panel describing "how [Johnson's reconstruction] works". Johnson is shown as a snake charmer. A black man is on the floor. Around his leg is wrapped a snake labeled "copperhead", referring to the democratic party. But he is struggling for his life with a snake labeled "CSA" (standing for Confederate States of America), which is wrapped around his chest and neck, choking him to death. On the wall is a paper that reads, "Vetoes and pardons to be had here".

The message of this part of the cartoon is similar to the other portions, but differently expressed. Johnson, by pardoning confederates (textbook, p. 566) and continually vetoing congressional reconstruction bills (as was described in class), is guiding the democrats and particularly the ex-confederate planters to choke the freedom and life out of the newly-freed black population by means of black codes.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



cartoon #1

by [Kevin Smith](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 9:53 PM

The portrayal of Jefferson Davis as Iago is interesting in that Iago's relationship with Othello is superior and subordinate, while Davis' relationship with slavery would be reversed when viewed from an economic standpoint. This might be the illustrator's commentary on the reconstruction, that while suppressed as a race and culture for the near entirety of their existence in America, the freedmen were ascending the political spectrum, while those like Davis and other former confederate officials were either being banished or roles were being diminished. The political turnover of the south causes a social change as well, as we see Davis envious of the new senator, possibly questioning his own cultural state.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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

[◀ Reconstruction Cartoons](#)

[Reconstruction Cartoons ▶](#)

[Moodle Docs for this page](#)

[HST 202 W16 \(Escobar Meta 31004 31003\)](#)