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Reconstruction Cartoons
by Joe Escobar – Friday, February 19, 2016, 9:45 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Reconstruction Cartoons topic.

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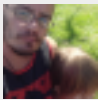
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Depictions of different groups
by Dylan Semons – Monday, February 22, 2016, 2:48 PM

After viewing these cartoons I was most suprised by the fact that the depictions of Black Americans had actually changed to be less caricture like and more of a depiction of actual human beings even in the more negative cartoons the style had changed, I felt that this showed that there at least had been a slight change in racial attidudes in our country as a whole at this time, however the depictions of both Andrew Johnson and Jefferson Davies where very negative which makes complete since given there roles in history. I noticed as well that the depictions of former confederates where not totally negative. I feel that this shows that our Country at this time had had enough of blood letting and violence.

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Re: Depictions of different groups
by Shawn Jenkins – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 1:01 PM

When i first began this assignment i looked at all the illustrations. #2 is the one i chose. I had looked at all of them and had not noticed the change you spoke of until reading your post. Thank you for pointing that out to me. It does show a change in the way blacks were viewed by these artists. I am reluctant to say that the overall opinion had changed based on these 5 cartoons alone. But it does make me want to further look into the portrayal of blacks more.

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Re: Depictions of different groups

by [Kyler Paselk](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 9:01 PM

I wonder if this is due to an overall change in the view of blacks in the United States, or if the drawings were made by different/less racist artists. Maybe these artists are more northern than the artists we were seeing in the last form. It could also be a mixture of all of these. Your point still stands that the view on blacks has changed since the last drawings, but I don't think that is the only variable in play here.

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Black Senator

by [Lisa Martin](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 4:17 PM

Black Senate

In the first political cartoon titled "Time Works Wonders," the illustrator, in my opinion is trying to portray that there was only one black man in Congress at this particular time. At the time of this senate meeting the only black man in the Senate was Hiram Revels. He was the first black man to be elected into the United States Senate as a free black man. Senator Revels looks to be writing maybe some sort of bill in a Senate seat. Also, there is a man standing near the desk looking almost scared of the other senators. I'm unsure of who this man exactly is, but I'm thinking he could be a senator who doesn't agree with the black senator being in the Senate. During this time that this picture is depicted, it was the time of the Reconstruction which happened after the Civil War ended. This was a very crucial time for the United States.

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Re: Black Senator

by [Bryan Jakiemiec](#) – Thursday, February 25, 2016, 10:09 PM

When looking at this political cartoon, I do not see just one man looking scared of the other white men around Hiram Revels desk. I see the four white men, who are most likely involed in politics, all looking grossly at Hiram Revels, making it clear to him that they disapprove of him being a senator. The main portion of this cartoon however is reflected in the body language of the man drawn closest to the viewer. My best guess is that Hiram Revels filled this mans seat in the Senate. I also think that the quote listed below the cartoon is supposed to be read as if this man is saying it.This quote shows common white opinion that many do not believe that blacks should be able to have such an important role in government.

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Re: Black Senator

by [Peter Mixon](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 3:32 PM

The black senator is definitely Hiram Revels, since the inscription on his desk reads “senator Revels.” The man in the foreground dressed in the Shakespearian garb is meant to be Jefferson Davis. The caption reads “Iago(Jeff Davis): ‘For in that...’” which is clearly giving Jefferson Davis one of Iago’s lines from the play (Othello). The line reads: “For in that I do suspect the lusty moor hath leap’d into my seat: the thought whereof doth like a poisonous mineral gnaw my inwards.” The seat being referenced is obviously the senate seat. As you recall from class, Davis was not allowed to return to congress after the civil war, and this cartoon depicts him bitterly resentful that his place has been taken by Revels.

The fact that Davis is given Iago’s role is telling, because Iago is the villain of Othello, and often considered one of the vilest of Shakespeare’s villains. While Davis believed blacks to be inferior and did not want them to have any part of the reconstructed south, Nast, by portraying him in the role of Iago, is declaring him to be evil and jealous; a true villain, in fact. I think the caption Time Works Wonders is meant to be sarcastic. Nast is crafting a response to the reconstructionist group that believed that time would heal all wounds of the civil war. He is portraying his opinion that spite and jealousy toward freedmen would poison the south, as personified in Davis, and prevent southerners from ever accepting blacks’ place as equals in society. It would seem, then, that Nast supported a more radical form or reconstruction as proposed by the Republicans, or even the Radical Republicans.



Re: Black Senator

by [Lisa Martin](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 10:08 PM

Wow youre much more familiar with Shakespeare then I am. I would have never known Iago and Othello were characters in Shakesphere. I'm curious what play those characters are from? Thank you for your Shakespherean insite that I would have never necessarily gotten out of this cartoon. I see that the words were in Old English of course, but like I emphasized, not being familiar with Shakesphere I wouldnt have gotten that.

Its somewhat ironic that a white man would be jealous of a black man when white men have all of their rights completely. Black men at this time were called "freed men," but they weren't comepletely freed men. They had some rights at this time obviously if a black man was being able to go into the senate. Yet they still didn't have all the neccesary rights that white men had.



Re: Black Senator

by [Dylan Semons](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 10:54 PM

I think that this cartoon represents a changing of the guard in out government and showed almost the disbelief in the eyes of the white establishment at the fact that a black man was in a high government office



4a and 4b

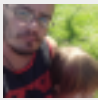
by [Kyler Paselk](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 6:06 PM

I believe that 4a is describing Lady Liberty or a woman representing the United States. In this picture she is asking if she should trust the men who already had rights to vote, own property, and run for office. These men bow down to her. This could represent them wanting to hold the current laws around equality. These men are also portrayed as white wealthy men, probably in a place of power.

4a represents the same woman asking if the should trust the other man instead. This man is a black man who probably fought in the war and sadly lost his leg.

The two pictures are proposing a question. Do I trust the people who are using me for political power and the men who already have all the rights they could ever want, or do I trust the man who fought for my country even though he had no rights at all? He sacrificed his leg for me.

I believe that this cartoon was drawn by an abolitionist from the north asking the question of equal rights.



Re: 4a and 4b

by [Shawn Jenkins](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 1:05 PM

i don't think the issue being shown is a which do i choose issue. I think that Lady Liberty(my assumption as well) is asking if she should not give the same freedoms to blacks as whites. This disabled veteran who just fought in the war and suffered just as much f not more than others. Should he not have the same freedoms as the rest.



Re: 4a and 4b

by [Kyler Paselk](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 12:29 PM

The reason I thought it was a choice is not because she herself would be the one making the choice, but because the whites would react negatively if there were any support for the wounded black soldier. The

choice is either choosing equal rights for everyone with a possibility of resentment from the white population, or satisfying the the whites by leaving out the blacks. To, me, that is why this picture represents a political choice. Her heart wants equality, but she knows that her decision would lead to more trouble.

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Cartoon 4b
by [Clayton LeaMaster](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 6:37 PM

This one had a powerful message to me. A wounded black man who just risked his life in the civil war is still not accepted. The quote at the bottom “And not this man!” kind of says it all, along with the ladies action as if she is presenting him as an example.

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Re: Cartoon 4a
by [Clayton LeaMaster](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 3:56 PM

I analyzed cartoon 4b as well. I see these men as southerners because of the way Lady Liberty is portrayed. She seems irritated and maybe pities the men because they are desperately begging. The men are holding papers and I believe the papers are the Black Codes that they so badly want passed.

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Re: Cartoon 4a
by [Clayton LeaMaster](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 4:03 PM

I guess another way I saw cartoon 4a was that the men were northerners who were trying to get the amendments passed. And maybe they aren't so much as begging but showing respect toward Lady Liberty because they know that these amendments will help the ongoing issues. And maybe Lady Liberty isn't irritated or annoyed but is listening intently to these men and is understanding where they are coming from.

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#2: What really is this "white man's government"?
by [Peter Mixon](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 6:46 PM

As with everything, context is vital to understanding this cartoon. Its date of publication in Harper’s Weekly was September 5th, 1868. This was at the height of the 1868 presidential election, which pitted the Republican Ulysses S. Grant against the Democrat Horatio Seymour. The democratic platform in this election was strongly anti–reconstruction, demanding the abolition of the Freedmen’s Bureau, and decrying Congress’s reconstruction acts as unconstitutional. Democratic propaganda painting Republicans as “negro supremacists,” as well as Ku Klux Klan action in the south during the voting, made it clear that the Democratic party was a white supremacist party.

This cartoon (yet another by Thomas Nast) portrays Nast’s opinion of the democratic platform. The Irishman on the left holds the club of “A Vote,” presumably referring to the voting power the large number of immigrants (mostly Democrat) wielded. The figure in the center, dressed as a southern planter and wearing a belt buckle inscribed “CSA” (for Confederate States of America), wields a knife labeled “The Lost Cause,” which refers to the confederates who tried to re–write the history of the civil war to make it not an issue of slavery and treason, but one of states rights and southern honor. The man on the right I am assuming to be Horatio Seymour, holding high a pocketbook inscribed “Capital for Votes” referring, I believe, to buying votes by bribery. These three figures of white supremacy are holding hands in a solemn pact, while standing upon a black soldier who is clinging to the flag of the Union. In effect, by seeking to override the rights of freedpeople, these men are trampling upon the United States itself.

With the label “his is a White Man’s Government,” and captioned by the words of the Democratic party: “We regard the reconstruction acts (so called) of Congress as usurpation, and unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void,” this cartoon makes Nast’s opinon of the Democrats clear. It is a vehement declaration of the corruption of Democratic platform in the 1868 election.

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Re: #2: What really is this "white man's government"?

by [Kevin Smolek](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 2:51 PM

I think you have done a great job of interpreting this cartoon! I didn't see that the binder said "capital for votes", that clearly means that they were willing to buy votes any way they could. The Irish mans club, I think could mean that they were willing to fight, riot, and intimidate people into voting for who they wanted. The clear glass voting bowl on the ground shows that the votes are not secret, and everyone knows who you are voting for. This means that anyone could punish you for voting the wrong way. Good job on this, it really helped me refine my thoughts on this cartoon.

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Cartoon number 2

by [Jordan Hevern](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 10:01 PM

I chose to analyze cartoon 2 due to the slander that it is still putting on blacks. The cartoon was posted in 1868, three years after the war. You have three “men” and an ape like man. This cartoon is obviously done by a southern democrat or even a artistic slave owner. Basically saying that blacks are not fit for government positions, but than you have an ape man who is standing on him as well. Since I believe that a southern drew this, I believe he intended for the ape man to be a northern, still fought in the war, still above african americans, but not as great as a white man. The middle man, would either be a poor southern or northern, but since he is close to the more classy man I believe he is a southern, because he gets to carry a knife. Were as the ape man only gets a bat. The man on the far right is the rich, successful white southern, who believes that he is the only man that can hold a government job, and does it correctly. Another thing that stood out to me is the fact that their is an American Flag underneath the black boy. Which I would of initially thought that it would be next to the “men”. So thinking about it, I came to the conclusion that the the younger boy was showing pride of being considered a citizen of the United States, and these three came along and are stepping on his celebration. But once I looked at it closer, I started realizing that in the background it looked liked the there is a town on fire, as is if this is where blacks started to live independently and men who were still in the mindset of slaveholding and white men on top came and burned this town down, and are celebrating their “accomplishment” over their last victim of this cruel torture. This picture has a lot of meaning behind it, and it shows that people who are set in their ways are willing to go distance to make their point clear, no matter what damage they cause.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: Cartoon number 2

by [Shawn Jenkins](#) – Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 7:51 AM

When you refer to the man in the middle as maybe a northern, did you not see the CSA belt buckle?

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1

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Re: Cartoon number 2

by [Jordan Hevern](#) – Thursday, February 25, 2016, 10:18 PM

Yes I realized that afterward the edit limit was up..

So now realizing it, I would have say that he is a Southern that doesn't have a lot of money. He probably owns a cotton farm, so not part of the government, but is still white, and "is better than african Americans".

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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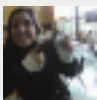
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Re: Cartoon number 2
by [Kevin Smolek](#) – Thursday, February 25, 2016, 10:53 PM

I think that the ape man is supposed to be an Irishman, showing that even after the war the Irish were still looked on unfavorably, at least in the mind of this cartoonist. The confederate is holding a knife representing the lost cause, the belief that they could never have won the war due to the odds they faced. I think what the cartoonist is trying to say is that even though all these men are different, and stand for different beliefs, they are united in refusing the back man the right to vote. The black man being stood on is reaching for the see through ballot boxes, clearly wanting to get to vote.

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Re: Cartoon number 2
by [Jordan Hevern](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 10:50 PM

When I first posted about the cartoons, I couldn't decide what to do, and my first post, I just winged it and wasn't really thinking of the bigger picture and just focusing on individual aspects of it, instead of it as a whole. After reading your response to this cartoon, I actually helped really understand this photo. I would have to agree with you, and take away what I first originally thought of it.

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Re: Cartoon number 2
by [Erich Geisler](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 11:09 PM

You clearly have a good understanding of the cartoon as shown in your forum. It was pretty clear that nobody wanting the black man to vote because they were still not considered equals by anybody. Irish men were not exactly liked either but they were not put into slavery like african americans were.

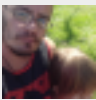
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Re: Time Works Wonders cartoon #1
by [Erich Geisler](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 10:05 PM

It looks like to me that during the time of reconstruction there is now a free black man in the senate. It looks like he is signing a bill with other members of the senate, while a man who looks concerned of this new member of the senate and claims "For that I do suspect the lusty Moor hath leap'd into my seat: the thought whereof doth like a poisonous mineral gnaw my inwards". The man saying this is Jefferson Davis who looks like that he his being replaced by the freed black man named Hiram revels. It would seem that the artist of this cartoon is stating now that african americans are equal during this crucial time in American history they can run and join for senate. I also believe that the artist is using Shakespereain language in the cartoon because it was well known literature during the nineteenth century.

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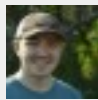
Cartoon #2–This is a white man's government
by [Shawn Jenkins](#) – Monday, February 29, 2016, 10:30 AM

The caption says it all. "This is a white man's government."
What i feel the artist of this piece is saying is all about irony. The irony that a war was just fought for the rights of the black man, yet people were still able to step all over them. In this picture we see an Irishman obviously from the 5 points area holding up his right to vote. Opposite him we see William Tweed, notorious for his corruption, holding up his wallet. On his wallet is written "capital for votes". We know now that Tweed bought more votes in his tenure than he earned. In the middle of the two we have the CSA. In his hand is a dagger which reads the lost cause. The three of them are standing atop a black Union soldier, judging by the cap on the ground and the flag.
This setting alone tells me that someone thinks its ironic that a war can be fought with hundreds of thousands of losses on both sides, yet the reason for that war is forgotten. In the background we see that the city of New York burns while a man hangs from the lightpole. The artist is displaying the idea that while a war was fought nothing

had changed. The only thing that happened was destruction.

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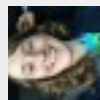
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Equality for all? Treason vs equality. #4
by [Kevin Smolek](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 10:21 PM

Cartoon four embraces the feeling of many northerners during the reconstruction period following the civil war. Cartoon A is showing white men, presumably from the south, and confederates, swearing allegiance to the union. All they had to do was say they were sorry, and promise that they had learned a lesson, and poof, all was forgiven. Part B shows a black man, battered and broken from the war. The captions on both the cartoons are saying that why should one group, whites, be trusted, over the group of men that actually helped win the war. Johnson worked hard to reverse any gains in race equality, and set back reconstruction at every turn. This pair of cartoons is trying to express the frustration felt by many in the north, and blacks everywhere.

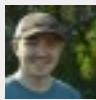
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Re: Equality for all? Treason vs equality. #4
by [Lisa Martin](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 10:42 PM

Your title drew me in to want to read your post, so kudos on that even its so simple. Indeed, all the South pretty much had to do in order to be accepted back into the Union with the North, was to basically just apologize. Apologizing was needed on both sides towards each other for the deaths of the Civil War. Although hindsight is 20/20, we wished that both sides weren't so stubborn and just apologized much earlier and so much conflict could have been avoided. Things would have been so much more different after the Civil War if Lincoln wasn't killed. Johnson wasn't the correct man for presidency after the war. Lincoln believed in race equality no matter the skin color of men, but Johnson believed the exact opposite. Although not many Southerners believed in racial equality, they could have eventually been convinced. With the emancipation proclimation, blacks would have been freed no mater what anyone thought. And, in my opinion blacks could have been complete citizens much quicker, if Lincoln hadn't been killed.

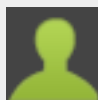
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Re: Equality for all? Treason vs equality. #4
by [Kevin Smolek](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 1:36 PM

I agree with your thoughts. Things would have gone much smoother, and the country would have healed in a better way if Lincoln had been able to live out his term. I think the cartoonist was saying that forgiveness for all, and not just for the whites was needed. Black men fought hard for the union, and should be rewarded for their efforts.

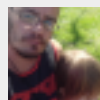
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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Mason Kotz](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 11:29 PM

The picture "This is White Man's Government" shows the feeling of the south still had on the African American. The south still thought they were above most African American still that they should be able to walk all over them and should control how the government is being run without the helps of African American.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Shawn Jenkins](#) – Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 9:52 AM

In the background of the cartoon you can see a city on fire. In the foreground you see the Irishman a Southernman and a Northeern politician. I assume that the city is New York based on the hat the Irishman is

wearing, the politician I assume is William Tweed a northern politician. While I agree it appears to be drawn from a southern perspective I have to disagree that it is a southern idea. It appears to me to be the northern belief shown.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons, Cartoon #1
by [Daniel Padilla](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 11:35 PM

With this cartoon I believe that the artist was trying to convey a not so positive message about blacks being elected to local, state, and national office positions. Starting with the title, "Time Works Wonders" which has a very sarcastic tone to it. It leads me to believe that the artist felt threatened by the number of blacks in political office positions. I believe he thought that blacks would soon overtake and rule these political environments because he drew all the whites standing around the black Senator. One of the most interesting parts of the cartoon is the left side where there's (who I think is) Lincoln holding on to what seems to be a flag, frightened that the newly assigned Black Senator would soon also take over his position. A very interesting thing to think about would be showing people during the Reconstruction Era a photo of our current President, Barack Obama. I bet that would have gotten some great reactions back then.

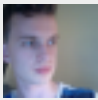
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Historical accuracy
by [Samuel Black](#) – Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 9:41 PM

The main issue I have with your post is its historical accuracy. The man to the left cannot be Lincoln and here is why. Page 578 of the text book says that fourteen black representatives and two senators (Revels from the cartoon being the first I believe) were elected between 1868 and 1876. The problem is that Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865. I do not think anyone had the foresight to see black senators associated with Lincoln at all, especially to go as far as to say Revel would be senator. Therefore, this man cannot be Lincoln, rather I believe that he is Jefferson Davis, former president of the Confederate States of America. I do not see the flag you describe, please correct if you see some evidence that points your way, it seems that this is rather a cloak that he wraps around him. Both of these interpretations seem to fit a little better with the cartoon. Davis has been cast out from the political scene, and a black man is elected senator.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons, Cartoon #1
by [Peter Mixon](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 3:56 PM

While you've done a good job of making inferences from the details of the cartoon, I think in this case you're off in a couple regards. For one, I'm pretty sure the figure on the left is Jefferson Davis, because the quote at the bottom is attributed to "Iago (Jeff Davis.)" For another, the signature on the cartoon is Thomas Nast's. Nast was staunchly anti-Democrat, and I think his known views can be used to shed at least a little light on this cartoon.

Hope this helps!

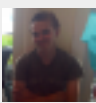
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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons, Cartoon #1
by [Kevin Smolek](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 2:37 PM

I agree that it looks like Jefferson Davis. I think that the cartoonist was trying to make him look like he is being shunned by his peers in the government, who appear to be gathering around the black senator. Perhaps that is to show that they are supporting the introduction of freedmen in the government? Jefferson Davis just can't get on board with that, and so is banished from participating.

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Cartoon #1 : Jester
by [Samuel Black](#) – Monday, February 22, 2016, 11:52 PM

The first thing I noticed was the odd attire of the man in the forefront of this cartoon, whom upon a closer look appears to be Jefferson Davis. His clothing looks like that of a Jester, pointy shoes and hat topped with a long feather. A cloak is wrapped around his shoulders which in turn are dressed in the puffy sleeves of what are subconscious says is medieval attire. Therefore I am assuming that the artist is striving to portray Davis as a joke. An interesting event is taking place just to the right of him, towards which he is looking. A black man, sitting in desk, is being surrounded by a crowd of well dressed men, and looked down at by a crowd in an upper sitting area from his location. Looking closely at the desk, we see "Senator Revels", whom I believe is the first black senator, carved into the wood. This correlates closely with the cartoon's title "Time Works Wonders", Jefferson has gone from a high ranking position to a mere joke, and an African American sits in the senate.

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#2
by [Kyler Paselk](#) – Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 5:19 PM

First off, this drawing displays a very powerful message. This shows all the white men (even the Irish) coming together to put down the freedmen.

On the right side we see a white man holding an envelope of votes that he took out of the clear glass ballot box on the bottom right of the picture. This symbolizes the white men of the United States still restricting the freedmen's right to vote.

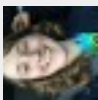
In the middle we see an ex Confederate soldier holding a knife which reads "The Lost Cause". He is also wearing a whip on his belt. This symbolizes the southern hate for black men. They are bitter about the loss of the Civil War and the extinction of slavery as an institution. Even though the black people are now free they still won't be viewed or treated equally in the eyes of the South.

On the left we see the Irish man holding up a bat that says "A Vote". this probably symbolizes the hate the Irish Americans have for the freed men. They beat them with a vote. They have obtained rights which the freed men have not.

Together these three men are coming together to destroy the lives and rights of the black freedmen in any way they can.

Another shocking detail is the drawing in the background of a burning building. This could mean a few things, but I am sure it represents violence. It could represent that these people aren't going to stop with the political and social injustices, but continue the hate in the form of violence. It could also be symbolizing the birth of the KKK. Whatever the burning building means, I can assure you that it wasn't a good thing for the black freedmen.

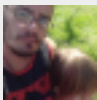
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Re: #2
by [Lisa Martin](#) – Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 7:27 PM

You have a very interesting view of this photo, I really didn't notice that the man was wearing a whip as his belt. Although, I'm not sure that the burning building necessarily represents the birth of the KKK. It's interesting that you brought that up, because with a quick Google search I'm seeing that the birth of the KKK was indeed in the late 1860's in the Southern US. The burning buildings could also represent Atlanta, Georgia during this time when the Union soldiers led by William Tecumseh Sherman raided and burnt much of Atlanta. General Sherman was a Union general who waged "total war" against the South to hopefully win the war against them. Although this strategy didn't end up working, it was a very destructive series of battles against the South.

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Re: #2
by [Shawn Jenkins](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 1:22 PM

I recommend watching the movie Gangs of New York. After watching this and knowing what we have learned so far, it is a safe assumption i believe to say the burning city is New York. The man on the left is wearing a 5 points hat, which is in New York. The man on the right is a corrupt politician who resembles William Tweed.

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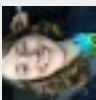


Re: #2
by [Shawn Jenkins](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 1:15 PM

While i agree with 99% of what you said i have to wonder about one thing. You say that the man on the right is holding votes he just took from the box in an envelope. I thought differently. To me it appears that a politician is holding up his wallet offering to buy peoples vote in order to keep the black man suffering. On the wallet it states "capital for votes". At least that is what i think it says.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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Black Union Soliders
by [Lisa Martin](#) – Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 7:10 PM

Thomas Nast made quite a controversial name for himself during the 1860's when he created a variety of different political cartoons for Harpers Weekly. In our textbook, on page 571, it talks about the cartoon with a white woman touching the shoulder of a black man who seems to have lost a leg in battle. The book talks about how this woman is trying to give this man a right to vote. Black men who fought in the Civil War should have had the right to vote without a doubt. They had fought and some even lost their lives. "Black men who fought for the Union were more deserving of this privledge then white men who fought against it." (p. 571) I agree with the books opinion about how black men should have undoubtingly have the right to vote.

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Re: Black Union Soliders
by [Shawn Jenkins](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 1:38 PM

You are correct. However, I believe Joe wanted your personal opinion of what you saw. The textbook answer isn't needed.

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

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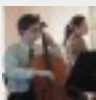


"This is a White Mans Government"
by [Bryan Jakiemiec](#) – Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 9:37 PM

In this editorial cartoon, three white men each have a foot stepping on a black man and they have their hands joined over the black man as if they are about to break a huddle. One of the white men in an Irish man, which is very significant. The significant message in this cartoon is how politics unfolded for a period of time after the civil war. After the civil war ended, due to the path Lincoln was on, and with the pressure from the radical Republicans, many blacks believed their role in society would increase greatly. It did increase, and blacks were allowed to own land, but it did not increase as much as many would have liked, due to Andrew Johnson becoming President after Lincoln was assassinated. At first, Andrew Johnson's words appealed to the radical Republicans and blacks, but he shortly after lost all support from those groups. Andrew Johnson publically said that he does not believe that blacks have any right to be in American government (this quote is in chapter 17). Also, with the emergence of Johnson, the Irish began to be treated better off, and they were seen as white people. Due to this, the blacks beared the full throttle of American racism (as depicted in the cartoon by the black person being stepped on), and were denied advancement in American government under Andrew Johnson.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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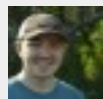


Reconstruction Cartoon: And Not This Man?
by [Titus Young](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 1:43 PM

As I looked at the Reconstruction cartoon "Franchise: And Not This Man?" It really caught my attention. It is clearly of A woman (can't think of what she is called) is gesturing to a black man. The black man is missing a leg, which was probably amputated in the civil war. In the background is that clear voting box that Mr. Escobar showed us in class. So even if you didn't know what "Franchise" was it would be obvious that they were talking about the right to vote. The artist is clearly pro-black, and is trying to say that any and all black that fought in the war to preserve the Union, should get the right to vote.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoon: And Not This Man?

by [Kevin Smolek](#) - Thursday, February 25, 2016, 11:02 PM

I agree with your view of this for the most part. I believe that the women is supposed to represent lady liberty, or perhaps the union as a whole. Part A of the cartoon is saying why should the union accept back the confederates, and give them all the rights that they had forsaken in trying to split the union, while not holding the black men in high esteem, and giving them the rights they had clearly earned by fighting for the union?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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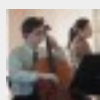
Cartoon #4a/b

by [Michaela Ensele](#) - Thursday, February 25, 2016, 7:48 PM

In this political cartoon the women is Lady Liberty and in the first photo she is sitting down, slouching on the american flag, and has her head down. Under her I believe are Southern white men that were former confederates that are on their knees begging for a pardon to rejoin the Union. As we all know this doesn't happen as easily as the southerners could have gotten away with if Lincoln hadn't have been assassinated. When looking at 4b Lady Liberty is standing next to a black man that has clearly fought in the war because his leg has been amputated, I believe the author wanted to have this cartoon convey that this black man fought in the war so why can't he have the same rights and pardons that the white southerners are asking her for.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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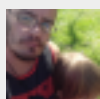
Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by [Titus Young](#) - Friday, February 26, 2016, 3:02 PM

The Reconstruction cartoon "This is a white man's government" is a very disturbing cartoon. It depicts three men holding hands while standing on a black man who is holding an American flag. One of the three is obviously Irish, while another has CSA written on his belt buckle. The last one looks as if he is part of congress. The Irish man is wielding a club that says "A Vote" on it, this shows that the other two man are giving him the right to vote to as long as he votes for what they want. The confederate man is holding a knife tat says "The Lost Cause", and the Other man is holding a bunch of Capitol Votes. This is obviously a pro-confederate artist, and they want to vote against the reconstruction laws, and keep white supremacy.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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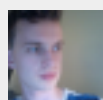
What do you guys think?

by [Shawn Jenkins](#) - Friday, February 26, 2016, 3:18 PM

I am curious as to everyones opinion in regards to the burning city in the background of cartoon #2. At first i thought it to be New York. My reasoning for that being that the draft riots devastated the city. Now i see that my timing would be way off and that it cannot be New York. My thought is now that it is Wilmington. The city was being bombarded and practically in ruins after a Naval assault. What do you guys think and why??

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: What do you guys think?

by [Peter Mixon](#) - Friday, February 26, 2016, 3:49 PM

I don't think the city background is necessarily meant to represent any place in particular, but rather the country as a whole. On the left of the planter the building looks more northern/industrial, and we see a gas lamppost which is most likely a sign of the north. On the right of the planter is a more rural-looking house with a tree next to it. Both are on fire, but the smoke from each is blowing in different directions, which I believe means that the scenes are not necessarily meant to reflect adjacent buildings. I think Nast is simply representing the kind of destruction that would occur in all regions (and already was occurring in the south) if the Democrats were in charge: lynching, murder, burning of schools and houses. The figure hanging from the lamppost seems to strengthen the interpretation of mob power and terrorism by violence. And all this is happening as the ballot box in the bottom right corner is slipping away from the black soldier who is desperately reaching out to grab it. This detail seems to be a warning against allowing the coalition of whites to deprive freedmen of the vote.

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Re: What do you guys think?
by [Mason Kotz](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 4:09 PM

I think the city might be New York as well but just for a background affect and nothing more. Because if you look at the character on the fair left his face is drawn like a monkey which makes me think it is an Irish men. That is what made me think that this could be set in New York or a city in the north or maybe a big city in either Delaware or Maryland because of the ports.

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Re: What do you guys think?
by [Kyler Paselk](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 10:01 PM

My interpretation of the burning building in the background was that it was a black school in the south. In class we were shown that the angry southerners would go around burning down black schools and killing the supporters. To me this represented oppression by destruction of freedmen education. If they don't have a school then they can't go to school.

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Picture 3
by [Mason Kotz](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 4:23 PM

I see in picture 3 as what Americans at that time saw Andrew Johnson as nothing but a jester and a fool. Each frame is showing what horrible things that are going on in the country and every picture with Johnson in it shows him trying to suck up to someone and get on their good side. I think all the flames that are going on in the picture is because he can't pick a side to support which in turn is making America go mad.

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#3
by [Kyler Paselk](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 2:43 PM

The image on #3 that stuck out to me the most was the drawing of President Johnson as a snake charmer. This represents his version of reconstruction allowing the southerners to place the freedmen back into pseudo-slavery. The copperheads are the south squeezing the life out of the freedmen. This was probably drawn by a northerner who opposed what the reconstruction was doing to the free blacks in the south. The poster hanging on the wall in the back that says veto and pardon represents Andrew Johnson's ways of giving control of the southern ways back to the south.

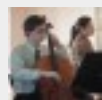
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Cartoon number 3.
by [Taylor Trujillo](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 3:10 PM

In this Cartoon with Andrew Johnson, I feel like this relates to the time after the 5 military districts were taken out of place in the south. With new amendments in place, and no military to enforce the new laws of the land this would cause riots between the radical republicans and those in the south that didn't agree with the new laws in place. In the middle top area of the cartoon, portrays how the south feels it was before the civil war, and how it should be now. With the outer areas being how it actually is during this time with the riots. On the bottom left and right hand corners looks like it may be the view of confederate generals before and after the civil war. It's clear that in the earlier picture dated in 1862 that the general is viewed in a much higher position. Knowing that after the civil war had ended and everything was unraveling through the reconstruction they weren't being viewed in the same light (not being able to hold office..etc,) and the picture on the right could be how they were viewed at that point, being sent away, or reprimanded for their wrong doings.

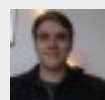
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Reconstruction Cartoon: "Time Works Wonders"
by Titus Young – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 5:23 PM

The cartoon "Time Works Wonders" depicts Jefferson Davis wrapped in a cloak of some sort looking back at a black man who is seated at a desk. The black man looks as if he is discussing politics with the other men around him. The subscript has Jefferson Davis saying that " the lusty moor has jumped into my seat, and gnaws on my inwards like a poisonous mineral." The artist is probably against the freedman, and is defiantly against them getting political power. The overall feel of the cartoon is that time could make anything happen even a slave become a member of the senate of The United States Of America.

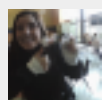
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Re: Reconstruction Cartoon: "Time Works Wonders"
by Kyler Paselk – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 9:07 PM

This is an interesting view on this cartoon. I took it in a slightly different way. I thought that it was meant to show the distain and tension that some of the white senators were feeling after Hiram Revels was elected to the senate. This could also have an overtone of foreshadowing the take over of the senate of not whites. However, I think that it is unlikely.

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Cartoon Number 3
by Jordan Hevern – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 10:16 PM

I also chose analyze cartoon number three, because of how much it really speaks about reconstruction and the process that was really going on during the emancipation.

For example, you have Andrew Johnson, sympathies with a black, as if he is telling him that everything is going to be alright, and he soon will see that the world around him is changing.

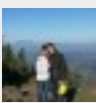
When in reality, all around them people are not giving into changing their ways. You have white southern men playing the flute, making snakes attack the black man.

On top you have white me killing/wiping out black men, almost indicating that the civil was black against white, and in the center, you see a black man, reaching for Abraham Lincoln. Making this most obviously drawn by a southern.

You have the top middle picture of white man whipping black man, with the quote "Southern Rights, what they were". Disgustingly showing how bigot and small minded these people really were. Almost saying that southernns lost their "rights" when slaves were freed.

This cartoon makes me realize just how far away blacks were from really being freed. Just because you change the law, doesn't mean you change the people.

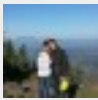
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4a Lady Liberty
by [Dan Johnson](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 11:19 PM

4a shows the confederate leaders pleading for pardon with Lady Liberty. The political cartoonist depiction misleads the reality of the time. It makes an assumption that the United States government especially the President represents the graceful and nurturing face of liberty. It makes the parallel between them asking for forgiveness from Andrew Johnson or even Abraham Lincoln was like little boys who had disobeyed their mother and in their youthful ignorance asked their mother for forgiveness and deserved it as to be re-embraced by that caring and nurturing women. These particular southerners were not born out of liberty. They never had a relationship liberty. The pillars of power and greed had directed most of their actions. An accurate political cartoon might show them asking the god of self-service for forgiveness for having let themselves succumb to their southern value of "honor". Their penance would be to adopt the tact, patience, and unyieldingness in their actions moving forward to more advantageously gain power. This cartoon would more accurately depict the events of Reconstruction. The south continued to fight the war, but in their penance, they found more surreptitious and pernicious ways of taking back their way of life and slowly gaining back strides in establishing regressive ideology and power.

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4a Lady Liberty Continued
by [Dan Johnson](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 11:21 PM

Fundamental to the southern mission was unquestioned adherence to submissive and dominant relationships. The south's ability to make their actions acceptable on a national scale gave way for the country to judge morality based on its original sin, slavery. Setting the standard that says as long as the master to mastered relationship does not involve chains, the action in question is acceptable, cemented into the interpretation of law in America that in many ways holds individual power over human rights. In this approach to law, as long as an individual property stands, no matter if it stands in the face of people's basic right to be treated as an equal citizen, the owner of that property has complete sovereignty over the actions and dealings surrounding it and have complete and absolute power in protecting it. It doesn't matter if they use what they own to make people do whatever they want. It doesn't matter if their control over it keeps people oppressed. It doesn't matter if the wealth, power, and influence allows them to maintain systems of oppression. As long it's "their property", what they do with it is protected as though it is an extension of the person themselves. For example, the notion that a corporation is a person can be traced to this line of interpretation. In this line of interpreting, they don't own land. They are the land, and what is done to the land is done to them. Legally and psychologically, this precedent portrays that the government as the representative of the people does not have the right to make right wrongs committed through civil court. Through these sorts of manipulative legal games, much of the southern thinking was reinvigorated during reconstruction both in the north and south and submissive and dominant relationships have plagued the country's history. When the confederate sympathizers say, the south will rise again they refer to the recalibration of tactics gathered after reconstruction and their ability to gradually transform the south into the world's preeminent power. In many ways, taking on many different shapes, but always with submission and dominance in mind, the south has risen and fallen through the country's history many times.

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Re: 4a Lady Liberty Continued
by [Dan Johnson](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 11:54 PM

It shouldn't be compared to sinners looking to make right what they had done wrong

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