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Navigation

Student Support

HST 202: History of United States W17 (Escobar Meta 30937 30938)

Home ► Winter 2017 ► HST 202 W17 (Escobar Meta 30937 30938) ► Week 8 ► Forum 3 ► Reconstruction Cartoons



Search forums

Forum 3

Reconstruction Cartoons

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Reconstruction Cartoons

by Joe Escobar - Friday, February 24, 2017, 10:13 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

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The Modern Samson



by Dawn Taylor - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 12:48 PM

In cartoon #4, it appears that Lady Liberty is trying to show the Southerners that black men are now free and able to vote, thanks to the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments.

Samson is a Biblical hero who had incredible strength to aide him against his enemies. As Lady Liberty comes to his defense against the Southerners, she is trying to show them that he is now equal to them.

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Re: The Modern Samson

by Brandi Paquette - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 2:09 PM

Lady Liberty doesn't look to be doing Samson any favors in this cartoon. The razor in her hand points to her part in undermining Samson. Samson's power is connected to his hair and any friend of Samson would not cut his hair. Samson awakes to the terrible realization his hair is missing. Suffrage, being the right to vote, is depicted as being taken away from Samson (Blacks). This depiction is before the 15th amendment was passed (the right to vote). The purpose of this cartoon was to persuade its audience to be in favor of blacks right to vote.

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Re: The Modern Samson

by Dawn Taylor - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 5:27 PM

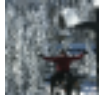
Thank you for pointing that out, Brandi! I had not noticed that Lady Liberty was holding his cut hair in his hand. Yes, his power was in his hair and no friends of Samson would have cut his source of power.

This political cartoon was published October 3, 1868 during the presidential campaign of Ulysses S. Grant and Horatio Seymour. Even though African American black men were given the right to vote in 1867, the majority of Northern states were fighting to deny them this basic right. Klan-like groups committed dozens of murders and intimidated thousands of black voters in LA, GA, and TN. This violence helped the Dems in the South, but hurt the North because they saw the Klan as military guerrillas (text 576).

The fight was on for black male suffrage. Since not all states were in support of the 15th Amendment and it was fully ratified until February 1870. As Southern states made it difficult for black men to vote with poll taxes and literacy tests, they were successful in disenfranchising African Americans.

I see this cartoon now as Lady Liberty showing that she has taken Samson's power as a Southern Democrat and showing it to the Confederates who felt the Civil War was a Lost Cause.

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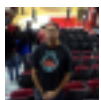
Cartoon #5 Past and Future of African Americans

by Michael Gray - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 4:16 PM

The carton that had the biggest impact for me was the 5th image. It depicts African Americans who can finally live the lives they deserve with the freedom that was granted after the war. It also portrays what they have had to deal with and get through up until this point. In one aspect of the image, there is African American children heading off to public schools with other white kids. Another is what it looks to be as an African American man being auctioned off and another being beaten. On one side there's an African American cashing a check signifying his equal labor rights and on the other is what it looks to be a fleeing man being shot in the back by a rifle.

The biggest part of the image is the very center. There's a family living happily and enjoying their live's. This image in all helps us see what African Americans were going through at the time after the war. They were looking to the future which now looked so hopeful, but they also looked back at the past and all the disgusting things they had to deal with under white/southern suppression.

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Re: Cartoon #5 Past and Future of African Americans

by Jonathan Whittington - Monday, February 27, 2017, 1:57 PM

I agree with your interpretation completely. Another thing I saw in this was that the artist might have been trying to show how far this country still has to go in terms of showing Africans Americans respect and equality. I think that's why the artist put in the image of the man getting beaten and auctioned off. The main circle is that goal and what they hope to achieve but everything outside the circle is the reality of how life still was for African Americans. I also thought the idea of no school segregation was way before its time. The fact that the artist had that image was definitely very surprising to me given the time this was written.

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Re: Cartoon #5 Past and Future of African Americans

by Michael Gray - Thursday, March 2, 2017, 2:39 PM

Yeah, I definitely agree that the artist was trying to put forth that we had a long way to go before African Americans got the respect they deserved. I believe that the artist did not know of all the nasty things that were to come from Southerners and their black codes that restricted African Americans almost as much as slavery did. I feel like it was to show their optimism and that they really were looking forward to their new lives as a "freedman" not yet citizens which would come later with an amendment. Unfortunately, they still had so much more oppression and dark times to get through especially with Johnson in office.

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Re: Cartoon #5 Past and Future of African Americans

by Dawn Taylor - Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 7:27 PM

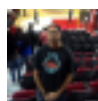
In the middle picture, it shows a black family enjoying each other. Mother is cooking up some food, daddy is playing with the children, grandma is looking on. These are things any person would want to have.

But the constant reminders are all around them in the pictures surrounding the center photo. The word EMANCIPATION is at the top of the page as if it is being mocked by the drawings of abuse around it. Are they truly emancipated? Yes, they aren't allowed to be owned as property anymore, but the way they are treated is a constant reminder of how white people have treated them for centuries.

After the passing of the 13th Amendment in 1865, there was significant change in our society. People don't do so well with change, especially if they are the ones who are getting the short end of the stick.

In certain ways today, black people are still under the effects of slavery. They are still thought of and treated differently, especially in the South, and this is a shame.

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Cartoon #1

by Jonathan Whittington - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 7:18 PM

Cartoon 1 was definitely the most interesting cartoon to me. This cartoon shows Jefferson Davis, someone who was almost a hero like figure just a few years before the reconstruction period, getting sickened by the sight of a black man sitting in the same seat that he used to control. In the old English he is saying that the sight of this is like a poison that is slowly killing him. I think this is telling because it shows just how the mindsets of southerners really were towards African Americans. It

seems as if white southerners were ever below or somehow perceived to be less valuable than blacks, then they would rather see themselves die than live in a world like that. Curious to find out how others interpreted this and hopefully hear some more thoughts and opinions about this particular cartoon.

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Re: Cartoon #1

by Brandi Paquette - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 2:44 PM

I find your interpretation to be accurate. I feel Jefferson is experiencing a little shock and disgust. Jefferson Davis being that of a southern president later on, of course rather this man be someplace else instead of being "poisonous" in Jefferson's past senate seat. I remember Escobar mentioning the beginning of African Americans entering the senate, but not much more. I couldn't help but check to see if this depiction was indeed showing the first black man in senate, it is. The black man depicted is Hiram who was senator in 1870 matching the cartoon date.

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Cartoon 4 "The Modern Samson"

by Brandi Paquette - Monday, February 27, 2017, 12:16 PM

The Samson of the Bible was a strong figure physically and in his influence. His foes feared him and sought his destruction but he was all but indomitable. Until one night it was learned that his great strength was fatefully correlated to the length of his mane. This was also true for blacks of the 1860s as their sway was linked to their right to vote as all citizens in a democracy. Samson could not be defeated in battle just as the Northerners of the Civil War however Samson was undone by a woman who cut his hair as he slept. The South looked to keep blacks as second class citizens by severing them from the right to vote and from the power to enact any democratic change in their favor. The woman in the cartoon looks to signal the mob that Samson has lost his powers and it's their time to strike while he is weak. This cartoon must have been created by a Northerner or supporter of black suffrage. It shows the true intentions and consequences of Southern victory and how they intended to keep blacks down in society. The illustrator understands the importance of the right to vote and what it will mean for blacks and how it may reshape the country. This could possibly be seen as a warning to blacks and all those that favor equality not to trust the South and how they insisted the war wasn't over slavery after their defeat.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by Noah Cramer - Monday, February 27, 2017, 2:13 PM

"This is a White Man's Government," (#2) is the drawing I chose to analyze for my first post. On the very right top hand corner, I see that this drawing was released on Sep 05, 1868, during the presidential elections. (Ulysses S. Grant .VS. Horatio Seymour) The figure on the left seems to be an Irishman (shown by his sharp jawline and monkey features on his face), who is holding a club with the words "A Vote" on the side. The Irishman seems to be ready to strike the African American. This part of the drawing seems to depict that Irishman didn't want the African Americans to be freed, partially because they would have to compete with them for jobs in the already tough economy.

The middle figure, who seems to be a confederate soldier of some sort (shown by his uniform) is in a striking position ready to stab the poor African American in the back. The words depicted on his knife state, "The Lost Cause." The Lost Cause was the confederates interpretation of the war. Professor Gallagher in the linked video states, "The Lost Cause interpretation of the war is the confederate memory of the coming of the war and the progress of the war." He goes on to say that the confederates stepped out of line in saying that the war was never about slavery, but rather about a constitutional principle.

The figure on the right seems to be a well-dressed man who is holding a package of what seems to depict money for votes. This leads me to believe that this man is a democrat who is being accused of vote fraud. These three figures, who seem to be all democrats, are trampling over an African American man. This man underfoot seems to be depicted as a Union Soldier (the flag and his uniform show this), who is reaching for a ballot box. I depict this part of the drawing to show that democrats had largely influenced the vote and didn't want African Americans to vote at all, even though they received that right by fighting for the Union! Also, they are trampling the United States flag which leads me to believe that they are protesting the new laws of the nation.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons #2

by Ryan Freire - Monday, February 27, 2017, 11:35 PM

The second cartoon is probably the most straightforward to me, in that it could just as easily be seen today. The caricature of the irishman is holding down the black man out of fear he'll take his job. There was a graph we saw in class a few weeks back that showed if you were looking for unskilled labor in the north in the mid 1800's there was a 90% chance you were going to end up hiring an Irishman. With most of the immigrants also registering as democrats and the party's rhetoric being that you

should vote for them because the black republicans were going to give your job to a freed slave. This ties in with the weapon being wielded "a vote". The Irish were populous and skewed heavily Democratic.

Next to the Irishman is Jefferson Davis, with the "lost cause" likely intended to either be slavery or the confederacy. His presence is obvious enough as the war had recently ended but that certainly didn't stop there from being Confederate sympathizers. He probably also represents the people who used violence to suppress the newly granted black vote.

I'm not certain about the third one, I don't recognize his face but I lean toward the idea that he represents the monied business interests who want to keep pay and protections for the black man unequal so as to have a cheap source of labor. The fact that his weapon is Capital, and votes supports this.

I'm pretty sure this cartoon came about around the time the debate was ongoing about paying black soldiers equally to white soldiers. The hat in front of the prostate black man looks a lot like a union soldiers hat, and you can kind of see what looks like a cavalry saber sticking out from behind him between Davis and the banker. The tone is pretty critical of the three as the town is burning behind them.

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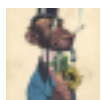
Reply to Ryan Freire / Reconstruction cartoons, the background.

by Noah Cramer - Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 11:08 AM

Your view on this drawing is very similar to mine! However, I was curious when you state that Jefferson Davis represents the persons who use violence to suppress the black vote, do you mean the KKK? The KKK were a violent group who began to hang and terrorize the black community, scaring African Americans into not voting.

Also, while the background is burning, both you and I missed a critical detail. The hung figure behind the Irishman. Perhaps this seems to be representing the draft riots in New York City that we learned about in class. These riots were so bad they had to call in soldiers to help hold back the riots. What do you think?

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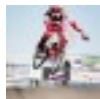
Re: Reply to Ryan Freire / Reconstruction cartoons, the background.

by Ryan Freire - Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 3:55 PM

I think the image of Jefferson Davis was used to basically represent Confederate holdouts, which the KKK certainly would count as.

It could represent the riots, but I think those had finished by the time the cartoon was made since they reference the reconstruction. The fallen "goldfish bowl" ballot box makes me think they are referencing the riot we saw in the video in class today in new orleans, where the black voters were chased into the streets and shot.

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Re: Reply to Ryan Freire / Reconstruction cartoons, the background.

by Noah Cramer - Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 10:53 AM

I do believe you are correct about it not representing the draft riots, as those begun in July of 1863, as we learned, and this was drawn in 1868 (shown in top right corner).

That would definitely make more sense because it ties in the Jefferson Davis, (representing confederate holdouts, protestors, KKK, etc) with how black people of that society were being treated. The burning buildings and hanging figure represent the riots of confederate holdouts, while the black man being trembled reaching for the ballot box show the results and casualties of the African American group. Great debating with you!

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Reconstruction and an optimistic future

by Daniel Huffer - Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 12:00 AM

Reading left to right in the comic "Emancipation" it's very easy to see the artist's optimism for a post Emancipation Proclamation America.

On the left half of the page we can see three different scenes; escaped slaves being shot and run down by dogs, flanked to the right by some types of demons (including the three headed dog Cerberus). The next segment below shows slaves being sold on an auction block and finally on the bottom, slaves being whipped, branded, and beaten in the fields.

The centerpiece separating the pages though shows a black family of several generations together preparing a meal in front of a stove labeled "UNION", a picture of Lincoln on the wall and the reoccurring theme of the banjo, seen in the forum two comic "In the south" also hanging by Lincoln.

The middle piece topped by a Columbia with her trademark sword in the shield, flanked by Lady Justice and two soldiers. Beneath that we see black children attending public school and black men coordinating with a cashier, maybe at a bank

or receiving paychecks.

Finally on the bottom of the picture we can see father time (you can barely make out the hourglass under his chair) and presumably baby New Year undoing the shackles of a slave.

A small segment of the comic that sets the tone for the whole thing, one of remembrance towards past misdeeds but also optimism towards a new America.

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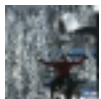


Re: Reconstruction and an optimistic future

by Jonathan Whittington - Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 3:36 PM

Thank you for bringing up these points! I would have never thought to look at this cartoon in that way. I like how the author did this to shown where we were and how far we have to go as a country. I appreciate that the author had visions of a society like that. Visions like this I'm sure seemed very radical to people at that time/

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Re: Reconstruction and an optimistic future

by Michael Gray - Thursday, March 2, 2017, 1:45 PM

I definitely missed somethings that you have pointed out in your response compared to mine. The three headed dog Cerberus and the demons flanking the slaves helps the overall theme of the cartoon and I had seemed to miss it. Definitely helps portray the men as monsters and depicts what the slaves were dealing with. Another was that you spotted father time which I think has the most influence on the cartoon since it shows two different times for African Americans. I could not make it out, but now I can totally back up my analysis that there seems to be two different aspects, pre and post Civil War.

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The Lost Cause #2

by Anthony Aviles - Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 3:27 PM

“This is a white man’s government.” are famous words echoed by southern whites loyal to the cause of the Confederate States of America during the time of Reconstruction in America. Analyzing the men from the picture, we will start from left to right. The image illustrated is drawn by a member of the Republican Party. Three

men are shown standing on top of the body of a black man. He was holding an American flag which represents liberty and freedom and on the ground is his hat, a union soldier hat which means he fought for the northern cause.

The first man on the left is portrayed as a monkey. This would mean he was of Irish descent, shaking hands with the other white men. His hat also has "5-point" written across it. The 5-point gang was a criminal organization composed of primarily those with Irish ancestry. His weapon of choice is a bat with script "a vote". This signifies he will use his voting power to destroy black men into submission.

The man in the middle is a southern plantation owner. He represents the white southern slave owners. He has a bull-whip to his side which would signify he owned slaves and is wearing a belt with the emblem "CSA" which stands for Confederate States of America. His weapon is a dagger with the words "The Lost Cause." The Lost Cause to southerners was the romanticization of the south before the war and they believed their culture was better before black men became free.

The man on the right is a little trickier to identify. He has less obvious identifiable factors. I believe he represents white men in office in the South. In his hand he wields an envelope with the words capital, and votes. He will use the power of money and votes to destroy the black man.

At the bottom of the image is what appears to be a clear bowl. I believe this reveals the non-secret voting methods which whites would use to know who voted for what policies. These men are clearly using intimidation and violence to beat the newly freed black men into submission.

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Re: Time Works Wonders

by Noah Cramer - Friday, March 3, 2017, 9:50 AM

The first cartoon, "Time Works Wonders," is the second political drawing I have chosen to analyze. The first thing that I notice right off the bat, is Jefferson Davis looking shocked and scowling down at the African American male taking his place in the senate! As we know from class, after the civil war African Americans were beginning to have more political power by joining senates and being given the right to vote in the 15th amendment. Many people thought that African Americans were taking over the political system, however, in the graph shown in class, it showed that only one state had more African Americans in the senate than whites.

In the second part of the picture, it shows the African American being welcomed to the senate by his fellow republican senators! If we look at the writing below we see the words, "For that, I do suspect the lusty moor hath leaped into my seat: the thought whereof doth like a poisonous mineral gnaw my inwards." I believe that Davis is behind these words in this drawing, lashing insults to the African American who took his spot in the senate. Calling the African American a poisonous mineral that is

gnawing at his inwards...harsh. However, I do not think that this is the message that the Author stands behind in this drawing. The artist's message is not to stand with Davis but to stand with the African American by painting Davis in a dark light, and the African American in the good light. It also might have something to do with future and the past. It seems Davis is standing in the past where slavery is a need, and just around the corner is the future where it shows that all men have been given the same rights!

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Emancipation

by Covita Hughes - Friday, March 3, 2017, 4:24 PM

I see this cartoon as being a depiction of the hope or dream of emancipation. In the very center I see a very happy family keeping warm over the "Union" fireplace. This is the dream part – they are hoping once North and South, all will be happy. Above the dream in the center is fighting, which I think symbolizes the war for freedom.

Bottom left we see black folks being beaten in front of children by white masters, - one woman is tied to a stump and looks like she's being held down by another slave to ensure the master doesn't miss. Above that is a scene of a slave auction and it looks as if a woman is on her knees begging the man to not separate her from her child. On the right we see excited black children going to school for the very first time while on bottom right there looks to be a black man trying to cash a check, but looking very tired, just as tired as when he was property.

The cartoon to me symbolizes the struggles before and after emancipation and the intense faith and hope that somehow kept families together. The once who survived that is.

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#3 King Johnson and The Seductive South

by Anthony Aviles - Friday, March 3, 2017, 10:12 PM

I have chosen to analyze the third reconstruction image. The images presented display the cruelty of white southern democrat men and the drawing was most likely down by a northern republican to illustrate the bloodthirstiness of southern democrats. This one has a lot of detail and it allows for further analyze because there are more images to study and more subtle references to historical events.

Let's start to analyze the top left image. The scene sketched before us is a group of whites with rifles attacking and looting back men, women and children. There is a building burning with faint outlines of the letters "Scho.." which I believe to reference

a school. Chapel Hill also refers to a location in Memphis. Rioters destroyed the school and killed people in the Memphis Massacre in 1866.

The image between the left and right scene displays white men whipping blacks. Women and children are seen in bondage as white men look with interest. The frame of the picture says “Southern Rights, what they were”. I believe this image is used to display the inequality blacks had with white men of the South and highlights the sheer cruelty of white men to their slaves.

The image on the top right shows the words “New Orleans.” It depicts white men shooting and slaughtering whites and blacks who wave white flags. This image is used to highlight the massacre that took place in New Orleans that had black and WHITE republicans killed by southern democrats.

Two letters are shown on the side of the main image. “Pardon to rebels” and “vetoes to soldiers” are words meant to inspire resentment and accuse hypocrisy to the President. The common mindset of many northern republicans but not all include that the confederates lost and damaged the union and as a result should be punished. However, many were to receive a pardon. However, black soldiers who fought for the union were not going to receive the right to vote at this moment of time seemed unjust. In the middle stands Andrew Johnson in an outfit usually worn by kings, highlighting his monarchical rule. He is seen conversing with a black union soldier who is injured from the war, almost comforting him while on the other side of the wall or the country many blacks are being prosecuted by white men.

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