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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.

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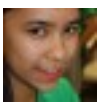
IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, especially the cartoon number you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Reconstruction Cartoons

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Bible reference



by Emily Phan - Saturday, February 25, 2017, 10:19 AM

Cartoon 4

This cartoon is showing how the Southern Democrat had stolen the ability to vote from the freed slaves. They are making this point with a Biblical reference. They are copying the story of Samson. Samson had great strength given to him by God. God gave him some rules and one was to never cut his hair. Samson liked this foreign woman named Delilah and she nagged him into telling her what the secret of his strength was. He finally admitted that if his hair was cut he would lose his strength. She cut it in his sleep and called Samson's enemies to come and get him. Because Samson had broken God's rule his strength was gone and he could not defeat his enemies.

This cartoon is saying the Southern Democrats are deceitfully stealing the right to vote (Suffrage) from the freed slaves. The woman holds up a tail of hair with the word Suffrage on it. She has taken the strength the black man had leaving him vulnerable to his enemies. Without the vote what strength can he have? The enemies are depicted like a mob with weapons and torches; they are burning books and other tools of learning as they go.

Also notice that Andrew Johnson is the statue with the long nose in the corner. He's depicted as Moses. The statue is looking blankly away, obviously it doesn't care about what is happening before it. On the tablet in his hand is the word VETO. Andrew Johnson blocked many of the reconstruction policies that were designed to help people including the freed slaves in the south. (Textbook pg 564)

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Re: Bible reference

by William Barker - Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 3:21 PM

I'm really glad you were able to pick up on the biblical context in this cartoon. I understood the meaning of everything but I was confused as to why the text read, "The Modern Samson," (even though I should have recognized it immediately!).

I like to know I was in the right track with my thinking. Without the right to suffrage, the black man would literally have no way to defend himself in this country from racist forces. When Andrew Johnson made the federal government abandon the black man, he (the black man) was at the mercy of the *still* corrupt and dangerous Southern powerhouse which was unquestionably on the hunt for ways to get as close to slavery as possible. In one of the videos we watched today the Radical-Republicans warned that the Southern ways of racism *must* be destroyed or else they'd never die and they would regain strength once more to subdue the newly freedpeople.

I think this political cartoon is saying the same thing as well; eventually the South

will play dirty tricks to suppress black citizens again just as Samson's wife did to him.

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Cartoon #2, The Unholy Trinity

by Raya Aviani - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 12:36 PM

I believe that Nast is making a political statement about those who opposed the Reconstruction Acts after the Civil War. The photo depicts the horrendous treatment of blacks by southern ex-Confederates, Irish rioters, and the Democratic party during this time.

Again, the Irishman is drawn in a crude, drunken fashion, wielding a bat labeled "A Vote" that he plans on beating over the heads of blacks.

The middle man appears to be a former slave owner, a whip in his pocket, and an ex-Confederacy supporter with a "CSA" belt, or the Confederate States of America. He is holding a knife with "The Lost Cause" enscribed on the blade, which he plans on using to stab blacks in the back. In the video, Professor Gallagher says that the lost cause was the overall Confederate memory of the Civil War after their loss. Trying to save their pride and honor, ex-Confederates argued that the war was never about slavery and that they never had a chance of beating the Union. A disgusting slap in the face to those that died in the war, many of whom were black and were fighting for their freedom. This would also explain the "soap box" that the middle man stands on.

The man on the right is holding an envelope labeled "Capital for Votes" implying that he represents the political party that had used many devious and illegal tactics to keep their party in power and the voice of blacks unheard, like the Democratic party under Andrew Johnsons presidency.

The most important part is the black man on the ground. The flag and hat he has dropped imply that he was a soldier, for the Union most likely. But he seems to have dropped a ballot box: a clear one which we learned in a video in class was used to ensure fairer voting. The men stand over or on top of the black man, using their tactics, hatred and backward beliefs to keep civil and voting rights out of black hands.

In the background, a "Colored Orphan Asylum" and a school have been set on fire and a black man hangs from a pole. This is similar to the race riots in Memphis and New Orleans (Textbook p.570) and the burning of Freedmen's schools (Textbook photo p.572).

I believe the artist was disgusted that these groups had any say over the Reconstruction of the country after the war and, mostly, the rights of loyal black men, who had fought for the Union, and who "were more deserving of this privilege than white men that fought against it" (Textbook photo p.571)

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Re: Cartoon #2, The Unholy Trinity

by Stanley Dietz - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 4:13 PM

I really enjoyed how you dove into this cartoon. All your points were really concise and you made it easy for people to understand the meaning behind the cartoon. I agree with what you have to say. I looked at this cartoon first and was very confused about it you cleared a lot of the confusion up for me. Its seems to be human nature that even when we have lost like the south in the civil war we still try to justify are actions and secure are pride.I wonder where the setting of this cartoon takes places and is there a deeper meaning behind the quote on top.

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Re: Cartoon #2, The Unholy Trinity

by Tanner Bull - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 8:00 PM

Cartoon #1 was a large sum of details and interpretation, and I believe you have hit it on the money. The image portrayed the injustices that black men continued to suffer even after the results of the civil war due to the prejudices and work of the south and Democratic Party. The details that Nast used to dictate the lack of power these Freedmen had (more so when the federal troops were removed from the south) and how and who were the individuals pursuing to reestablish the "The Lost Cause". Th south's goal of initiating the terrible black treatment later known as black codes was known as "slavery by another name".

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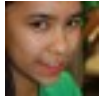


The South Wants Suffrage (#4)

by Riley Stromvig - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 8:54 PM

The cartoon that caught my attention was the fourth one. It was an image of a black man laying on the ground. In the back of the photo is a "mob" of white men. Presumably southerners, because of the signs they are holding that read things like "Slavery - the lost cause regained" and "Mob law - Ku Klux Klan Democrats". As well as the signs, they are holding flaming items and pitchforks which clearly resemble them as being angry and yelling and what not. This is where I get confused... the woman who is kneeling by the black man is holding a duster that reads "suffrage". I cannot tell if she is dusting the suffrage off of the black man and that is why the men in the back are angry or if she is coating the black man with suffrage and the men in the back are cheering? Could someone possibly chime in and let me know what they think?

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Re: The South Wants Suffrage (#4)

by Emily Phan - Monday, February 27, 2017, 10:05 AM

If you read my post at the top of the page called Bible Reference you might be able to understand the cartoon better. Also if you read the tiny words under the cartoon it also gives you a hint to what it is depicting. You can read the story of Samson in the Bible if you went to the book of Judges chapter 16 verse 1—20 and this would give you the most accurate information to understand this cartoon. (Bibles have a table of contents at the beginning)

Assuming you read my post, here is some extra clarification. The mob of men in the background probably does represent those classes of democrats you mentioned but they are meant to remind us of the Philistine soldiers that came to capture Samson. The “duster” is supposed to be the guy’s hair. See the razor in the woman’s hand that she used to it off? The cartoonist is saying she has cut away the black man’s power, aka his right to vote.

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Re: The South Wants Suffrage (#4)

by Riley Stromvig - Monday, February 27, 2017, 4:46 PM

Ah. I did not see the blade in her hand. And while I did see the words "Modern Day Samson", I did not really understand what it meant. And yes, I am aware of the story of Samson in the Bible.

Thanks for clearing that up!

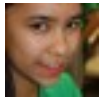
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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by Ronald Graham - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 11:46 PM

Reconstruction Cartoon number 5 was interesting to me, because of the way it was structured. There was multiple scenes seen through different lenses. Black families either being enslaved or free, and at then top of the cartoon it says, "Emancipation". It depicts a black family in front, and it seems very happy, most of them having smiles on there faces. Behind that family, is more black families in various living conditions, some better than others. I thought that the family in the front shows life after the Emancipation Proclamation, while the families behind show life before.



Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by Emily Phan - Monday, February 27, 2017, 10:16 AM

You are right in theory but we must remember that this is a highly idealized depiction of life after slavery. A huge percentage of the slaves who had been freed found themselves in a **worse situation economically** after being freed. They were no longer valuable and no longer received the food and housing they had been given when they were slaves. Many lived in extreme poverty and almost none would have ever been able to live in the comfortable way depicted in the center of the cartoon. So I assume that this cartoon was drawn by an abolitionist who wanted to feel good about freeing the slaves or was just ignorant of the situation many of the ex slaves found themselves in after being freed.

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Reconstruction Cartoon #5

by William Barker - Monday, February 27, 2017, 9:17 AM

I look at this image and see two drastically different depictions of the treatment towards African Americans. On the right I see a joyous thriving town (The North) where folks freely vote and are able to get an education without any threat of being told no. In the center I see a black family gathered around the stove (which I presume is where the mother is fixing up a meal) admiring a toddler and it seems as if they're all having a good time. Down below there is also a depiction of (I think) God holding the Christ child who is taking the shackles off a newly freed black man, which would give the idea that the North was on a crusade and that God was on their side. Unfortunately towards the left we are given a glimpse into a terrible, almost hell-like scenario (The South) where we see slaves being whipped, chained, killed, and auctioned off. Over everything, we see the word EMANCIPATION with an angel figure exploding out of the clouds to bring forth justice to the enslaved people.

As nice as it would be to believe this cartoon, it unfortunately is not 100 percent true. Although many great advances were made to give blacks equal protection and rights under the law, the forces of Southern racism and power still lingered through the South and even within Andrew Johnson. With the devastating assassination of Abraham Lincoln, his Vice President Andrew Johnson (a Democrat) assumed power as President and swiftly went to work against Radical-Republican agendas. He began to pardon numerous ex-Confederate supporters who were then elected into office in many Southern states which gave way to the breeding grounds of the "Black Codes."

The “Black Codes” were laws that greatly delegitimized the black man’s rights, “...the states excluded black people from juries and the ballot box, did not permit them to testify against whites in court, banned interracial marriage, and punished blacks more severely than whites for certain crimes.” (Murrin 566)

Though many injustices still prevailed through out the South (and North) many great things were happening for the African American community. Abolitionists made great strides towards making sure freedpeople were getting an education. “...reduced the southern black illiteracy rate to 70 percent by 1880 and to 48 percent by 1900.” (Murrin 569) Also The Freedmen’s Bureau was helping establish relations between the newly freed blacks and plantation owners so that the freedpeople could now be paid to work (though things weren’t always 100 percent incident free).

Overall change was happening, no matter how slow and difficult the process was. Racism and prejudice towards the newly freed black people still ran wild and many terrible crimes were still being committed by the KKK and other domestic terrorist organizations, but the tides were ultimately turning in the favor of justice. The cartoon depicts the North as a great loving place and the South as a terrible hell hole, which is only relatively true. The North retained enormous racism issues, but still, blacks had it better living in the North even though everywhere they were free.

Works Cited

Murrin, John M., et al. *Liberty Equality, Power: A History of the American People*. Seventh Edition, Cengage Advantage Books, 2008.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoon #5

by Matthew Brownlee - Friday, March 3, 2017, 7:42 PM

I agree that this cartoon (according to my interpretation at least) is very naive. One of the points that Eric Foner in his Legacy of the Reconstruction video from the other forum is that there's a difference between laws the passing of laws and granting of rights and the actual enforcement of laws and exercising of rights. It was easy for Southerners to break laws and violate the rights of freed blacks, as attitudes towards black people hadn't changed much in the South. Laws alone didn't guarantee the ideal images on the right, and the struggle was certainly far from over.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by Alec Beebe - Monday, February 27, 2017, 12:27 PM

The image that had the greatest impact to me was the fifth photo showing emancipation. On the left it shows the brutal reality of what many slaves had gone through during slavery. This includes being sold as property and being whipped. The right side shows the progress that has been made towards the African American society such as the possession of money and the ability to go to school. The center image represents the big picture and what many hoped would be the result of the civil war, black freedom. Blacks would be able to live happily with a family in their own home with nobody to say what they can and can't do because they are free and free to do as they please. I don't think this cartoon represented the current way things were, but rather what people believed should become of the African American Population and views towards them.

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Reconstruction Cartoon 5

by Luis Huidobro - Monday, February 27, 2017, 3:07 PM

In cartoon number 5, I read the cartoon as a historical lead up to the Emancipation Proclamation witnessing the past of African-Americans to the end of the war in which freed blacks were able to attend public school and working for wages.

To start off in the left hand of the picture you can see blacks being whipped, being sold in auctions and being hunted down which in turn represents the past before the emancipation. In the top of cartoon it has the words "Emancipation" which leads me to believe that the cartoon illustrates Emancipation before it happened to what happened at the end of the war. On the right side of the cartoon it illustrates what happened after Emancipation with blacks being able to attend school. Also, in the lower right hand corner of the picture it details a black man being paid for his daily wages for working hence the cashier text at the window. In the center picture it shows a black family together with the stove having the words Union on it. This part of the picture indicates that blacks were happier and being warmed by the stove that is the Union according to this cartoon.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoon 5

by Hannah Ward - Friday, March 3, 2017, 10:05 PM

I was drawn to this cartoon because of its story-like layout. If you look closely, you can see a faint indentation running down the middle of the drawing, almost like it's a page in a book. Like a book, I looked at this cartoon from left to right,

seeing it as a before and after scenario like you said. The left side portrays just a fraction of what African Americans had to go through as slaves. As you read "emancipation" across the top of the picture, we move over to the right side of the page where African Americans are seen enjoying some of the benefits of being free. For example, the public school for the black children and men actually being paid for their work, like you said. The illustration in the middle seems to be the dream of what African Americans thought that emancipation would mean. The family is all together in their home preparing dinner. Everyone seems happy.

Unfortunately, this "dream" of what life should have been like after Emancipation Proclamation was just a dream. Many African Americans were worse off than before the war ended and they were freed. Between the Black Codes, the literacy tests, sharecropping, the formation of the KKK, and all of the other forms of hatred and racism that we discussed in class, it's hard to imagine that any African American family was able to live out this dream of being free.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 2 Interpretation

by Matthew Brownlee - Monday, February 27, 2017, 9:07 PM

I'm still uncertain about the meaning of this cartoon, but it appears that it criticizes the Democrats for being hypocritical. Of the three men, one has CSA (Confederate States of America) on his belt, and another has Simian features, perhaps signifying him as an Irishman. Both of those groups are largely Democratic, and together with the third man, they are standing on the back of a black man. The quote at the bottom means that the Democrats view the Reconstruction Acts as unconstitutional, but the cartoon may be arguing that it is their treatment of blacks that is actually unconstitutional.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 2 Interpretation

by Raya Aviani - Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 10:44 PM

Yes! Apparently the Democrats felt that the Reconstruction Acts were "usurpations, and unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void". Completely ironic, and hypocritical of a group who had abandoned their country when they didn't get their presidential nominee voted in, then fought against it for years, then used "the lost cause" mentality as an excuse for their actions and expected to be welcomed back with an easy pardon and their land, property, and positions immediately returned, so they could get a jump on regaining their loses, with the help of the black man, that they now REALLY need. Not to mention the fact that they felt they had more of a right than the black man to be involved in the Reconstruction of the country after THEY destroyed it.

So what's the fairest thing for the Democrats to do now? Give up their vote that election? Let the loyal black men have their vote and civil rights? Give them the land they had worked on for years and were promised? Nope. The Democrats decided that the only way to get their crops, and money flow, going again was if the blacks remained slaves...after the Civil War. So they did everything in their power to make that happen. They bribed Johnson with reelection to keep him on their side and he encouraged neo-Confederate violence against blacks and allowed the ex-Confederate "aristocrats and traitors" to take control of the Reconstruction process (Textbook p.566). States passed Black Codes, Congressional laws to grant equal citizenship and civil rights to blacks were vetoed, race riots went on in which blacks were attacked by mobs of white men and their schools burned down, and Democrats, including Johnson, did everything they could to slow play the Reconstruction Acts until the Democrats held a majority in Congress, then supported the dozens of murders and intimidation of thousands of black voters by racist groups like the KKK.

To be fair, I'm sure that many Democrats, Southerners, and Irishmen didn't agree with these actions. But the truth of the matter is, as we learned in class Tuesday through lecture and video, that most Southern States were reluctant to abolish slavery, all of them refused to grant suffrage to freedmen, and many elected leaders from the South were former Confederate leaders. They should NEVER have had a say in the reconstruction of the country they betrayed, or in the granting of civil rights to the men they had enslaved. But they did, and the resulting atrocities and hypocrisies were the consequence of a "white man's government".

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 2 Interpretation

by William Barker - Friday, March 3, 2017, 6:28 PM

I think it means that everyone is trying to get what they want while still undermining the civil rights of African Americans. I can't speak to why the Irishman is there (I'm assuming the Irish were trying to get ahead at the expense of blacks as well) but I understand why the confederate and the other gentleman is there.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 2 Interpretation

by Matthew Brownlee - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 7:07 PM

The Irish were very Democratic and anti-black throughout the time period. The fact that black Americans had recently been "freed" would lead to even more competition in society, Irish believed, when Irish people were already struggling

as is. The bat the Irishman wields perhaps means that the Irish used their voting power as a tool to undermine the rights of freedmen.

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#1 The Demise of Jefferson Davis

by Hannah Ward - Monday, February 27, 2017, 9:37 PM

This political cartoon portrays a very upset Jefferson Davis. I originally chose this cartoon because I had found the rumor of Davis trying to hide in women's clothing quite funny. He seems to be wearing a woman's hat and possibly a woman's shoes in this illustration. He is covered with a blanket or shawl, which is more accurate. According to our notes from class, Davis had his wife's shawl thrown over him when he was captured. Davis is looking over his shoulder in this cartoon at an African American man sitting at a desk surrounded by white men who seem to be very interested in what the African American man is saying. It looks almost as though the African American man has a smile on his face, but it is hard to tell. The quote at the bottom of this cartoon is very telling. The author of this illustration used a dramatic section from Othello to describe what Jefferson Davis was feeling as he looked at the scene behind him. I think it's safe to assume that the "lusty moor" that had "leap'd into my seat" was in reference to the African American man and other African Americans in general as they were being freed and taking on more prevalent roles in society after the end of the Civil War. "The thought whereof doth like a poisonous mineral gnaw my inwards" is describing Davis's grief of losing the war. He was bound to be heavily affected by this loss seeing as he was not only a pro-slave, Southern man, but the President of the Confederate States of America.

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Re: #1 The Demise of Jefferson Davis

by Stanley Dietz - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 4:21 PM

I think your exactly right, the look on his face says it all. After losing the war, he is starting to come to terms with the realization that his ideals and way to living are changing. The desk says Senator Reyell, I may have missed a day in class where we talked about him, but at least from my own knowledge I don't recognize him. I think your right he seems to be smiling, and the people around him seem to have a genuine interest in what he has to say. There seems to be a book near the desk as well. I wonder if that has something of importance to the overall meaning, the initials appear to be C.S.

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Reconstruction Cartoon #5

by Tanner Bull - Monday, February 27, 2017, 10:04 PM

In the cartoon illustration #5, signifies the Emancipation Proclamation was an executive order issued on January 1, 1863, by President Lincoln freeing slaves in all portions of the United States not then under Union control. The cartoon's main focal point is the effaces that the image promotes the power and action that this document would do. It signified the transition from the years of abuse, torture, and slavery that a real life can emerge and those who suffered will be set free. The cartoon goes into great detail showing the severe treatment and wrong doings that these people faced. Lynching, being taken from their homeland and gathered up viciously and then being sold to white men. A strong before and after image is seen by the viewer by the displaying left side (being before the emancipation proclamation) and the right side (being after the emancipation proclamation). I believe the overall goal of the artist was to simply show the effect of this document (solely in the south) had on the public opinion and what should happen to these freed slaves.

The cartoon showcased many significant symbols and actions that made the message clear and easy to read. The top of the image showing a godly figure emerge from the clouds and the word emancipation, that with focus of the action, creates sense that god or a religious had a factor playing a role in the document being implemented. The image is symmetrical and shows three before (left) and after (right) actions from the implemented document. The biggest portion of the image had a large circle filled with a black family showing the ultimate goal of the document to enforce and create equal rights and opportunities for the freed slaves.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by Jarred Finn - Monday, February 27, 2017, 10:27 PM

In Cartoon #2 the artist is portraying the democrats and their battle back against the reconstruction acts. He shows an Irish immigrant to the left; a what seems to be a confederate soldier in the middle with a dagger that says lost cause on it, According to Professor Gallagher that was the slogan that the South used as their way out of punishment and to protect their way of life. To the right there is a wealthy man who could even be a northern democrat; I'd assume he is a democrat because he is joining the two other men in stepping on the African American boy and also the flag. I think the author is trying to portray the southern retaliation to reconstruction because as Professor Gallagher says, "The South said, it wasn't about slavery it was about constitutional principle." They tried to push slavery under the carpet and went on to still treat southern blacks terribly, as the cartoon portrays. They said it was a "lost cause" because they wanted to show their valiant efforts towards their cause. The cartoon shows that they went back down from their reasons and are very resilient to

their punishment and want to continue their way of life. The cartoon could even portray the lack of respect towards blacks in the south even after emancipation and the war, and the aggravation towards blacks being in office.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by Alec Beebe - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 1:29 PM

In cartoon number two I agree that the left person is an Irish immigrant, the right person is a southern politician, and the middle is a confederate soldier. The confederate soldier has a belt buckle reading "CSA," referring to the Confederate States of America. Where all of their hands meet you can see a whip probably giving the idea that all of these men support slavery. The slave that is being stepped on holding the American flag is seen reaching for something that i think is a voting ballot. The ballot could represent republican help because that was the party voted into office and going against the confederates. The democratic party also viewed the reconstruction act as a "usurpation, unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void"as stated at the bottom of the cartoon. This shows that southerners were not going to give up slavery lightly and was going to fight for it even though the war was over. This was a statement to how southerners wouldn't go down without a fight.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by Jarred Finn - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 3:10 PM

Professor Gallagher talks about, in a few of his videos, how the Southerners were using the "Lost cause" as a excuse to fight to maintain there southern way of life (slavery). They used it by saying they stood no chance to win the war but there integrity and providing a tough fight should be recognized and there should be a more gracious solution to reconstruction and pardons, yet the north was set on taking away slavery and bringing the southern way of life to a halt. After all there was some serious tension left between the north and the south because of the gruesome war just fought. But the South was determined to keep there Confederacy together. Just some input to support our view since you agree with me.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoon #4

by Gabe Sorber - Monday, February 27, 2017, 10:42 PM

In cartoon number four there is a black man laying on the floor, a white woman behind him cutting off his hair, and a group of what I assume is southern democrats cheering the woman on. On the patch of hair that the woman is cutting off reads suffrage. Also the bottom of the page reads "The Modern Samson". I believe that this woman is trying to take the power away from black suffrage because in the biblical stories of Samson, Samson was a man who received all his strength/power from his hair. In the story he loses his strength/power because a woman cuts his hair off. Therefore the white woman in the picture (who's dress reads southern democracy) is taking the Power of black suffrage away by cutting his hair off. She also looks to be giving the hair/power (suffrage) back to the southern white democrats. It is worth noting that Professor Gallagher said in his video that southern white woman stayed loyal to the cause of the south even though they lost.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoon #4

by Raya Aviani - Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 8:52 PM

I did not do analysis of this cartoon, but as I read through the posts on it one thing stuck with me that I wasn't sure about. Usually Nast uses this similar image of a fair woman in a plain gown as a symbol of justice or the republic of the United States. Though I agree with your interpretation completely, I was wondering if the woman is supposed to represent the United States, or even justice, that at the moment was being swayed by Southern Democracy or controlled by it, instead of the woman outright representing the Democrats and their agenda. Maybe she's not the bad guy, but stuck in the middle of it all and getting a bad reputation because of it. Probably like many black revolutionaries, Freedmen and Radical Republicans felt about the Federal power during Reconstruction. They weren't getting heard or taken seriously, there were so many backdoor deals, unacceptable pardons of terrible men, and unjust vetoes in Congress to move civil rights forward that these groups probably felt resentment for their government. Another of Nast's cartoons on page 571 of the textbook also uses this figure to represent justice and/or the Federal power. I feel like she is an unbiased, yet fairly new, force in America that *can* be swayed by those in control, but it doesn't mean that she is corrupted or forever ruined.

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Cartoon 5

by Rikkianne Chatfield - Monday, February 27, 2017, 11:55 PM

What first strikes me about this illustration, is what to me looks like various stories being told. In the center is what I am assuming is a family of former slaves. The top of this illustration emancipation is written and to the right is what looks like Lady Justice (Although I am sure that's not, but I don't know who) raising her hand to the sky looking upwards to emancipation. The drawings on the right side of this illustration I believe are from the perspective of those in favor of emancipation and those who see the benefits of emancipation what makes me come to this conclusion is the part of the drawing where the black children are running off to a public school off in the distance. The right side of the cartoon is contrasted by the left side of the cartoon which is displaying the horrors of slavery.

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Re: Cartoon 5

by Alec Beebe - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 12:28 PM

Adding to your statement, I believe that the political cartoon is a story on how emancipation changed the lives of the black community. If you look closely you can see that the center of the page has a crease indicating that it may be in a story in a book. It could be a story of all the hardships blacks had to endure and how they lifted themselves up out of a hole of slavery and into the world of emancipation. Emancipation gave blacks more opportunities due to the end of slavery. They could work for themselves and get paid for the days work and own a house that was theirs.

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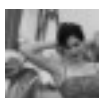


Re: Cartoon 5

by Hope Kelley - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 10:10 PM

I like what you said about the various stories but I was wondering if you thought that maybe this cartoon is depicting life before and after emancipation? On the left you see all horrid things, a woman getting whipped for example. Then on the right you see all good things like the children running off to school. If there were no emancipation there wouldn't have been any schools.

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Johnson's Reconstruction (#3)

by Raya Aviani - Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 8:35 PM

I think this cartoon represents the Republican (namely the radicals) and black majority outrage of Andrew Johnson's lack of fair Reconstruction after the Civil War.

The cartoon begins with the ironic image of black's "rights" before the war, and emancipation, which basically involved being a slave and being abused and told their existence didn't matter. To the sides we see images of the race riots in New Orleans and Memphis, even after the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, the establishment of the Freedman's Bureau, and the veto of Congressional Reconstruction laws that would have enfranchised blacks and defined "freed peoples as citizens with legal rights" (Textbook p.569). These race riots, in which white people attacked blacks and burned down their schools, were frighteningly similar to the look and feel of slavery before the war. As we learned in class on Tuesday, Reconstruction was "slavery by another name."

At the bottom of the page are two drawings, one in 1862 in which one man is bowing to another, and on the other side the latter man is now bowing to the other, in 1866. I believe the first image is of the Confederacy bowing to the Union (the flag behind the men), and the other image is of the Union now bowing to the terms of the ex-Confederacy, after their pardon by Johnson and return to the Union.

The bottom image shows Johnson sitting on a pillow, surrounded by Democrats as they watch a black man being choked by a snake, or Copperhead. The peace Democrats had wanted to negotiate with the Confederacy to end the war in 1862, which might have included keeping slavery if they returned to the Union. Johnson is charming the Confederate snake but not intervening or helping, as vetoes and pardons are being passed out freely in the background, and on the sides of the entire picture.

The center picture shows Johnson talking a black Union soldier surrounded by ironic or hypocritical posts, like "Treason is a crime and must be made odious, and traitors must be punished", "Love thine enemies", and "I am one of your best friends". When the black man asks Johnson, as represented by a Shakespeare quote, "Dost thou mock me?", Johnson replies by telling him to "Bear your fortunes like a man." Basically, "suck it up and enjoy what you *do* have because I don't recognize you as an equal or deserving of rights, and I'm not going to do anything in my power to help you."

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Cartoon #5

by Hope Kelley - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 12:21 PM

The first cartoon I looked at was number five. The first thing that draws my eye is the Text at the top that says "Emancipation". After looking over the whole cartoon I have decided that it is a Northern perspective (also because it is written by Thomas Nast who is a Northerner). In the bottom left corner you see the women with her top torn,

being whipped. This is obviously southerners doing the whipping because they have other African Americans chained, to the side. After looking at the middle right depictions I decided this was from a Northern perspective. In that column you see a two kids waving to their mother as they run towards a school. Southerners didn't want African Americans to go to school and in latter days actually burned down the schools.

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Re: Cartoon #5

by Alec Beebe - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 12:38 PM

Adding to your statement, I believe that this cartoon could be a book telling the story of emancipation. It looks like it came out of a book due to the crease in the center of the cartoon. The cartoon also is saying how emancipation has changed the United States in a positive manner. On the left it shows how horrible slavery was and the right shows how emancipation gave slaves freedom. This new freedom gave blacks to work, get paid for a days labor, and go to school. The center image shows how happy a black family is due to being free because they aren't considered property anymore.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by Alec Beebe - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 1:04 PM

I found the first political cartoon to be funny when I first saw it. First I noticed was Jefferson Davis under his wife's clothing and how defeated he looked cowering away from the black man sitting in his seat at his desk. The desk says "senator revels" possible saying that senators should celebrate their victory. In front of the desk I noticed a book that had the word "Rebels" labeled on it. This could mean that the black republican tossed the confederate, or rebel, book or ways of life aside and was beginning to write a new book.

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Cartoon #1

by Hope Kelley - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 1:24 PM

I believe this cartoon is depicting Jefferson Davis as Iago, from Shakespeare's play Othello. At the bottom of the cartoon it has a quote from Iago from the play itself. I also believe that the African American man sitting at the desk is Othello, because he

is the "new" man in the area and everyone likes him, except Iago who is conspiring against him.

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#4

by Stanley Dietz - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 1:45 PM

#4

Well I decided to analyze number four. From a firsthand glance you can tell that whatever the picture means or is more deeply trying to say you can tell that the author is against slavery. Or rather he at least is very much in touch on how the southern leaders and populace feel about the reconstruction. You have an African American on the ground which represents slavery, then you have lady liberty protecting him with something in her hand possibly a piece of plant. The object she is holding says suffrage on it so we can assume that the political cartoon is talking about black suffrage. The mob standing behind the photo no doubt are probably made with important characters unfortunately I can really only make out one. The man on the left who looks as if he is squatting looks to me like Robert E. Lee. In conclusion I believe that this photo describes the feeling of the south when Black suffrage was forced upon them if they wanted to receive congressional recognition again.

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Re: #4

by Tanner Bull - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 8:38 PM

In your post you had brought a great insight on what the image had to offer however I believe there's a few areas that could be cleared up. The black object being held above the black mans head is actually his hair and labeled suffrage to show what black men can offer to southern democracy, their vote. Also an important part of the illustration that should be showcased, was the marble man statue that showcases the president, Andrew Johnson. He's holding up a marble tablet that reads "Veto" while the bottom reads off "moses" using the biblical name for a religious affect.

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Re: #4

by Stanley Dietz - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 11:02 PM



Thanks for the reply and the info you brought with it. I not very familiar with biblical stories but thanks to your help and upon reading others post I have gotten a better udnerstanding of the cartoon. once again thanks for clearing up the object in lady libertys hand. It all seems to make so much more sense when I have just a smidge more context.

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Reconstruction Cartoon # 1

by Tanner Bull - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 7:41 PM

The political cartoon portrays an upset or worried looking Jefferson Davis, the former president of the Confederate States of America, who looks idly by while a group of white men seem to be intrigued in conversation of an African American man. The cartoon offers the insight that this man (representing the C.S.A.) now believe the outcome of the civil war will entail, the power and citizenship given to these once slaves. Jefferson Davis is characterized as a man who is trying to disguise his appearance of hoping to enter the discussion but was seemed to been caught of his true appearance as he is exiting the focus of the image.

The author of the image was trying to portray a great focus on the aftermath of the war and the perception of what the treatment of these Freedmen would receive. At the bottom of the image a quote tells how "...the lusty moor hath leapd into my seat..." meaning the African American man now sitting in a seat of office has gained power and he has lost his with the results of the war. Looking closely in the image where the black man is sitting, you'll read in the desk "Senator Revels" which explains the gathering of men surrounding the man and intrigued looks on their faces as they listen to this man.

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Cartoon #2

by Hope Kelley - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 9:46 PM

The first thing I notice, or anyone notices, are the three men standing on the African American man. It appears to be two white men and an Irish man, depicted in the usual ape like manner. So the men standing on the African American man are obviously oppressing him. The bat that the Irish man is holding says "A vote" and I think it signifies that the Irish man is now higher on the social scale than the Black man. The knife that the man in the middle is holding says "The lost cause" which makes me believe that this is a Southerner who does not want the Black man to be free. If you look at the African American man he is reaching for something in the

bottom right corner. It appears to be an old ballot box that they used back then. I believe this represents the African American's struggle for the right to vote and all the people holding them back and not wanting it to happen.

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