

HST 202: History of United States W19 (Escobar)

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Reconstruction Cartoons

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, February 22, 2019, 10:24 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Reconstruction Cartoons topic.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

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

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"This is a White Man's Government"

by [Megan Wayne](#) - Monday, February 25, 2019, 4:48 PM

In this cartoon, the cartoonist has three Democrat men standing on a black man. One is an Irish man still with an Irish drawn face holding a bat that says, "a vote." I think the author is saying that the Democratic Irish man's vote is against blacks. The man in the middle is holding a knife that says, "The Lost Cause." From my interpretation of the cartoon with the help from the video with Professor Gallagher, the South had lost and been losing during the process of war and their victory was nonexistent and hopeless, so they felt like they had to "come back from a shattering defeat to keep their honor and hold their heads high." (Professor Gallagher *Lost Cause* video). The third man is holding votes it seems. This side argued that the purpose of the war for them was not about slavery in any way, but instead about a "constitutional principle" and about which side was the core beginning of this generation... The South thought that they were that side. It was about slavery and the Southerners knew that they were saying things that were not true. The black veteran on the ground is on their way (but not close at all) to becoming more and more human! The Southerners do not like that and want to continue having power over blacks hence why they are standing over him and keeping rights away from him.

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Re: "This is a White Man's Government"

by [Nicolette D Erazo](#) - Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 10:42 AM

It seems as though the little box on the ground could be a ballot box, which would make a lot of sense to be a part of this cartoon. Along with trying to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery, the southern governments wanted to enact "Black Codes". They wanted to define the rights of the former slaves. "The states excluded black people from juries and the ballot boxes,did not permit them to testify against whites in court,

banned interracial marriage, and punished blacks more severely than whites for certain crimes" p. 566. The defiance of the South is being represented in this cartoon, because the man on the ground is being held away from the ballot box, representing his right to vote being taken away and his freedoms being held down as well.

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Re: "This is a White Man's Government"
by [Megan Wayne](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 10:18 PM

This is a great observation about the box on the ground being a ballot box! It represents all the white men taking power and taking over the votes. Even though black men are allowed to fight in the war, but still do not participate in voting. He cannot reach it because three white southern men are literally stepping on him and keeping him from even touching the ballot box, restraining him from having the basic right to vote. These three men are crucial in portraying the message in this cartoon... An Irish Democrat, a regular former southern slave-owner, and someone involved in the voting system. All three types of men in this period of time (and more) were doing whatever they could to stay powerful over blacks, even if that meant bringing it to war.

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Re: "This is a White Man's Government"
by [Nicolette D Erazo](#) - Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 12:13 PM

You make a good point at noticing the man in the middle holding a knife reading "The Lost Cause" because I had not noticed it myself. The Southern Confederates had to come away from the "shattering defeat" as stated in the Lost Cause Video, with some way to "hold their heads high", arguing that this "hopeless" war was never about slavery, but rather "which side were the true inheritors of the legacy of the founding generation". The Lost Cause interpretation of the Civil War was the Confederate interpretation and memory of it all. The fact that this man is holding the knife implies that he was part of the Confederates, possibly fighting in the war, and is now continuing the Confederate viewpoint in the post war Democratic Party.

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White Man's Government Cartoon
by [Nicolette D Erazo](#) - Monday, February 25, 2019, 5:53 PM

In the second political cartoon, "This Is A White Man's Government", it seems that three white men, one of which appears to be drawn as the representation in which Irish immigrants were drawn during that time, and the others are most likely Southerners due to their visual aggressive toward the African American man, are seem holding him down. I think the cartoonist was trying to represent that the Southerners were very unhappy with the Amendments put into place to abolish slavery after the war and the idea of them holding down this black man, who appears to have a Union hat with him, is symbolic of their intent of taking away his rights.

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Re: White Man's Government Cartoon
by [Owen McCoy](#) - Thursday, February 28, 2019, 10:04 PM

The man on the left is an Irish immigrant from the North (his cap reads "5 points," which as we learned is a location in New York). The man on the left is likely a confederate ex-slave-owner. His knife says "the lost cause," which is a view adopted by many confederates after the war. His belt says "CSA" which I assume stands for "Confederate States of America." Also, it looks like he has a whip sticking out of his back pocket. The third man is harder to analyze, but he seems well-dressed and he is holding a bundle with the words "capital" (i.e. money) and "votes."

Joe told us in class that many of the Northern Irish immigrants became Democrats. The man in the middle is almost definitely a southern Democrat. The three men are holding hands as if in agreement and standing on top of the black man is if they are trying to keep him down. If I had to guess, I would say that the cartoon author is trying to show how white Democrats tried to limit the freedoms of ex-slaves during reconstruction.

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Re: White Man’s Government Cartoon
by [Nicolette D Erazo](#) - Thursday, February 28, 2019, 10:56 PM

You brought up the point of the initials of the man in the middle’s belt, and I also noticed that there is something written on his hat. ‘NB... something’. In the reading, the section about the participants in the Ku Klux Klan mentions a couple Confederate generals, one of which had initials ‘NBF’. “Many Klansmen were former soldiers, and such famous Confederate generals as Nathan Bedford Forrest and John B. Gordon held high positions in the Klan” (p. 576). I wonder if it would be a stretch to say that the man in the middle is Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was part of the Ku Klux Klan, whinch used violence to “help the Democratic cause in the South”(p.576) and suppress the Republican voters, which now included the Freedmen. “Seymour did well in the South, carrying five former slave states and coming close to others, despite the solid Republican vote of the newly enfranchised blacks” (p. 576).

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Re: White Man’s Government Cartoon
by [Enya Smith](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 1:57 PM

I am fairly confident that the middle man in Nathan Bedford Forrest as well. Just look at the [similarities](#). The KKK was founded out of irritation of the South when black men won equality and voting rights. "CSA" and "Lost Cause" are also used.

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Re: White Man’s Government Cartoon
by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 5:17 PM

Hi Owen,

I like your interpretation of the video and how you pointed small details. I agree with your interpretation of the cartoon. I would add that the artist went further intop showing how the african americans were treated. Nativism is high at these times, and having an Irish Man over an African american sends a message that even after the war, blacks are seen even lesser than the Irish. Youre right when you say that they tried to limit the “freedom” of blacks after the war. Yet, we shouldnt look over the 14th amendment and 15th amendment which gave them their freedom, and the right to vote. Overall, I agree with your interpretation of the cartoon.

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Cartoon #1
by [Reed Battaglia](#) - Monday, February 25, 2019, 6:22 PM

In the cartoon “time works wonders” it is a clear picture of Jefferson Davis seeing the first African American Senator in history Hiram Revels. The significant part of this cartoon is that it has the former confederate president who lost his spot as Senator to the first African American Senator in history. This was against everything the South had been fighting for. In the image, Davis looks old, tired and scared. He is also dressed in clothing that is not periodically correct. His clothing looks like it is from the Shakespeare era. I think, if I’m not mistaken, in the image Senator Sumner is greeting Senator Revels, showing the new Senator that they are equal.

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Picture 5/ Emancipation
by [Margaret Batz](#) - Monday, February 25, 2019, 9:48 PM

Image number 5 is a picture of a happy African american family inside and then on the outside it looks like there is a lot of fighting going on and blacks suffering. On the top of the image, “Emancipation” was written and that means blacks are set free from slavery. So I think this artist was trying to show what the Emancipation can do for slavery but they also might be showing that it doesn’t help everyone because there is still fighting happening in the image.

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More Than What Meets The Eye
by [Enya Smith](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 3:52 PM

While I think you're on the right track as far as seeing there are two distinct scene-themes taking place in the image, I think that the piece is more about encouraging the support of emancipation, rather than showing who is disadvantaged and who is advantage. Take care to notice that all but a handful of the subjects in the image are African Americans. This tells one story.

I'll make a strong claim here: I think this image, from top to bottom, tells the story of the two sides of what happened after emancipation -- those who support the Emancipation amendments, and those who fear it. I talked about Clarence E. Walker in another reply, but one of the clips featured something he claimed about the fear the South had as African Americans gained rights: "Black Voting carried with it an enormous meaning. It meant a political power was going to be shared between blacks and whites...the Southerners feared they would lose their birthright, running the government." (Walker, Thursday Lecture.) From that we could deduct this photo is about the North and South's views on emancipation at the time, but I'm more interested in the symbolism.

To the left, we see a series of white men running from the word "Emancipation", highlighted with streaks. The scenery behind them shows several young black children being shot at. In my opinion, this mimics the hunting of slaves allowed by the Fugitive Slave Act, but the boats in the background suggest that freedmen may be running from angry Confederates who had just lost the war. The second panel below it I believe shows the [Dred Scott](#) case. The one below it showcases violence of a white slave owner unto his slave, while children watch. Take care to note that the panel directly across from it features children as well, but in a much more humane setting.

Sidenote, the middle panel on the left is showcasing the Confederacy. [Their flag is flying in the wind during the trial.](#) (Note: The image link claims the old Confederate flag fell out of style because it looked too much like the U.S. flag.)

On the right side, we see a new story: Lady Liberty holds up her scales of Justice while a man who bears strong resemblance to Abraham Lincoln waves to the word 'Emancipation'. We get three lovely scenes below that:

The first shows a church next to a public school, where instead of sitting in a court case, Black children go to school, where dogs play and a bird flaps it's wings. Note, on top of the public school is an American flag, contrary to the Confederate one across the way. African Americans in the third panel buy goods. All of this perhaps showcases the innocence and good that came from the support of emancipation in Union states.

The two stories meet in the middle, where the controversy begins. An angelic Abraham Lincoln sees to what appears to be a distressed (and possibly even begging?) African American. In any case, the image portrays Abraham Lincoln as angelic. (This seems almost silly to me, as the only reason that Abraham Lincoln called for the Emancipation Proclamation was to get more Union soldiers, as we learned in class last week. Someone must really like Abraham Lincoln.)

The largest panel is a happy family, warmed up by the 'fires of the Union' (As Union is stamped out on their stove.) This could be a propaganda piece for the Union and it's celebration of Emancipation, where all the men and women in the picture are happy and safe and not affected by the horrors of slavery any longer. A picture of Abraham Lincoln hangs above their fireplace, a symbolism of the good that came from the Emancipation Proclamation.

Overall, I think this comic is a propaganda piece showing how the Confederates and Union treated African Americans after the supposedly 'angelic' Abraham Lincoln passed the Emancipation Proclamation. It is a piece that supports the Union views.

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Re: Picture 5/ Emancipation
by [Megan Wayne](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 6:40 PM

There is also a portrayal of hopefulness in this cartoon also! On the left, it shows just a glimpse of the treatment of slavery, but the right side is the opposite. It shows what life would be like for blacks when slavery gets abolished, however, it took more history than that to eliminate basic inequalities, and we still struggle to this day.

On the right, there are black people purchasing something at a shop and black children attending public school. I think this cartoon represents the "before and after" what of most people thought was going to happen when the emancipation passed.

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Cartoon #3 - The Accidental President
by [Owen McCoy](#) - Monday, February 25, 2019, 11:23 PM

In this cartoon, Nast is depicting "radical riots" in which armed whites are slaughtering blacks in various southern cities. I am reminded of the anti-radical strain of nativism, and ideology of which Nast himself was a follower. Furthermore, this cartoon seems to reveal northern disdain for the actions of southern "accidental" president Johnson. Johnson is shown pardoning rebels and vetoing reconstruction attempts against the will of the Republican congressional majority. In the background, papers are shown where Johnson likens himself to biblical figures and this brings two things to mind: 1) Oh great, he's bringing religion into the thick of things. 2) Notwithstanding that, he probably shouldn't be making such comparisons anyway. "In a whistle-stop tour through the North, he [Johnson] traded insults with hecklers and embarrassed his supporters by comparing himself to Christ and his Republican adversaries to Judas." (textbook p. 570) Many of the Republicans were disappointed by Johnson because he did not adhere to their plan of reconstruction that he had initially supported. In fact, he went his own way at the first opportunity and opposed the reconstruction efforts of the Republicans every step of the way.

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Emancipation...The end of Black suffering? 5
by [Christopher Bischoff](#) - Monday, February 25, 2019, 11:43 PM

I think that the cartoonist was trying to portray emancipation as a holy idea that would uplift the Slaves. The reason I say this is because of the progress shown in the cartoon . At the top of the picture it says emancipation emerging from the heavenly clouds, the center of the word emancipation features a dark, mysterious figure holding a sword, and it looks as if the mysterious figure is wearing a top hat.

Just to the left of that there man emerging from billowy smoke or fog who is looking forwards the mysterious figure with disgust, in his hands he is a leash for two dogs that are pulling him forward, as if they are tracking the scent of a hunted animal. The man's lower body is comprised of smoke which is billowing upwards from the devil, who has a look of glee. The next scene shows Africans being hunted down by White men with guns, with a ship just off of the shore. Then it shows the Africans being sold as Slaves at an auction. There are four things that strike me about this scene. Firstly, is the watchtower with the flag on top of it, the watchtower is filled with people spectating the auction from afar. I think it it indicative of the way some Whites observed the Slave trade without speaking out about it. The second thing that stuck out to me is the way the African Mother is on her knees in front of the despondent smoking White man, presumably begging to be kept together with her two young children. The mother has her left hand on the shoulder of her crying daughter, meanwhile her son is clutching at her dress, almost as if to pull his Mother away from this atrocity.

Thirdly, is the African man on the stage looking at and gesturing towards the Black man wearing a suit in the crowd. This gesture comes across as the soon to be slave saying to the free Black man, "How can you accept that this is going on? Aren't we the same skin color?" The Black man in the suit seems to be looking away, ignoring the soon to be slave's cry for help.

The last, and perhaps the most tragic part about this scene is the African Father with his child in his lap. Looking lovingly into his child's eyes, trying to make the most of every moment he has left with his child. The reason that I say this is the most tragic part of this scene is because he has given up on his freedom, he has begrudgingly accepted the fact that he will be sold into slavery, his child as well, and that he will most likely never see his child again. The man is powerless in a system that sees him as inferior, sub human. The man feels he cannot do anything about his or his son's position in life so he simply accepts it and spends what little time that remains with his son.

The next scene shows the horrors of slavery, such as whipping and branding of slaves, and it also shows runaways being punished. The following scene depicts a winged man, an angel presumably, performing some type of rite or ritual upon the Black man on his knee before him. This scene is by far the hardest for me to interpret and understand.

Then the cartoon shows a black and white man taking off their hats as a sign of respect to the man on the horse, who may be the person paying them. This scene indicates a kind of equality between Blacks and Whites, they are both working together for a boss.

Subsequently, the Black workers get compensated for their work, and they can afford to buy their own clothes, which appear to be nicer than the ones the slaves are wearing the the previous scenes.

The next scene is my favorite, it shows a boy and a girl darting off to an American Public School with looks of excitement on their faces (Can you imagine kids being excited for school?). In the background there is a large church overlooking the school. This is significant because as slaves, Black people were not allowed to learn how to read, and as a result many of them were illiterate though no fault of their own (Murrin 578).

On the right side of the word Emancipation, there is Lady Justice facing the mysterious top hat wearing figure and she is holding a plant or flower (An olive branch?) in her right hand while she holds a balance in her left hand. I find it interesting that she is not blindfolded or holding a sword like she is typically depicted. I think by doing this the cartoonist is trying to portray forgiveness rather than justice/punishment by displaying an olive branch instead of a sword. Maybe the cartoonist was sick of death because of the approximately six hundred twenty five thousand deaths that occurred during the four year Civil War (Escobar 2-14) And perhaps the reason she is not wearing a blindfold is because Lady Justice had been blind to the horrible tragedies that occurred for hundreds of years leading up to the point of Emancipation. It is interesting that the cartoonist drew an unconventional version of Lady Justice. To the right of Lady Justice are two Union soldiers, holding their hats high in a salute to the mysterious top hat wearing figure. To the right of both of them, in the clouds with them, is a beautiful kingdom. I think this idealized kingdom is what the American people strived for during and after the Civil War.

At the heart of this cartoon about Emancipation is a portrait of a three generational Black family spending time together about to enjoy a meal. The peculiar aspect of this scene is the fact that they have a picture of a white man on the wall. Which would indicate that the White man in the picture is someone that the family admires or aspires to be like. I find it very interesting that after all of the negative history the family has had to deal with, they still have a portrait of a White man in their home.

The cartoonist is portraying Emancipation as the end of Black suffering from slavery. Unfortunately, we know that is not the case as Black people and American society still had a lot of big hurdles to overcome to achieve equality and the cartoonist’s vision of a Kingdom of God.

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Emancipation Cartoon Analysis (cartoon #5)
by [Arthur Vander Hoff](#) - Thursday, February 28, 2019, 1:02 PM

This is my analysis of the emancipation cartoon:

To me, this seems like more of a work of art than a political cartoon, though I suppose since it’s about slavery that makes it political for the time. It seems to me that it’s saying that emancipation is a good thing. If we are assuming that going from left to right is advancing forward in time, on the left depicts how slaves were treated before emancipation, and the right depicts how they would be treated after.

Starting from the bottom left we see slaves being whipped (a woman being whipped even), then above that we see African Americans being sold in what looks to be an auction, and above that in the top left looks to be slaves attempting to run away, and behind them you can see they are being chased and shot at by men with dogs and guns.

The very center image looks like a happy African American family enjoying each other’s company with every-day attire and in a furnished house. Above the picture, “Emancipation” is written surrounded by clouds. The things in the clouds appear to be more symbolic, so I’ll try my best to decipher them. In front of the word “Emancipation” is a woman who I believe is Liberty. To the left of the writing, there are two men and a horse running away from “Emancipation” in fear. There is also a snake, which I’m going to guess represents Satan, saying that slavery is sinful. (What I don’t understand is the men appear to be naked. There also looks to be some sort of lightning coming from the horse's hooves). To the right of the writing, there is a woman holding scales representing equality, and an olive branch representing peace. Just to the right of her are men who appear to be Union soldiers happily cheering. Just under the large image in the middle is a smaller image depicting what looks like an angel holding a baby who looks to be undoing the bonds of an African American slave. I’m going to guess that the baby could be the baby Jesus, since I can’t think of another baby that an angel would be holding. This again is saying that slavery is morally wrong.

Presumably after emancipation, on the bottom right we see African Americans waiting in line to purchase goods from a store, and above that we see African American children being sent off to public school.

One thing that especially leads me to believe that this is a before-after comparison is the pair of scenes at the very bottom of the page. On the left of emancipation, we see an African American being run down by a man on a horse, possibly the slave owner “punishing” the slave. To the right of that though, we see a similar scene but instead of the man on the horse running down the African

American, we see the African American and another White man presenting a basket of crops to the man on the horse, while they all tip their hats to each other. I'm guessing that the left is a slave and owner scenario while the right is a workers and boss scenario, where the workers agree to do the work.

With scenes of terror on the left and scenes of happiness on the right, I believe this cartoon is saying that emancipation is a good thing for everyone involved, in addition to the biblical imagery saying that slavery is morally wrong.

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Analysis of the "This Is a White Man's Government"

by [Enya Smith](#) - Friday, March 1, 2019, 10:29 PM

For reference, I am referring to this [comic](#).

At first glance, there appear to be four subjects of the story: Three white men stomping on a black man. The black man is crushed against the ground, American flag in one hand (symbol of freedom, a solider perhaps?) as he reaches out to put a ballot in the empty, round glass that is the ballot box. (Recall in class we discussed that ballot boxes were clear for several years.) On top of him, an Irish man with a bat that says 'one vote' (I had to do some digging about 5 Points as a city, [turns out the area was very well known for crime and several folks were against abolitionists](#).) The middle one, from what I could gather by his hat (NBF) and a/so the "CSA" on his belt, is Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was the leader and founder of the Ku Klux Klan in it's first run. The third is a wealthy businessman, buying votes. I, personally, couldn't find a connection. I'm hoping other students might.

It's important to note that Nathan Bedford Forrest was a Confederate Soldier and is holding a knife that says, "The Lost Cause". There's an impression, now, that the three figures may be using the 'weapons' in their hand (Capitalism, "Lost Cause", and "One Vote") as a weapon of oppression against groups who have now gotten the right to vote. The southerners used the Lost Cause as a way to enforce anti-black law, basically treating them as slaves. It is considered immoral and unethical by many Republicans during this era.

Ultimately I think that this comic reflects a time of oppression, hate, and excuse used upon black citizens of the U.S. It is a strong propaganda piece in favor of the 13th/14th/15th amendment and a strong statement piece for the era.

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Re: Analysis of the "This Is a White Man's Government"

by [Nicolette D Erazo](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 7:07 PM

The point that you brought up about '5 Point' as a city, and their mob mentality, would support the fact that the events occurring in the South represented in this cartoon, were fueled by hate, post Civil War. The fact that most Irish immigrants were Democrats who wanted the jobs that the Freedmen were competing for and the Ku Klux Klan was a "night riding white terrorist organization" (p. 574) which "committed dozens of murders and intimidated thousand of black voters" (p.576). The man on the right appears to represent the wealthy population of Southern Democrats who were very pro-slavery and that overall would support the idea that this cartoon displays the dark period and the way the Freedmen were being treated.

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Emancipation Cartoon

by [Megan Wayne](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 5:38 PM

This cartoon is obviously about emancipation and the hopes it brought to blacks during this time period. In the center of the cartoon, there is a black family spending time together, looks to be in their own home, making dinner as a family. The family looks like the general goal for all slaves, which is peace within a home of their own, with children, and the awareness of safety. On the left side is what was going on before emancipation with white owners whipping/beating slaves, slaves on the ground with no power, begging to a white man who gives them no attention. On the top left I think are blacks running away and white people trying to shoot at them. The land they are on looks dead and ruined. On the right of the cartoon is what blacks during this time desired most: simple equality. The cartoon shows black people buying things from a shop, it shows black children attending school finally, and the top right is untouched, peaceful land. This cartoon probably made the Southerners not happy because it was only a thought that blacks would be seen and treated as equal, but since it was drawn in a popular cartoon, it seemed more real. But this much coexisting-equality portrayed on the right side was not accomplished until much later in history.

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Re: Emancipation Cartoon

by Margaret Batz - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 6:22 PM

I totally agree with what you are saying and liked how you explained it. Emancipation means to set free so the family in the middle was after the emancipation and it shows that it was effective and helped the blacks by setting them free from slavery. The left side is showing how bad it was before the emancipation so this cartoon was really trying to show the meaning of emancipation and how it helped the blacks and families.

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Black men > White women? 4

by Christopher Bischoff - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 9:44 PM

The meaning of this cartoon was difficult for me to interpret. On the ground is a Black man that is holding his hand to his head with a confused look on his face. Kneeling above him is a southern democratic white woman holding suffrage over the Black man's head, as if she pulled it out of him. The woman is looking towards the vehement crowd with contempt, the crowd is waving swords around and burning things. I think the look of confusion on the Black man's face is sort of funny, his face sort of says "How the heck did I get the right to vote before a White woman did?!"

One of the signs held by the mob of angry white men says " Slavery, the lost cause regained" "Mob law" and "Ku Klux Klan Democrats". According to the book, "Part of the Klan's purpose was social control of the Black population" (Murrin 581).

If I had to guess what the cartoonist was trying to convey, it would be that southern white women and black men had to support each other for suffrage rights against white men who opposed them. Or perhaps the fact that the right to vote came from the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments, which allowed Black men to become citizens and vote, paved the way for the Women's suffrage movement (Murrin 570, 574).

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Re: Black men > White women? 4

by Megan Wayne - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 10:58 PM

This cartoon represents the riots from the election of 1866 when the 14th amendment was the topic. It was the discussion of whether or not someone should automatically become a U.S. citizen if you are born on U.S. land. This was not liked by Andrew Johnson, who also convinced more southern legislatures to reject the amendment as well. However, even though majority of blacks were born within the U.S., they still were not considered citizens. But this cartoon is explaining the time when people were wanting to veto the amendment.

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Re: Black men > White women? 4

by Owen McCoy - Monday, March 4, 2019, 4:42 PM

I interpreted it differently. While I think that the 14th and 15th Amendments were important in that they provided a precursor for women's suffrage, I don't think that's what the author was trying to convey. I remember that the textbook pointed out that some of the women's suffrage leader actually opposed the amendments because they didn't think that black men should get the right to vote before white women. The cartoon author might be trying to show this dynamic between two groups that were concurrently standing up for their rights at this time.

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The Modern Samson cartoon

by Megan Wayne - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 10:51 PM

This cartoon has lots of meaning to it. There is a black man sitting with a woman (who looks almost religious-like) who is holding something over his head that says "suffrage" across it meaning that blacks are on their way to receiving the right to vote. In the back there is a riot of white men starting fires and holding weapons. The 14th

Amendment was used as the Republicans “platform” for the election in 1866, which is the right to being a citizen and receiving citizen rights if you are born here. Andrew Johnson was against that and was successful in getting other southern politicians to reject the 14th Amendment. He then made his campaign by starting the National Union Party (the white men in the riots). The white man in the front and center of the cartoon is holding a flag and printed super small on it is “Memphis.” The riot that took place in Memphis (and New Orleans), “with white mobs attacking blacks, bolstered Republican arguments that national power was necessary to protect ‘the fruits of victory’ in the South” (Textbook, Chapter 17 page 570). The textbook also says, “(Johnson) traded insults with hecklers and embarrassed his supporters by comparing himself to Christ and his Republican adversaries to Judas” (Textbook, Chapter 17 page 570). The cartoon scene has a religious vibe to it and also above the black man and the woman, there is a engraved portrait of Moses on the wall holding a stone sign that just says “veto” which is implying that even Moses says to reject the 14th amendment.



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Re: The Modern Samson cartoon
by [Arthur Vander Hoff](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 10:58 PM

This cartoon is in reference to the story of Samson in the Bible. Samson led and rescued the Israelites from the Philistines with his immeasurable strength. He married the Philistine maiden, Delilah, who asked what the source of his strength was. When he told her it was his hair, she betrayed him by cutting it off in his sleep, making him powerless and vulnerable to the Philistines when he awoke, who ended up capturing him.

In the Photo, the southern Democrats are depicted as Delilah, cutting off the source of power (suffrage, depicted as Samson's hair) of the freedmen, depicted as Samson, to leave him vulnerable to the KKK, depicted as the Philistines.

"The cartoon scene has a religious vibe to it and also above the black man and the woman, there is a engraved portrait of Moses on the wall holding a stone sign that just says “veto” which is implying that even Moses says to reject the 14th amendment."

Close. The one who is engraved is Andrew Johnson, depicted as Moses from the Bible. Moses I recall, was used by Southerners to justify slavery since he is a prominent Biblical figure who also owned slaves (I don't remember which page that is on). In the engraving, he is holding the tablet that the 10 commandments were written on (which he brought down from a mountain top), but instead of the commandments, the word "veto" is written on them. This is because Johnson vetoed the two bills that Congress passed to "protect the economic and civil rights of freedpeople" (page 569, last paragraph). This might be a stretch, but maybe this is saying that just like Moses condemned the people at the foot of the mountain for breaking the 10 commandments, Johnson is condemning the Republicans for being "traitors who did not want to restore the Union except on terms that would degrade white southerners" (page 570, first paragraph).

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Interpreting cartoon #2: "THIS IS A WHITE MAN'S GOVERNMENT"

by [Justin Miller](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 2:57 PM

In this cartoon we are shown three white men with their hands together in a handshake, all with one foot on the back of a black man who is holding a Union flag and reaching for a ballot box, his hat lying on the ground in front of him.

The white man on the left is shown holding a club that has "A Vote" written on it, and the man himself is apelike in appearance meaning that he is meant to represent the Irish who were known to be against black suffrage at the time. The man in the middle holds a knife the has "The Lost Cause" written on it and CSA, Confederate States of America, on his belt, and a pin with a skull on his jacket. This man is probably meant to represent ex-confederate soldiers who later became the KKK and other white supremacist groups. The man on the right is holding an envelope that says capitol and vote on it, probably meant to represent the Democratic Party at the time, as the cartoon is from an election year. The envelope might represent the southern votes for his run for president.

Altogether, I believe that this is supposed to represent the pact between the Democrat presidential candidate, the white supremacist terrorist groups of the south, and the Irish migrants of the north, to retake the government, and force the freedman out of it & back into servitude.

The burning city in the background might represent the state of the country after this coalition had achieved its goals.

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Is this fair? (Image 2)

by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 12:30 AM

The message I believe the artist was trying to paint was how the Reconstruction Acts were not fair to the african americans. This is of course seen by how both an Irish man and someone who resembles Stephen Douglas or a plantation owner, standing with a foot on the man on the ground. After studying the cartoon, more significant evidence was emerging. Next to the african american was a Union hat that was worn by the North in the Civil War. This further shows how the artist felt about the treatment of Blacks fighting in the union. This is also shown by having the soldier grasp the american flag. One may infer that the reason this cartoon was drawn was how the country acted after the defeat of the South. Introducing the Acts that allowed the South to readmit to the Union must have felt like a slap in the face for those who fought and defended the Union. To further show how disrespected african americans were, they included an Irish man shaking hands, standing on top of the african american. Keep in mind that Nativism is strong in the country, and depicting it this way shows how unfairly represented they are.

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cartoon 5

by [Reed Battaglia](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 10:44 AM

In the cartoon toon number 5 there is a lot going on. Everything from black slaves being beaten and auctioned off, to living happy with their family it appears. In big words it says emancipation, referring to the Emancipation Proclamation. I think it's really important to note in this cartoon that they are showing the before and after the Emancipation.

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Re: cartoon 5

by [Margaret Batz](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 5:46 PM

That's a good way of putting it, "before and after the Emancipation." Before this, slaves were not free and things were very difficult for them. After the Emancipation, they were free and this image really shows that well by having the family in the middle happy and enjoying dinner with their children. The rest of the image shows fights and sad faces which shows that things were bad before the Emancipation.

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Re: cartoon 5
by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 11:28 PM

Hi Margeret,

I like your positive view on this cartoon. I think believing that the blacks were completely "free" is optimistic. What I think the author might have been trying to show through this cartoon was pre-emancipation on the left side. The whippings and the public auction block is a harsh reminder of what was back then. The optimistic view would be the middle circle with the family being happy and literature being introduced. On the right side, it looks more positive, with african american children going off to school. As well as a black man being shown receiving income after a days work. After this, I believe that the author was trying to show this by showing the negative on the left, the positive on the right, and the outcome of the positive in the circle.

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Re: cartoon 5
by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 9:57 PM

I agree with you on the interpretation of this cartoon. The artist shows more of a positive side with this cartoon. This is shown how the past, prior to the Emancipation, blacks were being treated. In this more positive view of the Emancipation, the family home is decorated with a picture of Abraham Lincoln "The Great Emancipator". Which can be shown how blacks viewed Lincoln. Having the past painted, the auction blocks, and whippings is to tap into the pathos and try to bring more attention to this view.

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cartoon 2
by [Reed Battaglia](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 10:54 AM

In cartoon 2 "the white man's government" it is a very simple cartoon I feel like. In the middle there is a white man holding a big knife that says "the lost cause" referring to slavery. The middle man is Nathan Bedford Forrest you can tell because of the initials on his hat and the beard. He was a general for the confederates during the war. In the cartoon it is very easy to see that all three of the men have one leg on the black man on the ground. This is a sign of oppression in the highest degree. I also see the American flag on the ground below the black slave this could be the artist way of showing that the union will do nothing for you, referring to the slave.

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Re: cartoon 2
by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 9:35 PM

Hi Reed,

I like your interpretation of this cartoon. I completely agree with your last sentence when you mention that the Union will do nothing for you. To many blacks, they can feel this oppression by allowing the the Confederacy to join the Union again. Personally, allowing them to rejoin can be seen as a slap in the face. Fighting for the side you believe in, only to have them rejoin. I am aware that allowing them to rejoin came with stricter guidelines. The artist does this well and I am glad that you were able to see that too!

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Re: Emancipation
by [Alivia Garcia-Irwin](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 11:13 PM

This cartoon seems to be showing what really is happening with the efforts and thoughts of emancipation for slaves. At first glance you can see a really nice image of a African-American family who seem to be enjoying themselves and look very happy. Around the image is where the reality of the situation can be seen. Images of brutal whippings and being treated unfairly. I think this cartoon is significant because it shows the reality of the situation it is a mixture of hope and reality in my opinion. You can also see what looks to be a peaceful or heavenly

look to the top of the image which is significant because on the far side of the image kind of shown smaller looks to be war and African american men falling down. This cartoon gives the reality and hope for what the future "could" be for African-Americans.

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