

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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Poster 2: This Is A White Man's government
by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Saturday, February 23, 2019, 10:26 PM

Poster #2

Bottom of poster states: "We regard the Reconstruction Acts (so called) of Congress as usurpations, and unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void."-Democratic Platform

The Person on the bottom who is on the ground with three people who are standing on him holding him down *which I feel thy all have their own reasons for doing so*. He appears to be a Black union solider who is holding on to an American flag and is reaching for a ballot box (which we saw that type of ballot box in class) This black man has been freed and is trying to vote because he has obtained that right and the three men are stepping on him and the flag stating that they are at war on behalf of their beliefs and the system which is trying to change their way of life. And will do what they must to prevent him from voting

-

Person in the middle (First paragraph in text page 576 states) "In Louisiana Georgia, Arkansas, and Tennessee, the Klan or Klan like groups committed dozens of murders and intimidated thousands of black voters. The violence helped the Democratic cause in the South, but probably hurt it in the North." Also, Many Klansman were former soldiers, and such famous Confederate generals as Nathan Forrest."

With the initials on his hat which is NBF stands for = Nathan Bedford Forrest. He is wearing his confederate uniform representing which I believe represents his belief, and their cause. ([Video](#)) "[The Lost Cause](#)" he is also holding a knife up in the air, ready to do what is necessary and what confederates believe in. He has a medal of some sort which I'm not sure how he received, probably sometime during the war. ----- He represents former confederates in the post war Democratic party and their view and suppressing the rights and welfare of black person who is now free, and that he is against and opposing the Reconstruction Legislation.

I am thinking that one of the buildings in the background might represent the violence of Southerners against black's populations development. It does state on page 576 of text that "Forrest held a high position in the Klan." And page 572 in text has a picture which says: "The burning of Freedmen's School. Because freed people's education symbolized black progress, whites who resented this progress sometimes attacked and burned freedmen's schools."

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Poster #2 This Is A White Man's Government
by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Sunday, February 24, 2019, 2:45 PM

Poster #2

The Person on the right I am assuming is a Democrat also. He appears to be upper class and the medallion he is wearing says 5th Avenue which I cannot find anything in book or remember in class as far as where this might be. So, since he also is stepping on this black man, ----- I would ask you to consider if this might be his reason for doing so. (Page 588 of text states) "Democratic techniques of intimidation: *bulldozing*. To bulldoze black voters meant to trample them down or keep them away from the polls." He is holding a lot of money in a wallet that says AB on it which is probably his initials of his name. Also has the words Capital and the word; for votes on it which if I had to guess the money is for paying off people for their votes.

The person on the left is an Irish man. He also is stepping on this black man. He has a club which says A Vote On it which is raised up and ready to swing. He has a hat that has a cross on it and has a bottle in his pocket. His appearance is working class and looks very ape-like, very commonly for the Irish to be portrayed like this in illustrations at this time. His hat also has 5 points written on it which is an area in New York City. (to be honest I know this because I've seen movies about this area 5 points, in New York) it's populated by mostly poverty-stricken Irish immigrants-----I think he is in the poster and is representing Irish's involvement in the Civil War riots in New York City. (Page 535 in text states) "Democratic newspapers told white workers, especially the especially the *large Irish American population*,, that the draft would force them to fight a war to free slaves, who would then come north to take their jobs. This volatile issue sparked widespread violence when the northern draft got under way in the summer of 1863. The worst riot occurred in July in New York City, where huge mobs consisting mostly of Irish Americans demolished drafts offices, lynched several blacks, and destroyed huge areas of the city in four days of looting and burning."

In the back ground of this poster has such that: burning buildings which one has a name on it which I can make out the words (Orphan & Asylum but the word on the top I can't quite make out) This might represent the buildings that were destroyed in the riots

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Maclain O'Leary](#) - Sunday, February 24, 2019, 8:02 PM

The political cartoon I have chose to interpret is the one titled "This is a White Man's Government". The picture depicts three men standing over a man on the ground, their feet on the man's back. The man on the left is an Irish man, still depicted as more animal like. He is holding a club that says "A Vote", and on his hat is written "5 Points", alluding to the 5 point gangs of New York. The man in the middle and right are white men, one holding a knife and one holding a booklet of papers. On the knife is written "The Lost Cause", most likely alluding to the Civil War. The man on the ground is a black man, who is grasping for a ballot box that is just out of reach.

Now, the message about reconstruction that I believe this cartoon is trying to convey, that even though the civil war was over, equal rights were still far from won. Slavery was now abolished, and the United States were now back to being won, but the war for equality was still raging. Whites, specifically whites from the south, wanted to keep the power away from blacks. They may no longer be chained in slavery, but that doesnt mean the whites wanted to have them have influence in voting and in the government. The interesting part is that one of the men depicted standing over the black man is Irish, who years before, people were comparing to being "just as bad as Blacks". So the fact that people had dropped that opinion of the Irish, just to make sure that Blacks weren't given more power, shows that even though the country was in reconstruction, it was far from being "United".

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Amanda Francis](#) - Friday, March 1, 2019, 2:18 PM

In the cartoon, it looks like the black man on the ground is also holding an American Flag. I think this could be representative of the black soldiers that fought in the Civil War. Lincoln's decision to announce the Emancipation Proclamation during the war was partially to be able to recruit black soldiers. While black soldiers were eventually allowed to serve in the war, there still lacked equality. "The Emancipation Proclamation legitimized this policy with its proposal to enroll able-bodied male contrabands in new black regiments, although these units would serve as labor battalions, supply troops, and garrison forces rather than as combat troops. They would be paid less than white soldiers, and their officers would be white" (textbook 544). Just before the war was over, the South was desperate for soldiers, and "Davis pressed the Confederate Congress to enact a bill for recruitment of black soldiers" (textbook p 554). The war was over before this could go into effect. White men in the North and South were willing to use black men for their benefit in the war but were still not willing to treat them as equals. I think the men with their feet on the back of the black man on the ground signifies keeping him down, but it also represents the white men are also using him to boost them up. They were willing to use black men to their benefit but not willing to treat them as equals during the war or after specifically in the South.

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cartoon 5
by [Jaden Blansit](#) - Monday, February 25, 2019, 10:49 PM

With this cartoon there is a circle in the middle showing a happy african american family and on the outsides of the ring showed the suffrage of african americans that they used to have to go through during their lifetime. I believe that the artist is trying to portray the "circle of life" with the large circle in the middle as a before and after shot of african american lives during this time period on the outside is the unhappiness and unrest and in the circle is a life that is worth it. They also put a little hint towards the emancipation proclamation as to be a "godsend" to them with the word being in the sky with angels surrounding it and clouds.

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Re: cartoon 5
by [Tyler Weiss](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 10:20 AM

Jaden-

I find the use of the word "suffrage" here to be a little confusing. In the context of what we are studying in class, "suffrage" refers to the right to vote (suffrage = enfranchisement = the right to vote) and I don't see anything in this image that illustrates anyone voting. Also, is everything on the outside of the circle showing unhappiness and unrest? It looks like on the rights side there are some black children that are going off to public school, and some black people standing in line at a cashier, possibly getting paid for work. IT seems to me like the left side of the picture might be referring to life before emancipation, and the right side is life after emancipation. I believe the center circle is depicting family life of blacks after emancipation, but I'm having trouble making out what is in the smaller circle at the bottom.

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Re: cartoon 5
by [Amanda Francis](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 1:22 PM

My first impression of this cartoon was the big circle in the middle of the happy African American family all gathered around a fire was the dream scenario of emancipation, and the pictures surrounding the circle was the reality of what the Emancipation Proclamation brought about for the lives of the millions of newly freed slaves. After a closer look, I agree with Tyler that it looks like the pictures on the left are showing life for African Americans pre-emancipation because of the slave auction and the masters whipping the slaves. To the right of the circle there is a picture of children going to school. We learned in our textbook and from class lectures that the ability for black children to attend public school was a positive aspect for post-civil war African Americans. The picture to the bottom right perhaps represents the "Freedmen's Bureau", established by the federal government, which helped the newly free black families with "rations, clothing, and medicine" (lecture video).

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by [Sebastian Garcin](#) - Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 1:40 PM

When looking at the political cartoon #2, it is pretty clear from the start that it is expressing anti-black reasoning/ideals. The African American man is holding a United States Flag and is being stepped on/held down by three white men. On the left side is an Irishman, drawn in the ape-like appearance seen in many cartoons. The man in the middle is from the Confederate States of America(evident on his belt buckle) and the man on the right is a politician or among the high class.

We already know that there was no shortage of opposition during the Civil War when it came to black rights, the South was already extremely anti-black, but also that many whites(Northern) believed that they went to war to save the Union, not to free the African Americans. After the Civil War there was a level of anger with African Americans, with many whites refusing to give them their rights, any respect, and doing anything to prevent them from having a voice(political).

A majority of Irishmen were part of the Democrat Party and were anti-black, and I believe that the one in this cartoon is representing how Irishmen, while still viewed as more primitive, used their voting power against African Americans, siding with other anti-black whites. The man from the Confederate States is representing the men of the South, who while being taken back into the Union still hold their (lost cause) anti-black views. The man on the right most likely is part of the Democrat Party as well. This cartoon is showing how many whites believed that blacks had no part being in the government or even the right to be citizens.

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#2 "White Man's Government"

by [Tyler Weiss](#) - Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 3:08 PM

In this photo we see an Irishman, being portrayed once again with ape-like features, General Nathan Bedford Forrest, and a third man who I'm not certain of, but I'm going to guess might be Andrew Johnson, all clasping hands as in salute, or agreement, of the quoted phrase at the bottom of the image. The phrase denounces the reconstruction acts of congress as unconstitutional and radical. In the Irishman's hand he holds up a club upon which is written "A vote." This can be signifying how most of the Irish immigrants in America voted as Democrats. He also is wearing a hat that has "5 Points," written on it, which is probably referring to 5 Points in New York City, where the most prominent Irish gang, The Dead Rabbits, fought the Native born gangs for political and social power. General Nathan Bedford Forrest is holding up a knife which reads, "The Lost Cause," to represent much of the South's sentiments towards reconstruction after the war.

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Re: #2 "White Man's Government"

by [Katie Calkins](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 2:05 PM

I thought it was interesting and important that you mentioned names such as General Nathan Bedford Forrest and Andrew Johnson for the white men. I wasn't completely sure on their names and so I just described the figures shown in the cartoon. I also noticed that you had gone into detail on the "5 points" written on the Irishman's hat (I had not know there was a 5 Points in New York).

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Cartoon #2: This is a White Man's Government

by [Katie Calkins](#) - Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 6:59 PM

In this cartoon, I believe the main message being shown is that white men did not believe that the blacks should have equal rights and be allowed to vote, even if they had served for their country. In the image, there is a black man who had been carrying an American Flag and was reaching for what looks to be a voting box, until the three white men knocked him down and trampled him along with their American Flag. The white men are then standing on the black man with joined hands showing their unity to each other above the black man. One of the white men has ape-

like features, which were used towards Irishmen back then. Another white man wears a Confederates uniform, carrying a whip in his back pocket, symbolizing his greater power over the black man, and stands ready to stab the black man with a knife that says "The Lost Cause" on it symbolizing his war effort in the Civil War. The third white man is dressed more formally than the others and is holding an envelope that says "Capital" on it so I'm assuming he is probably a part of a presidential party or worked for the white house in some way.

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Time Works Wonders
by [Bailey Deverell](#) - Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 11:02 PM

"Time Works Wonders"

In my opinion the artist was trying make a point about how during Reconstruction the first blacks were serving in Congress. I believe Jefferson Davis is supposed to be portrayed as a villain in this cartoon, as the artist writes: "Iago. (Jeff Davis.)" at the bottom of the picture, Iago being the primary antagonist in Shakespeare's play "Othello." The way that Jefferson Davis appears to be leering at the black Congressman tells me that the artist was trying to make Davis appear as if he felt jealous of the African American politician, maybe because Davis himself was a U.S. politician but was at the time this cartoon was drawn supposed to have been living his life in shame.

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Cartoon #1 Time Works Wonders
by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Friday, March 1, 2019, 12:37 PM

Cartoon #1

I like your interpretation of Jefferson Davis being jealous, it makes sense he doesn't look so happy does he. To me he also looks like he doesn't want them to know that he is standing in the hallway. The person that is sitting down appears to be a black Senator whose name says Revels on side of desk, who could have represented (page 578 in text) "In the North, the Republican party represented the most prosperous, educated, and influential elements of the population, but in the South, most of its adherents were poor, illiterate, and landless." Also "Of 14 black representatives and two black senators elected in the South between 1868 to 1876, all but three had attended secondary school and four had attended college. Several of the black elected to state offices were among the best-educated men of their day." Also, Revels appears to be smiling and having a conversation with other senators along with one who looks a lot like Charles Sumner. (pictures from class) and (page 563 of text states) Radical Republicans, led by Thaddeus Stevens in the House and Charles Sumner in the Senate, distrusted oaths of allegiance sworn by ex-Confederates." I am thinking that Sumner might be asking Revels for a copy of a speech that he just gave? (In class first half of class discussion & demonstration). Also, I think it is kind of interesting that the 30+ people up above sitting in the balcony seem to be looking toward the senators and one of them is using binoculars. Maybe because spectators were not used to seeing a black person hold this type of position.

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Re: Cartoon #1 Time Works Wonders add-on
by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 3:22 PM

Just a short add to my post. Watching the (Thursdays snow day information) from video and slides talks about the first black senator and Representatives of this time and shows a picture of them by each other. Which Revel's appears to be one of them

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Cartoon #4 "Voter Suppression" Black or Republican
by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Thursday, February 28, 2019, 1:25 PM

Cartoon #4

There is so much going on with this Cartoon: I'll start with the fire on the lower left there is a fire with books and papers and a globe in it. And by the fire there is a book with the inscription Holly Bible. Throughout history at times; Bibles have been attacked, burned, assaulted in our past. usually the person chooses to not believe of its authoritative

guidance and believes something other. Religion is a belief and surely this might be an act of saying that they believed in their cause and not the religion that is in the bible.

There is a man holding a branch in right hand and A belt buckle with words I can't quite make out. Also, there is a medal on his uniform that says Fort Pillow standing next to fire with the branch in it stirring the coals. Which tells me he might be the one who started it. His name happens to be (page 576 in text) "Nathan Bedford Forest held high position in the Klan" who I recognize from my first post who in poster #2 he is a Confederate General who was a member of the KKK.

After the war their where many Democratic whites who opposed the Republican's approach to reconstruction and called for states to decide on political issues such as suffrage. (Video) "Lost cause" of anti-black views. So, standing by the fire are standing seven men who I believe represent Democrats who were opposing the Congressional / Radical Republicans Plan policies (video from snow day Wade-Davis Bill of 1864) They look like their angry and are in protest. Far left is a man with a torch in his left hand and a sword with a name on it in his right hand which I can't make out and I don't know who he might be. Next to him is Nathan Bedford Forest; he is stirring the fire with a branch with his right hand and it looks like a pistol raised up over his head in his left hand also with a medal saying Fort Pillow and a belt buckle I can't make out. (page 581 states in text) "Part of the Klan's purpose was social control of the black population." To the right of him is General Lee kneeling one knee, with a sword and in his left hand with the name Lee on it. To his right is another figure who might be Horatio Seymour (Democrat) with the letters KKK on his uniform and is holding a whip and chains in his right hand. He was defeated by Republican Ulysses S. for the American presidential election (Page 576 in text states) "Seymour did will in the South, carrying five former slave states and coming close in others, despite the solid Republican vote of the newly enfranchised blacks? Grant however, swept the electoral vote 214 to 80." He is also holding a Flag which has the words in upper left saying: New" & " _? _" & "Memphis". Also, on left say: "N.Y. Riots" & "Fort Pillow." Upper right says: "Slavery" & "the lost cause regained." and bottom say: "Mob law" & "ku-klux-klan" & "Democrats." (page 581 & 582 of text states) "The Klan's main purpose was political: to destroy the Republican Party by terrorizing it's voters and, if necessary, by murdering its leaders." No one knows how many politically motivated killings took place—certainly hundreds, probably thousands. Nearly all victims were Republicans; most of them were black." And to the right of him is a man with the name Blair on his sword who is Frank Blair also looks like he might have the letters KKK on his uniform (page 576 in text states) "The vice-presidential candidate, Frank Blair of Missouri, proclaimed that Democrats sought to "allow the white people to reorganize their own governments." The only way to achieve this bold counterrevolutionary goal was to suppress Republican voter in the South." Behind Blair you can see a sword raised up only. To the right of Blair is man holding a sword straight up with his right hand and don't know who he is. And another man with a sword in his right hand with a name Hoff, Huff or Hope man on it and can't quite make it out, who is holding up a curtain with his other arm. To the right of him is an Irish man, who is well hidden in the back ground behind the curtain and looks very ape-like, very commonly for the Irish to be portrayed like this in illustrations during this time.

Imagine if Democratic Horatio Seymour won the presidential election along with Frank Blair the vice-presidential candidate, against Republican Ulysses S. Grant. What might you think might have happened? Would it have made a difference?

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Continued: Cartoon #4 "Voter Suppression" Black or Republican
by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Thursday, February 28, 2019, 2:50 PM

Cartoon #4

There is a stone between the men and the woman that the words are very hard to make out and I am spending a lot of my time on this post already, so I am not going to try to make out any of words. However, check it out yourself.

There is statue who I think might be Andrew Johnson holding a plaque saying "veto" and above him saying "I will be your moses" and below him saying "moses" and some names of people below that. The reason I think it might be him is because of (page 770 of text it states) "Democrats newspapers applauded the president for vetoing bills that would "compound our race with niggers, gypsies, and baboons." Also, same page "He compares himself to Christ and his Republican adversaries to Judas"

On the bottom right is a vase with a serpent around it ([video snow day Tuesday says](#)). "The New Orleans Massacre: Republicans were chase out of convention hall and shot down. Black men were murdered in the streets. 34 blacks and 3 white radicals had been killed. And the Radicals say we told you. We told you that unless you stamp out this SERPENT of white power in the South. Unless you kill it, its's going to rise up again." and or ([page 496 of text](#)). "There is a picture showing the Banner of the South Carolina Secession Convention."

There a black man who is lying down and a Woman on right of him sitting by him with a banner on her dress that says Southern Democrat. ([page 575 in text states](#)). "Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, therefore opposed the Fifteenth Amendment, causing a split in the woman suffrage movement") Also ("Stanton and Anthony refused to accept this reasoning. Why should illiterate southern blacks have the right to vote, they asked, when educated northern women remained shut out from the polls? The Fifteenth Amendment would establish "the most odious form of aristocracy the world has ever seen: an aristocracy of sex.") She has a razor in her left hand with four words on it that I can't make out but if I had to guess they are the same four word that are on the flag "the lost __? __? __ ." And her right hand she appeared to have cut the black man's hair with the word suffrage on it "which represents the right to vote in political elections. ([Page 574 of text states](#)). "The fifteenth Amendment prohibited states from denying the right to vote on the grounds of race, color, or previous conditions of servitude. Its purpose was not only to prevent the reconstruction states from and future revocation of black suffrage, but also to extend equal suffrage to the border states and to the North." The woman's act is suppressing his right to vote

To the left of the black man on the ground next to him appears to be a two horned dragon type figure. At least that is what I think it might be. And I have no idea what it might represent?

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Re: Continued: Cartoon #4 "Correction"
by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 4:10 PM

I made a quote from page 770 of text for my reason I think It might andrew Johnson. I meant to say page 570

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Mitchell Bell](#) - Thursday, February 28, 2019, 2:24 PM

I am going to analyze cartoon number 3 in this carton therein many things going on first you see Andrew Johnson standing by a wounded soldier you notice Johnson is wearing what looks like to be a jesters costume I believe that is because the way he was doing the reconstruction was a joke. Next if you look to the right and left you see to banners one saying pardon all the rebels and the other saying something union soldiers I could not quite make out the whole thing. in the top of the cartoon you see radical riots in which white men are gunning down black men. We must think this is mainly taking place in the south where the blacks where newly freed. in Short I believe the author of this cartoon clearly entails that they believe his reconstruction plan is not how it should be ran.

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The Modern Samson – Cartoon #4
by [Maximillian Prentice](#) - Thursday, February 28, 2019, 11:56 PM

While all the cartoons were interesting, the cartoon captioned "The Modern Samson" really caught my eye. It is a play on the classic biblical story of Samson and Delilah. In the tale, Samson was a man of great power, but if his hair was cut the power was lost. Samson was betrayed by Delilah who had his hair cut.

In the cartoon, Delilah is portrayed as "southern democrats" removing Samson's hair, which is labeled "suffrage". In my opinion, this cartoon is showing the democrats removing the power (the vote) from black men in the south. The vote was the only power the freedmen had against ex-confederates, who I believe are portrayed as an angry mob in the background of the cartoon. Despite early reform efforts by republican congress, Andrew Johnson told a Democratic senator "white men alone must govern the South" (text book, 565). Enfranchising blacks in the South, and North, would be a major hit to that idea, and the Southern Democrats looked to put a stop to that.

I know there is a lot to this comic that I am missing, as I am sure the statues and the writing on them is relevant, but I am not sure what they mean. If anyone has any insight on this, feel free to let me know.

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Re: The Modern Samson – Cartoon #4

by [Sebastian Garcin](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 12:29 PM

This cartoon is definitely a play on the story of Samson and Delilah from the Bible, with Samson being an African American (I assume he is a freed slave) and Delilah being the Southern Democracy. The knife/razor that Delilah is using to cut Samson's hair(labeled suffrage) is most likely symbolizing the "Black Codes" that were used to restrict the rights and force into labor black men in the South. Just as in the bible Samson is betrayed by Delilah, the black men were betrayed by a government that was supposed to protect them(Andrew Johnson) and handed back over to the "Lost Cause" mob.

It seems to me that there is Andrew Johnson portrayed in the statue above Delilah and the African American man, and holding two slabs of rock with the word "Veto" inscribed into it. He is portrayed similarly to Moses carrying the Ten Commandments and i assuming it represents the power Andrew Johnson had and used to veto the actions of Congress.

The angry "Lost Cause" mob is burning what looks like the ballot box, but also books/documents. I think this symbolizes how many Southerns not only believed that black men shouldn't have the power to vote or be in the government, but also that the black man shouldn't be able to read/write and shouldn't be citizens.

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Re: The Modern Samson – Cartoon #4

by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 4:06 PM

Maximillian: This was my take on the statue, hope it helps I it's believe Andrew Johnson holding a plaque saying "veto" and above him saying "I will be your moses" and below him saying "moses" and some names of people below that. The reason I think it might be him is because of (page 570 of text it states) "Democrats newspapers applauded the president for vetoing bills that would "compound our race with niggers, gypsies, and baboons." Also, same page "He compares himself to Christ and his Republican adversaries to Judas"

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Re: The Modern Samson – Cartoon #4

by [Tyler Weiss](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 7:10 PM

I really like how you tied it back in to the passage from the textbook where Johnson compares himself to Christ and his Republican adversaries to Judas during the 1866 congressional elections. I'd also like to add to this that the names on the platform upon which Andrew Johnson is standing are all names of prominent southern Democrats. Seymour & Blair are Horatio Seymour and Frank Blair who were the Democratic president and vice president nominees for the 1868 election (textbook, pg 575-76). Also listed is Nathan Bedford Forrest, and a Governor Wise who I am not familiar with but will make an educated guess that he was a prominent governor of a southern democratic state. I can't make out the other names on the platform, but on the other side of it it reads, "The Great Democratic Party will rise in its might and majesty." The Confederate leaders in the background are holding up a flag upon which reads, "Slavery, the lost cause regained." The lost cause has been used to refer to the way in which some have tried to argue that the war was not fought over the issue of slavery. I find it really interesting how the image takes a slightly different twist on it, in that slavery was the cause that the South fought to protect, and they ended up losing that cause as a result of the war, and here they are rallying together to try to regain that "lost cause."

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3 (1)

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Cartoon #3 Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction

by [Tyler Weiss](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 9:15 AM

In the center of this image we see Andrew Johnson in jester’s garb standing with a wounded black Union soldier holding Honorable Discharge papers. Right away, this illustrates to the viewer the facade of Johnson’s reconstruction plan. He started out saying he would do one thing, and then quickly changed is mind and did something different. Behind them is a wall with statements Johnson had made publicly regarding his intentions for reconstruction. These include his intent to punish all traitors and public statements that he was a friend of the freed

slaves. There are also some contradicting statements, like when he vetoed the Freedmen’s Bureau and Civil Rights Bill. Written across this poster are the words, “All for your good,” adding to the facade that he was acting with their best interests at heart. Around the edges of the center circle of Johnson’s facade we see vetoes to Union bills along the right hand side, and pardons to rebels along the left hand side. This is relating to Johnson going back on his reconstruction promises to punish ex-confederates. Our textbook talks about how William T. Sherman had set aside large amounts of abandoned farmland in Georgia and South Carolina to give to freed slaves, also reserving a surplus of mules to be distributed to them. Freed slaves were told they could expect 40 acres and a mule to settle this abandoned land, but Johnson ended up changing his mind and pardoned many ex-confederates and restored their old farmland back to them, instead of giving it to the freed slaves (textbook, pg. 568).

Sum of ratings:[3 \(1\)](#)

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Cartoon #2 - Foreign, Domestic, and Executive Struggles

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 10:50 AM

I chose cartoon #2 to interpret for this post.

First, I like how the characters are placed in this political cartoon. It appears to further the notion of the Reconstruction Period being one of division, as what appears to be Robert E. Lee in the middle with the knife engraved with "The Lost Cause" in-between two other characters. On the right, there is the placement of President Andrew Johnson, holding a collection of bills (think the economic loss to the South both during and after the Civil War, where inflation rose to 9,000% and then the workforce for the cotton industry collapses - former slaves). Along with the envelope are the words, "Capital" and "Votes" outside the bills of currency. Next, on the opposite side, in the image of what appears to be an immigrant, I would say (this is just a guess) a man of Irish descent. I draw this conclusion due to the uncanny likeness from other images in previous weeks (NINA come to mind?). He has a cross on his hat, which makes me believe he came from the Irish Catholic tradition.

What makes this all the more captivating is that all three are standing with a foot on what appears to be an African-American, and most interesting, an American Flag on the ground. In the background is what appears to be a city on fire, with someone (a slave?) hanging from a lamp post.

Notice the placement of the four men - The President on one side, an immigrant on the other, with General Lee in the middle - and the flag and a former slave below. The small references (and larger ones) show what a difficult time this was for not just the North vs. the South, but the unintended consequences of the Civil War and period of reconstruction that followed. Economic, political, class, physical, social, Constitutional, and. . .very obviously, psychological.

This was NOT a happy time in America. To reconstruct is to fix what is broken, and America was certainly broken during this time period.

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Reconstruction Cartoon #5

by [Sebastian Garcin](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 12:54 PM

This cartoon (labeled "Emancipation") has several different scenes taking place in it. I believe that this cartoon is representing the life the African American majority lived on the the left and the life they hope to live on the right. In the middle is an African American family in their home, remembering the past and hoping for the future.

On the left you can see a black man running away from white slave owners, bounty hunters, or lawmen with hound dogs. This was expected and when the slave was caught, he/she was normally severely punished, sometimes even killed. There are also scenes of a slave auction, where families were separated from each other. You also see a scene were a white slave owner is punishing blacks by whipping them and others being branded by an iron.

In the middle is a black family in their home, i am assuming that they are living during the time when Lincoln gave the Emancipation Proclamation and are hoping for a better future, moving away from the troubled past. The small portrait of Lincoln leads me to believe this.

On the right is the future that all African Americans were hoping for, free of racial prejudice. They hope for schools that are no longer segregated and being workers instead of slaves.

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Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction - Cartoon #3
by [Ryan Monett](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 2:51 PM

In this political capture of the time, President Andrew Johnson is standing next to an African-American Union Soldier. I assume that US on his uniform and hat stand for "Union Soldier" as to the right of him is the side of the circle that has the words, "Vetoed to Union Men". What's interesting is the two sides to this cartoon. On the other side of President Johnson is the term "Pardon to Rebels", along with a small depiction in the lower left corner before the period of reconstruction, 1862. In this smaller cartoon is what likely is a soldier from the South, bowing in honor. On the opposite side is what appears to be a flip in the colors of uniforms, and also one that looks like almost a courtroom where one is being accused. It could be that this refers to the trials of those highest up in the Confederate army as the absolute vast majority were accepted back into the Union by a simple 10% population (by state) pledge of allegiance.

Also of note is the top of the cartoon. In it, there is a small image with the term, "Southern Rights: What they were" showing still images of slavery, but not to the depths as they outside of the image which shows "Radical Riots" with the Confederate army shooting and killing both African-Americans and Caucasian individuals. It is highly likely this originated in favor of the South, with Thomas Nast appearing to be the author (again).

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Cartoon #1
by [Michael Krobatsch](#) - Sunday, March 3, 2019, 9:57 PM

In the " Time Works Wonders" or cartoon number one, we see Jefferson Davis in what looks like to be a women's outfit. He has on a blanket, a feathered hat, a puffed sleeved dress, and big floppy shoes. He also has a disgusted look on his face as he looks back at the other men. In class the other day Joe taught us about how Jefferson Davis tried to escape the union by dressing up in a women's outfit. This is what makes this cartoon so significant. The cartoon presents a quote at the bottom of the cartoon, which is lead to believe that Jefferson Davis said those things. The quote said that the thought of someone taking his place at the desk was like a poison.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Mitchell Bell](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 5:22 PM

All of the cartoons pertaining reconstruction you can quickly gather that most were upset with how it was being carried out. Both sides thought it was going very poorly and by looking at all the cartoons you can quickly gather that information. Both sides South and North had their take as far as how it should go and that is very evident in the cartoons.

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Cartoon #2
by [Michael Krobatsch](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 7:46 PM

This cartoon really jumped out at me, and there are some key elements that are worth talking about. In the cartoon, we see three men standing around a black man who is on the ground. The men have their hands outstretched and their feet on the black man. These men were able to come together and try to say that this is a "white man's government." A key thing that I found very interesting was the Irishman to the left of the three men. Joe taught us that the Irish were depicted as "monkey" looking back then. I also remember seeing a cartoon called the "Scale" where the black man and the Irish man were both equal. In this specific cartoon that is obviously not the case. I zoomed in on the man on the ground and noticed that he is a Union soldier. He is clinching the American flag, his cap has fallen in front of him, and he is wearing a sword. This cartoon shows how the "white man's government" can set aside their differences and try to keep it to what it had always been.

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