

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

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Legacy of Reconstruction
by Joe Escobar - Friday, February 24, 2017, 10:14 PM

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Birthright citizenship



by Alexander Salgado - Monday, February 27, 2017, 3:25 PM

“Citizenship was for white people only. That is what the Supreme Court ruled in 1857, in the famous Dred Scott decision” (Foner). Citizenship in the 19th century was purely based on race and today that is not the case. If a child is born on U.S soil, no matter what the race of the parent’s is, they are considered a citizen of the United States because of the 14th Amendment.

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1. Birth rights in early america compared to today

by Timberly Thomas - Monday, February 27, 2017, 6:59 PM

In today's time no mater where your parents are from, if you are born on american soil or an american base, you are considered an american citizen. You have the rights of everyone else who is an American citizen and who's parents are American citizens. It does not matter of your mother is just visiting or is a tourist and oops she gave birth here, you are an American citizen. This was much diffrent back then, it didn't matter of you where born here or not, if you were not white then you we're not a citizen. Even if you where white, there was a chance you weren't considered a citizen. You had to be white, from English background to be considered a citizen. Even if you we're that, you had limited rights. You had to learn to read and wrotet to even vote. In todays time if you can't read or write, they have other options for you to vote.

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Progress and Freedom

by Alexander Salgado - Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 8:24 PM

Progress and freedom during the reconstruction era was anything but a positive and upward trajectory. It was a constant roller coaster. Presidential reconstruction by Lincoln’s 10% plan was going to make pardoning the South to join the Union again easier. Only 10% of the each state had to take the oath for that state to be permitted back into the Union. The Radical Republicans thought the South being permitted back into the Union shouldn’t be that easy.

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Birthright Citizenship

by Bailey Koffler - Thursday, March 2, 2017, 10:51 PM

Professor Foner describes that birthright citizenship is much different today versus the pre-civil war era. In the 19th Century citizenship was not defined by whether or not you or your parents were born in the US. Birthright citizenship was only given to white Americans that were born in the US. Even if African American families had lived in the US for generations, none of them were considered citizens. Before the 19th century revolution only abolitionists believed that African Americans born in America should be considered citizens (Foner). One of the goals of the 19th Century Revolution was to “accomplish a transition from slavery to freedom in the South.” (pg. 592). During the Revolution congress took action to by creating the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments in order to give African Americans equal rights. Although Reconstruction did many things to give African Americans equal rights, blacks were still considered second-class citizens (pg. 592). The North “peer pressured” Southern States to ratify the Fourteenth amendment, which would give National Citizenship to all people born in the US, by only allowing them to join the Union if the did so (Escobar In Class). Today, all people born in the US are given birthright Citizenship. More recently, there have been many issues surrounding the issue of immigration. Many people have been treated as lesser due to their race, religion, etc. For example, the recent travel ban permitted people from specific countries to travel to the US in order to protect America from terrorist attacks. Some of those who were detained were citizens of the United States who were of Muslim dissent. In my opinion, this ban was a step back against the fourteenth amendment. Those people were not treated equally. I could never imagine white people being detained at airports for the “safety” of the United States, or to take it a step further whites being kept from schools in order to protect others of school shootings.

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Re: Birthright Citizenship

by Alexander Salgado - Friday, March 3, 2017, 2:56 PM

I do agree with most of what you mentioned, but the 14th amendment was created to give blacks citizenship. It didn't have anything to do with the Muslims.

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Re: Legacy of Reconstruction; Birthright Citizenship

by Patrick Rugel - Friday, March 3, 2017, 4:12 PM

One of the significant points that Foner brings to light about the reconstruction era is the idea of birthright citizenship as defined by the 14 amendment (textbook pg, A12.) Race citizenship pre Civil War was entirely based on the idea that “whites” were citizens and that Blacks were not, Dredd Scott decision, verses post Civil war and modern American of birthright citizenship shows one of the land mark decisions of

the reconstruction era. I believe that the simple idea that Foner is trying to make is that the United States is what it is today based on actions and decision made during the reconstruction era. Foner brings up the common loop hold of the 14 amendment of illegal immigration, so although it is easier way to become a citizen, It does have it's flaws. Illegal immigration today uses the loop hold of the 14 amendment, so applied in the reconstruction era it was a good way to give citizenship to the Freedman, but today can be a loop hold for illegal immigration. Although the 14 amendment had its flaws, I would much rather have it then using race to give citizenship. Furthermore, if the usage of race to become a citizen was still used in modern American, we probably would not have such a diverse country. The reconstruction era was a key turning point in American history which shaped America into what it is today, key decisions that were made then, affect America today in both positively and negatively.

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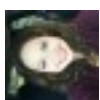


Passing Laws and Enforcing Laws

by Bailey Koffler - Friday, March 3, 2017, 11:56 PM

Professor Foner states that during the civil rights movement there was no need to change the constitution, we simply needed to enforce it. During the period of reconstruction this was a compelling and interesting concept, especially in regards to the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments and allowing Southern states back into the Union. In order for Southern states to be accepted back into the Union they had to do just what was asked of them. This included ratifying the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments and even peer pressuring other Southern states to ratify them as well (Escobar In Class). This is important in the discussion regarding enforcing laws because among the list of things Southern states had to do, were many things that Northern states didn't even do. Some of these include forcing the military to register black and non confederate white soldiers and state constitutions requiring suffrage for Freedman (Escobar In Class).

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#4 Black Codes and Retrogression

by Megan Spencer - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 4:04 PM

Foner comments that "Americans like to sometimes think that our history is a kind of straight line of greater and greater freedom, we began perfect and have been getting better ever since...our history is a much more complicated, much more interesting story, of ups and downs, of progress and retrogression..." I think his comment perfectly illustrates the Civil War and Reconstruction. I think most of America is taught about the Civil War, and slavery, but Reconstruction is mostly passed over. The South fought very hard to keep slavery, and then they still fought to blacks from

becoming equal to whites. During Reconstruction were introduced Black Codes, which were essentially slavery by another name. By having black children taken away from poor families and forced to work in fields, by excluding "blacks people from juries and the ballot box", by not allowing them to "testify against whites in courts", banning "interracial marriage", and by punishing "blacks more severely than whites for certain crimes" (566), the South tried to legally make them second class citizens. The northern Republicans accused them of trying to "attempt to reinstate a 'quasi-slavery'" (566), which it was. The Civil War, the Emancipation and the additions to the Constitution were progress, but the Black Codes during Reconstruction was retrogression, in terms of civil rights.

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Birthright citizen and state's rights, in history and today.

by Amelia Salzman - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 8:03 PM

We talked a little in class about how the reconstruction time period is relative to today. I listened to Professor Foner point out the influence of the time period and the origins of so many topics we struggle with today. When he was talking about Birthright citizenship and immigration, it made me think of the debate our country has today. The question of how we as a country want to welcome or control immigration. When he explains that Birthright citizenship came from the need to make freed slave citizens it made me wonder if the politicians of that time period knew of the effect it would have on America today. At the time it was a solution to the major problem of how to ensure citizenship for freed slaves. It was one solution for one problem. Today it is the source of huge debate for what is a very different issue. Foner also talked about the control of the federal Government and the "invasion" of people's rights and state rights. I also see that as a staple of the issue today. At the time the fear that government had control of state power is understandable in some ways, but now it is the normal to most citizens and an argument for politicians.

My favorite part of Foner's talk was when he discussed the development of our country. People's view it as starting out great and only getting better. The Reconstruction area is a great example of that feeling, it can be found in many different eras in our history. The issues that we face now can be traced back to the solutions we used to solve our issues of the past. (Not say that history repeats itself) I think at the time of these post-civil war issues, Birthrate citizenship and increased federal government control seemed to be the best options and I can't fault the people of these time for instating them. Even though it has been pointed out that some of these things don't fall in line with the constitution at the time of facing the issues of reconstruction, I understand why they made so many changes. It makes me wonder what issues we face today and what solution we will use, that will affect our future in way we can't imagine.



Re: Legacy of Reconstruction Thoughts on Topic 4

by Alec Ebert - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 8:39 PM

This unfortunate truth really has been more prevalent than ever for the millennial generation within the last two years. The backwards steps we've been taking since Trump and his administration took office in regards to civil rights and immigration, are a perfect example of this. It has been rather ironic to watch the current political agenda take place alongside learning about all of the atrocities our country went through during the reconstruction period. In the 19th century newly "freed" slaves were facing persecution from parts of the country and treated as illegal aliens just as many different ethnicities of color are treated today. Eric Foner asks the audience in his lecture to ponder why children of illegal immigrants are natural citizens but their parents are not. He goes on to explain this idea of birthright citizenship is a product of reconstruction after the civil war. Even though Blacks gained their freedom from slavery they were not offered the opportunities white people were given. Ending slavery seemed like a step forward but there was no substance behind it, there was no light at the end of the tunnel for blacks after this point. The rest of the country, even the north, did not stand behind the ideals of equality for blacks. The "Black Codes" and the KKK are examples of this. Slavery was used as a reason to fight over, to stop the Union from breaking apart. It took almost another century for rights of African Americans to gain an equal level of citizenship and rights as white Americans. However even today racism lies beneath the surface as a core value for many Americans. The interesting part is the same region of our country has continued to hold onto these values since the civil war. Even though the North was less concerned with civil rights of blacks in the reconstruction period, we've seen a huge change in opinions in regards to this issue in the Northeast and Northwest. Since the creation of our nation, different political agendas have effected many issues, pushing them back or moving them forward. I think this is just the slow process of democracy and the evolution of cultural values of America. We're still such a young country with potential to move the ideals of equality along. It's happening, but when a country as big as ours is governed by many different people with different ideas and opinions it can often look as though we're running in circles. The reality that I have discovered however taking U.S. History at a higher education level is that America's history is not pretty. We should not be entitled to think of ourselves as better than others but rather learn from the mistakes of reconstruction period and progress the idea of equality for all further than what our founding fathers intended.



Re: Legacy of Reconstruction Thoughts on Topic 2

by Alec Ebert - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 9:09 PM

Even though the reconstruction period did not immediately bring civil rights changes blacks wanted, it did however mark the slow shift of America changing moving away from the ideals and values of racial nationalism to civic nationalism. According to our text book, In 1872 Universal Male Suffrage was passed in congress, allowing all adult male men to vote. Regardless of race. This was a huge step forward however because it allowed blacks to have a say in national support for particular political agendas. The idea of the male population of a people living in and contributing to American society that were not citizens before the civil war moved us in the direction of civic nationalism by itself. When suffrage of women comes along years later it further moved us in that direction. The argument today is whether or not illegal immigrants should have the right to vote, and it doesn't matter what their ethnicity is. Today if your born here you have rights as a citizen no matter what color your skin is.

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