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Reconstruction Cartoons

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

This thread is for discussions on the Reconstruction Cartoons topic.

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

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

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

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons: Cartoon #1 "Time Works Wonders"



by Morgan Brown - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 5:19 PM

In this cartoon, we see Jefferson Davis presented in medieval garb as the character Iago from Shakespeare's Othello, the racist antagonist of the play, emphasized moreso by the quote from Othello at the bottom, referring to a soliloquy Iago delivers, angry that a "lusty moor" was with Desdemona (Othello's wife) instead of him. In context, this suggests that Davis (representing the South as a whole) is furious that a black man is now in a position of power in the South, where he believes he deserves to be, further emphasized by the new senator on the right, who Davis seems to be cowering in fear of. I would assume the artist is from the North, as Davis is seemingly presented as almost monstrous, akin to a vampire fleeing the light of the sun with his cloak, and at the same time totally trapped in the past, as Davis is the only person presented in this Shakespearan garb. Historically, this would make sense, as the South retained very old and conservative ideals until being forced to adapt during Reconstruction.

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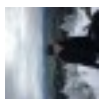


Emancipation, #5

by Megan Martin - Monday, February 27, 2017, 9:58 AM

The Emancipation cartoon is what caught my eye first. To the left, it is showing the struggle that blacks had to suffer through to get emancipation. We see slaves being sold, whipped, and begging at the feet of white men. To the right, we see what is supposed to come for the now freed men and women. Children are going off to public school, men are getting money from a cashier, I'd assume from working. Although this may have been the hopes of what emancipation would bring, it wasn't quite so peaceful as we read about the Mississippi Plan in the textbook. "Democratic 'rife clubs' showed up at Republican rallies, provoked riots, and shot down dozens of blacks"(textbook pg 586). The recently freed blacks didn't have it quite as nice as the cartoon portrays.

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Re: Emancipation, #5

by Micaela Willey - Friday, March 3, 2017, 7:51 PM

This cartoon does seem to show exactly what you said; it seems to highlight on the left, everything that was slavery; being whipped and sold are the two examples it shows. Then on the right of the cartoon you see black children heading off to public school, and a black man buying goods from a store. From all of this you see

in big letters "emancipation", a huge center circle containing a black family, and a smaller center circle with what appears to be a white god and a black gentleman on his knee's.

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Re: Emancipation, #5

by Christopher Cockman - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 10:17 PM

I like how you incorporate the quote from the textbook, which I think is very accurately used within this interpretation to support your statement that negative things were still happening after emancipation. I agree with you that there is a overall goal involved and that the cartoon shows positive and negative outlooks of time after emancipation. In my review, I saw these different images and applied them to a sort of chronological order. Also, in the bottom right corner picture, I interpreted that scene to be the cotton pickers paying for their freedom like Escobar said in class, how they would be auctioned off (like in the direct left scene) and would basically be in debt for their lives. I think if this is the case, it adds one more negative aspect to time after the emancipation, but if you read my analysis, seeing that scene in a positive aspect would actually fit my clock analogy better! Good job on your analysis however and thank you for helping my insight.

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White Man's Government

by Christopher Cockman - Monday, February 27, 2017, 6:35 PM

The cartoon titled "This Is A White Man's Government" depicts the government that I believe the Confederacy was trying to employ in the wake of reformation after the war. Four characters can be viewed in this cartoon and I am aware of the representation of all but one of these said characters.

On the left we can see an Irish immigrant, which can be deferred from his ape-like appearance (not to be confused with an African American man). The middle and most prominent figure appears to be a Confederate man holding a knife labeled "the lost cause". The man on the right is the person I am unaware of, but in light of making an educated guess, I would say he represents the federal government due to the parcel of 'votes' and 'capital' he is holding. Finally, the black man shown to be lodged under the foot of these three. This notion would explain the title. How it is a white man's government. What I am confused about is why an Irishmen would be part of the pact seeing as how immigrants were looked negatively on pre-war times.

Most interestingly, the African American man is grasping onto an American flag, this indicates that the artist is Unionist and is displaying these three other bodies negatively. But this simply goes with the quote found underneath the picture stating

the reformation acts are unconstitutional; therefore, it would make sense for these men to be on top of the flag as well. Either way, decimation of the American flag is viewed as anti-union whichever way you frame it.

My final point of interest is the hourglass that the African American man seems to be reaching for in the bottom corner of the picture. This may symbolize the authors view of the reformation acts running out of time, or something along the lines of the reformation acts not being enabled within the right time frame.

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Re: White Man's Government

by Howard Fuller - Thursday, March 2, 2017, 11:13 PM

Ah, I didn't notice the object the black man is reaching for in my initial analysis. I do believe it is one of those clear vote boxes they used with colored ballots, but I can see how it does resemble an hourglass in appearance.

I also was unable to determine the identity of the man on the right, but I would agree with your conclusion that he has to do with government. He's clearly associated with the voting process, and he looks familiar to me.

It seems to me like Nast was trying to portray the unfairness of how freedmen were held back from suffrage even after gaining citizenship. I think the look in the freedman's eyes conveys a sense of betrayal for having been cheated in this way. The flag could tie in with that as well.

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Re: White Man's Government

by Megan Martin - Friday, March 3, 2017, 10:11 AM

I too found that even the Irish man depicted in this cartoon was included strange because of our previous knowledge on the hate towards the Irish. As Joe said in class, men of the North and South were able to put aside their differences and come together on the fact that they didn't agree with African Americans having the same rights as them. As stated before, the black man reaching for the ballot box and the white men holding him down shows how much they wanted the basic right of being able to vote, and how they were kept from it.

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Re: White Man's Government

by Christopher Cockman - Friday, March 3, 2017, 6:34 PM

It's an interesting notion that you two, Howard and Megan, brought up about the object the African American man is reaching for is a ballot box. I did not think of it in that way but I feel that fits this cartoon better than an hourglass. The implication of the ballot box shows that they are keeping the man away from voting in the white man's government. I think this notion coincides with the trampled flag as well, in the fact that these men are taking away the African American man's right to vote; therefore, the men are trampling his freedom, represented by the American flag.

As I look deeper into this cartoon upon a second inspection, I find that in the negative space towards the middle of the cartoon, there is what looks to be a burning school house and a man being lynched on a light post. I have noticed that these images are common within many of the political cartoons provided. Furthermore, these images support my claim that the author of this cartoon is a Unionist, by depicting the negative acts of the Confederacy in the background of this cartoon.

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Cartoon 2

by Micaela Willey - Monday, February 27, 2017, 6:57 PM

This is a very powerful cartoon for the time. It shows a image of everyone even Irishmen being against the Blacks from all directions he is surrounded and beat down. At the top of the cartoon it says "This is a White Man's Government" and all the information is very accurate for the time period.

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Cartoon 1 "Time Works Wonders"

by Keenan Calhoun - Monday, February 27, 2017, 7:46 PM

At first I thought this cartoon was a Southern view on blacks holding political positions. I thought it was portraying Jefferson Davis disgusted with a black senator sitting in a position of any sort of political power. But then I noticed the Othello quote at the bottom of the page, and that Davis was wearing Shakespeare style clothes and a minstrel's hat, and I figured it was actually poking fun at the southern view of black Americans in politics. It seems as though Senator Revels is doing his job well, surrounded by white men who are looking at him with approval, if not interest. But then there is Jefferson Davis, dramatically escaping down the hall while quoting Iago, which if I'm not mistaken is the part of the play when Iago suspects someone is sleeping with his wife or something like that. It is almost as if the cartoon is saying Jefferson Davis's old life in politics is having an affair with another man. That is only what I think of it, what do you all think?



Re: Cartoon 1 "Time Works Wonders"

by Morgan Brown - Thursday, March 2, 2017, 12:12 PM

I tend to agree with you on this, especially with that final part, "Jefferson Davis's old life in politics is having an affair with another man." This hits the nail on the head. The South felt betrayed by the government, and, in a sense, cheated on, so this is really an excellent metaphor for their situation (Davis obviously representing the South in this comic).

However, I think it's worth noting that Jefferson Davis is represented by Iago, the villain of Othello, further suggesting that the author is from a Northern perspective. I doubt the South would want to represent Davis as a manipulator and a killer.

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Cartoon #3 A Betrayal of the People

by William Mc Mahon - Monday, February 27, 2017, 9:01 PM

This cartoon interested me because it seemed to be trying to convey a broader view of the way the Union was reforming after the Civil War.

There is a small box bearing the caption, "Southern Rights... What They Were." Inside the box is a slave being whipped aside an auction block with black men and women sitting captive. In the upper corners of the cartoon under the caption "Radical Riots" shows a battle scene of white men, dressed in the Confederate gray, shooting black men. I think that these two portions of the cartoon are meant to be interpreted together. With the "Southern Rights" representing the past, and the "Radical Riots" being present day. I think the author did this to show that, despite the fact that the slaves were free, they were still suffering from murderous violence. I interpreted this as the author trying to say, "How much have things truly changed?"

The sides of the main body of the cartoon are critical of President Johnson. On one side it reads "Pardons to Rebels" and on the other says "Veto's to Union Men." I imagine the author felt betrayed by Johnson for catering to the South during reconstruction, and also, to criticize Johnson's tendency to ignore the Northerner's values, and the newly Freedmen who had fought for the Union.

The main caption reads, "Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction" and portrays a black Union soldier being guided away from violence against black people by Andrew Johnson. This shows that President Johnson was trying to get The North, The Freedmen, and The Union Soldiers to ignore the continuing oppression and violence in the South against black people.

Below that is a box that reads, "And How It Works," that shows a snake charmer Johnson seducing a snake (representing the copperhead Northern Democrats) strangling a black man.

I would say the overall theme of this cartoon is betrayal. I think the author was trying to show that Johnson was betraying both black people, and the Union for caving to Southern demands during reconstruction.

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Cartoon #2: United and White

by Andrew Erkert - Monday, February 27, 2017, 11:19 PM

I am analyzing Cartoon #2.

So as far as what I have observed in the cartoon, I see three men that I perceive as the following; an Irishman, Jefferson Davis, Andrew Johnson and an African American Union soldier under Jefferson Davis. I also observed the tools they all have labeled in their hands and the lack of a tool for the Union soldier other than the U.S. flag and he is reaching for some glass ball. I don't have any clue what the glass ball is in the bottom-right corner.

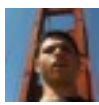
As far as analysis goes, I think Thomas Nast was depicting how hypocritical it was for these "white men" to say that the Reconstruction Acts were "usurping" and "unconstitutional" but yet they are bringing an entire group down and oppressing them just as they believe the U.S. government is doing to them. They even included the Irishman in this grouping, which goes back to when we discussed the comparison of the Irish and the African Americans. Even the Irishman had a tool here (A Vote).

Jefferson Davis had his "Lost Cause" knife and Andrew Johnson had his "Capital Votes" envelope. It is interesting that Nast still drew the Irishman with the stereotypes of the time. It seems to show that most people still didn't respect them. He even has a cross on his head, which I believe is an allusion to their Catholic tradition.

As in the video clip with Professor Gallagher, The Lost Cause is used here as an excuse to unite with the Federal Government and the Irish to ensure the suppression of black rights. They felt the need to unite due the North's overwhelming odds and advantages.

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Re: Cartoon #2: United and White



by Andrew Erkert - Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 4:57 PM

Ok now thanks to Joe discussing it in class I realize that the glass bowl is the ballot container. So to further my analysis the cartoon shows how the "White Government" is keeping the franchise out of reach of the black man whereas if the black man had a "tool" or "power" like that he would become more equal to the white populace.

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Re: Cartoon #2: United and White

by Micaela Willey - Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 9:55 PM

I like how you connected this cartoon to what we learned about in the video clip with Professor Gallagher. The cartoon does have "The Lost Cause" written on a weapon that the man in the middle is holding. Like the video said, I believe that it is portrayed as a weapon because it was a tool that Confederates used to further elongate the black suppression.

The cartoon portrays to its audience how the lost cause, the government, even the Irish all united to one big bad force to tear down and suppress blacks. You did a good job at pointing out how the weapons like the bat that the Irishman is holding with the word "vote" all represent things that black population did not have yet.

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Re: Cartoon #2: United and White

by Christopher Cockman - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 10:29 PM

I agree with you on how interesting it was that they incorporated the Irish man in this trio and that he still was represented as an ape-person, this personally confused me in my analysis of the piece. You did a good job in incorporating the hypocrisy of the text incorporated in the piece. Some questions I have for you: did you see the scenes of a burning building and lynching in the grey space of the picture behind the men? If so, do you see this as a common reoccurring theme in political cartoons with the same negative views of the CSA? Additionally, I am interested in the significance of the three tools the men hold. I would argue that the African American man grasping the American flag is also an example of this. If that's the case, the African American man is holding a true tool of liberty interestingly enough. Food for thought. Good analysis.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons

by George Prigmore - Monday, February 27, 2017, 11:32 PM

Cartoon 5

This cartoon spoke to me because of how it deals with the concept of emancipation. I really glorifies it by putting it at the top and center of the cartoon. The fighting to the left shows the union soldiers fighting off the confederacy as well as slavery which is depicted below. The center shows a family possibly in the future of an African american family living their life normally rather than as a slave. The cartoonist gets a bit carried away for their time by showing the future on the right side of african American children attending public school and purchasing items from a white store owner. This idea of the future with equal rights may seem like a simple cartoon today but in this era it was seen as radical outcome.

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"This is a White Man's Government"

by Alexandra Flores - Monday, February 27, 2017, 11:39 PM

The political cartoon "This is a White Man's Government" took place September 5, 1968 which was during the election of 1868. The cartoon is obviously conveying the suppression of black Americans by the Democratic Party. There are three different types of people displayed in this drawing. The left is a common working man, the middle is a former confederate soldier, and the right is a upper class white man, all whom are part of the democratic party. The knife that the confederate soldier is holding reads "The Lost Cause" referring to the efforts of the south in the civil war. The three white men are all joining together to pin down a black union soldier clinging to an American Flag. This image displays that the democrats are not only suppressing the black man but as well as valued American principles. The background of the cartoon also shows the havoc caused by the democrats such as the burning buildings in draft riots and the lynching of black men. The title of the cartoon speaks volumes to the mind set of the democratic party during a time of reconstruction.

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Southern Views on Reconstruction Policies

by Howard Fuller - Monday, February 27, 2017, 11:58 PM

This cartoon seems to be an expression of Confederate disapproval of radical Reconstruction policies such as the concept of suffrage for former slaves. It is an example of southern support for political and social inequality. The text at the bottom of the cartoon describes how the democratic platform regarded reconstruction policies as outrageous. Based on the cartoon quote "This is a white man's government," and on the information in chapter 17 on how state governments discriminated in their regulation of who could vote, I would guess the cartoon is

protesting the idea of black suffrage. The flag on the ground next to the black man could represent Republican resentment towards the fact that their soldiers died to win the war but old southern ways are still being upheld. The association of the Confederate States of America with the capital votes man and the 5 points man over to the man on the ground would seem to refer to conspiracy in southern state governmental systems to keep blacks in an inferior political position.

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Cartoon # 5 - "Emancipation"

by Alexis Heasley - Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 12:01 AM

I think that the author is trying to convey is the idea of what emancipation would lead to versus what actually happened. The circle in the middle may represent the dream the slaves may have had when receiving news of the emancipation proclamation. However, in the other illustrations on the cartoon its obvious that the reality of the situation was treacherous. Law may state one thing but its up the the citizens to abide by them. Clearly there is oppression still happening and will continue on even after the civil war.

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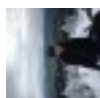


Re: Cartoon # 5 - "Emancipation"

by Christopher Cockman - Friday, March 3, 2017, 7:07 PM

I mostly agree with your statement and interpretation, but in my analysis, I concluded that the central picture could also be taking place as those other scenarios were taking place. Metaphorically speaking, those actions were taking place even 'around' freedman families. We discussed in class that even though the war was won by the union, and emancipation took place, these types of slavery-like actions (i.e. the auctioning of freedmen into slavery for not being able to own land on the left side of the cartoon) still took place after the war. I failed in my analysis to mention any ideas on what the figure in the middle of the word emancipation is, do you have any ideas because I do not?

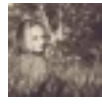
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Re: Cartoon # 5 - "Emancipation"

by Micaela Willey - Friday, March 3, 2017, 7:52 PM

What message all of this is sending to me is that On the left you see the South or Confederates, and their views on how blacks should be treated. Then on the right you see everything Northern, progressive thinking, and I see what I think is Lincoln right between these views, in the center of the photo. Around him is a war, and the big circle in the middle is the outcome of it all.



Re: Cartoon # 5 - "Emancipation"

by Alexis Heasley - Friday, March 3, 2017, 8:52 PM

Micaela,

That is an interesting way to interpret this cartoon, I hadn't separated it into North versus South. But, certainly that is the most common way to distinguish who is who when analyzing these issues. We perceive the north and south views and belief systems are polar opposites, ironically enough that is literally the case. This makes the title of "Emancipation" more clear, showing how each side took these new laws. The South, more involved with the idea of "slavery by another name". While the northern side is showing children going to school, and these freedmen being allowed to be full members of society. Now looking closer I was able to identify a man riding a horse, tipping his hat the freedmen, and the freedmen returning the gesture on the right. While the other side shows a man riding a horse whipping the man and the man cowering in fear and pain on the left. This image shows the differences of the two sides and what the reality of life was like. I'm glad you brought this up!

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Re: Cartoon # 5 - "Emancipation"

by Alexis Heasley - Friday, March 3, 2017, 8:30 PM

Christopher,

I had a deeper understand of what life for freedmen was really like after our last class, Escobar was able to outline the information and make it more clear for me. I agree that the image in the center could also have been going on in the midst of the other hardships. It seemed though that the hardship was more common - now learning more about reconstruction or "slavery by another name" that is obvious. As for the figure in the middle of the word, it's not clear but if I had to make a guess I'd say it was an angel or even god. I think this potential god like figure could represent the idea people had about emancipation, a profound idea that would finally grant these slaves their eternal freedom. There is a figure at the bottom who could be the devil or an evil figure as he has what looks like a slave with or chained to him, representing the reality of what emancipation and reconstruction was really like.

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Reconstruction cartoon #2

by Emma Allen - Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 5:03 PM

In this cartoon, I believe that it is representing just how unwanted the African Americans were in government. There were many blacks in office, and that was not welcomed. The book explains this "myth of black incompetence" that went along with blacks in office. White Americans did not believe that African Americans were capable of being in office. That they did not deserve to be in office. Whites wanted to take back their America how they believed it should be.

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Biblical reference #4

by Joshua Grigsby - Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 12:20 PM

Cartoon number 4 seems to have made the most profound impact on me. I assume the artist was a northern republican who possessed a deep seated sympathy for the black population in the united states. Once I read the inscription on the bottom of the page reading, "the modern Samson", it all made sense. Clearly the artist is trying to convey this sense that these newly freed slaves have been hoodwinked. Much like Samson was by Delilah. We can see in the cartoon Lady Liberty cutting off a black mans hair with the word "suffrage" written on it with the southern leaders being rendered in the form of Philistines (ancient people who hated Samson). This cartoon does require an understanding of the scriptures, however, which in our time is not as vastly understood as it was then. But to give any who don't know an overview of the parallel, Samson was a man who deeply loved the Lord and was given an insane amount of physical strength that enabled him to become a great threat to the Philistines. That strength he possessed was contingent on the length of his hair- the longer, the stronger. Delilah was a woman who he had fallen in love with and when the philistines hear of this love they convinced her to betray him and cut his hair so they could kill him because of his relationship with the Lord. Long story short, once his hair is cut he is helpless and ends up being captured and tortured. The story goes on but I feel it isn't relevant to our topic.

Much Like Delilah, Lady liberty (or the Political system of America) is depicted as betraying the black populous and offering them up to deplorable southerners. This cartoon could've have been more affective had Andrew Johnson been the one cutting the hair of the black man. Nevertheless, the point is clear and most likely created a tone of sadness amongst those who agreed. To them they may have felt that despite having won the physical war they had lost the battle of principal. Having freed the black man from slavery they fell short in failing to gain his citizenship (for the time being).

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Re: Biblical reference #4

by Alexis Heasley - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 12:01 AM

Joshua,

In my opinion your interpretation is spot on. I like that you provided an explanation for Samson because like you said knowing scripture is less popular, or seems to be. It provided more clarity for me, as well as other who were not familiar I'm sure. This clearly would've been a very compelling piece during their time though, because it was a much more expected to follow the biblical stories and know scripture. Its interesting that you talked about how even though there was physical victory, the loss was in principal which takes a large toll. That is something that applies not only to this specific topic, but to issues we may face today in large and small cases. Is the price of victory worth the dehumanization of another? That is guess is the question of any war, physical or otherwise.

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Andrew Johnson Reconstruction, #3

by Megan Martin - Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 3:18 PM

The cartoon titled Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction was very relatable to the things we've been talking about in class. From the bloody radical riot that took place in New Orleans to the excessive amount of pardons Johnson gave, the cartoon is very descriptive. "Johnson began to issue special pardons to many ex-Confederates, restoring them all property and political rights"(textbook pg. 566). This was seen as betrayal to some Americans, as these were the men who tried to defeat the Union. At the top of the cartoon we see a square that says "Southern rights what they were," which shows an African American being whipped and slaves being sold, while at the bottom of the cartoon we see "and how it works" where a copperhead is strangling a black man. The copperheads were Democrats who wanted to give up fighting and "above all, give up the unconstitutional effort to abolish slavery"(textbook pg 533). Overall, I would say the cartoon is showing the corruptness of Johnson's idea of reconstruction and the struggle it put the country through. The one thing I am unsure on with the cartoon is the Shakespeare reference. If I knew what the play was about and understood, I think that would also give a lot of information. If anyone wants to fill me in, it would be appreciated!

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Shakespear Quote

by William Mc Mahon - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 2:28 PM

Hey Megan,

I think the Shakespeare quote is supposed to be said by Johnson to the black Union soldier. The black man is asking, "Dost thou mock me?" to which Johnson replies "I mock you! No, by heaven: would you bear your fortunes like a man." I think the cartoonist is showing the insult to the Union and the war in regards to Johnson's policy of pardons and giving ex-Confederates political power. Johnson wants the South to go back to how things were, with as much de facto slavery as he can create.

Furthermore, Johnson expects the black man to "bear his fortunes like a man." He expects the black man to accept the same social position as before the Civil War. I think this is shown in how he is trying to coax the black man away from the carnage taking place around the corner behind him. Johnson is trying to get the man to turn his back on it.

The quote serves to illustrate Johnson's attitude towards what he thinks black people should be content with after the war. The cartoonist is showing Johnson's disregard for what the Union fought for, symbolized by the wounded black man wearing the Union blue.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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1. Birthright citizenship

by Anthony Williams - Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 5:23 PM

Birthright citizenship from the 19th century can have similar traits to present day birthrights, not only did the reconstruction abolish slavery it helped in aid to preserve our union with the addition for the 14th amendment which was ignored when first put in. As professor (Foner) stated the report of 12 million illegals were reported in America, and out of those 12 million the females are carrying a child can birth it in the United States, and that child will be a united citizen.

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#5 Emancipation

by Emma Allen - Friday, March 3, 2017, 1:47 PM

This cartoon also stuck out to me because it just purely shows what some people thought could be achieved with the Emancipation Proclamation. The image of the happy family is certainly something to be sought after. However, clearly that is not the case, regardless of the Proclamation. In the other parts of the cartoon, there are images of blacks begging or being whipped and really just showing what truly was happening. The prejudices that were present were just too strong to let the picture of that happy family happen.

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Emancipation #5

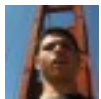
by Christopher Cockman - Friday, March 3, 2017, 7:01 PM

I believe out of the five cartoons provided, this cartoon has the most positive message and accurate representation of what emancipation was initiated for, yet with an equal depiction of what necessarily became of it. The cartoon is very dynamic in that it shows multiple scenes and many characters; however, there is merit to be found in the central and largest picture is that of an African American family, I assume of freedmen, being the focal point whilst the chaotic and negative leer of emancipation encompasses this central idea/goal of a undoubtedly contrasting nature.

As I said the various scenes encompassing the center depict the abhorrent nature of what happened even after the war was won. Slaves who ran were culled (top left), woman and children slaves along with men were whipped (left side), slaves were auctioned (left bottom), and slaves had to buy back their freedom after auctioning (right bottom). Admittedly I am confused by what is happening in the bottom circle.

The main qualm I have with this cartoon is that the actions depicted do work in a manner towards what emancipation should be (first slaves being property on the left side, working counter-clockwise to African American children running off to what I assume is school on the right side). The problem in this is that these progressions are made in a counter-clockwise fashion. Unwittingly, time on a clock progresses in a clockwise fashion, and the progression of freedoms that in real life came with time, should follow this manner in my mind. Lo and behold, the cartoon makes this progression in the opposite direction, which garners for me a negative bout of logic which contrasts my positive view of the cartoon as a whole. Any elaboration on this thought by fellow forumers shall be appreciated.

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Re: Clock Analysis

by Andrew Erkert - Friday, March 3, 2017, 11:15 PM

That is a really interesting way of looking at it.

It does seem illogically ordered. I never thought of it like that before but it is certainly an interesting perspective of it.

Perhaps if you decide to go clockwise and start at the small circle on the bottom (6 o'clock) it would convey a stronger positivity. Maybe that lower circle is supposed to be the starting point and it is hoped that one reads it clockwise to see the progression but can go counter-clockwise to review the history.

I am having a hard time interpreting that smaller circle.

That's my thought on that. That was an interesting approach and I think that adds a nice chronological foundation to it.

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Cartoon # 2- "This is a white man's government"

by Name Withheld-0716 - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 8:16 PM

I found this cartoon interesting because I feel it best reflects the people who had the most to lose from reconstruction reform and the reconstruction amendments passed during this time period. In this cartoon three caucasian individuals are standing over a black man, with their feet on his back and trampling him and the American flag into the ground while they beam proudly. Each white man appears to represent a distinct socioeconomic status of individual who felt threatened by the systemic changes caused by the ending of the civil war and the reconstruction era. Southern democrats were at the forefront of reconstruction resistance, President Andrew Johnson held up the process for the duration of his term and opposed Republican reforms, the party of the african american at the time.

One of the white individuals, the ape-like man in the little bowler hat on the left appears to be the simian Irish. Irish citizens in this time period were usually immigrant laborers and blue collar workers, whose economic livelihoods were threatened by the freedman and the integration of freed blacks into market society. There was a strong presence of this demographic of irishman in both the south and the north and in many cases formed the backbone of free labor in both regions. The end of slavery and the fourteenth amendment had major implications for these irish workers, who may not have necessarily been slave owners, but they held racist prejudices. These Irish were more likely to vote democrat and fundamentally opposed every reconstruction amendment as a threat to their standing in the US. The blue-collar irish are an example of people in this time period who were willing to use violence and intimidation to send a message. Ex-confederates and militant poor irish from the south and midwest were the manpower behind the formation of the first Klu Klax Klan.

The other white man looks like an overseer, a henchman, a soldier. You can tell by the fact he is equipped with a revolver, a whip and a butchers knife all at once. This person to me represents the typical character of individual to fight in the confederacy in the civil war or be hired to do the dirty work of managing slaves on a plantation estate. A white supremacist, middle class, back-country type of man who couldn't picture a society where him and the black man were equals and had the same social mobility, were competitors for jobs and women and land. The confederates lost the war and the economic effects on the south were severe while the north became increasingly prosperous. This man likely retains secessionist attitudes and condemns enfranchisement and freedom of blacks, and is likely to vote democrat.

The dumpy looking man on the right looks like a southern aristocrat or educated elite, possibly a plantation owner or political figure, he doesn't look to be armed like the other two, a traditional agrarian south democrat who wants to return to the days of the antebellum south and keep Republicans and Blacks from uprooting the society he wants for the US. He likely believed that the free black man could displace guys like him from political rule and economic supremacy. He likely abhorred any republican yankee or white man who supported the enfranchisement of blacks.

In *Liberty, Equality, and Power*, it says that "Yankees and yankee notions were just what most southern whites did not want. Democrats saw that the southern Republican Party they abhorred was a fragile coalition of blacks and whites, yankees and southerners, hill country yeomen and low country entrepreneurs, illiterates and college graduates." (Pg. 581 pp. 3) This characterizes the sort of people that this type of white southern elitist democrat was in strife with. These were the groups that were at odds with his ideal white supremacist, slave agriculture republic. These were the groups that were looking to usurp his political influence. He was likely vehemently opposed to carpetbaggers and scalawags, types with more northern Republican mindsets who could undermine his power.

All three of these men have similar and different motives behind uniting against reconstruction, but their platform to to oppose this movement was under the Democratic party with white supremacist sentiment, and the targets of their vitriol were freed black man and the white men who were profiteering off the reconstruction period and supporting free blacks in the workforce and in voting polls. These men are the best caricatures for illustrating who felt most jeopardized by reconstruction, the 13th-15th amendments, the rise of the Republican Party and the end of slavery. It is interesting how a woman was not depicted in this cartoon because they too could be considered disenfranchised at the expense of granting blacks freedom. Some women felt that the reconstruction reforms overlooked gender and was exclusively about race.

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