

HST 202: History of United States W18 (Escobar Meta 30898 30897)

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Reconstruction Cartoons

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, February 24, 2018, 12:42 AM

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, something that describes which cartoon you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Reconstruction Cartoons

Sum of ratings: -

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"This is a White Mans Government"

by Raleigh Emerson - Monday, February 26, 2018, 5:55 PM

Cartoon number two in my opinion is a perfect satirical representation of the Democratic Southerners attempts at defending their values, and their rebellion against the new laws and acts that were being put into place at the time by threatening the newly found rights and safety of black Americans. The cartoon depicts the three levels of social class in the south at the time all rallying together to undermine the rights of The Freedmen. On the left we have the common working class man in this case an Irish man I'm guessing by the cross and booze bottle in his pocket. The man in the middle looks like your standard southern white American which is why I believe he is given dagger branded with "The lost cause" as it is a symbol for southerners

defending their horrible actions by saying their values and traditions were being attacked. And the man on the right looks as if hes a wealthy man thats using his financial pull to keep the African American population down economically. These three men are standing over a black man as he reaches longingly for a voting box while clutching an American flag. It seems as if it was meant to say that these southerners are doing nothing but hurting a man that has nothing but respect for the country's flag and its original values to vote for its leaders.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Interpreting Editorial Cartoon #2

by Josiah Sugai - Monday, February 26, 2018, 8:40 PM

In the editorial cartoon #2, it seems that the artist is against the Southern Democrats and their campaign platform. There are three people who seem to be swearing allegiance to stop the black man from voting. Also they forcefully hold him on the ground as he tries to reach for a ballot box and they step on the American flag. The three people are an Irish immigrant (many of whom voted for Democrats), then an ex-Confederate soldier, and a southern Democratic politician. The Irish immigrant is holding up a club that says, "a vote," the ex-Confederate is holding up a knife that says, "the lost cause," and the Democratic politician is holding up what seems to be a newspaper that says, "capital for votes." The meaning of the Irish man's club is how even though the Irish were illiterate, they voted for the democrats because they were accepted and given the right to vote by the Democrats. The ex-Confederate's knife implies that he is trying to keep white supremacy alive even though the cause of the Confederates was a hopeless one. The southern Democrat holding up the words "capital for votes," was an example of how the Democratic party tried to gain votes through economic coercion. In the background there is smoke billowing from buildings and it looks like one of the race riots used to discourage blacks form voting. The way that they are unified signifies that they all want to keep voting rights away from blacks and consent to the bulldozing technique. Maybe the by having the American flag also being stepped on, the artist is trying to say that these Democrats do not want the reconstruction or restoration of the Union that involves black suffrage.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Re: Interpreting Editorial Cartoon #2

by Josiah Sugai - Friday, March 2, 2018, 3:42 PM

After our class lectures this week, I would like to add that the Democrat in the picture is Andrew Johnson.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0



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Re: Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction (Cartoon #3)

by Jesse Elizondo - Monday, February 26, 2018, 9:50 PM

This political cartoon titled "Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction, And How it Works" shows a picture of Andrew Johnson in some sort of jesters outfit or other piece of medieval attire standing next to a black union soldier. In the top corners it shows pictures of white violence

against black people while having the names “Memphis” and “New Orleans” under each respective drawing. At the top it also shows a picture of a white man whipping a black slave while an auction goes on in the background with the title “What They Were” being located underneath. At the bottom of the cartoon there’s a reference to Shakespeare’s play, Othello. At the bottom it also shows a picture of Johnson again, who is calling on a snake labeled “C.S.A.” to strangle a black person. I think the cartoon was made in some kind of opposition to reconstruction, as it portrays black people in a pretty negative manner showing what they used to be as slaves, along with white on black violence. It also looks like it shows Andrew Johnson being an untrustworthy individual with the way he is shown standing next to the union soldier. It also tries to get the message across that Johnson is doing more to hurt black people than he is to help them. This is because on the bottom of the cartoon Johnson is shown calling onto a snake to strangle a black man. Another interpretation of the snake picture I have is that Johnson might not be fully in control of the south and their actions towards black people. The snake is labeled “C.S.A.” which means that the snake represents the confederacy. This could mean that while Johnson is trying to gain control of the south, he is having a difficult time due to southern resistance.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: emancipation cartoon

by Oscar Medina - Monday, February 26, 2018, 10:19 PM

From what the picture demonstrates that with emancipation comes a happy home, surrounded by family without the worry of separation from loved ones through slave auctions, and persecution of the Fugitive slave act (pg447Liberty,equality,power). What would be provided is an education, paid wages, and right to pursue happiness, while being considered an employee instead of property.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction- Cartoon #3

by Aidan Jewett - Monday, February 26, 2018, 10:49 PM

This political cartoon is drawn by Thomas Nast, who, according to the textbook Liberty, Equality, Power on page 571, is one of the best political cartoonists in American history. Nast is depicting the country during the presidency of Andrew Johnson, specifically in the South, as shown by the depictions of the Southern cities of Memphis, Tennessee and New Orleans, Louisiana. The cartoon is filled by pictures of riots and beatings of blacks, showing how little Johnson did to help the newly freed black. Instead, he openly passed legislation prohibiting them from basic American rights. On the left side of the cartoon, there is a piece of paper that reads "Pardon to Rebels". Nast is referring to how instead of persecuting Confederate Officers, Johnson pardoned them, and then granted them government positions. In the center of the page, there is a piece of paper that reads "Treason is a Crime and Must Be Made Odious, and Traitors Must Be Punished". Johnson initially promised to punish the Confederates, which he later contradicted.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Emancipation Cartoon #5

by Jacob Spriggs - Monday, February 26, 2018, 11:19 PM

Cartoon number 5 has a theme of emancipation with the artist drawing the potential life of slaves before and after the Emancipation Proclamation. The images of women surrounded by smoke around the word emancipation, running away naked with a torch and dogs on a chain with a snake in front of them in the top left, and standing firm with a branch held high in one hand and a balanced scale in the other with victorious soldiers behind her, symbolizes that the Union couldn't have won the war without the Emancipation Proclamation. The woman on the right is a symbol of the righteousness of the union cause while the women on the left are symbols of the Confederate sinful nature, hence them being naked. The smoke around this scene represents the Civil War and the battles that took place.

The left side of the drawing shows slaves while in bondage and all they had to endure in slavery's worst circumstances. From top to bottom, the left shows slaves attempting to escape to freedom while white men chase them down with savage dogs and shoot at them, slave families being split up by being sold at an auction, slaves being punished, and a slave being forced to work in a field by a white man on a horse. The right side of the drawing shows what the lives of freed slaves could potentially be like. From top to bottom, the right side shows a house possibly housing a black family, black children leaving their home and their mother as they happily run to a public school, black people buying things with money they have earned, and a black man working alongside a white man as they both greet a white man on a horse who could be their supervisor or boss. Each scene from both side has an alternative situation with the opposite circumstances directly across from it on the other side. For example, the opposite of the black children being sold at an auction would be black children running to a public school, because they are choosing their own future rather than a wealthy white man choosing for them.

I believe the images in the middle of the cartoon are the dreams of slaves before and after they hear of the Emancipation Proclamation. The small circle shows a black man on his knees pleading to a figure that resembles an angel, perhaps asking for mercy and freedom. The large circle shows a happy black family of all ages gathered in a living room with a picture of a white man on the mantel who could be Abraham Lincoln. To me, this family resembles what a Northern white family would have looked like in the 1860s, and I believe free black families would have wanted to have similar characteristics of a Northern white family because the only other lifestyle they knew was that of a Southern white family. This cartoon is very powerful because it does a good job of displaying the effects that the Emancipation Proclamation had on black lives as well as the Civil War.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Cartoon 5/Emancipation

by Jennafer McCoy - Monday, February 26, 2018, 11:30 PM

The cartoon I chose to discuss is #5. At the top of the cartoon is the word "emancipation" with what looks like the Union army being led by a woman chasing away what look like Native Americans with a demon dog. The cartoon also shows a slave auction and slaves getting beaten and abused on the same side as the running men. The cartoon seems to show how slavery would look like after the emancipation of slaves as on the side with the lady there is a

happy black family and what looks like a black child going to school as well as black people collecting or depositing money, meaning they had or were getting paid. In the middle of the cartoon is another black family that looks normal and happy.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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cartoon 4

by Tessa Holstein - Monday, February 26, 2018, 11:38 PM

In the cartoon I had pick It looks like women sufferage, maybe had help the black guy protecting what looks like the South that had agree and wanted slaves. It also looks like moses has a sour face to the people that suport slaverly. The books are also on fire which I think they aretrying to eased the fact they were support of slaverly. I think The artist is Southen Democract in support of the civil act agreement. Because the women looks like she is helping the black man. I also think the artist made it so god was is not please with them by moses face.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: cartoon 4

by Tessa Holstein - Monday, February 26, 2018, 11:41 PM

The people that are is supoort of The slavery is Robert Lee. I cant realy read the other names but other importsnt figures in the south that support slaverly are generals in the civil are maybe.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: cartoon 4 - "The Modern Samson"

by Kate Weiss - Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 10:07 PM

I came up with a different interpretation of this same cartoon, and I don't think it's about women's suffrage. The bundle of sage Columbia is holding labeled "suffrage" is meant to represent suffrage for the freedmen, and sage is usually burned in religious ceremonies as a way of cleansing a person, group, or space. In this case, Columbia is drawn to represent safety and protection for the newly freedmen by warding off the encroaching violent southerners, but she also symbolized the southern democracy, which is etched on her dress. The image is titled "The Modern Samson", and in the story of Samson from the Hebrew Bible, his God-given herculean strength was stripped when a woman he loved, Delilah, coerced him into telling her what his weakness was, and waited for him to fall asleep before cutting his hair and stripping him of his powers (Wiki Samson). In this cartoon, Columbia is holding a razor in her left hand, and the muscular black man is rubbing his sheared head with a scowl on his face, showing her stripping him of his rights while pretending to protect him. The angry mob of southern Democrats includes politicians, Confederate generals, and Ku Klux Klan leaders all fighting for white supremacy in the wake of Reconstruction.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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Re: cartoon 4 - "The Modern Samson"

by McKenna Wilson - Friday, March 2, 2018, 1:05 PM

Kate,

I also thought this cartoon was reflecting suffrage of the freedman. I am not sure if this cartoon is meant to represent the black man and women on the same level or not. There are also a group of white men in the corner with swords and fire. One of the walls in this picture says "The Democratic Barbecue." I think some of men are apart of the KKK by the words on their belt. One is holding a flag that has a skull and cross bones that says "Slavey and The Lost Cause Regained." I think they are apart of the Conservative Democrats we talked about in class 3/1 because on the spectrum the bullet points were whites only, states rights, black codes, redeemers and racism. I think this fits the description of the angry men in the corner.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Cartoon #2 - White Man's Government

by McKenna Wilson - Monday, February 26, 2018, 11:40 PM

In this cartoon, I see three white men who look like they are on the same side of an issue. Below them is a black man whom they are putting one of their legs on. The black man on the ground looks defeated. I think the author was trying to get the message across about how strongly the Democrats were opposed to black voters. The author shows this by drawing the black man on the floor while the white men are putting their hands together and raising a hand with a symbolic object. A bat with the words "a vote," a knife that says "the lost cause," and possibly voting pamphlets in the 3rd mans hand.

My interpretation of this cartoon is that it was created by Democrats because of their disapproval of the idea of Reconstruction and their desire to keep treating blacks as secondary to whites especially in regards to voting.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: Cartoon #2 - White Man's Government

by Tessa Holstein - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 10:57 AM

I Agree with you, The in South Democrats were beating this man. Maybe to show these people are the KKK. And I think maybe one of them is Irish because the way the guy holding the bat was drawn. He has an ape like face that a lot of Northers I believe drew the Irish like that.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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3 White men

by Gavin Lambert - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 7:08 PM

Though your examination of Image 2 is fair and is backed up with concrete evidence from our lectures. I do believe the man on the left is an Irish man and to add on to your argument, I believe he is there to diversify the opposition of black lives. This was also posted in 1868, after the impeachment of Johnson, and the Electing of Ulysses S. Grant

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: Cartoon #2 - White Man's Government

by Anna Chan - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 9:26 PM

I agree with your assessment of the second cartoon. We can clearly see by the fact that the African American man who is being stepped on by all the others is being suppressed because the white men are holding him down. We can also see that they are willing to use physical intimidation to stop the African Americans from fighting because of the bat that the man is carrying in the cartoon.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0



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Re: Cartoon #2 - White Man's Government

by McKenna Wilson - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 11:54 PM

I can understand your interpretation of the African American man not fighting because of the weapons the white men were holding. I am not sure if the weapons are used literally or not. I am wondering if the cartoonist is symbolizing the Lost Cause, a vote and the envelope as things the white men can hold above the black man. In my interpretation, I thought that the items each man is holding was to symbolize something in regards to the black man.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0



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Cartoon #2

by Anna Chan - Monday, February 26, 2018, 11:54 PM

I think that the artist of this cartoon was an artist from the South. It definitely has the message that they weren't friendly to African Americans and that they believed that they had no room for African Americans in the government or in any position of power. I think it's clear that the artist is trying to show that they believed that African Americans were lower than the regular white man was. You can clearly see this by the way that the three white men are standing on top of the African American man, whose on the floor. You can also see how all the different types of ways African Americans were held down. The first man on the left of the picture stands for the average southern who would go to the polls and vote for legislation that would keep African Americans from having a say. The man in the middle stands for the people who stop African Americans from fully participating in the government. The person on the right hand side is the legislators that are doing everything to stop African Americans from gaining any say whatsoever.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Cartoon #2

by Raleigh Emerson - Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 2:25 PM

While I agree with your claims about what is exactly being shown in the cartoon, I disagree with your take on the illustrators stake and the overall message that is intended with this cartoon. The way that the artist depicted the three white men with different negative stereotypes I feel was meant to make the Souths attempts to keep freedmen down look bad. Its meant to show that these drunk and greedy democrats are trying to keep the basic rights away from these people. The point of the ballot box in this cartoon is to show that southerners are taking away from the black people the same rights that we founded our country on. This is meant to undermine southern democrats in my opinion.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Cartoon #2

by Anna Chan - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 9:29 PM

After reading your comments, I can see where you would come to that conclusion. After thinking about what you said, I have to say that I agree with what you are arguing. I didn't think about how it could be portraying these Democrats in the worst possible light for what they do. I appreciate you bringing a new viewpoint to my attention about this cartoon.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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First Political Cartoon

by Kerianne Guza - Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 8:36 PM

The first political cartoon is an illustration of the president of the Confederate States, Jefferson Davis, with a few white man and one black man in the background. The desk that the black man is sitting at has Senator Revels written on it. Hiram Revels was the first African American to become a senator. The top right corner of the cartoon has the date April 9th, 1870. This comes as no surprise given that Revels was voted into office that year, so it was a current topic. The men surrounding him include Stonewall Jackson, a Confederate general, and Andrew Johnson. None of these men seem too pleased to see Revels there and looking further into the background, it is noticeable that all eyes are on him.

Underneath the cartoon, it says "For that I do suspect the lusty moor hath leap'd into my seat". This is because Davis served in the Senate representing Mississippi, whereas now, Revels has taken that position. This was becoming a great concern for southerner now that African Americans had their freedom. They did not want to stay on the plantations still because "for them an essential part of freedom was leaving the place where they had been in bondage", so they would leave and look for new work (Textbook, 567). This lead to them as being seen as competition to the white man.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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"This is a White Man's Government"

by Kate Weiss - Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 10:43 PM

This political cartoon shows the union of different factions of the democratic party coalition "stomping" on a freedman, and keeping the franchise out of his reach. The character on the left is a simian Irish immigrant from the 5 Points neighborhood of NY, where many Irish settled in the mid 19th century (class notes from 1/25), the person in the middle is the Confederate Army general Nathan Bedford Forrest (see initials on hat), and I think the individual on the right is Horace Greeley who ran under the Liberal Republican ticket for the 1872, with support from the Democratic party (textbook pg 582). The black man is clutching an American flag, symbolizing his hold on liberty through his "constitutional rights", while the other three are keeping him from reaching the glass ballot box in the lower right hand corner. Forrest is holding up a dagger with the words "Lost Cause" etched in the side, which Professor Gallagher tied to the Confederate memory of the Civil War being about a constitutional principle, and not about slavery (Video 0:30). Greeley is holding up an envelope of votes in hopes of winning the next election. The sinister background shows a lynched man hanging from a light post on the left and a school, most likely a black school, burning on the right. This image was drawn from the Republican point of view showing the party of Democrats stomping on the Reconstruction Acts and calling them "unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void" (bottom quote), and taking matters into their own hands by using violence to disenfranchise the newly freedmen.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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Reconstruction Exaggeration

by Landon Stevens - Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 10:05 PM

As Jefferson Davis cowers in the foreground while his once "property", or, rather employee sits in the mid ground clearly assuming a position of authority, thoughts of failure and "has-been" are cast onto Davis. Although a clear exaggeration, this is/was most likely more or less the mindset and mental scenario that Davis found himself in whether he consciously knew it or not. Reconstruction was underway, the confederacy, along with slavery, were, in effect, no more. And then you have the quote from Othello referring to betrayal and unfaithfulness, Davis as Lago and the black man as Othello. The rich comparison made the interpretation that much simpler for the audiences of the time, as well as today for people who are familiar with the Shakespeare tragedy. In my opinion, Thomas Nast is almost taking a side against Reconstruction by making it seem so successful, which is blowing it way out of proportion. When you're against something, depict it as too good to be true, too successful.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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The oppression of the southern states. Picture:2

by Stephen Sorber - Thursday, March 1, 2018, 4:13 PM

The significance of this photo is that all of the white men are dancing on the back of what seems to be a black Union soldier. The artist is conveying the image that the democratic party believes that the Reconstruction acts are so-called unconstitutional. The people dancing are clearly depicted as an ugly man holding up a club with the words A Vote onto while another

man wearing a CSA belt buckle is clearly holding a knife that has the word "Lost Cause" onto it, and the final man is dressed in a suit and holds a book that says "Capital Votes". I see the first man to be depicted as the democratic voter, I know the author of the drawing is clearly a Republican. I can prove this because the voter is seen to be ugly. I also notice that the man with the knife with the words "lost cause" was part of the southern states because of his belt buckle with the letters CSA. Now this whole seen that the author has provided for us is that the democratic party has the most power because of the way they seem to be dancing on the black men back. I know that radical democrats in the southern state promoted the Black Codes. Black Codes were meant to oppress black people from finding different work and bettering themselves as freedmen. I believe that this image is the visual effect of what the southern states were doing to the black community at that time period.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The oppression of the southern states. Picture:2

by Raleigh Emerson - Friday, March 2, 2018, 11:20 AM

The man seen on the left side of the image is also most likely depicting the Irish at the time. We can assume this based on the characteristics they gave him. He was given the facial features of a monkey which was a common artistic take for the time. The man also has a cross stitched into his cap a common symbol of the Irish catholic in America at the time. The cherry on the top of this stereotype pie is the bottle of what is presumably booze in his pocket, a common stereotype associated with the Irish in any time period.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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2nd Political Cartoon, White Man's Government

by Kerianne Guza - Thursday, March 1, 2018, 8:39 PM

In the second political cartoon, three white men stand, each with a foot holding down a black man. The man on the left is Irish. We can tell because of the popular depiction of Irish men in cartoons as looking ape-like. The middle person looks like a general from the Confederacy. His belt has CSA on it, standing for the Confederate States of America, and he is in a uniform with a badge on it and what appears to be a whip sticking out of his pocket. He is also holding a dagger with the words "The Lost Cause" engraved in it. This refers to slavery as the lost cause. The man on the right looks like he could be some sort of political figure. Given, their aggressive stance over the African American man, it is safe to assume that they are Democrats.

The black man on the ground is reaching for the voting box, which is just out of reach because the Democrats are preventing him from getting it and casting his vote. This makes sense when we read the bottom of the cartoon which says that "we regard the Reconstruction Acts (so-called) of Congress as usurpations, and unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void". This issue even after the Civil War caused an extreme amount of violence, as seen in the background. Even though the war on slavery had been lost, they were still determined to restrict the black man as much as possible. They did this by use of fear and of Black Codes. Black Codes were passed by the states to "reduce the freedpeople to a condition close to slavery" (Textbook, 566). However, once the Reconstruction Acts were passed, it was not as easy for states to

restrict African Americans, as they were now citizens, who were given the constitutional right to vote. Though this angered Democrats, they still continued to unite and do what they could to keep the black man from rising.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon #1

by Banyan Ryan - Thursday, March 1, 2018, 9:44 PM

The date in the top right corner can pretty much tell you everything. 1870; the year that the 15th Amendment was ratified. In the cartoon, we can see Jeff Davis (former president of the Confederacy) cowering behind a wall as an African American sits behind a desk with the title "Senator". Below, the quote by Davis explains the meaning behind this cartoon and the fears that many whites shared once blacks had the right to vote. By allowing blacks to participate in the political sphere, they feared that they would eventually take seats of high political power, voted in by their fellow African Americans. Beyond simple racism, this fear also stemmed from the idea that blacks were uneducated and weren't qualified to run anything, since most of them couldn't even read. What they didn't realize was that "Neither the leaders nor their constituents, however, were as ignorant or as venal as stereotypes portrayed them". (Blacks in Office, 475).

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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A white mans government

by Christopher Cormier - Thursday, March 1, 2018, 10:10 PM

The political cartoon that caught my attention the most was the second one. On the top of it, it reads, "This is a white mans government." I know that this week in class lecture, we have gone over the black codes, as well as the 14th amendment. The 14th amendment states that all African Americans are now full U.S. citizens. According to this cartoon, I believe that these three men didn't agree with that. They believed in a white mans government and didn't want the change. The man on the left looks to be an Irishman, the man in the middle seems to be either in some sort of militia, possibly Ku Klux Klan, or somebody of the confederacy. He has the letters CSA on his belt buckle, but I can't figure what that would stand for. And the third man on the right looks as if he's holding either a pocketbook/ wallet with a bunch of money hanging out of it or a newspaper or something similar. If it is a wallet with money in it, it makes me think that he could be some sort of banker. On the spectrum of radical and conservatives (class lecture 3/1), I think that these three men would be on the radical side. They are fighting for and taking what they want and believe in, which in this case is blacks should be considered U.S. citizens or free.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: A white mans government

by Kate Weiss - Thursday, March 1, 2018, 10:57 PM

CSA stands for Confederate States of America, and I'm pretty certain the man in the middle is Nathan Bedford Forrest (initials on hat), who was a CSA general and early KKK leader.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: A white mans government

by Christopher Cormier - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 7:30 PM

Thank you! Knowing that now confirms even more what I was thinking about this cartoon. CSA would make total sense. And I originally thought that the man in the middle was affiliated with the KKK, but wasn't sure. So knowing that he's Nathan Bedford Forrest, the leader of the KKK, as well as a CSA general, my assumptions were correct. Thank you for that information.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0



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Interpreting Reconstruction Cartoon #3

by Josiah Sugai - Friday, March 2, 2018, 9:54 PM

The main message the artist was trying to convey through this cartoon is how Johnson's reconstruction was terrible but also how he flipped flopped on his policies. First, the cartoon is titled "Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction and How It Works." Johnson is wearing clothing of a British king portraying how people against him thought of him as a tyrant. In the background there are two race riots happening because of Andrew Johnson's lenient policies. On a pillar behind Johnson, there are different phrases that list his presidential acts and beliefs in order. First, there is the caption that reads "TREASON IS A CRIME AND MUST BE MADE ODIUS, AND TRAITORS MUST BE PUNISHED." This represents what his campaign platform was. However, off to the left it looks like a ton of "PARDONS TO REBELS" are falling from the sky. I think the main point of these pardons was to show that he was trying to keep white supremacy alive by allowing ex-Confederates to go free and suppress the black people. On the far right a bunch of papers rain from the sky called "VETOES TO UNION MEN." I believe that the artist is saying that Johnson favored the Confederates and keeping blacks subordinate rather than the Union and their ideas of racial equality. In addition, the scene bottom scene shows a black man being violently choked by snakes while Johnson and white southerners look on as this white man is killed. This artist did not approve or condone Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Radicalized Reconstruction

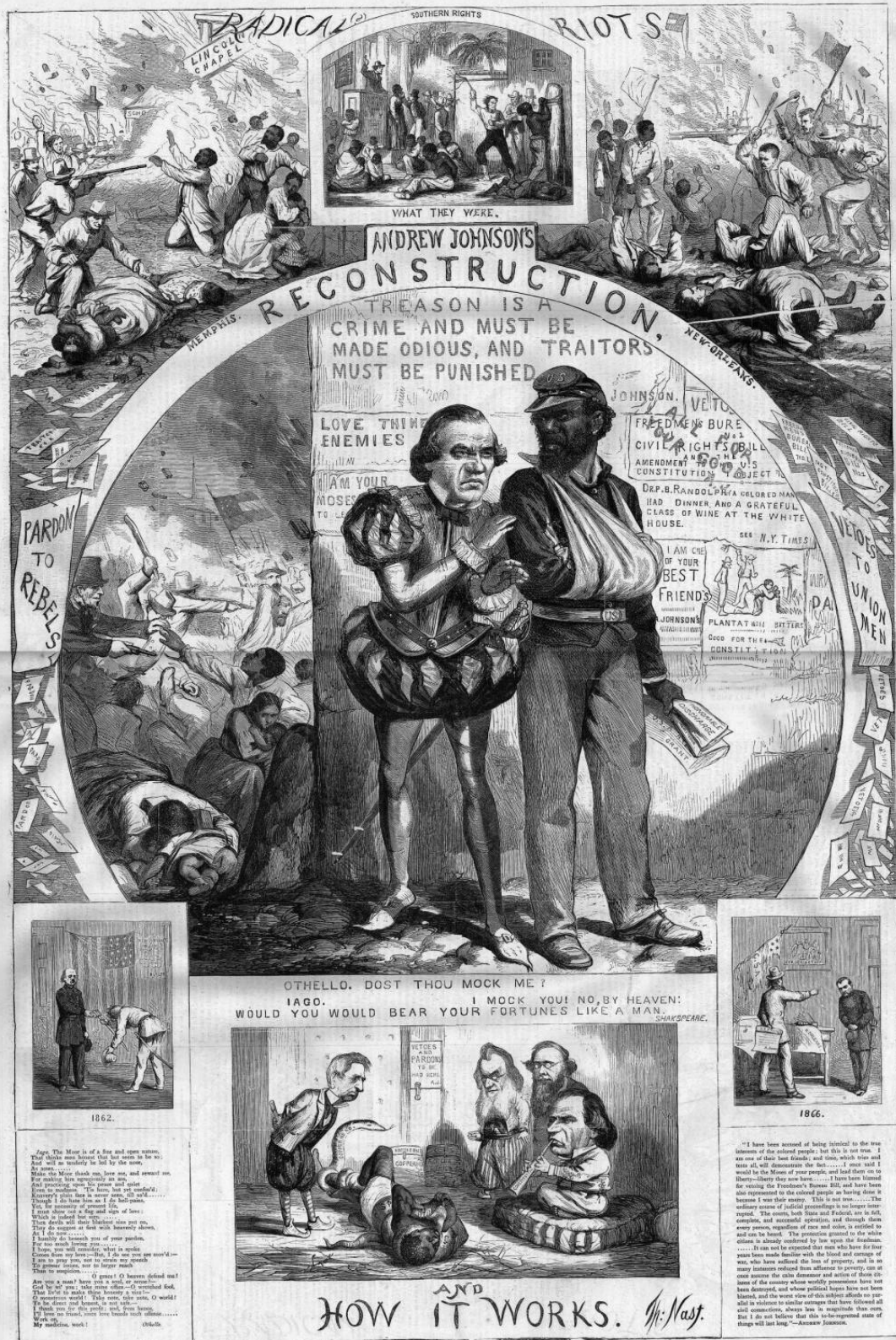
by Gavin Lambert - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 12:12 AM

The way Andrew Johnson approached the situation head on about the Reconstruction was very ignorant as it seemed he was trying to fix his mistakes by pushing forward a forced policy in attempt to "Fix" the south.

During 1865, (after being passed in 1864) Andrew Johnson's reconstruction included the South determining their own future over freedom from slavery. All the while ignoring black folk and excluding them to participate in politics. This so called "Freedman Bureau" seems anything but free for blacks as more implications developed.

The aide for African Americans to compete for jobs for the white man, especially after when the "Black Codes" were passed by the south legislatures in an attempt to preserve slavery. As radical as Andrew Johnson seemed, he eerily attempted to better the south in his own mind, but instead it backlashed into his eventual impeachment in 1868 due to his many dissatisfied ways of high crimes.

In Article 3, this is clearly the case as Johnson is a misleading jester attempting to better the newly "freed" blacks, therefore causing many "Radical Riots" that seemed less constricting to the hate-binded south.



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Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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Cartoon 4

by Raleigh Emerson - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 3:22 PM

This is yet another dig at the southern democrats. The artist Nast is showing the stupidity of the southern movement. He does this by having them burning large piles of books and globes insinuating that the KKK militia had to care for preserving knowledge. President Johnson can also be seen in the top right, he is portrayed as a biblical figure. This, I believe was intended to show the blind faith that these southerners were putting behind not just Johnson but the movement itself. The women in the drawing is cutting off the mans hair or his "suffrage" meant to show that the right to vote is something natural that everyone should have the opportunity for.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #5

by McKenna Wilson - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 6:40 PM

In this cartoon the word "emancipation" is at the top with images of slaves all around the page. In the center is a black family who represents a happy white family that are huddled together in a living/family room. On the wall of the room is a photo of a white man who could be an authoritan figure. The rest of the images that surround the main one are various experiences slaves had to endure. One part is a white man whipping a slave. Another image is slaves receiving money at a cashier's stand. In a smaller circle, there is a black man on his knees in front of a white man.

I think the cartoonist was trying to show all the different things that slaves had to go through and what a white family looked like in comparison. I am not sure if the artist was showing the African American family in the center as what they could look like after emancipation or not because in class it was discussed that just because a slave was freed does not mean they have money or such.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #5

by Jacob Spriggs - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 8:14 PM

My interpretation of the image in the living room in this cartoon is that it represents the dream of all blacks during this time after they were emancipated. Blacks would have dreamed of owning their own land and homes where they could have happy gatherings with their families but this was not a realistic dream at the time due to the cruelty of the black codes. I don't believe this image would have been an accurate representation of black families during the reconstruction period because it was extremely difficult for blacks to make much money and even live comfortably around this time, as it appears that this family is.

I also believe the picture of the man on the wall might have been Abraham Lincoln, since the theme of this cartoon is emancipation, and I'm sure many blacks thought very highly of Lincoln. Also because the man is white, and there weren't many white men at this time who blacks would have admired. It is similar to how pictures of Jesus Christ have decorated homes for centuries because Jesus frees people from their bondage that is sin; Abraham Lincoln freed slaves from the bondage of slavery.

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Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



Re: Cartoon #2

by Jesse Elizondo - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 7:39 PM

This political cartoon is titled "This is a White Man's Government" and it shows 3 white characters standing over a black character who appears to be holding an american flag while reaching for a ballot box. The character on the left appears to be Irish, holding a club labeled "A vote" while he prepares to beat the black man. The middle figure seems to represent the confederates because his belt is labeled "CSA" while he holds a knife which says "The lost cause". The figure on the right appears to be some kind of wealthy man holding a stack of bills that says "Capital for votes". This cartoon seems to be conveying the message that even though the civil war is over and black people are no longer slaves that most people in U.S. society are still going to be against them. The ballot box also alludes to how even though black people should have the right to vote that it still isn't given to them. I also think that the figure on the right holding the money might represent the fact that during reconstruction a lot of votes had to get the amendments passed.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: Cartoon #2

by McKenna Wilson - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 8:09 PM

I agree with your interpretation also. It seems as if the 3 men are on a team or are all against black people having voting rights. I like your point about the message being that even though the civil war is over blacks still have people against them. In class we talked about just because a slave became free did not mean he had equal rights. Freed slaves had to work for money for bail or other things. I think this cartoon is a good depiction of how blacks struggled to gain equal rights even after they become free. Luckily the 15th amendment made voting a universal right for all US citizens.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Emancipation- Before and after

by Christopher Cormier - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 9:51 PM

One of the cartoons that caught my attention was cartoon number 5. On the top of the cartoon, it says "Emancipation." On the left, I believe it is showing what life was like for blacks before emancipation. It shows blacks being whipped, indicating slavery, and it also shows black men being held down with their hands behind their back by white men. On the right, it shows what looks like a freedman school and the children are joyful and happy. In the middle, it looks like a happy black family, a free black family. This picture seems like the evolution or the before and after of the emancipation.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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