

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

Home ► My courses ► HST 202 W18 (Escobar Meta 30898 30897) ► Week 8 ► Forum 3 ►
Reconstruction Cartoons

 Search forums

Forum 3

Reconstruction Cartoons

[• Subscribe](#)[◀ Legacy of Reconstruction](#)[Legacy of Reconstruction ▶](#)[Display replies in nested form](#) ▼[Move this discussion to ...](#) ▼[Move](#)[Pin](#)

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: -

[Permalink](#) | [Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



'This is a White Man's Government' analysis

by Alex McCall - Sunday, February 25, 2018, 12:44 PM

In this cartoon Thomas Nast does a great job of presenting the Democratic party at the time. He breaks it up into three sections; A lower class man, a middle and an upper class man. They all are stepping on a black man and appear to be threatening him. The black man doesn't seem to be a slave, he has an American flag though, so maybe is is a union soldier. On the left you see a man with the typical ape-like Irish features (lower class). He is also carrying what looks to be a bottle of beer in his pocket which would fit the alcoholic stereotype that Irish had at the time. He also is holding a club above his head with "a vote" written on it, looks like he is about to hit the black man under him. In the middle we see the middle class man, he is

wearing a confederate uniform and looks to be a possible slave or plantation owner considering he has a whip on his hip. Also threatening the union soldier but with a knife that has the words "The Lost Cause". Then on the right we have the upper class man, dressed well and raising money high, which I'm guessing is a bribe for votes. In the background, there appears to be a riot happening. A school, and an orphan asylum appear to be burning to the ground and there is a lynched body as well. This again, is Nast portraying nicely the violence of the Democratic party.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



#2 It's Black and White

by Chelsea Sheltman - Sunday, February 25, 2018, 2:19 PM

This cartoon is speaking out against southern democrats and their defiance towards reconstruction. It was published during the year of the election of 1868 where Grant is up against the Democratic candidate Horatio Seymour. The man on the left is an Irish man drawn in the likeness of an ape, disliked, but more favorable than the newly freedmen. His club has the words "a vote" on it which seems to infer that the Irish were striking down on freedmen and their right to vote. You can see a ballot box on the floor just out of reach from the black man. This also shows resemblance to how the south was suppressing the freed people in the cartoon in the text book, "How the Mississippi Plan Worked,"(587). The man in the middle seems to be wearing a confederate uniform and ready to stab the man (a black union soldier holding an american flag) he is holding down with a knife labeled "The Lost Cause" referring to the civil war and the view of the confederates. The man on the right looks like he's holding money labeled "votes" and "capital", maybe a reference to buying votes. These three men are holding hands while a black man is hanging in the background and possibly a school is burning, representing how the south loathed any progress being made for the freed people, also conveyed in the textbook, "The Burning of a Freedmen's School", (572).

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Analysis of "This is a White Man's Government"

by Maclain O'Leary - Monday, February 26, 2018, 12:32 PM

I believe this cartoon is from a Northern Republican point of view. First off you have a black union soldier on the ground, reaching for a ballot box and holding an American flag. Black citizens believed they had earned the right to vote by fighting in the civil war. Standing above him on the left is an Irish- American man, depicted animal like as they had so been so many times before. He is holding a club, with a bottle of alcohol on his hip. on his hat it says 5 points, which is the neighborhood in New York, which is heavily populated with Irish Immigrants. In the middle, is a former confederate and Democratic figure, named Nathan Forrest (Blackhistory.com). And on the right is August Belmont, former Democratic Party leader. Together, the three men are pushing the black man back down to the ground, symbolically not allowing racism in the U.S to end.

I believe the over all cartoon is meant to depict the continued bitterness that the the North and South had towards each other. While the civil war was over, neither side was ready to completely forget and forgive the other side for what had happened.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



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

by Rodrigo Santiago-Corona - Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 10:30 AM

I agree that this cartoon was meant to depict the bitterness between the north and south, and that reconciliation with the two sides was going to be a process. Great analyzation, I like how you added he part about the three men pushing down the black man "symbolically not allowing racism to end". It's also crucial to understand the vital role African Americans played at this time, Because the man they are stepping on isn't just any African American man, he's a veteran, and he has every right to vote. The fifteen amendment granted citizens the right to vote but an African American veteran is depicted lying helplessly struggling to cast in his vote into the ballot box, being stopped by the three powerful men using violent tactics. (Page 576 of the textbook)

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



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

by Justin Oljace - Monday, February 26, 2018, 2:14 PM

This political cartoon depicts three white men standing on an African American man. There seems to be total destruction in the background with buildings on fire. The man on the left is Irish and is holding a club that says "A vote" far away from the man on the floor. You can see the man in the middle is a soldier from the Confederate States of America from his belt buckle. He holds a knife that says "The lost cause". His knife represents there loss in the civil war. The man on the right looks wealthy and is holding a lot of money with a note that says "capital votes". I think that means he is buying votes. The black man on the ground is being smashed as he reaches for a ballot box near him. The three men are also stepping on an American flag which seems to symbolize they are betraying their country. On the bottom of the cartoon its talks about how the Democratic platform regards the Reconstruction Acts as unconstitutional. This makes me think that the three white men are all members of the Democratic party. A significant message that the artist seems to display is that the Democratic party is going against its country, and not giving African Americans the ability to vote.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



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

by Braedon Kocks - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 11:31 PM

I do agree that the three men on top of the black man are supposed to represent the Democratic party. You opened my eyes to the representation that they are going against their country by them stepping on the american flag, I didn't think of it in that way but I definitely think of it that way but I sure do now!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



No longer just a white man's government

by Hayley Allen - Monday, February 26, 2018, 2:41 PM

I chose to analyze the second cartoon with the quotation, "This is a white man's government." I believe the artist was trying to portray the feeling most Southerners had during the Reconstruction era when the black man was now able to vote. I think there was a strong feeling of trying to hold on to the power the white man had especially when it comes to controlling government. Some of the main features in this cartoon are the three men all whom are white with their foot on the back of a black man. The black man appears to be wearing a Union Army uniform with an American flag, reaching out toward a ballot box. He looks desperate and sad he cannot reach the ballot box, symbolizing the fears and threats black men faced when fulfilling their new found right to vote. The three white men that are stopping him are an Irish man, a confederate man and a rich man.

The man on the left is clearly portrayed as many Irish were in this time period with simian-features and torn clothing showing their poor economic status. His hat also reads "5 points" which is the neighborhood in New York City where many Irish lived as well as the cross in his hat which is symbolic of the Irish Catholicism (Escobar Lecture). He is holding a club which reads "A vote" symbolizing the stereotypical violent behavior of the Irish, threatening the black man who is attempting to vote.

The man in the center appears to resemble the Confederate president Jefferson Davis. He is wearing a 'CSA' belt buckle standing for 'Confederate States of America' and holding a knife that says "The Lost Cause". Which stood for a movement during the Reconstruction era that many white southerners supported that symbolized the loss of traditional southern society and culture. The movement would try to portray the confederate cause as noble and righteous not just against slavery but for states' rights (Moodle video).

The third man is dressed much fancier in comparison to the other men. He can be assumed to be wealthy especially by holding a wallet full of money which says, "Capital" and "votes" that may be alluding to rich men buying the elections.

There were many obstacles for black men to vote which I think this cartoon does a good job of illustrating. The physical threat as well as the economic threat which the 'Liberty, Equality, Power' book discusses in the Mississippi Plan which, "was to intimidate black voters because, even with all white voting Democratic, the party could still be defeated by the 55 percent black majority. Economic coercion against black sharecroppers and workers kept some of them away from the pools but violence was the most effective method" (Murrin 586). This is exactly what is being portrayed in this cartoon, the white man trying to hold on to his power by threatening the black man from voting, keeping them from voting and keeping the white man's government.

Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: No longer just a white man's government

by Brogan Cornish - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 6:26 PM

With your opening regard I think you're exactly right, because the white man didn't want to lose a dominant force within the government. Also they didn't want to loose control of their candidates. candidates in which would keep slavery and other racist aspects of our government back then. With your educated guess on who the people are in the cartoon I

think you're spot on two of them, but the last one I think be further determined. With the CSA buckle really gives Andrew Johnson away. Also the man on the left and how he's dressed very poorly has holes in his pants and such clothing, he's is definitely Irish.

Lastly the man on the right I think can be probably closes more located as a slave owner, because of the wallet full of money, the capital and votes on his wallet, and the chains around the front of his suit.

Other than adding that one thing I think your post was spot on Hayley

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



THIS IS A WHITE MAN'S GOVERNMENT

by Rodrigo Santiago-Corona - Monday, February 26, 2018, 3:05 PM

"This is a white mans Government"

Published on September 5, 1868, right around the time of the election of 1868. The cartoon shows three men. To the left there is an Irish american man, the man is illustrated with ape like features, which was a common way the Irish were portrayed. To the right is Belmont, and by his composure, and apparel you can tell he is of the upper class. The "5th ave" symbol on his coat, is referring to one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in New York. The "5 Points" on the Irish-Americans hat, is referring to the poorest neighborhood in New York where the Irish lived. The middle man I believe to be Nathan Bedford Forrest, who held a high position in the Ku Klux Klan (as seen on page 576). As you can see the three men are stepping on an African American man, joining hands as a joining of forces, and empowerment. As you look deeper into the picture you can see something that looks somewhat like a ballot box. The three men are trying to stop the African American from voting. Although the African American man earned his right to vote, "The Klu Klux Klan committed dozens of murders and intimidated thousands of black voters" (576). The fifteen amendment; "prohibited states from denying the right to vote on grounds of race, color, or previous conditions of servitude" (574). You may also see a hanging man in the back as well as a town in flames, which shows the damage done by the Klu Klux Klan.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Cartoon #1

by Jason Yeager - Monday, February 26, 2018, 7:14 PM

I studied the play "Othello" in my high school drama class, and although some time has passed since then, I vaguely remember the story. As I recall, Iago--here represented by Jefferson Davis--is a vile, conniving, and manipulative character that plots Othello's (shown as a black senator) destruction. Davis may not have been Iago's equal in depravity, but he clearly did not believe that blacks were equal to whites--although as noted in our textbook, he did press "the Confederate Congress to enact a bill for recruitment of black soldiers" (pg. 554, *Liberty, Equality, Power*) for his army. But this was an act of desperation when the war was all but lost, and was disingenuous at best, so maybe that artist's portrayal of him as this character is not completely off base.

I think the artist is showing a dejected and unhealthy-looking Davis in Shakespearean garb, "exiting stage left" as he looks back on a Senate seat that he believes should be his, but that is now occupied by an African American. The quote from the play at the bottom of the cartoon seems to support this. No one on the Senate floor or in the gallery seems to be paying Davis any attention as he essentially fades into oblivion. The gallery is packed with observers bearing witness to the momentous occasion of a black man occupying a Senate seat. One thing that I find interesting is the depiction of the men standing around the obviously beaming and pleased new Senator. While they all seem resigned and accepting of the fact that an African American has been elected to their governing body, none of them seems too happy about it.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Cartoon #1

by Chelsea Sheltman - Monday, February 26, 2018, 8:25 PM

Great connection of the characters in Othello and their correlation to the political cartoon. I am not familiar with the play in detail, but your explanation, given, makes sense.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Cartoon #1

by Camille Titus - Thursday, March 1, 2018, 11:02 PM

I really liked your analisis of the first cartoon and I think you did a really good job describing how it would work with the play. How I saw this cartoon was more clear after class today and also after reading your post. I think this was also refering to the 15th amendment and the "black codes". Obviously, Jefferson Davis and other ex-confederates didn't enjoy the idea of giving african americans to vote or to eventually end up in office. So by "walking away" or "boycotting" they hoped to turn the tide but ended up having the opposite effect. I also thought that maybe one of the members around the african american senator was Andrew Johnson, but I'm not sure and I don't know how that would fit into this cartoon. Unless he was trying to intimate the new senator.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Cartoon #1

by Jason Yeager - Friday, March 2, 2018, 5:00 PM

I was also curious about the men around Senator Revels. The guy on the left could be Johnson, but I'm not sure. I think you might be right about the intimidation factor though, regardless of who the men are. Their body postures and proximity to the Senator seem really threatening, almost as if they are saying "Yes, you are now a Senator, but don't think that you are our equal, or that you have any real power."

Another detail I noticed was the book on the floor. A little hard to tell, but I think it is titled "Record of the Rebellion." Seems like a book that Davis would have kept on his desk, but once Senator Revels claimed the seat, he unceremoniously shoved it off his desk like a piece of garbage.

While I did not look up the cartoon itself, I did look up Senator Revels because I did not know who he was (we hadn't mentioned him in class yet and I don't think he is in our book). He was the very first African American Senator, which really had to rankle Jefferson Davis. Probably one of the reasons he looks so sickly, as this had to be an awfully bitter pill for him to swallow.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Cartoon #1

by Camille Titus - Friday, March 2, 2018, 11:35 PM

I also thought the man to the left was Andrew Johnson, I'm glad I wasn't the only one. I also thought the members of the audience also looked very mean? Because of this I think that it's more showing the overall feeling of inequality and racial nativism. I couldn't read the text on the book but that is an interesting part of the cartoon I didn't think about. I guess it's semi safe to assume this is before the violence became more extreme. Because of the fact that he was in office so probably during the time when african americans were still voting.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Cartoon #1

by Brogan Cornish - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 11:18 PM

Good connection with the senate floor with that desk and Davis. The one thing I don't understand is the Black Man in the senate seat. There must be some sort of meaning behind this man sitting there. I find it interesting that all the white men are paying a lot of attention to the black man they must be apart of the North. What do you think?

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The message in reconstruction cartoon #5

by Abigail Gierut - Monday, February 26, 2018, 8:22 PM

I believe that the main message that the artist was trying to convey in political cartoon #5 is that freedmen are just as human and civilized as any white man was considered to be and the scenes in this cartoon are to help white people relate and sympathize with them. There are so many different illustrations in this cartoon so in this post I will only be focusing on the largest and central image. The largest image and the focal point of this cartoon is a scene of a black family in the living room in their home showing a mother and father with their children, an older lady (probably grandmother to these kids) and perhaps an older daughter in the background with her husband. This illustration shows the family happy, smiling, and mainly doting over the baby of the family; a relatable example of a black family and home being the same any other typical home life of white families at the time. This idea was hard to imagine at the time

because many people who opposed the freeing of the slaves believed that slaves, left on their own without white control would be chaotic and barbaric. This image shows the exact opposite of chaos with a civilized family dynamic at home.

One part of this main image that spoke strongly to me is that the young boy behind his father is holding a book. This showed that not only were the freedmen capable of being civilized citizens but also that they were being educated. "During war, freedmen's aid societies occupied areas of the south to set up schools for freed slaves. After the war, this effort was expanded with the aid of the Freedmen's bureau.... This education crusade reduced the southern black illiteracy rate to 70 percent by 1880 and to 40 percent by 1900." (Textbook, pg. 569).

Two other strong points in this scene is what I believe to be the image of Abraham Lincoln framed and hanging on their wall and the fireplace in the center of the room that clearly says Union. This acknowledgment of a political leader that made their freedom possible and to the Union which is now what they are a part of as citizens shows that the freedmen were also politically involved. Again, this goes against what many believed about ex-slaves: that left alone they would fall to barbarism, chaos and were incapable of governing themselves.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The Hopes of Emancipation

by Chelsea Sheltman - Monday, February 26, 2018, 8:36 PM

I would agree with you on your explanation of the central picture portrayed in the cartoon. I would also add that it looks like the images on the far left and far right are meant to exhibit what life was before emancipation of the slaves, and after the freeing of the people. The left shows the brutality of slave life with chains, slave auctions, and whipping. The right shows a white man on a horse taking his hat off to greet a black and white man alike, a black man at the bank withdrawing money because he now is paid for his labor, and children dressed nicely rather than in rags running off to school while their mother stands dressed nicely as well. This cartoon seems to be what the end of the civil war was meant to bring although we all know the outcome was not as plain or pretty.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: The message in reconstruction cartoon #5

by Hayley Allen - Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 8:15 AM

I think you did a good job dissecting the main image in this photo however I don't think you can properly analyze the cartoon without acknowledging the other images in the cartoon. I agree with Chelsea about the portrayal of the black man's life as a slave on the left and the new rights as a freedman on the right. Cartoon's humanizing black people were very important to try to integrate them into white society. This would not be easy as we have learned, the white man will not accept a black man as his equal.

As Chelsea said the images on the left illustrate the slave experience, from the top left the ships bring Africans over, some who try to escape being captured. Then the middle left photo of a slave auction where men bid on other men. The bottom left looks to be

punishment with a man whipping a black woman.

The center bottom photo shows a black man having his chains lifted by an angel which symbolizes the end of slavery and also the importance of faith in people's moral beliefs of slavery.

The right side of the cartoon shows the new life of black people with the man being paid for his work. Then the family sending their kids to public school. Although these were the rights given to black people it was not as easy for them to practice these rights, especially in the South where the Confederacy was dealing with the loss of the war. I think this cartoon is an ideal image of how reconstruction and emancipation would look, possibly trying to convince white people of the black person's experience and to show sympathy and acceptance.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Re: The message in reconstruction cartoon #5

by Abigail Gierut - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 7:04 PM

I completely agree with you Hayley, when you say that you can't properly analyze the cartoon without looking at the full picture and acknowledging the other images and I like the way you explained the surrounding scenes, but I think there is a huge point in this cartoon that I think we have all been missing. Looking back in detail of the surrounding scenes I noticed that the left and right are being compared to each other. While I do agree with you and Chelsea that the left portrays the past and the freedmen's experiences in slavery from start to finish, I believe this cartoon isn't meant to help southerners empathize with the freedmen. It's meant to make the northerners who still didn't believe in racial equality empathize more.

If you look at this cartoon as the left side being the south and the right. In the middle scenes on each side of this cartoon are flags. On the left is a war torn early confederate flag with three stripes and only seven stars (representing the 7 states leaving the union: South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas) meaning that these scenes on the left were definitely in the past. On the right shows the American flag used by the Union, not war torn at all, meaning that the scenes in the right are meant to be based in the future. The fact that the flag is not torn is also emphasizing the Union victory and a sense of togetherness in that victory even if people were torn on the argument of whether or not these freedmen should be given the same civil rights as whites. This was a huge convincing factor in regards to the 15th amendment. They fought this war together against the enemy (the confederacy) and won the fight for emancipation, regardless of what your opinion of what the war was really fought for because in the end this is what we achieved.

Now for the reason why I don't think this was meant for convincing both the south and the north to empathize. This cartoon does not make the south look good in any sense. It shows the failure of the confederacy, the brutality and moral wrongdoings in slavery by the south, and in all of the scenes it depicts the southerners as the bad guys. If this was meant to be a message to everyone to help them relate and empathize with the freedmen, then why put show much emphasis on the south in a negative way? Why not also show the negatives in the union?

Because it was not meant to change the mindset of everyone regarding reconstruction and the civil rights of the freedmen, only those in the north or even southern Republicans who did not support the confederacy in the war, many of which did not even own slaves at the time of the civil war.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Political Cartoon #2

by Decker Robinson - Monday, February 26, 2018, 8:29 PM

In political cartoon #2, there appears to be a monkey (Irishman) holding a bat with the words "A Vote" engraved, a white man holding a knife that says "The Lost Cause", and another white man, whom I think is Andrew Johnson, holding a pamphlet that is titled Capital; all of whom are standing together shaking hands on top of a black man who is reaching for what appears to be a ballot box. There is a quote at the top of the image that says "THIS A WHITE MAN'S GOVERNMENT". At the bottom of the cartoon there is another quote that reads "We regard the Reconstruction Acts (so called) of Congress as usurpations, and unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void. - Democratic Platform". I think the message the author was trying to convey was the defiance from the democratic party and also the defiance from Andrew Johnson to congress and the Reconstruction Acts. In the image, Andrew Johnson is holding the "Capital" pamphlet with "Votes" inside of it. I believe him standing on the black man signals his defiance of congress and how he vetoed measures from congress that ensured rights for freedpeople. The "Lost Cause" knife that the man in the middle is holding is referring to what Professor Gallagher was talking about on how confederates after the war said the reason for the war was not slavery so they could maintain their honor. I think this was included to show the hypocrisy of confederates because they tried to maintain the notion that the war wasn't about slavery; however, they were doing everything in their power to make sure freed slaves could not vote. The Irishman's bat "A Vote" signified how Irishmen were allowed to vote; but, not freed slaves further pushing the notion of white supremacy. The black man reaching for the ballot box signifies the obstacles that freed blacks faced before finally getting the right to vote in the years after the Civil War.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Racist, but some loyal

by Brogan Cornish - Monday, February 26, 2018, 10:53 PM

In the cartoon "The Modern Samson" I believe the artist was trying to convey difficulties of the African Americans facing southerners. On the side of the southerners they'er holding a flag that has "slavery lost cause regained", and also "Fort Pillow", and "Memphis". This portrait is a representation of the "Wartime Reconstruction". On page 562 and 563 of our text book it says, "Southern whites who took an oath of allegiance to the United States and accepted the abolition slavery... Because the war was still raging, this policy could be carried out only where Union troops controlled." In this cartoon to me it showing a place where the war is still raging and the African American still isn't free yet. The flag helps me to locate these southerners because of the slavery aspect of their flag. Also the have "Memphis" which is where a race riot occurred. All of these points on the flag are a representation of what African Americans still

had to go through even though they were free. Also on the other hand the lady and the African American shows a southern view of people who took the oath of allegiance. On the ladies leg it has a southern democracy and she is holding a suffrage over the Africans head. This suffrage is referring when African obtained the right to vote. In page 574 of our text book it talks about the 15th amendment and Africans right to vote," The remaining three southern states completed the reconstruction process in 1869 and 1870. Congress required them to ratify the fifteenth as well as the fourteenth amendment." So as this lady is holding to her oath that Africans are free and they have the right to vote. These angered southerners will not stop until they change Africans back to slaves. With these war policies created a confusing time in the US, but the wartime reconstruction was one of the most interesting, and that's what I believe this cartoon represents.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Mindset

by Camille Titus - Monday, February 26, 2018, 11:10 PM

In cartoon #2 I really noticed the "lost cause" mindset. One reason is because at the bottom it says " We regard the Reconstruction acts (so called) of congress as usurpations, and unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void." Showing the mindset of it not being "about" slavery but constitutional rights. Having the different types of men showing support to each other stands out to me. Because even with different objects or reasons for the support they are still coming together. I also thought it was interesting that the african american is laying next to a union hat and american flag. I assumed this was to show what the african american fought for and why people should support him. I also noticed that the Irish man is drawn with the ex-Confederates and depicted as the Irish were back then. This made me curious about if this cartoon would fall into american nativism and the old african vs. irish catholic debate that happened before the war.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The Glow of Emancipation

by Miriel Orhai - Monday, February 26, 2018, 11:28 PM

In cartoon #5, a clear binary is presented. The holy light of EMANCIPATION shines above, and we see a clear divide between those who deny it and those who embrace it. To the left, Southern slavery reigns. The backdrop is a barren wasteland, and a slave auction scene portrays the slaves sympathetically, emphasizing children and parents. A torn American flag blows in the wind. Below are details of the daily horrors of slavery, making it overwhelmingly clear what a cruel institution it is. In contrast, to the right, a compassionate Lady Justice extends an olive branch, basking in the glow of emancipation alongside brave (Union) soldiers. In the background is healthy-looking infrastructure and below an intact American flag proudly stands beside a church tower, resting on the roof of a Black public school. We see Blacks exercising their rights-- being an active part of the market, educating themselves, and engaging in friendly chit-chat with whites, as equals. This is the truly civilized and morally righteous lifestyle. In the dead center of the image is a happy, wholesome Black family, warmed by the glow of the Union. Clearly, this cartoon is anti-slavery, anti-conservative

Southern attitudes, and-- dare I say-- pro-racial equality. Emancipation is shown as an inarguable truth that must eventually be realized, and those who run from it are those living in sympathy with the Devil.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



#3 Impeach Him

by Chelsea Sheltman - Thursday, March 1, 2018, 10:09 PM

This cartoon is portraying Andrew Johnson as a villain as he stands close to a wounded black union soldier in the center of the image. The cartoon is definitely speaking out against the leniency of Johnson's reconstruction. There is a poster to the far left that reads "Pardons to Rebels" signifying Johnson's plan to pardon the ex-confederates. There is also a poster on the far right that reads "Vetoos to Union Men" referring to Johnson's veto of congress' bill for radical reconstruction. This cartoon also incorporates the images of the race riots that depict the violence of whites against the freedmen and the struggle to make progress from the end of the civil war.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Cartoon #3

by Justin Oljace - Thursday, March 1, 2018, 11:00 PM

This political cartoon explains the battle and constant struggle over Reconstruction. The image in the middle shows president Andrew Johnson next to a wounded black man. This cartoon shows images of violence between southern whites and blacks. The bottom image shows Andrew Johnson calling a snake to attack a black man to show how he was okay with bringing back a form of slavery. Nast titles this cartoon "Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction", as he clearly mocks it because it shows so much mercy to the southern states. I imagine this cartoon helped give the Radical Republicans more support to oppose Johnson. Which influenced the public to elect many congressman to go against Johnson's Reconstruction.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Post Slavery

by Dylan Castle - Friday, March 2, 2018, 12:46 AM

Post slavery and into the time of black codes in the south angered many northern republicans. The republicans saw this as an "attempt to reinstate a quasi-slavery" (566). The Union did put a hold on the implementation of the black codes, and with the south implementing themselves back into northern society this put the relationship between black and white people in a sort of "limbo mode" (567). Directly following slavery it would be worse for many freedmen than that of slavery, as described in political cartoons as an era of white control.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

"The Modern Samson" Cartoon #4



by Justin Oljace - Friday, March 2, 2018, 8:59 PM

This cartoon shows a black man waking up to a woman pulling off his hair. The man is the "Modern Samson" who is stripped of his strength and power without his hair. It says "Southern Democracy" on the woman who takes the hair. This represents the whites in the South ripping away the power and rights of the blacks. In the background it shows a bunch of men that look to be from the Confederate Army that are heavily armed and cheering as Samson gets his hair taken away. They're holding a flag that says "Slavery regained" referring to the leniency of Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction. Robert E. Lee is one of the men in the background. I noticed that the man holding the flag has a Ku Klux Klan chest armor. There is also a statue of Johnson to show the praise he was receiving from the South. I think the main message the artist was trying to convey is that the South is getting away with murder with the support of the president as they bring back slavery like times just after the Civil War.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: "The Modern Samson" Cartoon #4

by Miriel Orhai - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 4:01 PM

I agree that this cartoon shows that the Democratic South was getting away with all sorts of things under the eye of Johnson. I noticed too that the rioters in the background are burning up school supplies such as books and a globe. This is barely a metaphor, as the KKK and other ex-Confederate white power groups did literally burn Black schools (shown on pg 572 of the text, Burning of a Freedman's School). They were threatened and disgusted by the idea of Blacks being educated and therefore having more power in society. This was a legitimate fear, as the Black illiteracy rate dropped to 70% by 1880 (text pg 569). Southern Democrats also feared (wrongly) that Blacks had more political power than them-- though in 1868, this was only possibly true in South Carolina (text 574).

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: "The Modern Samson" Cartoon #4

by Camille Titus - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 5:32 PM

Something that came to my mind was that in many african cultures hair is a very important part of identity. So cutting off the man's hair in this cartoon is not only cutting off his power but could also be cutting off his personal ties to his culture. Which could also play into the idea of turning back to slavery or something worse than by hoping to conform the african americans.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Cartoon 4

by Rodrigo Santiago-Corona - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 3:11 PM

As I analyzed cartoon number four, I noticed the woman labeled "souther democracy" cutting off the hair off an African American man. The hair is labeled "suffrage," which I believe is the artist's way of portraying the African American man getting his right to vote stripped away. Something that stuck out was the engraving on the plaque to the left that reads "the Democratic Barbecue The sensible colored men (Late N****R) are beginning to see that the Democrats are their best and truest friends. They are as babes without experiencing government affairs." This was drawn during the point in reconstruction were people of the North began to be fed with this idea. While tricking the black man, the South is then able to revert back to their old offensive ways. Underneath that it says; "Denounce the loyal league upon every occasion organize a ku-klux-klan" The Klu Klux Klan was a group of Democrats that killed, and intimidated thousands of black voters (576). A group of men with CSA on their belts indicating they are confederates, are cheering as the black man gets his hair cut off, indicting his power to vote getting ripped away. Nathan Bedford Forrest, Robert E. Lee, and the man holding the flag; Horatio Seymour, all of these men along with the others, have a KKK plate on their chest. What I believe Nast is trying to convey is that the Democrats are getting away with committing crimes, as well as causing a lot of damage, all to bring back slavery.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Cartoon 5 Analysis

by Decker Robinson - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 5:33 PM

I believe the central message the cartoonist is trying to portray in cartoon 5 is the rights that freedmen get to enjoy after emancipation. The left side shows the freedmen as slaves with images of a black man getting whipped, at a slave auction, and picking cotton in the field in the top left corner. As you move more to the right, the central image of the cartoon shows an African American family embracing each other and looking happy. I think this is what the cartoonist perceives as the mood of african americans after emancipation. Then in the right side of the image you can see all the rights that freedmen can now enjoy. In the top right corner, they are no longer picking cotton in the field. The black children can now attend public schools. In the bottom right corner, you can see a black man at a store. I think the main purpose of this picture is to show both what african americans had to endure with slavery and to also show how much better their lives were as freedmen.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Cartoon 5 Analysis

by Alex McCall - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 6:09 PM

Great analyzation. One of the things I like about this cartoon is that it shows the progression of the reconstruction for the freedmen all in one picture and sums it up pretty well. I also like how he makes it go from left to right sort of chronologically.

Sum of ratings:0 (1) 0

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



by Isaac Anderson - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 7:44 PM

In the modern Sampson cartoon there is a woman holding something over the head of a black man that has the word suffrage on it. Behind them is statue of Andrew Johnson holding a stone tablet that says veto. The pillar that he is sitting on has the names of prominent democrats and KKK members such as N.B. Forrest. The pillar also says "the great democratic party will rise again." In the left hand side of the cartoon we see men with the letters KKK on their armor and names inscribed on the swords such as Blair and Lee. Next to Andrew Johnsons statue is the phrase "I will be your Moses" and he is also kneeling on a stone that says Moses. Maybe there is some kind of biblical reference being made here but that is definitely not a strong subject for me so I couldn't say what the reference is. There is also a demon like creature in the bottom right corner. After seeing all of this it seems that this cartoon is a depiction of the protections that were granted to the newly freedmen during the reconstruction era. Andrew Johnsons vetos had failed "and he eventually threw down the gauntlet to congressional republicans (Liberty, Equality, Power. Pg. 570) allowing the fourteenth amendment to become ratified by the states. The lady in the picture seems to be protecting the black man from the southern democrats and kkk members with her "suffrage" sign indicating his newly gained freedoms and protections granted by the new amendments to the constitution in the reconstruction period.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



A White Man's Government

by Braedon Kocks - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 9:07 PM

To start out with this cartoon you can see three men standing on black man who is holding a american flag and looks to be trying to grab the ballot box in the bottom right. With inspection in background you can see buildings that are burning which just looks like chaos, and on a light post there is what looks to be a man that has been hung. Looking back at the three figures on top you can see that the man on the left is an Irish man which are depicted as non human looking. The Irish man is holding a bat with the words "A vote" which can mean he vote is going to who ever agrees with slavery. The man in the middle can be identified as Nathan Forrest with a knife that says "the lost cause" which I do not know what it means, on his jacket he has some sort of badge or metal which I cannot read, and he also looks to have a whip or something behind him which can show that he is for slavery. Finally the man on the right can be identified as August Belmont who served for the democratic party. August is holding a envelope looking item which says "capital" and "votes" on it which can be shown as fraud votes. This cartoon for me looks to be showing how Democractic party is against blacks being equal to them.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



"Time Works Wonders" Cartoon #1

by Justin Oljace - Saturday, March 3, 2018, 9:29 PM

In this political cartoon we see Jefferson Davis staring at a black man sitting in a chair that says "Senator Revels". I found that Hiram Revels became the first black man in the United States Senate in 1870. In the cartoon you see four men welcoming Hiram to the Senate. At

the bottom Jefferson Davis says, “For that I do suspect the lusty moor Hath leap’d into my seat. The thought whereof doth like a poisonous mineral gnaw my inwards.” The president of the Confederate army was clearly in discuss and shock when he saw Hiram Revels in his Senate seat. I think the artist titled this cartoon “Time Works Wonders” because the leader of the Confederacy lost his seat to an African American man.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

◀ Legacy of Reconstruction

Legacy of Reconstruction ▶

 Moodle Docs for this page

Accessibility at Lane

You are logged in as Joe Escobar ([Log out](#))

HST 202 W18 (Escobar Meta 30898 30897)