

HST 202: US History W20 (Escobar)

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Reconstruction Cartoons
by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, February 21, 2020, 5:24 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Reconstruction Cartoons topic.

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

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

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

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Reconstruction Cartoons #2
by [Raleigh Reese](#) - Sunday, February 23, 2020, 1:28 PM

In the 2nd cartoon for reconstruction a black man is seen being held down or suppressed while reaching out to a ballot box most likely attempting to participate in the process post civil war. In the man's right hand he is clutching an american flag which could represent him being a former northern soldier or free black of the north. The three men standing above the man all seem to be working together and are for the democratic party. The 1st man on the left is the classic stereo type depiction of an Irishman, his hat reads 5 points which was a heavily Irish populated area in New York. The man has a club with the words "a vote" which could mean he intends to beat a vote out of the man on the ground. The 2nd man in the middle seems to be a former confederate soldier because his belt buckle reads CSA or confederate states of america and he is wielding a knife with the words "the Lost Cause" which in the video provided, Professor Gallahger explains the lost cause was a confederate argument used to keep their pride post civil war. They argued that the war was not about slavery but was about maintaining their constitutional rights and the rights of the southern states. The 3rd man on the right appears to be a wealthy man holding a large amount of money that says "capitol" and "votes", most likely showing that the democratic party was not only trying to suppress black votes but to buy votes in the election as well.

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A White Man's Government
by [Alexander Marx](#) - Sunday, February 23, 2020, 4:39 PM

In cartoon number 2 we see an illustration from Harper’s Weekly titled in quotes “This is a White Man’s Government.” Below the image is another quote meant to depict the Democratic Platform’s views on on the

Reconstruction Acts describing them as “usurpations, unconstitutional, revolutionary and void.” In the foreground of the image we have 3 white men clasping hands while standing over a black man. On the left is an Irish man holding a baton that says “a vote”, and in the middle is I believe Jefferson Davis who is holding a knife with the words “The Lost Cause” across it. He also has a belt buckle with the letters CSA for Confederate States of America, and a whip in his back pocket. The man on the right is holding what looks to be a large envelope of votes. On the ground the black man is clutching an American flag with his right hand and is reaching towards an object with his left which I think is one of those round glass ballot boxes as discussed in class lecture a couple weeks ago. He is unable to reach it due to being held down by the feet of the men on the left and right, and Davis in the middle has his foot on what appears to be another type of ballot box. Due to being from Harper’s Weekly and from the very human and emotional appearance of the black man I assume this is an anti-southern cartoon criticizing the way the south limited the rights, freedoms and franchise of the free black population during the reconstruction era. In the background there is what I assume to be a black man who has been hung from a lamp post, and several burning buildings. The building on the right is a school, presumably a school for African Americans, perhaps mirroring the antiblack riots in Memphis where the burning of schools took place. The hanging could be referencing the Ku Klux Klan’s violent activity during the time. After watching the quick summary by professor Gary Gallagher, the way Davis is heroically holding the knife containing the words The Lost Cause, presumably to stab it into the black man on the ground, seems to show the south’s attempt to disregard slavery as an issue contributing to the war and their commitment to maintaining white pride and control over their region through any means necessary.

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Re: Reconstruction Cartoons #4
by [Melanie Green](#) - Sunday, February 23, 2020, 8:43 PM

I decided to do the 4th cartoon because of the amount of Biblical references in it. At first I was confused as to what this cartoon was trying to portray. In the top right corner it looks like a statue of Andrew Johnson holding a pair of tablets (like the Ten Commandments) and under him it’s titled “Moses”. Which makes me wonder how he is comparable to Moses. Moses led his people to the promise land so maybe it’s portraying Andrew Johnson as a good man leading his people into a promise land? That wasn’t the only Biblical reference I found though. At the bottom of the page it says “A modern Samson” which made me look harder. The black man lying on the ground appears to have no hair, and a woman with a southern democracy sash, is holding something black which can only be assumed to be his hair. On the black shape she is holding it says ‘Suffrage’. In the story of Samson, Delilah convinces Samson to give up his secret on how he is strong (which was his hair). Long story short, she cuts his hair and calls for the army to attack him and he is taken because his source of strength is gone. I think this cartoon is showing how the south were still against the black suffrage and were doing anything and everything to put an end to it, even if it meant killing.

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#2 Power & Money
by [Zach Trotter](#) - Monday, February 24, 2020, 7:29 PM

In my opinion this photo illustrates the hunger for power, and money in white men. I came to this conclusion based off the photographs portrayal of 3 men standing on top a black man. The men are holding a knife, a club, and a wallet full of money over a black man who has an American flag, that is also laying on the ground. Based off of this I came to the conclusion that the picture is portraying that white men would prefer a government that allows white man to rule, and prosper in wealth at the sacrifice of other races and even over the importance of their own country. the quote at the top of the photograph "This is a white mans government" helped seal my thoughts on the photo. The knife is going to stab the man on the ground in the back, and the club has the words "A vote" on it, implying that the white man is going to use his vote to further punish the black man.

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Reconstruction Cartoon #5
by [McKenna Wilson](#) - Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 11:48 AM

While looking through the cartoons that were presented to us, the one I wanted to analyze and look into further was Cartoon 5. One of the first things that grabbed my attention was the words “EMANCIPATION” written across

the top of the cartoon. It seems to me that this cartoon is depicting different timelines of emancipation. On the left side it looks like it is showing the life of a slave before being emancipated. With images of whips and auctions and violence against the black individuals. From the circled image through the right side of the cartoon, I believe this is showing the life of blacks after being emancipated. There is one image showing young black children running off to school, an African male going up to a cashier for payment, and the family in the middle that seems to be smiling. These were not things that slaves were able to have before emancipation as we have learned from the chapters that we have read. The word emancipation seems to be written in the clouds giving it a sense of hopefulness. I feel the cartoon is showing that hopefulness that African American slaves had before they were emancipated.

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Johnson's Reconstruction

by [Alexander Marx](#) - Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 8:36 PM

Cartoon number 3 appears to be a criticism of Andrew Johnson's presidential reconstruction. A panel near the top is depicting what "rights" the southerners are fighting for while illustrating white men abusing people of color. Outside of this panel we have the violent race riots of 1866 in Memphis and New Orleans. In the center of the cartoon we see a black man with an injured arm who appears to be an ex-soldier from the union and Andrew Johnson standing next to him in what appears to be a jester's outfit or something similar. Behind them is a wall and around the corner is another depiction of a race riot with whites attacking blacks, and we can see smoke and a confederate flag in the background. On the wall behind them there is also text of some of the things said by Johnson, referencing his claim that the traitors must be punished and that he is a best friend to the colored man. However, there is also a section that appears to be showing Johnson's vetoes of the Freedmen's Bureau and Civil Rights bill, and Johnson seems to be ushering away the black man from the whole scene with his jester-like outfit representing his goal of distraction from what is really going on. On one edge of the cartoon we have a plethora of pardons to the rebels and on the other we have a similar representation of vetoes directed towards union men. On the bottom there is a panel headlined with a quote from Othello with Johnson being depicted as a snake charmer with a snake attacking a black man. This along with the first depiction of Johnson represents his betrayal of the colored man and the north, highlighting his deception and the way his actions contradicted his original stance on the post war reconstruction.

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#5 Cartoon

by [Melanie Green](#) - Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 10:27 PM

The 5th cartoon is super interesting to me. It's the first cartoon I've seen so far that isn't just one picture. Instead it depicts a story. The story of slavery. On one side we see 3 different views showing how they got to America, what happened when they got here (Sold), and then what happened in their new lives. In the middle we see a happy family. Finally with the emancipation they deserved. On the other side we see a more hopeful view of what could've happened after the reconstruction. Black men are able to go to the market, school, and own houses! This was what people thought of when they heard emancipation. Free slaves, equal to their owners with the same rights as them.

The only thing that confused me in this cartoon is the bottom circle picture. It looks like a black man is begging for something from an angel like creature. I don't know what that would mean. Anyone have any ideas?

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Reconstruction Cartoons # 3

by [Patryce Miller](#) - Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 10:42 PM

I think that artist is trying to convey that the blame lays with Andrew Johnson for the riots and death of African American (in the south and North) all because he gave pardon to the "rebels"(slide in class). The cartoon has Andrew Johnson in the middle talking or whispering to a confederate soldier. While around them Southerners are killing free African and moderate republican. And these killing happen because he broke his promise to the recently

Freedman. about the land. There is a piece of paper with Pardon to the rebels middle left of the cartoon. there is also the drawing under Andrew Johnson of him attacking the African American with snakes and people watching it most likely the southerners, though most of the cartoon there chaos in it.

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Cartoon #4: Beginning Analysis
by [Tanner Hermanson](#) - Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 11:43 PM

I would like to start off in this section of the forum by attempting to analyze cartoon #5. In the foreground of the cartoon, there is a black man laying on the ground with a blanket over himself and his hand is over his head. A white woman is kneeling over him with the words 'Southern Democracy' dawned on her clothing and she appears to be either ripping off the black man's hair and taking away suffrage from blacks or she just hit the black man over the head with a black object with the word 'suffrage' dawned on it. The black man lying down could be symbolizing the laziness that Southern whites associated with blacks and that is why suffrage is being taken away from them by a woman that looks like either lady liberty or Columbia, however, I'm not exactly sure if it is either. Moving on, in the far left of the cartoon, seven white men with swords, guns, and pro-slavery signs appear to be rejoicing over suffrage being taken away from the black man. I would assume that these men are Southern Democrats. The last remark I will make for now on this post is about the upper right-hand corner of the cartoon. A statue of then-President Andrew Johnson is shown as he is labeled as 'Moses' in this cartoon, most likely by Southern Democrats. In the statue, Johnson is holding a bill that he has just vetoed (veto = the ability of a head of state, typically the president of a republic, to cancel or disrupt a piece of legislation) (Class Notes). Looking at the year that this cartoon was published (1868), I would most likely assume that the bill in his hand that he vetoed was the then Civil Rights Bill of 1866 (soon to be act as Congress passed the bill later). Opposing this bill (act) is probably what earned him the title of 'Moses' from Southern Democrats in this cartoon. In my next post, I will dive deeper into the smaller details in this particular cartoon.

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Re: Cartoon #4: Beginning Analysis
by [McKenna Wilson](#) - Thursday, February 27, 2020, 11:52 AM

Tanner,
I chose to look at Cartoon 5 as well and chose to analyze more of the images in the cartoon that only had to do specifically with the African Americans that were drawn. I appreciate that you went further into detail on other aspects like the Andrew Johnson statue and the bill that he vetoed. I think your analysis gives further depth into the cartoon and what the artists was trying to portray beyond just the idea of emancipation that I explained in my analysis. It seems you really chose to pick apart everything that was shown which is helpful to others who may have missed something or those who were unsure of what to make of the busy cartoon.

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Political Cartoon #1
by [Jackson Blair](#) - Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 11:54 AM

I have decided to analyze the first political cartoon, the main focus of this cartoon is to portray the irony of an African-American man taking the position of Jefferson Davis, and the disgust that Davis feels about it. The other senators have some what of a disgruntled look on their faces due to racial sensitivity at the time, meanwhile Senator Revels looks to be ready to work with paper in front of him and books to the side. This maybe be to portray African-Americans becoming more educated since the end of the war. The crowd of people in the back appear to be in amusement of the whole situation, all in all I think the main focus of this political cartoon is the irony of a black man replacing Jefferson Davis, who was one of the Confederacy's biggest advocates.

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Cartoon number 5
by [Sebastian Mertens](#) - Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 2:55 PM

For this forum I used cartoon number 5, in this cartoon it shows a black from what I assume free family cooking in

a room with several people around. Above this circle in big bold letters It says emancipation this leads me to believe that this cartoon is showing the struggles they had to go through and what they achieved after emancipation. I think this because on the left side of this cartoon you can see pictures of African Americans being sold as slaves, someone being whipped and other struggles that African Americans had been through on their road to emancipation. On the right side it shows children running towards or playing out front of a public school it shows a black man waiting outside a cashiers window, because of what is show on both sides of this cartoon I think that this cartoon is doing a good job of depicting what the future holds for the newly emancipated African Americans and all the struggles that they had been through to get there.

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Reconstruction Cartoons #5
by [Raleigh Reese](#) - Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 8:50 PM

In the cartoon Columbia who is the representation of america sits above the scenery. The picture seems to show two separate sides of emancipation, possibly the emancipation proclamation itself. The left side of the shows slaves being whipped and sold as if they were still slaves and nothing had changed post emancipation. The right side shows a more prosperous scene with people living seemingly normal lives. The center shows the ideal result of emancipation.

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Cartoon #1
by [Zach Trotter](#) - Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 9:05 PM

"Time works wonders" I believe shows a southern man showing jealousy or hatred toward the black senator. Probably because he does not think there should be a black person in the senate, or in a place of power. and does not like all the attention the man is receiving.

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#4 Slavery Regained
by [Zach Trotter](#) - Thursday, February 27, 2020, 6:00 PM

In the photo #4 I can see that the illustrator is showing white men causing mayhem, and on the sign you can see the words "Slavery regained" And I believe the men portrayed in the photo are southern democrats. On the walls in the photo you can clearly read the statements: "The Democrats are the best", "The great Dem party" and also the statue of a man holding something that says "VETO" on it in big letters. I was unable to interpret the woman though, She is holding something black labeled "Sufferage" but her dress has the words "Southern Democracy" on it. If anyone had a good thought or idea behind this specific part of the photo I'd love to hear your thoughts on it. Is she comforting the black man or is something else going on?

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Reconstruction Cartoon # 5
by [Patryce Miller](#) - Friday, February 28, 2020, 12:02 AM

I think the cartoon artist for number 5 is about how good the emancipation affect the African American. The emancipation was written by Abraham Lincoln(class lecture week 7).In the cartoon Emancipation is written in the heaven driving evil doers away. the left side is the African American past as a slave. While the right is the free African American or freedman and in the middle African American Family who is happy. Below them is an angel with a African American on his knees talking to him. So I will say that the artist is praising Emancipation.

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Starting with #3
by [Ryan Peel](#) - Saturday, February 29, 2020, 7:40 PM

So, analyzing cartoon #3. Let me tell you right now, not a fan of these things. They're unsettling to me. Creepy looking and just plain wrong to look at. Errrgggh.... It's not fun to look at. Anyhow, personal feelings aside, I can see whites beating on blacks. The whites are holding sticks and are beating on some blacks. I'm guessing we're in the South, with how brutal this is. Most likely after the 14th amendment. It could be after the 15th, but I'm guessing this is after blacks have gained "citizenship." In quotations, because we're dealing with the southern mindset here, blacks were never their equal, and with this cartoon, I'm guessing it's a disgruntled southerner who doesn't want blacks to vote. But, on the other hand, why picture your own homeland like this? I'm going to say that a northerner made this, depicting what happens in the south to the Freedmen. That would actually make more sense than a southerner creating this. There are references to Othello in the cartoon. While I'm not entirely sure why they're there, it's rather strange to look at. It raises more questions about this cartoon. Is it in reference to some of Johnson's actions? Someone else's actions? The actions of the white populace? Hmm...

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More on Cartoon #4
by [Tanner Hermanson](#) - Saturday, February 29, 2020, 11:44 PM

In my final post in this particular section of Forum #3, I will be diving into some of the smaller details in cartoon #4. In regards to the white men with swords and guns in the background, one of them is holding a sign that says: "Slavery Regained." They are also wearing belts with "CSA" on the front of them, which is the acronym for Confederate States of America. These two details confirm my belief that these men are 'Redeemer' Democrats that are jubilant about seeing the woman taking off the blacks man's hair, symbolizing Southern Democracy taking away African American suffrage. At the very bottom of the cartoon, it says: "The Modern Sampson." After further research, this is a biblical reference to the story of Sampson in the Book of Judges. In the story, the main character Sampson is well-known for his superhuman strength and his long hair. Even though he was a man of great strength, his power was taken away from him when his hair was cut by his lover Delilah. This relates to the cartoon in that the black man is getting his hair (suffrage) ripped out by Southern Democracy and therefore she is taking away his power. One more note, behind the rowdy men with swords is an angry-looking face watching the events taking place. To me, it looks as though it is a man of Irish descent as the face looks eerily similar to how the Irish were portrayed (in terms of physical appearance) in cartoons around this time period. I'm not exactly sure why an Irishman would be included in this cartoon, however, it could symbolize how the hatred of Irish immigrants (nativism) at the time was being overshadowed by the hatred of African Americans and that is why he is drawn way behind this whole scene. He also could be in this cartoon because he is supporting the rights of blacks being taken away. In summary, this cartoon shows the hatred that Southern Democrats had for African Americans during this time period and how they would do anything in their power to end the black suffrage movement.

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