

## Reconstruction Timeline

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1865	February 1, Congress proposes the 13th Amendment, outlawing slavery and involuntary servitude everywhere in the United States.
1865	March 3, Freedmen's Bureau is founded to aid former slaves
1865	March 4, Lincoln is inaugurated for his second term with Andrew Johnson as vice-president, pledging "malice toward none, and charity for all."
1865	April 8, Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox, Virginia.
1865	April 14, Lincoln is assassinated at Fords Theater by John Wilkes Booth.
1865	April 18, Johnston surrenders to Sherman in North Carolina, effectively ending the Civil War.
1865	Johnson moves to Reconstruct the South on his own initiative He prefers to call the process "restoration", emphasizing his leniency towards the rebelling Southern states. Former Confederate military leaders and patricians with taxable property over \$20,000 are disenfranchised until further notice; only 10% of enfranchised Southern population needs to take an oath of loyalty before readmission.
1865	Southern states begin to pass "Black Codes" these laws subject former slaves to a variety of restrictions on their freedom: they forbid blacks to testify against whites; they establish vagrancy and apprenticeship laws; blacks cannot serve on juries, bear arms, or hold large meetings.
1865	The Thirty-ninth Congress convenes It is the first session since Lincoln's death. All Confederate states, with the exception of Mississippi have formally accepted presidential requirements for readmission to the Union and representation in Congress. Led by radical Thaddeus Stevens, the House simply omits the southerners from roll call, effectively denying them admittance. It then proceeds to discuss punishment for the rebellious South which according to Radical Republican Charles Sumner has committed "state suicide".
1865	The Ku Klux Klan is formed in Tennessee it is one of the many secret societies set up to terrorize blacks. Its methods become ever more vicious as whites become more certain that their old way of life is being threatened.
1866	Johnson vetoes Freedmen's Bureau bill and Civil Rights Act of 1866; a modified version of the Freedmen's Bureau bill later passes, and Congress overrides Johnson's veto of the Civil Rights Act.
1866	14th Amendment passed by Congress grants full citizenship to blacks, gives the Federal government the responsibility to protect equal rights under the law to all American citizens.
1866	Bloody race riots erupt in Memphis and New Orleans.
1866	In Congressional elections of 1866, Republicans increase their majority in Congress, forming solid anti-Johnson majorities in both houses.
1867	First Reconstruction Act passes over Johnson's veto. Temporarily places the South under military rule; states may be readmitted if their new state constitutions provide for black suffrage.
1868	Impeachment Crisis Congress impeaches Johnson but he avoids conviction by one vote.
1868	Georgia expels blacks from its legislature. Military rule is instantly reimposed on the state and earlier readmission to representation in Congress is revoked. Ratification of the 14th amendment is now made obligatory before representation in Congress will be allowed.
1868	14th Amendment ratified.
1868	Grant is elected President.
1869	15th Amendment passed by Congress prohibits any state from denying a citizen the right to vote because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
1869	The first rail line to cross the continent is completed The Union Pacific is joined with the Central

	Pacific; the news is flashed by telegraph and the nation celebrates from coast to coast. This railroad network will be the single most influential factor in the emergence of a new industrial age.
1870	15th Amendment ratified.
1870	Force Acts (KKK Acts) passed by Congress seek to enforce 15th Amendment by giving Federal protection for black suffrage, and authorize the use of Federal troops against the KKK. These acts are declared unconstitutional in <i>Cruikshank v. U.S.</i> in the 1880s.
1872	Grant wins a second term as President, defeating Horace Greeley.
1873	Panic of 1873 plunges the nation into a depression.
1874	Grant uses force for the last time to subvert the White League's attempt to overthrow a Republican government accused of stealing an election.
1875	"Whiskey ring" scandal exposed.
1875	Civil Rights Act of 1875 states that no citizen can be denied the equal use of public facilities such as inns, restaurants, etc. on the basis of color.
1876-7	Disputed election between Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel J. Tilden resolved in favor of Republican Hayes.
1877	Compromise of 1877 results in end to military intervention in the South and the fall of the last radical governments; restores "home rule" in the South
1883	Civil Rights Cases strike down the Civil Rights Act of 1875. Congress may not legislate on civil rights unless a state passes a discriminatory law; Court declares the 14th Amendment silent on racial discrimination by private citizens.
1896	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> upholds Louisiana statute requiring "separate but equal" accommodations on railroads. Court declares that segregation is not necessarily discrimination. Justice Harlan's dissent argues that segregation is inherently discrimination; this argument will be used to support the majority opinion in <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> in 1954.
1898	<i>Williams v. Mississippi</i> upholds a state law requiring a literacy test to qualify for voting.