

8.2

Reconstruction Changes the South



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Explain how Republicans gained control of southern state governments.**
- **Analyze how freedmen adjusted to freedom and the role of the Freedmen's Bureau.**
- **Evaluate the South's new economic system and its impact on poor farmers.**
- **Summarize efforts to limit African Americans' rights and the federal government's response.**

Republicans Dominate Government

African American men helped bring the Republican Party to the south & served in many jobs

Scalawags- Southern poor whites who had new powers in the government.

Northerners would come to the south to help freedmen or improve economic situations, called **carpetbaggers**

Carpetbaggers saw new opportunities in the South as well as a voice in government

Reconstruction

Women did not have the right to vote, but they helped shape education & new agencies

The south sought **segregation**- separation of the races

Republicans tried to institute **integration**- combining race split organizations- to no success

Corruption would hinder reconstruction as politicians would take bribes, ie the railroad

Freed People Rebuild Lives

Newly freed slaves sought new jobs & lively hoods

They could marry legally, build homes, make choices, & develop new communities.

African Americans quickly sought to become educated so they could protect themselves

Churches would become a strong central location for many community centers

Land Distribution

People fought over land in the south starting new programs.

Sharecropping- Landowner would provide a worker a place to live & tools for a “share” of the harvested crop

Share-tenancy- Worker would decide crop & share the sale to the landowner

Tenant Farming- Tenant pays cash rent to a landowner & farms at will.

Violence in the South

The **Ku Klux Klan** roamed the countryside instituting fear & violence in the south

Their tactics would often work & African American voters were scared to vote

Enforcement Acts- Acts made it a federal offense to interfere with a persons right to vote.

The Federal Government would bring protection, but the KKK would cause problems for decades