



# Reconstructing Race and Nation

I. Free Labor in the South

II. Black Codes and Race Riots

III. Toward Radical Reconstruction

IV. Race over Gender?

V. Race and Vilifying Reconstruction

# What is freedom?

## Former Slaves

Physical mobility

Family reunification

Economic independence (land, wages)

Political power

Autonomy

## Former Slaveholders

Restoration of slavery (or something very close to it)

## Union Army/Republicans

Free labor

Work, not idleness

# Free Labor

The right to become economically independent, to fulfill one's potential.

Partnership between capital (employers) and labor (employees).

**Contract Labor System**  
**(organized by the Union Army and then**  
**the Freedmen's Bureau)**

**Compel former slaves to sign one-year**  
**contracts.**

# Former Slaves' Vision of Freedom

Freedom => Land

The Freedmen's Bureau controlled  
850,000 acres (or about 21,000 40-acre  
plots).

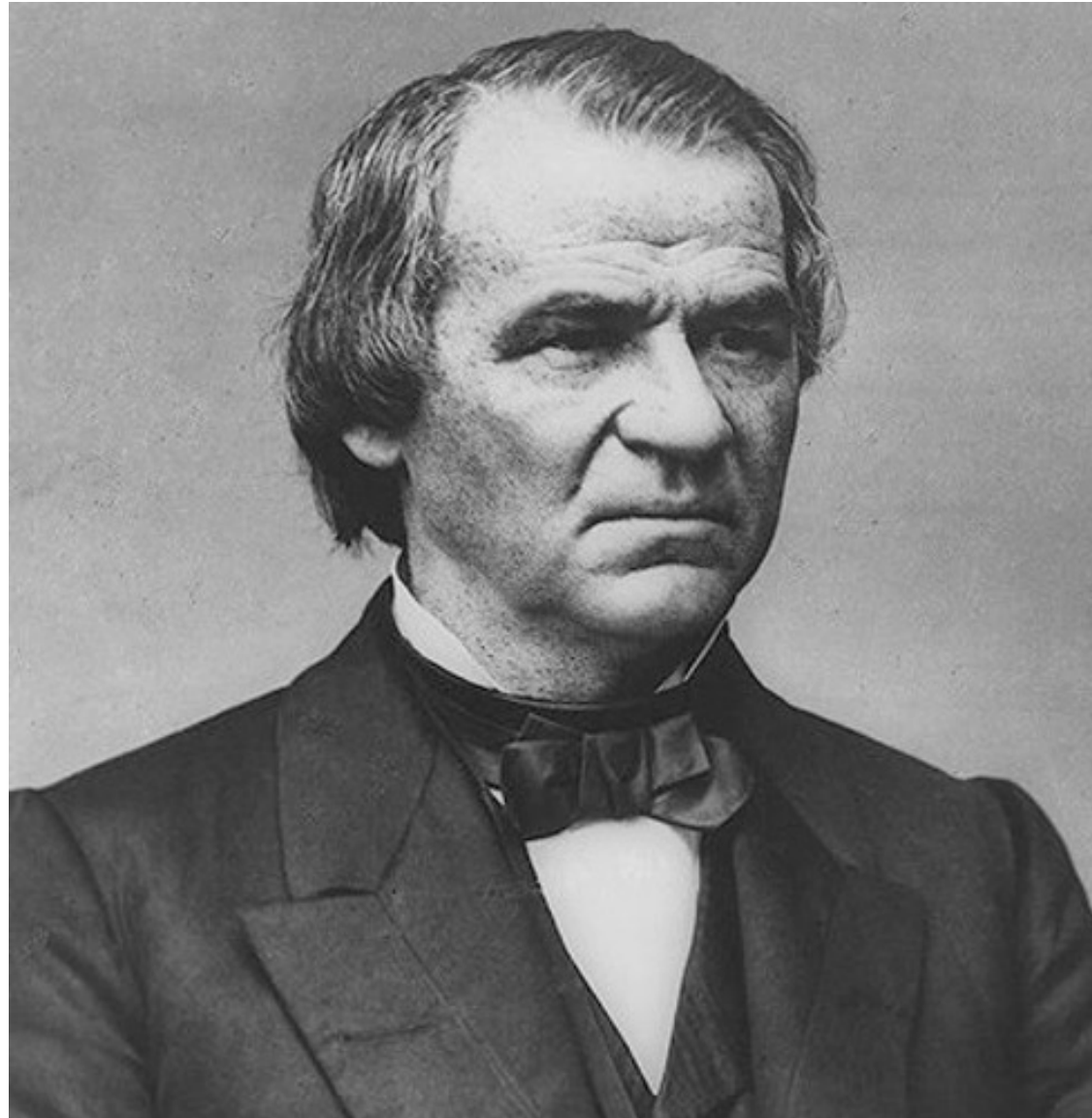


# Republican Party

Land redistribution deemed antithetical  
to free labor.

Free Labor: Freedom to work for  
yourself in partnership with employers,  
not freedom from work.

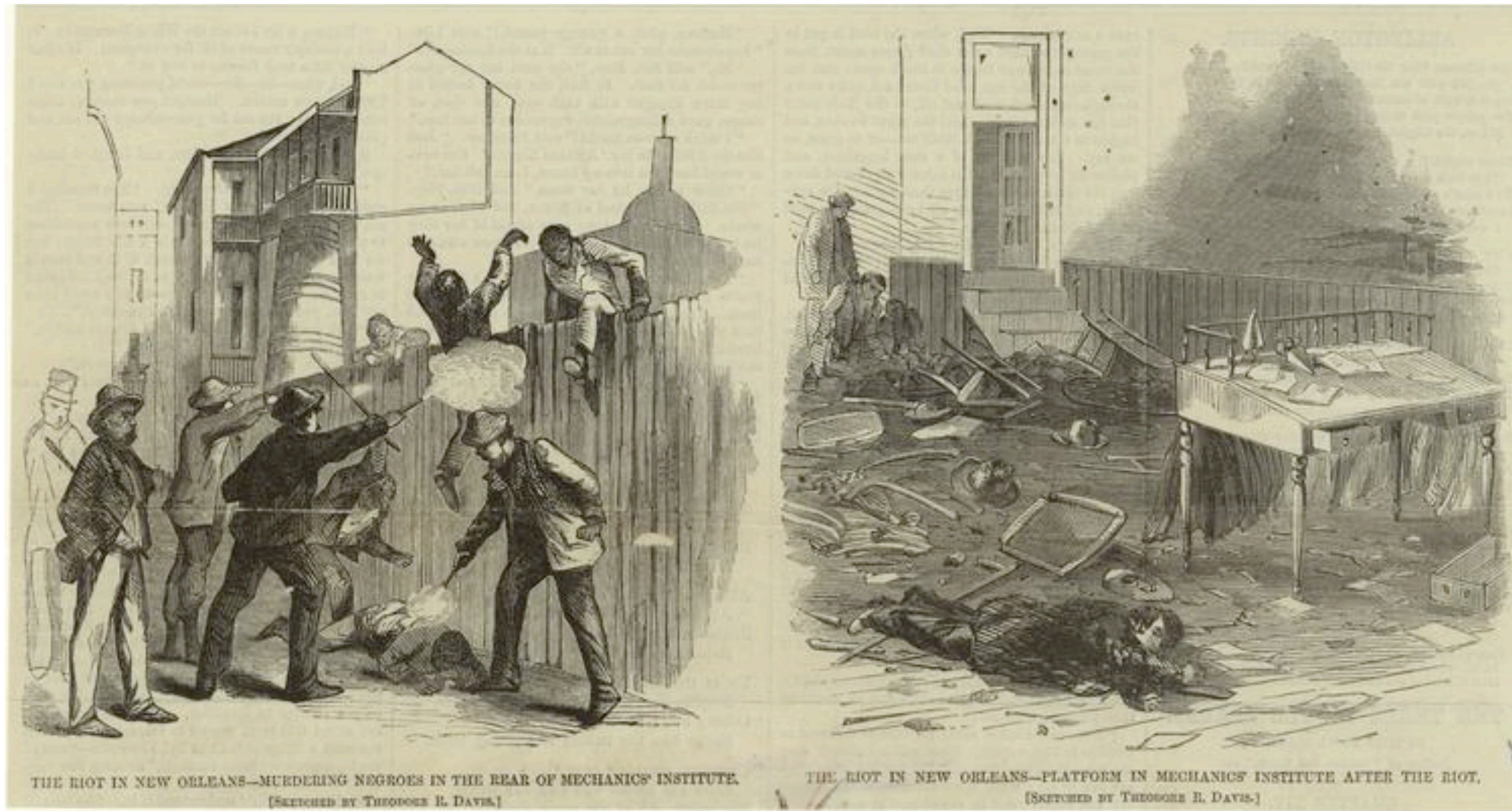




Andrew Johnson

# Black Codes (1865-1866)

- Vagrancy laws.
- “Apprenticeship” of minors.
- Overriding objective: restrict the mobility and autonomy of black workers.



THE RIOT IN NEW ORLEANS—MURDERING NEGROES IN THE REAR OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.  
[SKETCHED BY THEODORE H. DAVIS.]

THE RIOT IN NEW ORLEANS—PLATFORM IN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE AFTER THE RIOT.  
[SKETCHED BY THEODORE H. DAVIS.]

## New Orleans Riot (1866)

# Radical Reconstruction (1867)

- The registration of all qualified voters (“loyal” white and black men).
- The adoption and ratification of a new state constitution that included black male suffrage.
- The ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment.

# Thirteenth Amendment (1865)

## Section 1

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

## Section 2

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

# Fourteenth Amendment (1868)

## Section 1

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

# Fourteenth Amendment (1868)

## Section 2

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

# Fourteenth Amendment (1868)

## Section 3

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.



# Fifteenth Amendment (1870)

## Section 1

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

## Section 2

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

# Reconstruction Amendments

- Birthright citizenship to all (overturning *Dred Scott*).
- National citizenship over state citizenship.
- Increased federal authority to enforce laws.
- Promote and then mandate universal male suffrage, regardless of race.

# Women's Rights Leaders

- Fourteenth Amendment was like the 3/5 clause.
- Fifteenth Amendment did not include sex.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

# New Arguments for Women's Rights

- Instead of demanding equal individual rights, regardless of race and sex, proposed that women's morals would counteract men's corrupt influences.
- Argued that white women were more qualified to vote than black men.



D.W. Griffith, *The Birth of a Nation* (1915)

# Radical Reconstruction's Accomplishments

- Repeal of Black Codes.
- Universal public education.
- Elimination of property qualifications to vote.
- BUT no mass land confiscation and redistribution.