

Reconstruction

1865 - 1877



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Reconstruction (1865 - 1877)

Period during which the
United States began to
rebuild after the Civil War

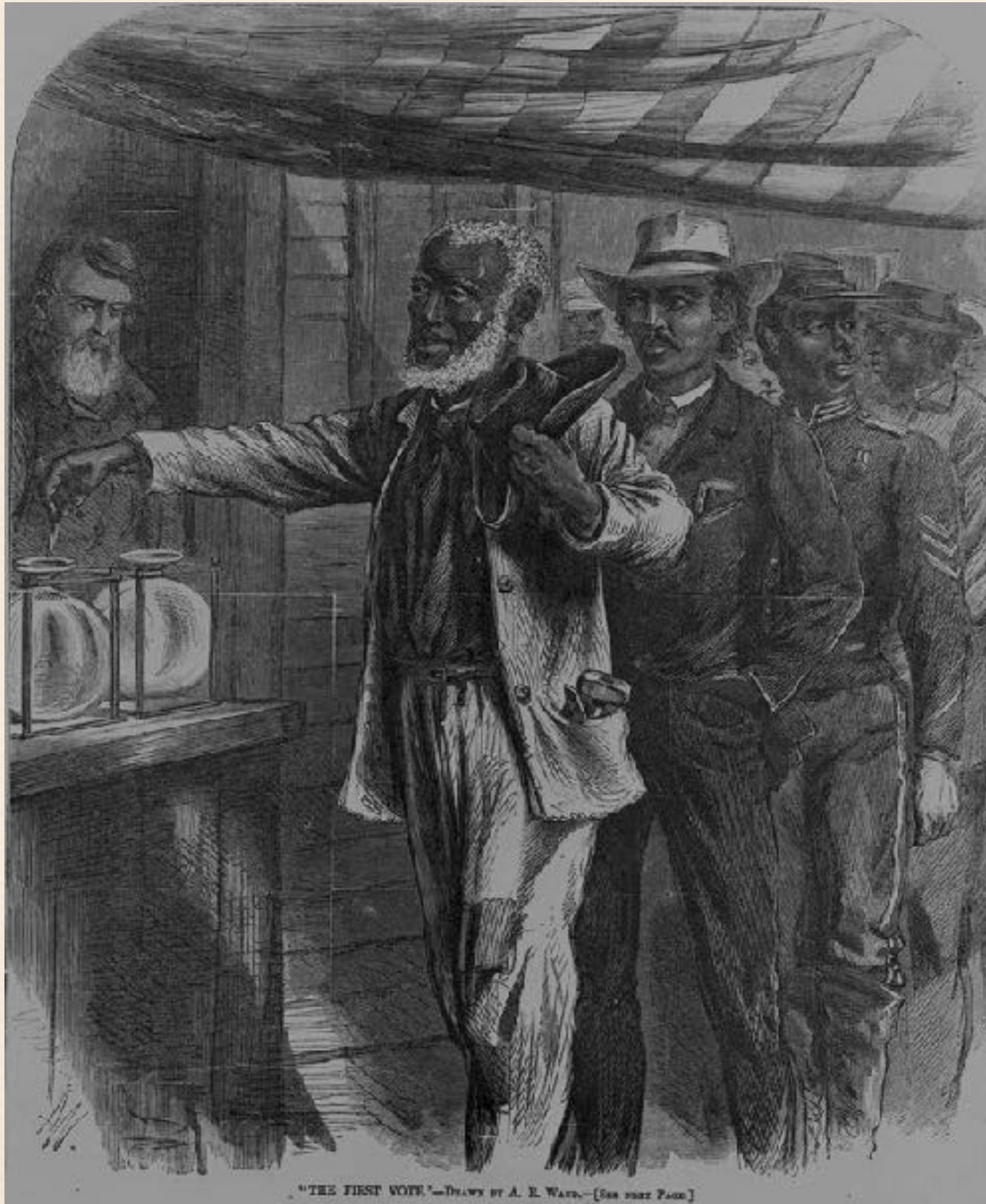
Key Questions of Reconstruction

How would the states that had seceded be brought back into the Union?

How would the Southern states be rebuilt so that they could recover from the war?

How would the newly emancipated slaves [freedmen and freedwomen] be integrated into society?

African Americans after Civil War



13th Amendment (1865)

Ended Slavery

14th Amendment (1867)

Former slaves are citizens

Due process &
Equal protection clauses

15th Amendment (1870)

Men who had been enslaved
gain right to vote



Lincoln's 10% Plan (Dec. 1863)

The president would grant pardons to all Southerners who swore allegiance to the US

Pardons would NOT be granted to high-ranking Confederate officers or those who committed crimes against union prisoners

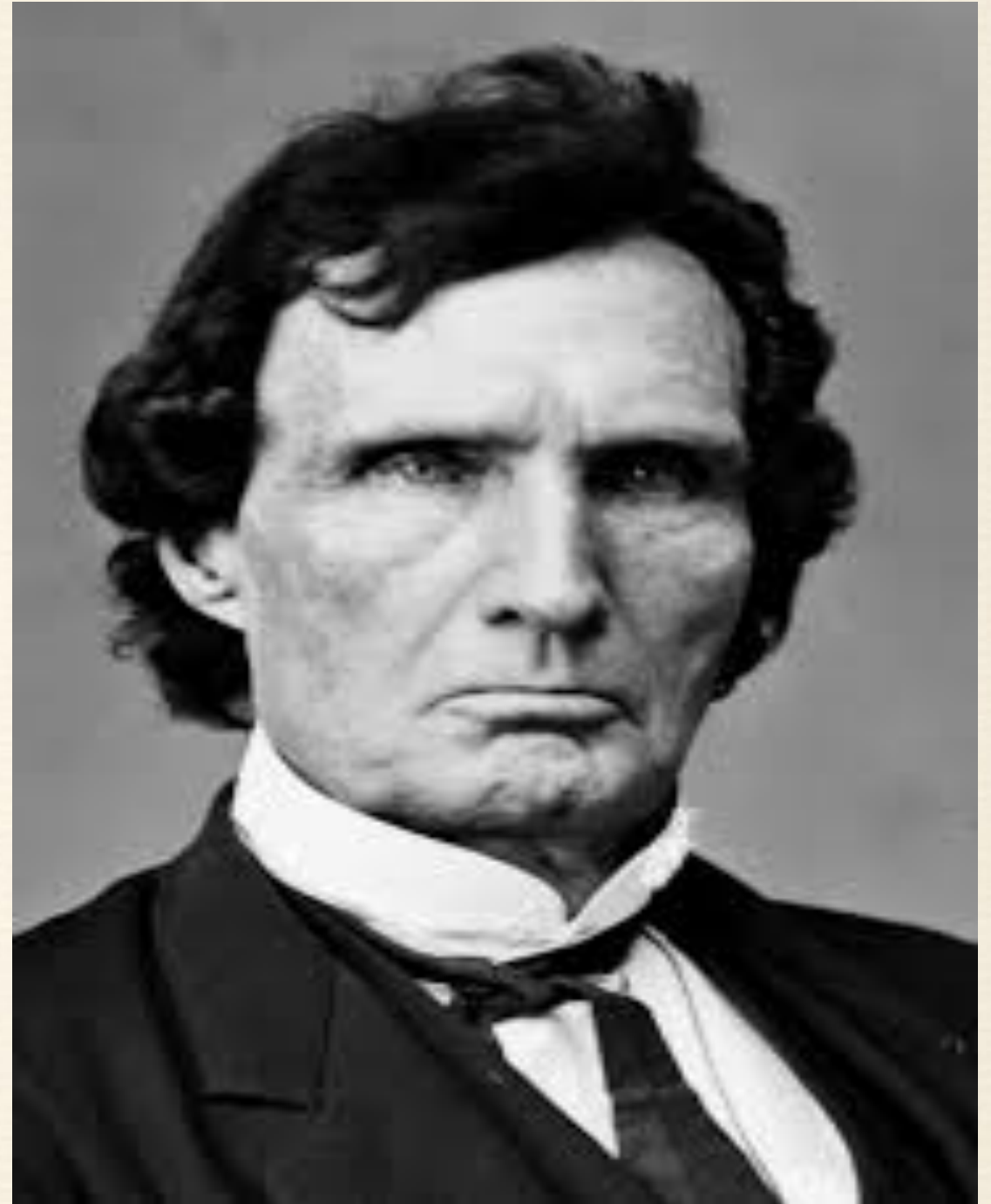
When 10% of the number of voters within a state had sworn allegiance to the US, that state could form a new state government and elect representatives to Congress

States had to pledge to obey all federal laws related to slavery

The Radical Republicans

The Radical Republicans in Congress opposed Lincoln. They felt he was being too lenient on the South!

They did not want to reconcile with the South – wanted to “revolutionize Southern institutions, habits, and manners”



Thaddeus Stevens (R-PA)
Leader of the Radical Republicans

Goals of the Radical Republicans

They wanted to prevent the leaders of the Confederacy from returning to power after the Civil War

They wanted the Republican Party to become powerful in the South

They wanted the federal government to help African Americans achieve political equality by guaranteeing their right to vote

The Freedmen's Bureau

Established by Congress in March, 1865

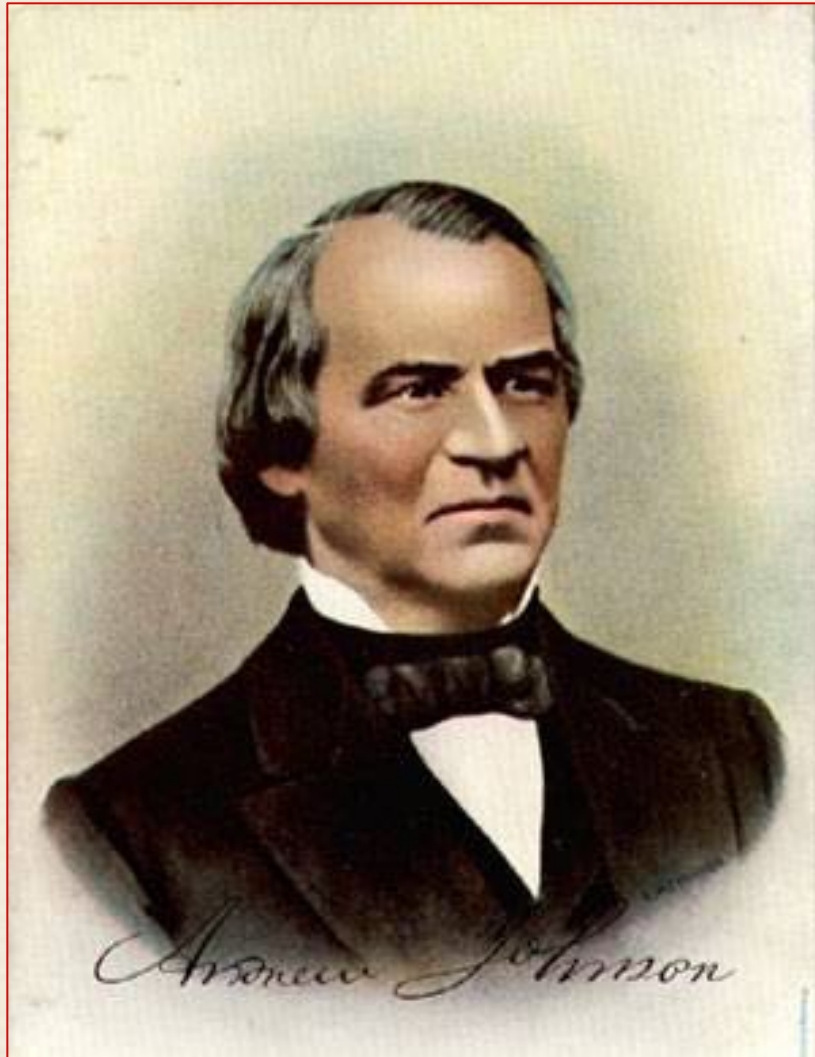
Purpose was to help freed blacks and poor whites
in the aftermath of the Civil War



Distributed
clothing & food
to those in need

Established hospitals,
schools and a variety of
job-training centers

Andrew Johnson becomes President



He was Lincoln's Vice President.
A Democrat from Tennessee – Southern
State that remained in the Union

He blamed the Civil War on wealthy
Southern planters, who dragged poor
whites into war

His plan for Reconstruction was very similar to Lincoln's –
which angered the Radical Republicans in Congress

States had to ratify 13th Amendment (abolishing slavery)
before being able to elect men to Congress

BLACK CODES

Laws passed by the South that limited the rights of African Americans



Southern states quickly ratified the 13th Amendment, as required by Johnson's Reconstruction plan, but . . .

The new legislatures of Southern states passed Black Codes – rules that limited the rights of African Americans

Congressional Response - Civil Rights Act of 1866



Gave African Americans citizenship

Forbade states from passing laws that discriminated against blacks (such as the Black Codes)

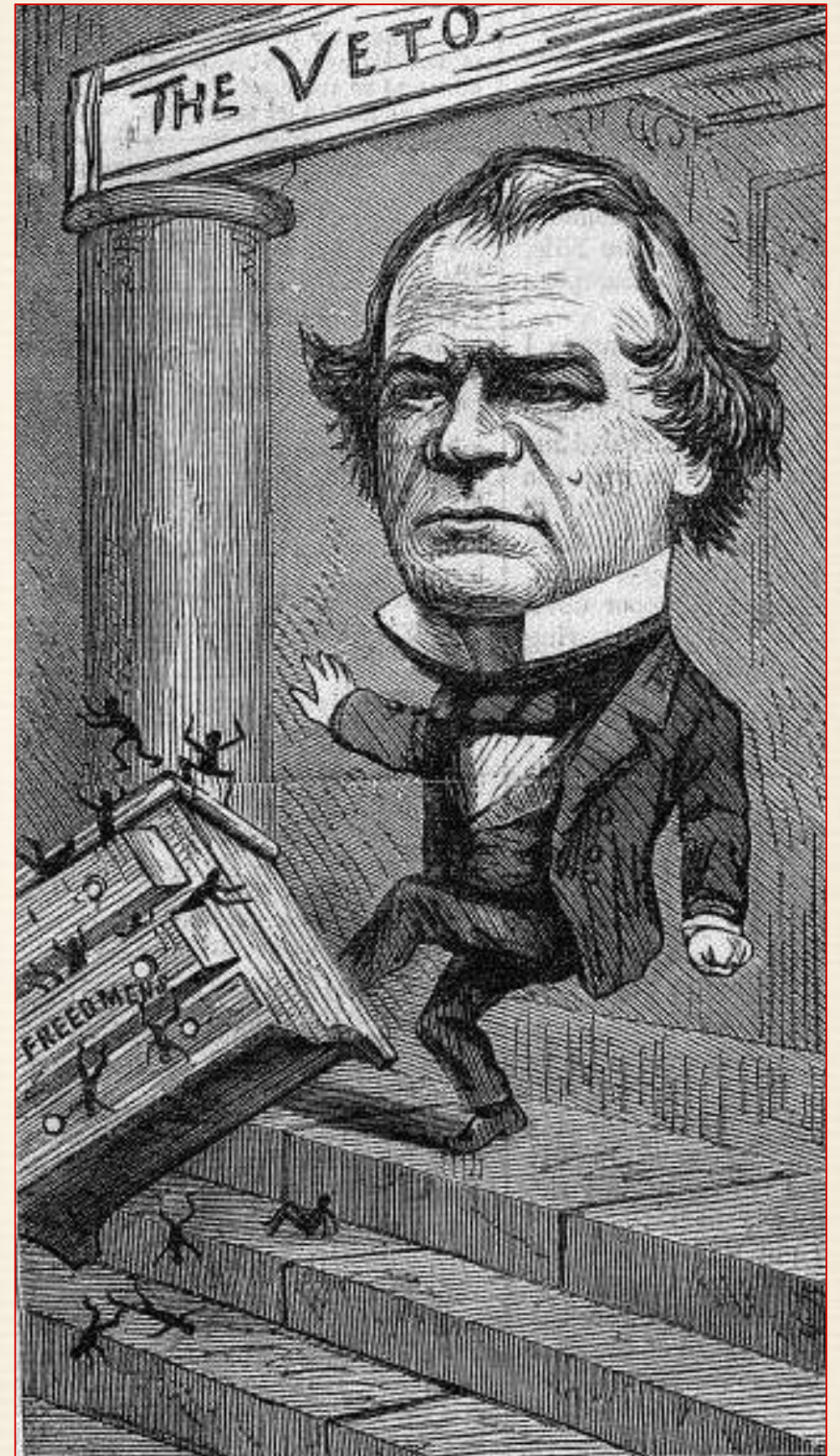
Congress and the president fight over Reconstruction

February 1866 – Johnson vetoed a bill that would expand the Freedmen's Bureau

March 1866 – Johnson vetoed the Civil Rights Act

Congress voted to override both vetoes; the first major legislation ever enacted over a presidential veto

At this time, Congress began writing the 14th Amendment



President Andrew Johnson is Impeached by Congress

On February 24, 1867 Johnson was impeached
[formally charged with misconduct in office] by
a vote of 126 – 47



The Senate Trial

11 week trial /
March – May 1867

Ended up one vote short of
the 2/3 vote needed to
remove Johnson from office

Reconstruction under President U.S. Grant

18th president – served two terms,
from March 1869 to March 1877

Supported amnesty (pardons) for
Confederate leaders and protection
for the civil rights of African
Americans



Ulysses S. Grant
Republican

Reconstruction under President Grant

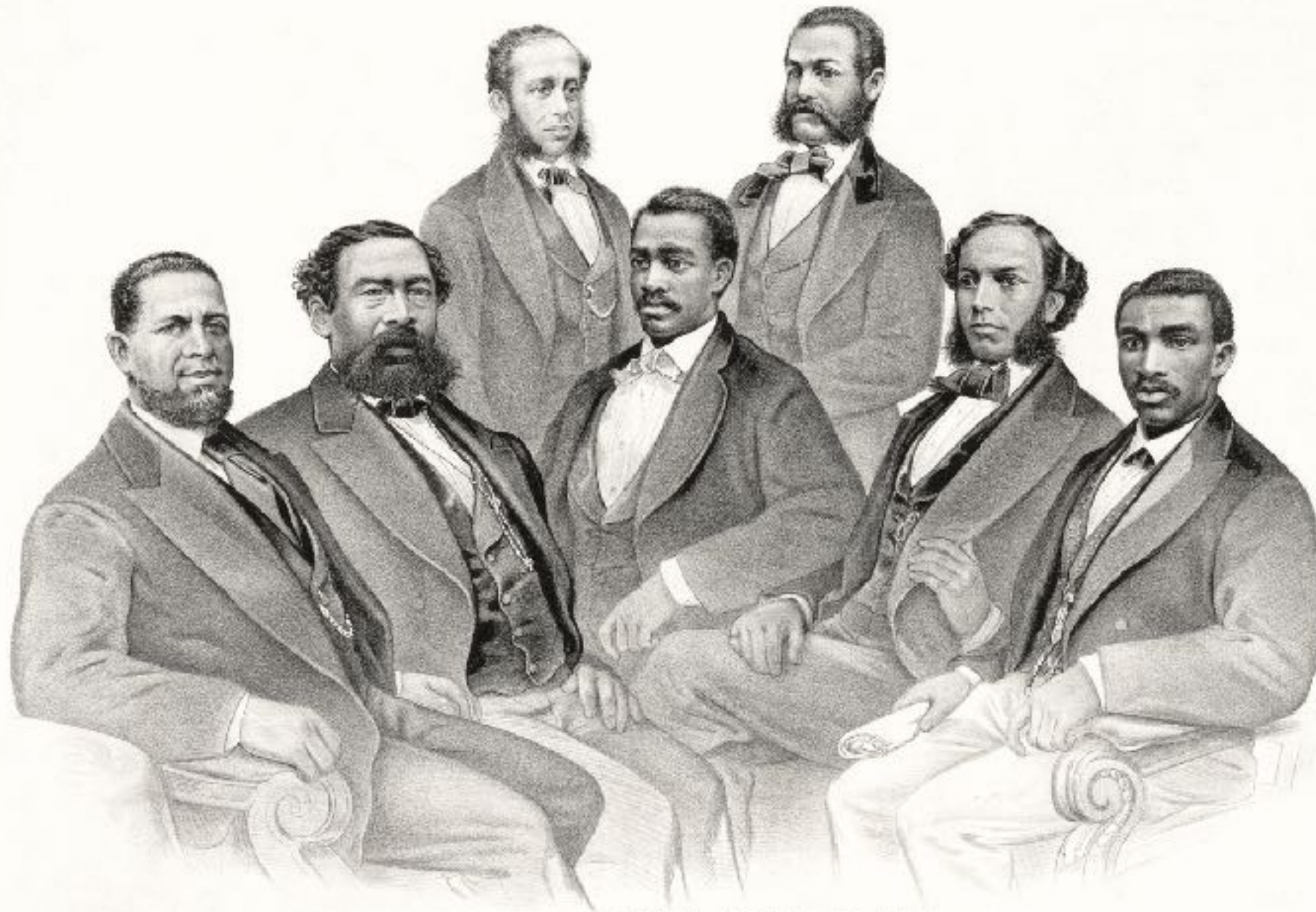


Grant ordered that federal troops be sent to the South to protect the rights of Southern blacks, and to suppress violence carried out by the Ku Klux Klan

Grant signed bills that promoted voting rights for African Americans and a bill that led to the prosecution of leaders of the Klan

White Southerners did NOT support these policies!

During Reconstruction, 14 African Americans elected to the House of Reps., 2 to the US Senate!



Engraved according to a sketch by George H. Ragsdale, and by James A. Smith, for the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

U.S. Senator H. REVELS of Mississippi

BENJ. S. TURNER, M.C. of Alabama

JOSIAH T. WALLS, M.C. of Florida

JOSEPH H. BAILEY, M.C. of South Carolina

ROBERT C. LAMAR, M.C. of Georgia

THE FIRST COLORED SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVES.

In the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States.

NEW YORK. PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVEY, 135 NASSAU STREET.

Scalawags & Carpetbaggers



SCALAWAGS – White Southerners who worked with Republicans and supported Reconstruction

Some were small farmers who did not want wealthy planters to regain power

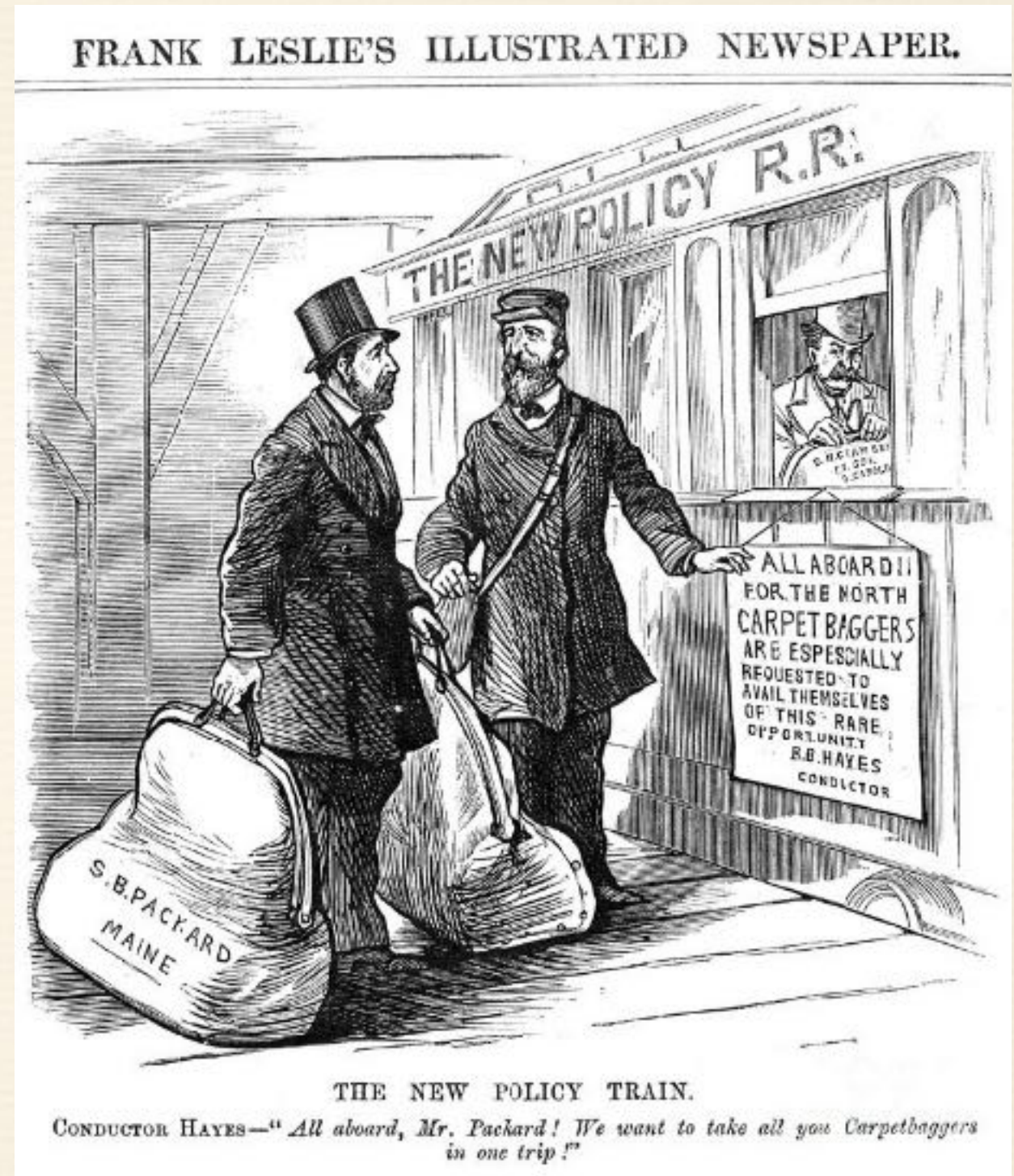
Others were businessmen who favored Republican plans for developing the South's economy

Scalawags & Carpetbaggers

CARPETBAGGERS -

Northerners who traveled to the South during Reconstruction

Many Southerners viewed Carpetbaggers as intruders seeking to exploit the South's postwar turmoil for their own gain

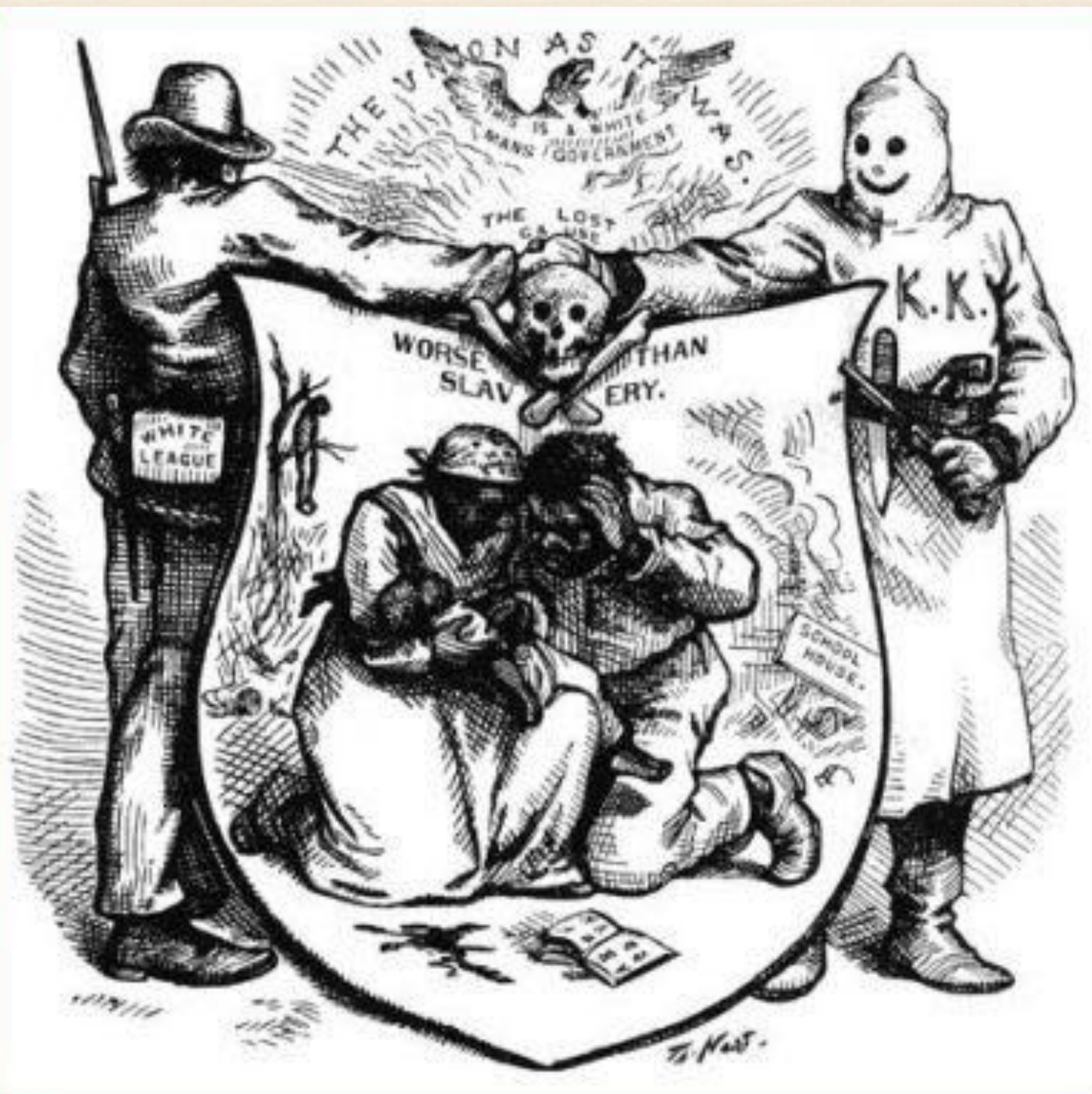


Anti-Black Violence

Angry with Republican reconstruction, some white Southerners organized secret societies to undermine Republican rule in the South

The ultimate goal of these societies was to prevent African Americans from voting and supporting the Republican Party

The largest of these secret groups was the Ku Klux Klan. It was established in 1866 by former Confederate soldiers in Tennessee



Grant's Troubled Presidency

Despite Grant's actions against the KKK, he was not a forceful president, and the Republican party became divided

A series of scandals damaged his administration

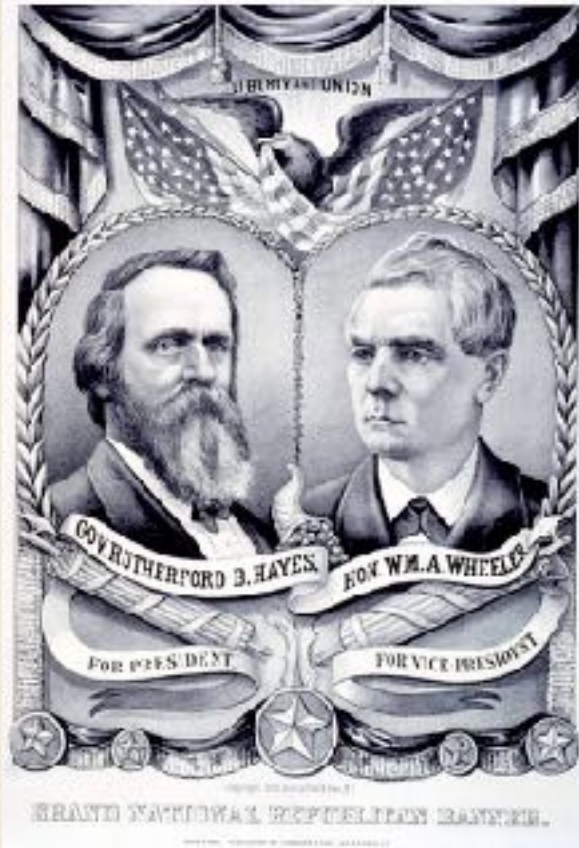
An economic panic (Panic of 1873) began when a series of bad railroad investments forced a large banking firm to declare bankruptcy

Panic led to an economic depression that lasted until nearly the end of the decade

1876 Presidential Election

Samuel Tilden (D) won the popular vote.

Rutherford B. Hayes (R) won the electoral college vote



Southern states were not happy – and disputed the outcome of the election

Compromise of 1877

South accepts **Rutherford B. Hayes (R)** as president

Republicans agree to remove federal troops from the South

Democrats take control of state governments in the South

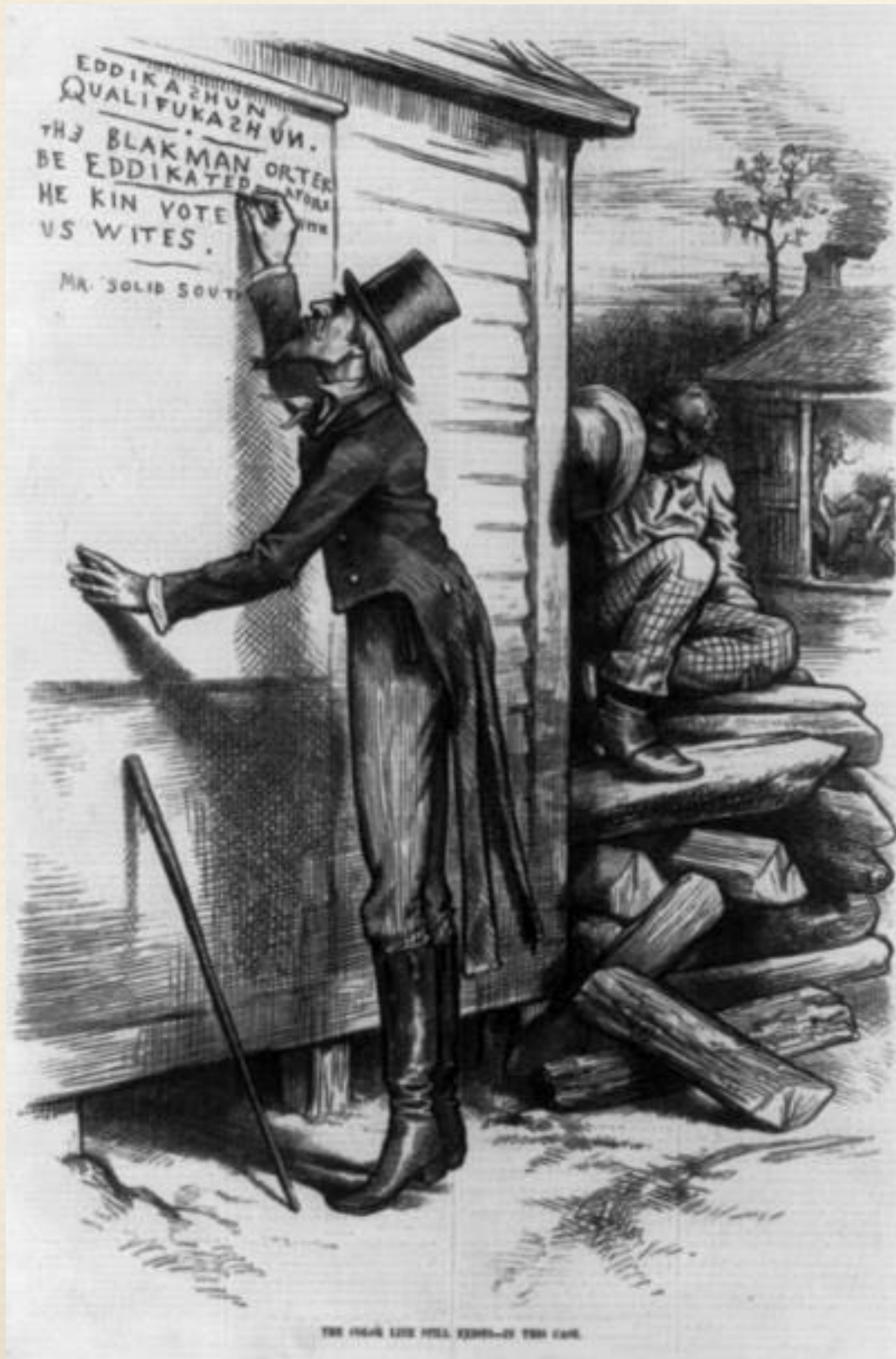


Reconstruction Ends - Racial Segregation Begins

**When
Reconstruction
ended in 1877,
whites in the South
worked to regain
control of their
society**



Voting Restrictions - Jim Crow Laws



To regain control of state and local governments, white Southerners found ways to limit black voting

Literacy Tests

To vote, a person had to prove that he could read and write

Poll Taxes

Had to pay a tax to vote

Grandfather Clauses

A person could vote if he (or his father or grandfather) could vote in 1867 - No blacks did this!



THE REASON.

NORTHERNER.—I understand that there was a light vote at the recent election.

COLORED ARKANSAN.—Yassah! Dat 's de troof, sah. De dark vote done reorganized de fact dat it was safest to stay at home.

Williams v. Mississippi (1898) - Supreme Court affirmed that states could implement literacy tests and poll taxes as qualifications for voting



Registered Black Voters in Louisiana
1896 - 130,334
1900 - 1,342

Segregating Whites and Blacks

Segregation - an all-encompassing system of white supremacy over blacks

Separation in public places
(train cars, theaters, etc)

Disenfranchisement - No votes for blacks

Separate (and unequal) education
for blacks & whites

Whites expect deference from blacks
(Ex - step off sidewalk to allow
whites to pass)



Civil Rights Act of 1875

Affirmed the equality of all Americans, regardless of race, to have equal access to transportation facilities, hotels and inns, and in theaters and places of public amusement.

Civil Rights Cases (1883)

Unlike acts of a state, private acts of racial discrimination are private wrongs that the national government is powerless to correct through civil rights legislation

Civil Rights Act of 1875, therefore, was not constitutional

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)



In 1892, Homer Plessy was arrested for sitting on a “white only” train car in New Orleans

Plessy argued that his arrest violated the “Equal Protection” clause of the 14th Amendment

Court rejected Plessy’s argument

Separate but equal doctrine - Segregation based on race does not violate the Constitution

The Ku Klux Klan

Between 1889 and 1918,
2,522 black Americans
were lynched - including
50 women



*The real purpose of these
savage demonstrations is to
teach the Negro that in the
South he has no rights that the
law will enforce*

—Ida B. Wells

Sharecropping

Many former slaves returned to their plantations, working the land for low wages



Others freedmen and poor farmers rented land from a landowner — Instead of paying money for rent, they promised to pay the owner with a share of the crop that they grew

Many sharecroppers became trapped in poverty, as they never seemed to grow enough crops to pay-off their debts

The Sharecropper Cycle of Poverty



1

Sharecropper is provided land and seed. In exchange, he promises landowner half the crop.



2

Sharecropper buys food and clothing on credit from landowner's store.

By the time sharecroppers had shared their crops and paid their debts, they rarely had any money left. Often they were uneducated and could not argue with landowners or merchants who cheated them. A sharecropper frequently became tied to one plantation, having no choice but to work until his debts were paid.



5

When settling up, landowner says that sharecropper owes more than he has earned.



4

Sharecropper gives landowner crop to sell. Sharecropper will get half the earnings, minus the cost of his purchases for the year.



3

Sharecropper plants and harvests crop.

Responses of African Americans



Ida B. Wells
editor of the
Memphis Free Speech

Many African Americans “minded their business” and continued to work in low paying jobs (farming and domestic help)

Some fought against southern whites.

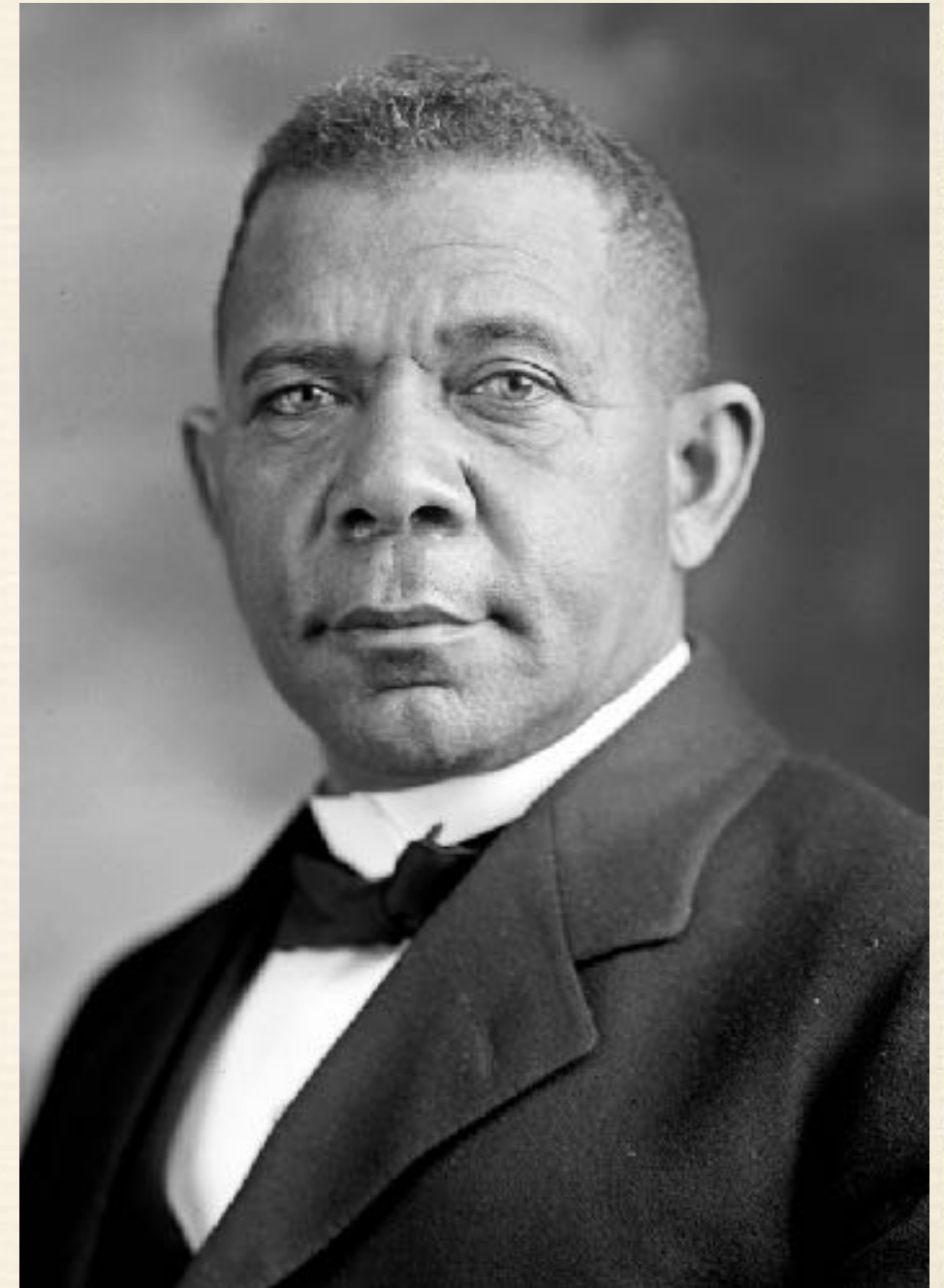
Ida B. Wells wrote about atrocities carried about against blacks.

Booker T. Washington

Established the *Tuskegee Institute* in Alabama in 1881 as an industrial and agricultural school for African Americans

Preached the virtues of hard work, moderation and economic self-help

Earning money was like having a little green ballot that would empower African Americans more than a political ballot



Born a slave in 1854

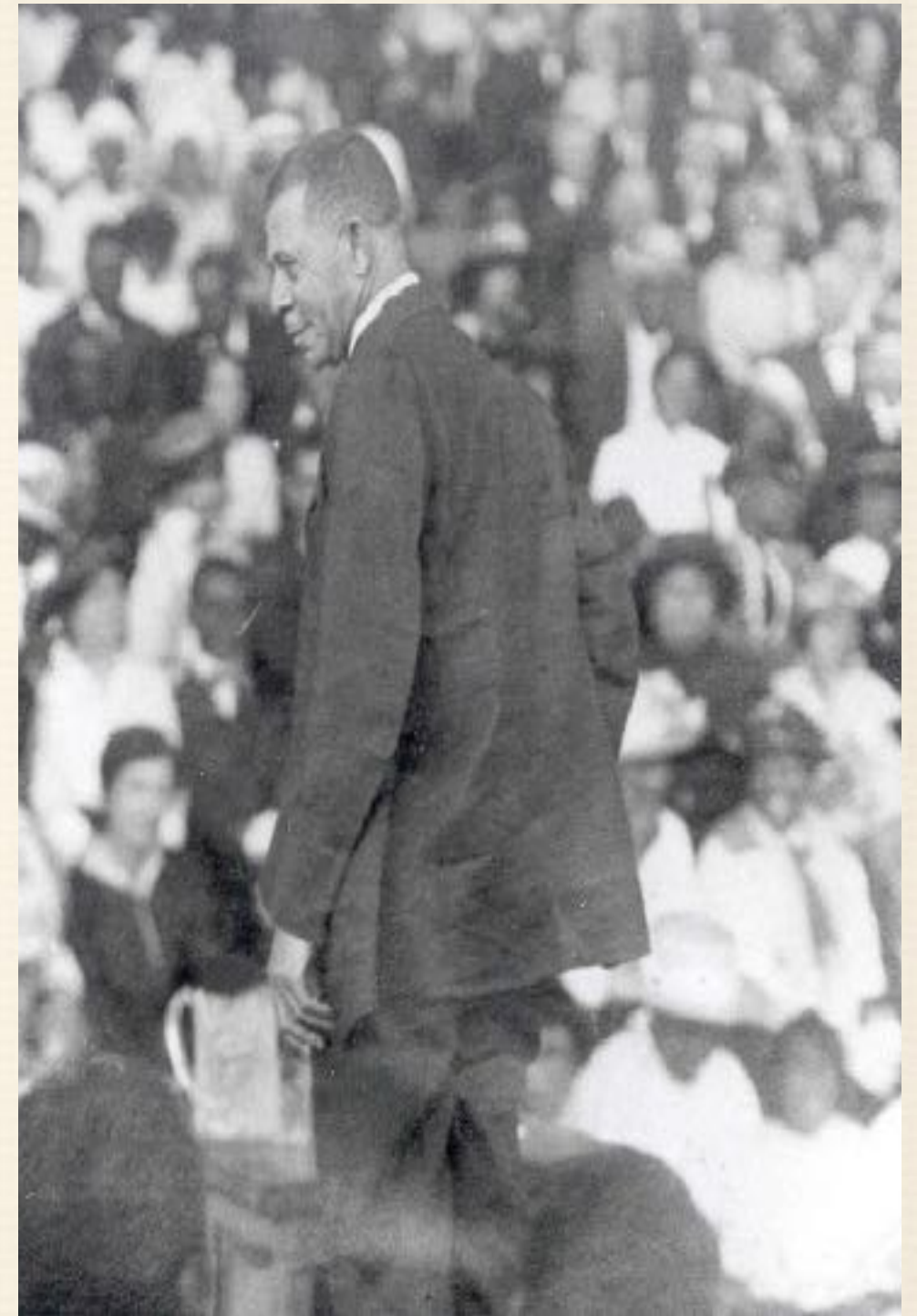
Died in 1915

Washington's Atlanta Exposition Speech - 1895

The opportunity to earn a dollar in a factory just now is worth infinitely more than the opportunity to spend a dollar in an opera house

In all things purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress

Some African Americans began to criticize Washington for being too willing to accept discrimination.



W.E.B. DuBois

First African American to earn a
doctorate from Harvard
(1895 - Sociology)

He became one of the leaders of
the **Niagara Movement** - which
wanted equal rights for blacks

Opposed Booker T. Washington's
"Atlanta Compromise"

One of the founders of the
NAACP in 1909



Born in Massachusetts, 1868
Died in 1963

*"Talented Tenth" to develop
new strategies to gain rights for
black citizens*