

Chapter 22 EQs

1. What were the major problems facing the South and the nation after the Civil War? How did Reconstruction address them, or fail to do so?
2. How did freed blacks react to the end of slavery? How did both Southern and Northern whites react?
3. How did the white South's intransigence and President John's political bungling open the way for the congressional Republican program of military Reconstruction?
4. What was the purpose of congressional Reconstruction, and what were its actual effects in the South?
5. What did the attempt at black political empowerment achieve? Why did it finally fail? Could it have succeeded with a stronger Northern political will behind it?
6. How did African Americans take advantage of the political, economic, and social opportunities of Reconstruction, despite their limitations?
7. How effective was the Ku Klux Klan and other white resistance movements in undermining the interracial governments even before the collapse of Reconstruction in 1877?
8. Was the North in general, and the Republican Party in particular, ever really committed to transforming the political, economic, and racial conditions of the South?
9. Why did Reconstruction apparently fail so badly? Was the failure primarily one of immediate political circumstances, or was it more deeply rooted in the history of American sectional and race relations?
10. What was the greatest success of Reconstruction? Would you agree with historians who argue that even if Reconstruction failed at the time, it laid the foundations for the later successes of the civil rights movement?