

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Broken Promises and Radical Visions: A 9th Grade Civil War Synthesis

Students achieve deep historical synthesis by evaluating the ideological friction between presidential policy and grassroots resistance during the Reconstruction era.

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**1. Which specific provision of the Wade-Davis Bill (1864) demonstrated the Radical Republicans' desire for a more stringent 'Ironclad Oath' compared to Lincoln's 10 Percent Plan?**

**Answer:** A) A requirement that 50% of 1860 voters swear they never supported the Confederacy

The Wade-Davis Bill was significantly more rigorous than Lincoln's plan, demanding a majority of voters take an oath of past loyalty, rather than just future allegiance.

**2. The decision in the 1873 Slaughterhouse Cases is often cited as a turning point in Reconstruction because it:**

**Answer:** C) Limited the protection of the 14th Amendment to 'national' rather than 'state' citizenship

By narrowing the scope of the 14th Amendment's 'privileges or immunities' clause, the Supreme Court effectively allowed states to infringe upon the civil rights of Black citizens.

**3. General William T. Sherman's Special Field Orders, No. 15, which promised '40 acres and a mule,' focused primarily on land located in which specific geographic region?**

**Answer:** B) The Sea Islands and coastal rice fields

Sherman's order reserved a 30-mile wide strip of coastline from Charleston, SC, down to Florida for the settlement of Black families, a policy later overturned by Andrew Johnson.

**4. True or False: The 'Redeemers' were a political coalition in the South that fought to protect the gains of Radical Reconstruction and expand the powers of the Freedmen's Bureau.**

**Answer:** B) False

Redeemers were Southern Democrats who sought to oust Republican 'carpetbaggers' and 'scalawags' to restore white supremacy and pre-war social hierarchies.

**5. Which of the following best describes the 'Convict Leasing System' that emerged in the post-war South?**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** B) A method of utilizing the 13th Amendment's loophole to provide cheap labor to private industries

The 13th Amendment abolished slavery 'except as a punishment for crime,' which Southern states exploited by arresting Black men on minor charges and leasing their labor to corporations.

**6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of 1866 was the first United States federal law to define citizenship and affirm that all citizens are equally protected by the law, passed despite a presidential veto.**

**Answer:** C) Civil Rights Act

The Civil Rights Act of 1866 was a landmark response to the Black Codes; its passage over Johnson's veto signaled the start of Congressional/Radical Reconstruction.

**7. True or False: Hiram Revels, the first African American to serve in the U.S. Senate, was elected to fill the seat previously held by Confederate President Jefferson Davis.**

**Answer:** A) True

Revels was elected by the Mississippi state legislature in 1870 to the very seat Davis vacated when Mississippi seceded, a moment of profound symbolic significance.

**8. How did the Panic of 1873 impact the trajectory of Reconstruction in the North?**

**Answer:** B) It shifted public attention toward economic issues and away from Southern civil rights

The severe economic depression dampened the North's 'abolitionist fatigue' and political will to spend resources on enforcing Reconstruction policies in the South.

**9. The primary intent of the \_\_\_\_\_ of 1867 was to prevent President Andrew Johnson from firing Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, an ally of the Radical Republicans.**

**Answer:** B) Tenure of Office Act

Johnson's violation of this act—by removing Stanton—provided the legal basis for his impeachment by the House of Representatives.

**10. Which radical labor system replaced the plantation model, creating a cycle of debt that bound many freedmen and poor whites to the land without ownership?**

**Answer:** C) Sharecropping

Sharecropping allowed landowners to take a large portion of the harvest as rent; high interest rates for supplies often left workers in permanent debt to the landlord.

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