

KEY Lesson 6.1 Express Notes

Key Events:

- **Election of 1868:** Former Union General and Republican Presidential Candidate Ulysses S. Grant defeats Democratic challenger Horatio Seymour
- **1876: Election of 1876/Compromise of 1877:** Republican Rutherford B. Hayes becomes President over popular vote winner Samuel L. Tilden. In exchange the Republicans agreed to end Reconstruction to appease the Democrats.
- **1881: Tuskegee Institute Established:** The Tuskegee Institute was a technical school which provided educational services for African Americans living in the South. It was run by Booker T. Washington who believed that education and productivity in society was paramount for bringing change. In a time where essentially all African Americans could not vote in the South, Booker T. Washington described the concept of earning money as “little green ballots.”
- **1883: Civil Rights Cases:** Five cases involving black codes arrive at the Supreme Court, the Civil Rights Act of 1875 is ruled unconstitutional. This sets the stage for Plessy v. Ferguson.
- **1896: Plessy v. Ferguson:** A major and controversial Supreme Court decision which establishes segregation in the South.
- **1910: NAACP founded:** The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is a civil rights organization which was founded on Abraham Lincoln’s 100th birthday for the purpose of extending civil rights to African Americans.

Key Terms:

The New South:

- **“Waving the Bloody Shirt”** A criticism on the part of the Democratic Party about the Republicans using the Civil War to gain a political advantage.
- **The New South:** The Post-Civil War structure of the South in which industry was added in addition to the pre-existing economy. Railroad production spiked in the south as a result of “imported” technology from the North. The introduction of manufacturing technology revitalized the value of tobacco through the creation of cigarettes. Birmingham, Alabama became the South’s leading producer of steel. The prosperity of the New South was superficial. Since manufacturing technology came from the North, most of the profits went back to the parent companies. Additionally, this economic transformation was alienating to many Southern residents due to the high rate of illiteracy.

- **Tenant Farming/Sharecropping:** A Post-Civil War redressing of slavery. Since the Thirteenth Amendment outlawed slavery, plantation owners employed African American workers and “shared” the profits with them. The system was essentially legalized slavery since the wages were on a 90/10 split. A possible argument for sharecropping being worse than slavery is the notion that under this system, white landlords were under no obligation (other than ethics) to raise the quality of life for their workers. If a worker fell ill, he/she would not receive medical treatment whereas with slavery they would.
- **Freedmen:** Former slaves who were emancipated via the Thirteenth Amendment.
- **Freedmen’s Bureau:** The first welfare program in the United States. Its goal was to provide assistance to African Americans and European Americans after the Civil War. One of its famous slogans is “Forty Acres and a Mule” for freedmen. Its major accomplishment was in education. The most famous college is Howard University, named after Oliver O. Howard, who managed the Freedmen’s Bureau until its funding was discontinued in 1872.

Political Restrictions on African Americans:

- **Redeemers:** Southern-born Democratic politicians who ran on the platform of reversing Reconstruction-era changes. They were extremely antagonistic to **carpetbaggers** (Northern born Republicans) and **scalawags** (Southern born Republicans). These Redeemers were proponents of exclusionary policies like Jim Crow laws.
- **Jim Crow Laws:** A system of oppressive laws set up in the post-Reconstruction South which specifically targeted African Americans. The most famous example of these laws are segregated facilities such as schools, restaurants and transportation. Phrases such as “Whites Only” and “Colored Only” mostly come to mind. These systems were confirmed by the Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* and would remain set as laws until the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th Century.
- **Grandfather Clause:** An exclusionary post-Reconstruction law in the Deep South which successfully disenfranchised African Americans due to the fact that their grandfathers could not vote before Reconstruction.
- **Literacy Test:** An exclusionary post-Reconstruction barrier in the Deep South which successfully disenfranchised African Americans by forcing them to prove that they could read and write. These tests were intentionally designed to have a low or zero passage rate.

- **Poll Taxes:** An exclusionary post-Reconstruction barrier in the Deep South which required African Americans to pay in order to vote. Since sharecropping paid infamously low wages, many African Americans found themselves without the ability to pay to vote.
- **Enforcement Laws:** Otherwise known as the Ku Klux Klan laws. These laws are intended to prevent the discrimination of voters on the basis of race.
- **Convict Leasing:** Otherwise known as “chain gangs.” In this system, convicts (more specifically African American convicts) are loaned out to businesses such as the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company to work as cheap labor. It’s another form of legalized slavery.

African American Activists:

- **Tuskegee Institute:** The Tuskegee Institute was a technical school which provided educational services for African Americans living in the South. It was run by Booker T. Washington who believed that education and productivity in society was paramount for bringing change. In a time where essentially all African Americans could not vote in the South, Booker T. Washington described the concept of earning money as “little green ballots.”
- **“Little Green Ballots:”** Booker T. Washington’s reference to money as being more important than political rights. His philosophy was that being economically productive was more important because it allowed disenfranchised African Americans to provide for themselves.
- **National Negro Business League:** An organization established by Booker T. Washington in which successful African American businessmen collaborated to advance their socioeconomic status. It was founded in 1900 in Boston, Massachusetts.
- **Atlanta Compromise:** A speech given by Booker T. Washington on the notion that African Americans and white Americans should cooperate and coexist.
- **The Crisis:** A publication founded by WEB Du Bois indicating that African Americans should stand up for their rights and not accept the blatant discrimination given to them by segregation in the Jim Crow South and elsewhere.
- **International Migration Society:** An organization founded by Bishop Henry Turner with the goal of relocating freedmen back to Africa due to widespread lynching in the Jim Crow South.

- **Memphis Free Speech:** A publication to which Ida B. Wells contributed. Using this publication Wells articulated the blatantly terrifying nature of lynching in the Jim Crow South.
- **Accommodationist:** A term used to criticize Booker T. Washington's policies. The crux of the criticism came from the notion that Washington was willing to accept blatant discrimination and political disenfranchisement in exchange for economically contributing to society.

The Lost Cause:

- **The Lost Cause:** A case of historical revisionism in which the causes and effects of the Civil War were reframed to exclude the abolition of slavery. In their place, Northerners are taught to empathize with the Southerners in their "noble, but misguided attempt" to protect their way of life. While this historical revisionism/cognitive dissonance allowed for the North and South to reconcile, this revisionist narrative has allowed for romanticization of controversial details of the Civil War. This romanticization includes the dedication of statues and public places to former Confederate leaders and the inclusion of the Confederate Battle Flag to five Southern state flags.
- **Historical Revisionism:** A controversial method of interpreting history where facts are willfully distorted in order to promote a current political or social agenda.
- **Gone With the Wind:** A highly successful motion picture with a plot that revolves around a Lost Cause narrative in which Southerners are the protagonists and Union troops are the villains. When adjusted for inflation, *Gone With the Wind* is the highest grossing film in motion picture history with a \$3.4 billion gross when compared to James Cameron's *Avatar* only grossing \$3 billion.
- **Birth of a Nation:** A popular motion picture from the 1910s with a plot that revolves around a lost cause narrative. African Americans are depicted as the villains and the Ku Klux Klan are revered as liberators and protectors of women. Although the KKK had disbanded, the box office success of *Birth of a Nation* revitalized the KKK by the 1920s.

Key People:

White Americans

- **Henry Grady:** Chief editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* who coined the term "The New South" in his articles. His aim was to promote a successful transformation of the post-Reconstructed South for more economic investment from northern businesses.

- **Henry Watterson:** Noted Southern redeemer.
- **U.S. Grant:** Former Union General and Republican President. His selection by the Republican Party was criticized by the Democrats as “waving the bloody shirt.”
- **Horace Greeley:** Newspaper editor and political candidate. Had correspondence with Lincoln on the issue of slavery. Runs for President against Grant during his re-election and loses.
- **Rutherford B. Hayes:** Republican Presidential Candidate in the Election of 1876. Wins the Presidency due to the Compromise of 1877 despite not securing the popular vote.

African American Activists:

- **Booker T. Washington:** African American civil rights activist and founder of the Tuskegee Institute which existed to give African Americans the proper skills to contribute to White society. For Marvel/X-Men fans, Stan Lee has gone on the record to indicate that Booker T. Washington was one of the inspirations of Professor Charles Xavier.
- **WEB Du Bois:** African American civil rights activist who pushed for a more aggressive solution to solving Jim Crow South inequities. He criticized Booker T. Washington for working as an “accommodationist” of white prejudice against African Americans. For Marvel/X-Men fans, Stan Lee has gone on record to indicate that Du Bois was one of the inspirations for Magneto.
- **Ida B. Wells:** African American journalist who published her articles on lynching in the Jim Crow South in the *Memphis Free Speech* newspaper.
- **Bishop Henry Turner:** Clergyman and founder/advocate of the International Migration Society.

Lost Cause Artists:

- **Margaret Mitchell:** Author of the book *Gone with the Wind*.
- **D.W. Griffith:** Director of the film *Birth of a Nation*.
- **David O. Selznick:** Hollywood producer who funded *Gone with the Wind*.