

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

Historical Context:

The Civil War and the period of Reconstruction brought great social, political, and economic changes to American society. The effects of these changes continued into the 20th century.

Task: Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to

- Identify and discuss **one** social, **one** political, **AND one** economic change in American society that occurred as a result of the Civil War or the period of Reconstruction

Short answer questions - Analyze the documents and answer the short answer questions.

Document 1 - 14th AMENDMENT

. . . 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. . . .

14th Amendment, Section 1, 1868

1a) How does document 1 define citizenship?

1b) Based on document 1, what was one major effect of Reconstruction?

Document 2 - Excerpt: *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*

. . . History does not furnish an example of emancipation under conditions less friendly to the emancipated class than this American example. Liberty came to the freedmen of the United States not in mercy, but in wrath [anger], not by moral choice but by military necessity, not by the generous action of the people among whom they were to live, and whose good-will was essential to the success of the measure, but by strangers, foreigners, invaders, trespassers, aliens, and enemies. The very manner of their emancipation invited to the heads of the freedmen the bitterest hostility of race and class. They were hated because they had been slaves, hated because they were now free, and hated because of those who had freed them. Nothing was to have been expected other than what has happened, and he is a poor student of the human heart who does not see that the old master class would naturally employ every power and means in their reach to make the great measure of emancipation unsuccessful and utterly odious [hateful]. It was born in the tempest and whirlwind [turmoil] of war, and has lived in a storm of violence and blood...

...When the Hebrews were emancipated, they were told to take spoil [goods or property] from the Egyptians. When the serfs of Russia were emancipated [in 1861], they were given three acres of ground upon which they could live and make a living. But not so when our slaves were emancipated. They were sent away empty-handed, without money, without friends, and without a foot of land to stand upon. Old and young, sick and well, were turned loose to the open sky, naked to their enemies. The old slave quarter that had before sheltered them and the fields that had yielded them corn were now denied them. The old master class, in its wrath, said, "Clear out! The Yankees have freed you, now let them feed and shelter you! . . ."

2a) According to document 2, what did Frederick Douglass identify as a problem with the way the US government emancipated the slaves?

2b) According to document 2, what was one major change that occurred in American society as a result of the end of the Civil War?

Document 3 - Ku Klux Klan

. . . We believe you are not familiar with the description of the Ku Klux Klans riding nightly over the country, going from county to county, and in the county towns, spreading terror wherever they go by robbing, whipping, ravishing, and killing our people without provocation [reason], compelling [forcing] colored people to break the ice and bathe in the chilly waters of the Kentucky river. The [state] legislature has adjourned. They refused to enact any laws to suppress [stop] KuKlux disorder. We regard them [the Ku-Kluxers] as now being licensed to continue their dark and bloody deeds under cover of the dark night.

...They refuse to allow us to testify in the state courts where a white man is concerned. We find their deeds are perpetrated [carried out] only upon colored men and white Republicans. We also find that for our services to the government and our race we have become the special object of hatred and persecution...Our people are driven from their homes in great numbers, having no redress [relief from distress] We would state that we have been law-abiding citizens, pay our taxes, and in many parts of the state our people have been driven from the polls, refused the right to vote. Many have been slaughtered while attempting to vote. We ask, how long is this state of things to last? . . .

- Source: Documents of the US Senate 42nd Congress, 1st session 1871

3a) Based on this document, identify **one** way that the Ku Klux Klan terrorized African Americans.

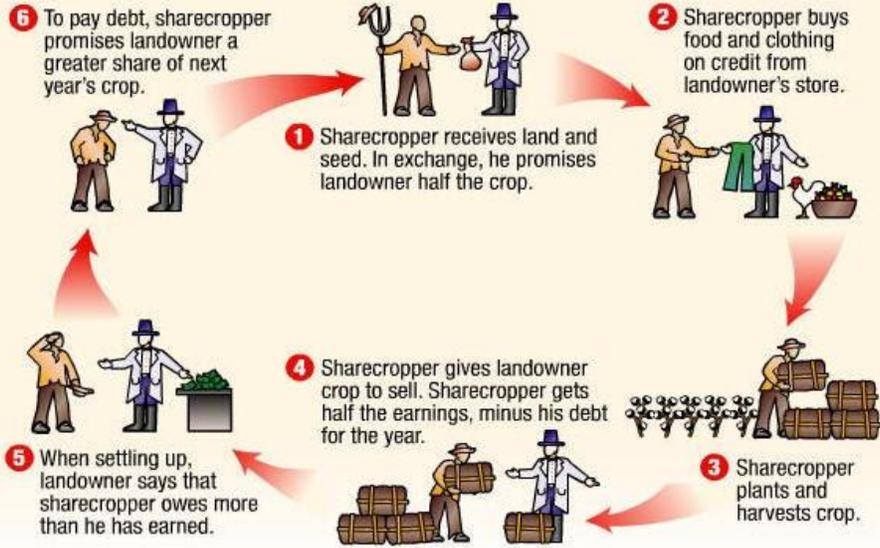
3b) According to this document, what was one major change in American society as a result of Reconstruction?

Document 4 - SHARECROPPING

Sharecropping is a type of farming in which families rent small plots of land from a landowner in return for a portion of their crop, to be given to the landowner at the end of each year. With the southern economy in disarray after the abolition of slavery and the devastation of the Civil War, conflict arose during the Reconstruction era between many white landowners attempting to reestablish a labor force and freed blacks seeking economic independence and autonomy.

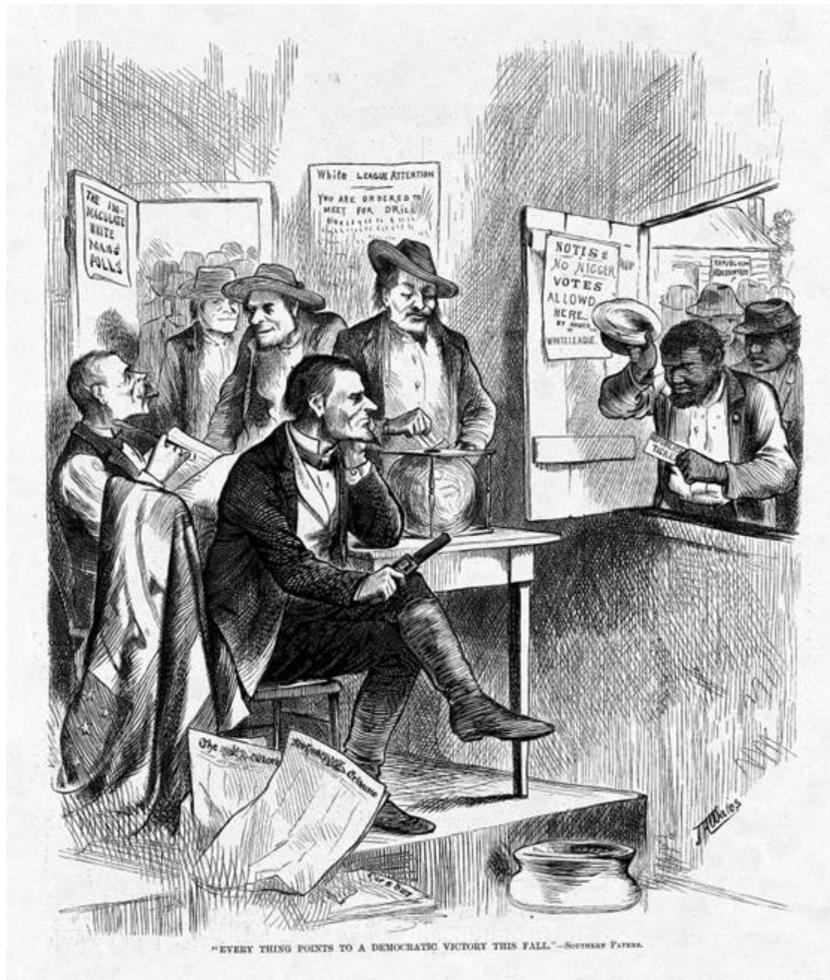
SHARECROPPERS' CYCLE OF POVERTY

By the time sharecroppers had shared their crops and paid their debts, they rarely had any money left. A sharecropper became tied to one plantation, having to work until his debts were paid.



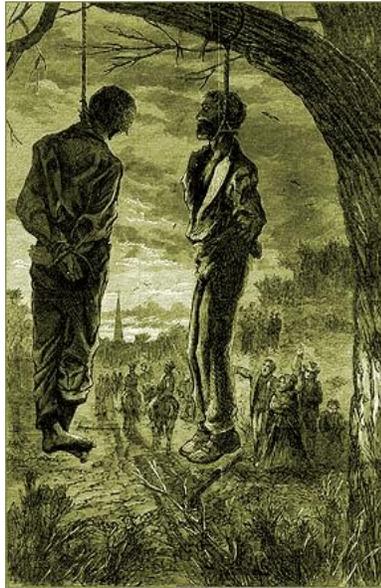
4) According to the chart, what was one major economic effect of sharecropping on African Americans?

Document 5 - "Everything points to a Democratic victory this fall" (1874)



5) What problem is being depicted in the political cartoon?

Document 6 - A Man Was Lynched Yesterday



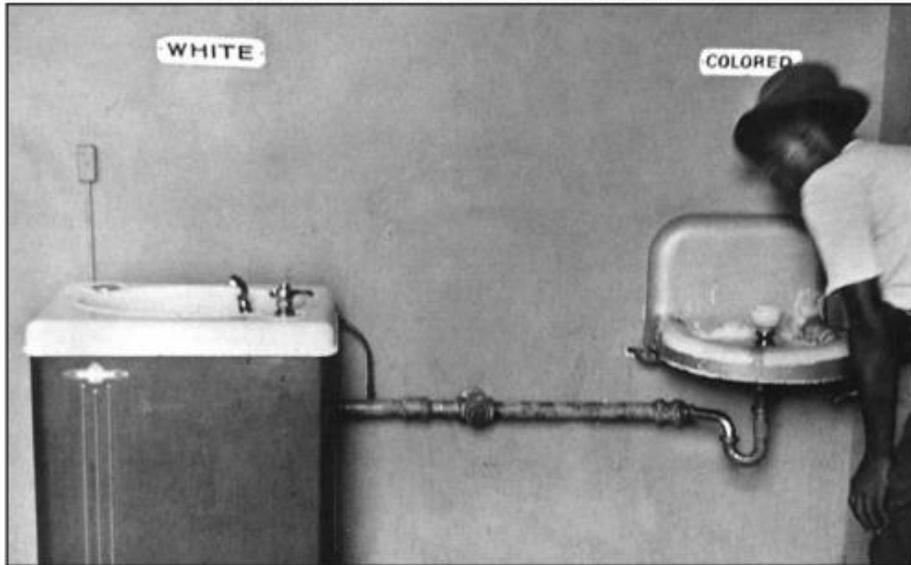
Source: A Man Was Lynched Yesterday, Flag flying above Fifth Avenue, New York City, ca. 1938
Copy print. NAACP Collection, [Prints and Photographs Division](#) [Library of Congress]

6a) Which major backlash of Reconstruction does this image illustrate?

6b) Why do you think the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) chose to hang this flag in 1938?

Document 7 - 'Segregated Water Fountains'

A Public Fountain in North Carolina, 1950



— Photograph by Elliott Erwit
Source: Steve Kasher, *The Civil Rights Movement: A Photographic History, 1954–68*,
Abbeville Press

7) What does this photograph illustrate about one major change in American society after Reconstruction?