

Andrew Johnson

1 term in office (1865-1869) received the presidency after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln decided that, after Johnson's staunch defense of the Union and refusal to secede with his state, plus, his being a Southern Democrat, both qualified him to run for vice president in place of an abolitionist from Maine.

4 major ideas of the administration:

- Reconstruction of a nation just through with 4 years of Civil War was probably the largest of the multitude of responsibilities thrust upon Johnson.

- The issue of redemption for former Confederate officials was a heated subject which many Radical Republicans in Congress opposed the president on. He pardoned most officials after they took an oath of allegiance; only for the wealthy and top leaders required special presidential pardons. This angered Northerners who saw many Southern States keep their old Confederate leaders and impose restrictions on African Americans similar to those on them in prewar times. (political power)

- In response to these fears, Congress passed measures dealing with former slaves, which President Johnson vetoed. But the Radicals were able to win a 2/3 majority and passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866 in spite of the president. This act established all former slaves as American citizens with all the rights entailed. This act was important not for the effect of the law(which was undermined to a great extent by the Ku Klux Klan), but for the overriding vote taken by Congress to pass it, the first time this was done on a major law. (political power)

- The 13th and 14th amendments were proposed and passed during Johnson's administration, which prohibited slavery and discrimination due to race respectively. (Civil Rights)

Administration:

- Seeing as President Johnson was not even of his Congress's party, which caused much strife. In fact, his was the first administration where the president's veto was overridden on a major issue. Civil rights is a main issue in the Lincoln-picked, Johnson-run administration. The recently recovered CSA is in a state of depression because of the war, after nearly their entire infrastructure was destroyed (excluding Tennessee). The entire South is still vengeful after losing the war, and aggravated over the Northern Civil Rights movement which took power out of their hands. During a majority of the administration, the South was under martial law (again excluding Tennessee).

Problems:

- Johnson was rarely in concurrence with Congress

- Rampant racism in the recently regained South, including at least two bloody race riots

Trivia:

- Johnson unsuccessfully tried to create a new state from the Appalachian regions of North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, and Tennessee to be named Frankland.
- On inauguration day Johnson was drunk while he made his speech to Congress. After making several inappropriate comments Hannibal Hamlin, the former Vice President had to intervene and help him back to his seat.