

Selecting Facts Assignment- Krystal Porlles P. 2

Reconstruction was the best of times for African Americans. How far do you agree?

Thesis and Concession: Reconstruction was the best of times for African Americans because of first most importantly, the 13th and 14th amendments which allowed them to have the second most important reason, which is gain government representation, although other historians argue that Johnson's commitment of obstructing political and civil rights for blacks and Democrats taking control over Congress were important factors that played a role against African Americans during the Reconstruction era.

Reason 1- 13th and 14th amendments.

Ex 1: Slavery was abolished.

Ex 2: Guaranteed due process of law for African Americans.

Ex 3: Stablished equal protection under laws.

Ex 4: Granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States.

Ex 5: Extended Bill of Rights in all states.

Ex 6: Repealed the fugitive slave act.

Reasons 2- Governmental Representation

Ex 1: 15th amendment guaranteed African Americans voting rights in elections.

Ex2: Most African Americans became republicans.

Ex 3: Enabled former slaves to hold office, more than 600 were elected to state legislatures.

Ex 4: 16 African Americans served in Congress.

Ex 5: With the help of 500,000 votes coming from newly enfranchised blacks, ex-republican president Ulysses S. Grant took office.

Ex 6: Government outlawed racial discrimination in public transportation and accommodations.

Reason 1- Andrew Johnson's commitment of obstructing political and civil rights for blacks

Ex 1: Believed the federal and state governments were prohibited from abolishing slavery since the Constitution protected private property, including slaves.

Ex 2: Believed that blacks should not have any role in reconstruction.

Ex 3: Since a Southerner, he resented all the elites in the South who had snubbed him.

Ex 4: Tried to veto the Freedmen's Bureau bill.

Ex 5: Tried to veto the Civil Rights bill.

Ex 6: When the 14th amendment was passed, he urged Southern states not to ratify it.

Reason 2- Democrats taking over Congress

Ex 1: Sympathetic to Southern racism.

Ex 2: Democratic leaders attributed to the Ku Klux Klan violence.

Ex 3: Voters gave control of the House of Representatives back to the democrats because of economic desperation in the 1874 midterm elections.

Ex 4: Grant left office in 1877.

Ex 5: The last Republican state governments in the South were overthrown.

Ex 6: Black voters were disenfranchised, and racial segregation begun.