

## How should the South have been treated at the end of the Civil War?

### Abraham Lincoln

With Malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

The rebellious states never in fact left the United States and those who participated and supported the southern cause are guilty of treason. Therefore the President, since he has the constitutional power to issue pardons, has the authority to decide the requirements by which states can once again be represented in Congress.

Conditions for "reconstruction" should be both fair and simple. I shall pardon all residents of a rebellious state, except for high political and military leaders, on the condition that 10% of those eligible to vote in 1860 take an oath of allegiance to the United States. When this has been done and when the state has ended slavery, it will once again be allowed representation in Congress.

### Thaddeus Stevens, Radical Republican

When the South seceded five years ago, they ceased to be states. They are now conquered territories and because Congress has the Constitutional authority to govern territories and admit new states, Congress alone has control over Reconstruction.

As a result of this horrible war, 350,000 Union soldiers lost their lives. Those responsible must be punished. We must never allow those who supported secession or who participated in Southern governments during the past five years to ever hold political office. I support the bill proposed by my colleagues Wade and Davis. It requires that 50% of the population of a rebellious state take a loyalty oath to the Union, and that government office holders swear that they never supported rebellion against the United States. In addition, we must do more to advance the civil rights of blacks than simply ending slavery; they must be given citizenship and the right to vote.

With this policy, we shall accomplish three important objectives. We will punish the rebels, protect the rights of former slaves, and by denying voting rights to whites and giving them to blacks, we will ensure that the Republican party will always have influence in the South.