Aim: Was Reconstruction a success or a failure?

Election of 1868
Ulysses S. Grant v. Horatio Seymour

Grant: President (1869-1877)
Perspective/Point of View

• Somebody’s way of thinking about or approaching a subject; mindset; opinion
Reconstruction Governments

- Carpetbaggers
  - northerners who went South to profit.
- Scalawags
  - Pro Union southern whites
- African American
  - First Blacks to be elected to state legislatures and Congress
Hiram Revels – First Black Senator
COLORED RULE IN A RECONSTRUCTED STATE. (See front 202.)

[Characters in a meeting, one saying to the others:]

SPEAKER: "You are laying the ground wide. If you dispose your House in this way you had better take back South."
Historians Views of Radical Reconstruction

**Criticisms of Radical Reconstruction**

- William Dunning “Dunning School” (early 1900’s)
  - Uneducated votes
  - Northern carpetbaggers and southern scalawags took advantage of situation in south
  - Incompetent and corrupt individuals served in government

**Defense of Reconstruction Governments**

- W.E.B Dubois (1935)
  - Corruption was not unique to southern gov’ts – it also existed in north
  - Legislatures passed progressive legislation that expanded rights and opportunities of women and blacks
  - Legislatures improved educational systems and infrastructure of the south.
Criticisms of Radical Reconstruction

• William Dunning “Dunning School” (early 1900’s)
  • Northern carpetbaggers and southern scalawags took advantage of situation in south
  • Incompetent and corrupt individuals served in government
Social and Political Changes

• End of slavery Thirteenth Amendment
• Fourteenth Amendment – citizenship, equal protection
• Educational opportunities – freedman’s bureau schools, and public schools created
• Voting rights - 15th Amendment