

Reconstruction in Texas – How did they react?

Reconstruction Plans	How did they react?			
	Freedmen	Northerners	Former Confederate soldiers and other Southerners	Unionists (Southerners who supported the Northern cause during the war)
Conservative Reconstruction (also called Presidential Reconstruction or the Lincoln/Johnson plan)				
1. Former Confederate states had to set up a temporary government under the supervision of the Northern military				
2. Confederate states had to agree to end slavery				
3. Confederate states had to declare secession illegal and agree never to “do” this again (<i>say they were “sorry”</i>)				
4. The Confederacy had to agree to pay all of their war debts				
5. White males had to take a <i>loyalty oath</i> and former ranking military officers and government officials had to request a Presidential pardon.				
6. When conditions 1-5 were met, the former Confederate state could write a new Constitution, hold elections and “get on with life”.				
7. Most Southern states were readmitted into the Union under this plan, however, the new legislatures did not usually accept the 14 th and 15 th Amendments, put former Confederates back in office, and ignored civil rights for Freedmen. This angered Northerners even more.				

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Radical Reconstruction and the Reconstruction Acts				
1. New state governments in the South formed after the Civil War ended were declared illegal				
2. The South was divided into five Military Districts (Texas was in the 5 th) under the control of the United States (Northern) Army and martial law.				
3. New state Constitutions had to be written (again) accepting the 14 th and 15 th Amendments guaranteeing citizenship rights for all (Black and White) citizens and the right for Black males over 21 to vote.				
4. In order to vote, adult white males had to take an oath (called the <i>Ironclad Oath</i>) that said they had never voluntarily supported the Confederacy in any way.				
5. In Texas, Edmund Davis won the election of 1870 by only 900 votes. He had been a Union sympathizer and fought in the Union army. Many Texans declared the election a fraud. Davis was not a popular governor and made many appointments (Northerners, Carpetbaggers, and Freedmen).				
6. In 1874, the Democrats (those who opposed the Radical Republicans) took power through this election, wrote a new Constitution (the Constitution of 1876 – which we still use today) and stayed in power until 1980!				