

Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction - 1860 to 1877

Topic 6 Content: The End of Reconstruction Notes

Introduction

The graphic is titled "The End of Reconstruction" in a large, white, serif font. Below the title is a stylized illustration of the United States Capitol building. To the left of the building is a vertical list of historical events: "Jim Crow Era", "Compromise of 1877", "Grant Struggles", "Liberal Republicans", "White Supremacy", and "Opposition Grows". Below the list is a horizontal slider bar with a small black knob on the left side. Below the slider bar is the text: "Click and drag the slider up to explore the end of Reconstruction."

Click and drag the slider up to explore the end of Reconstruction.

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Opposition Grows

Jim Crow Era

Compromise of 1877

Grant Struggles

Liberal Republicans

White Supremacy

Opposition Grows

That any person who...shall subject, or cause to be subjected any person within the jurisdiction of the United States to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution...

The Enforcement Act of 1870

Click and drag the slider up to explore the end of Reconstruction.

From 1870 until the election of 1876, the opposition to Reconstruction grew. Select Southern governments refused to enforce the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, and the violent acts of certain white groups kept African Americans from voting. Congress had to pass the Enforcement Act of 1870, giving the Federal Government more power to punish anyone who tried to prevent African Americans from exercising their rights. The Supreme Court would eventually rule that the Enforcement Act of 1870 was unconstitutional.

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White Supremacy

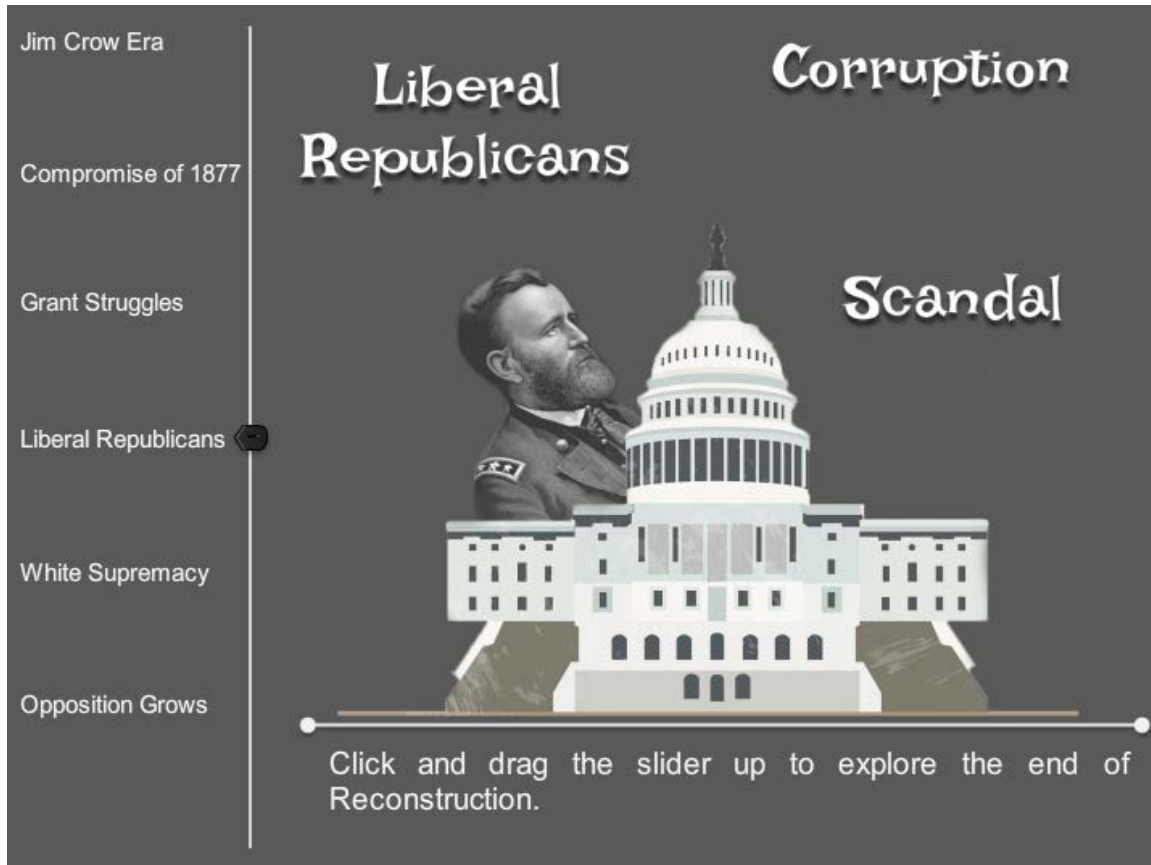
The graphic is an interactive timeline set against a dark background. On the left, a vertical timeline lists historical periods: Jim Crow Era, Compromise of 1877, Grant Struggles, Liberal Republicans, White Supremacy, and Opposition Grows. A slider is positioned at the 'White Supremacy' level. To the right of the timeline, a central image shows a white hooded figure (a Klansman) with a patch on the sleeve. Surrounding the figure are several text elements: 'Attacked' (with a horizontal line through it), 'Killed', 'Innocents', 'Remove Republicans', 'Intimidate', and 'KKK'. At the bottom, a horizontal line with a slider and a play button icon is accompanied by the text: 'Click and drag the slider up to explore the end of Reconstruction.'

Some white Southerners made attempts to prevent African Americans from making any economic and political progress. Many African Americans were subjects to attacks on themselves or their property. One group of Confederate veterans formed the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). Known for the all-white hoods worn by its members, this white supremacy social group spread rapidly through the South. The goal of the Klan was to deny African Americans equal rights by using violence. The Ku Klux Klan killed thousands of innocent people and destroyed property. Part of their goal was to remove the power of the Republican Party in the South. While Congress made attempts to limit the group, and President Grant stationed troops throughout the South to maintain law and order, the Ku Klux Klan was successful in its efforts. Through the use of intimidation and violence, the political power in the South shifted, and African Americans were kept from voting and achieving equality.

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Liberal Republican Party Forms



In 1872, the Radical Republicans who opposed President Grant formed the Liberal Republican Party. The party's goal was to defeat Grant in the 1872 presidential election. Grant won the election by a large margin, but his second term in office was filled with corruption and scandals. Grant did not prosper from any of these scandals, and as a result the Republican Party weakened.

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Grant Struggles

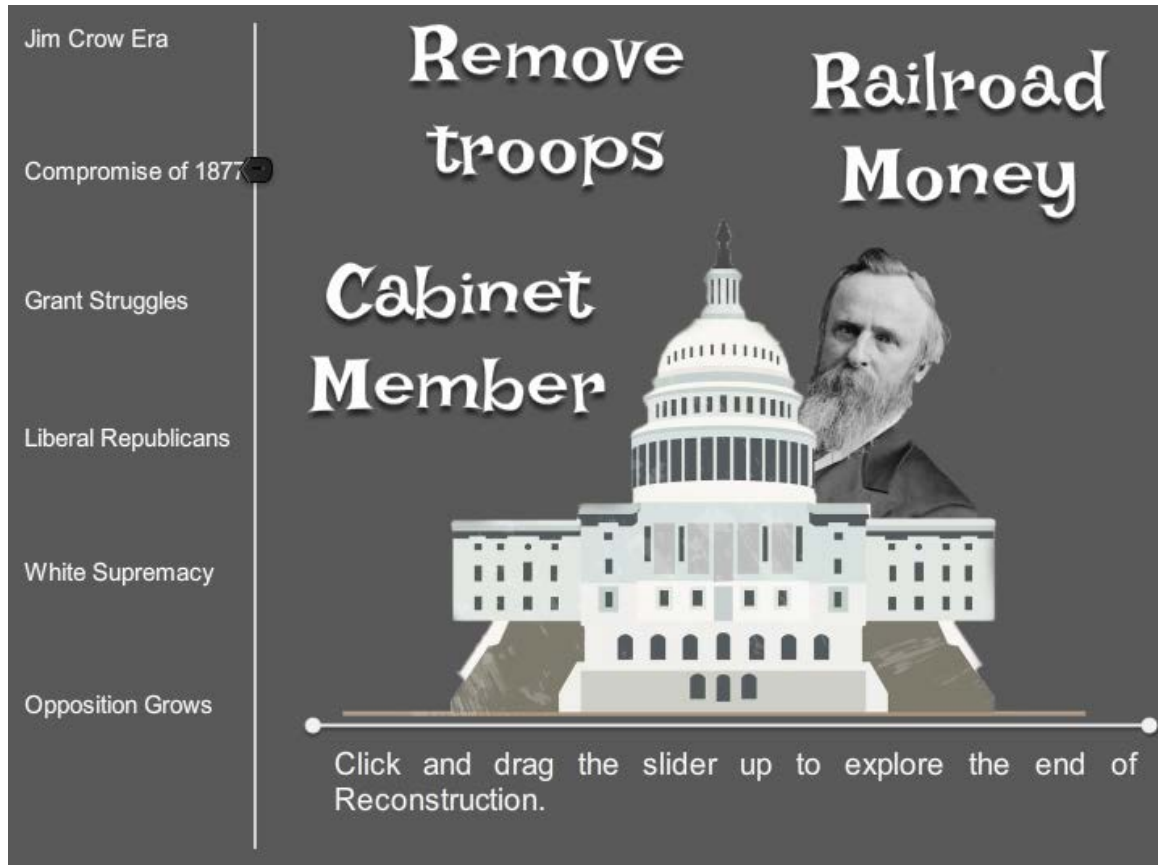
The graphic features a vertical timeline on the left with the following labels: Jim Crow Era, Compromise of 1877, Grant Struggles (highlighted with a black dot), Liberal Republicans, White Supremacy, and Opposition Grows. To the right, the word 'Struggle' is written in a large, stylized font above a line drawing of the White House. To the right of the White House, the words 'No Support' are written in a similar font. Below the White House is a horizontal slider bar with a white dot at the left end and a white dot at the right end. Below the slider bar, the text reads: 'Click and drag the slider up to explore the end of Reconstruction.'

During his second term as president, Grant continued to struggle with Reconstruction. Support for the views and policies of the Radical Republicans disappeared prior to the election of 1876. Republican support in the North faded as the Supreme Court rejected the Reconstruction policies of the 1870s. Northerners no longer concentrated their votes based on the events in the South. Political violence against African Americans in the South continued, but Northerners were more concerned with the corruption of the presidency.

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The Compromise of 1877

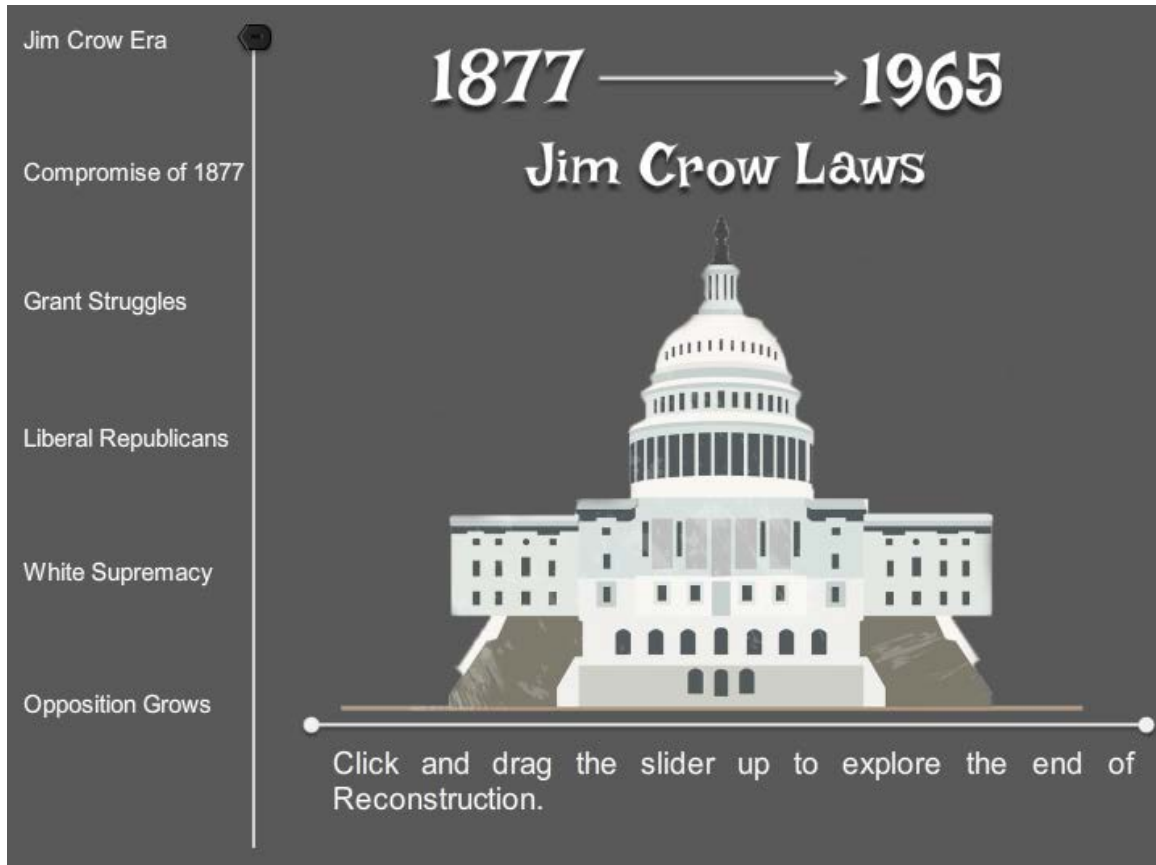


Before the election of 1876, the state governments of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia were all recaptured by the Democrats. Grant decided not to run for a third term as president. In the election of 1876, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes won against Democrat Samuel J. Tilden. In this election, Tilden won the popular vote but failed to receive the required amount of votes from the Electoral College, which prevented him from becoming president. This was the first time a president did not win the popular vote but won the election. At the time, Republicans controlled the electoral commission, but Democrats controlled the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives had to approve the election results. The House was willing to accept Hayes as president only if federal troops were removed from Louisiana and South Carolina. The Democrats also wanted money to build a railroad from Texas to the West Coast, and a conservative Southerner appointed to the cabinet. The acceptance of these terms is called the Compromise of 1877, and it effectively ended Reconstruction in the South.

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Jim Crow Era



As a result, the Reconstruction effort ended. Hayes withdrew the troops from Louisiana and South Carolina, and Democrats regained power in the South. Without intervention from the Federal Government, Southern states passed laws that restricted the rights of African Americans, wiped out social programs, cut taxes, and dismantled the school systems. The actions following the election of 1876 started a long period of time in which African Americans in the South were denied equal rights. Racial inequality would become so bad in the South that some Southern states would pass segregation laws. These laws created separate white and black public and private facilities, and were known as the Jim Crow Laws, after a song that ended with the lyrics "Jump, Jim Crow." The actions of the Southern Democrats in 1877 began the "Jim Crow Era." The "Jim Crow Era" lasted until 1965, and denied African Americans the full rights of citizenship.