

# Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction Plans

**Directions:** Research one of the following plans of Reconstruction. Use your textbook, the Internet, and other resources to identify the key elements of the plan. Be prepared to share your work with the class, and take notes as other students present information.

Element	Abraham Lincoln	Wade-Davis Bill
1. Year of plan		
2. Attitude toward war and Reconstruction		
3. Provisions of plan		
4. Opposition to plan		
5. Successes and failures of plan		

Element	Andrew Johnson	Military Reconstruction
1. Year of plan		
2. Attitude toward war and Reconstruction		
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## Suggested Responses

### Abraham Lincoln

1. 1863; known as the Ten Percent Plan
2. Lincoln did not believe that the Southern states had the right to secede and believed the war was a rebellion that needed to be put down, the sooner the better.
3. Once 10 percent of those who voted in the election of 1860 took a pledge of allegiance, agreed to abide by emancipation, elected state governments, and created a constitution which abolished slavery, a state would be recognized. By 1864, the states of Tennessee, Louisiana, and Arkansas had already done this; the goal of this plan was to shorten the war and further the cause of emancipation.
4. Republicans in Congress believed Lincoln's plan would only further the cause of the planter aristocracy and return blacks to the state they were in before the war.
5. Congress never adopted this plan.

### Wade-Davis Bill

1. 1864; proposed by Benjamin Wade (OH) and Henry Winter Davis (MD), who opposed Lincoln's plan as too lenient
2. The Republican-controlled Congress regarded Southern secession as a declaration of war and believed that there should be punishment instead of reconciliation.
3. Fifty percent of Southerners must swear an Iron-Clad Oath of Loyalty to the Union in which they pledged that they never willingly took arms against the Union and did not participate in the rebellion; then the state could call a constitutional convention. Only those taking the oath could vote, and the constitution had to ban slavery. Only whites could vote, although about a third of the Republicans favored allowing blacks to vote. This plan passed both houses of Congress.
4. The opposition held that the wording of the proposal implied that the Southern states had seceded, which Lincoln denied; it banned slavery, which it constitutionally could not do; it also alienated states that had already adopted the reconciliation plan under Lincoln's terms. Lincoln used the pocket-veto.
5. The proposal was much harsher than Lincoln's plan. Congress believed that Lincoln was exercising unconstitutional authority and held that it was the role of Congress to oversee reconstruction. Lincoln again used the pocket veto.

### Andrew Johnson

1. 1865; known as the Presidential Reconstruction Plan
2. Johnson agreed with Lincoln about the inability of the South to secede from the Union. Johnson was a Union man and the

only Southerner from the Senate not to resign upon the secession of Tennessee. Johnson was as much opposed to slavery as he was to the aristocracy that owned slaves, he championed middle-class working whites, and he believed it was the slave-owning aristocrats who caused the Civil War, so they were to be punished after the war ended. In that respect, he agreed with the Radical Republicans.

3. Johnson appointed provisional governors from the South who had been loyal to the Union. He favored constitutional conventions, allowing only those who took Lincoln's Loyalty Oath. Confederate officers above the rank of lieutenant and those possessing taxable property exceeding \$20,000 were not permitted to vote. The conventions had to declare ordinances of secession illegal, repudiate the Confederate debt, and ratify the Thirteenth Amendment.
4. Republicans believed Johnson's plan was too lenient, and by abolishing the three-fifths compromise, it would add substantial political power to the Southern states; any policy to do this must also enfranchise blacks to counter this addition of political power.
5. Congress never adopted this plan, and in the mid-term elections of 1866, congressmen believed they earned a mandate from the voters to implement their own plan of Reconstruction.

#### Military Reconstruction

1. 1867 and 1868
2. The Republican-controlled Congress regarded Southern secession as a war and believed that there should be punishment instead of reconciliation.
3. In 1867, the plan divided the ten unreconstructed states into five military districts. Tennessee had already ratified the Fourteenth Amendment. The existing governments were provisional and subject to the overriding authority of the occupation forces, which would call constitutional conventions. A new constitution must include black suffrage and ratify the Fourteenth Amendment; those barred by the amendment could not vote in the election but could vote in the future. Once states did this, they would be readmitted into the Union.
4. Congress viewed the successes in the 1866 elections as a mandate for congressional Reconstruction, but there was no enforcement power. The 1868 plan required generals of each military district to register eligible voters for election of the delegates to the constitutional convention.
5. The Compromise of 1877 ended Military Reconstruction and allowed the Redeemer Southern governments to restore many of the prewar social, political, and economic policies.