

Reconstruction Cartoon Analysis

Cartoon #1

1865



Caption: FRANCHISE. AND NOT THIS MAN?

Important background knowledge:

Franchise=right to vote

White woman=Columbia=symbol of America

1. When was this cartoon drawn? Was this a short or long time after the end of the Civil War?
2. Describe the African American man in this cartoon. Why do you think he's on crutches?
3. What is Columbia (white woman) asking for?
4. What is the message of this cartoon? Based on the cartoon, would you say Thomas Nast supported or opposed equal rights for freedmen?

Cartoon #2

1874



Caption: COLORED RULE IN A RECONSTRUCTED (?) STATE.
(The members call each other thieves, liars, rascals, and cowards.)
COLUMBIA: "You are aping the lowest Whites. If you disgrace your race in this way you had better take back seats."

Important background knowledge:

Many African Americans were elected to state governments during Reconstruction.

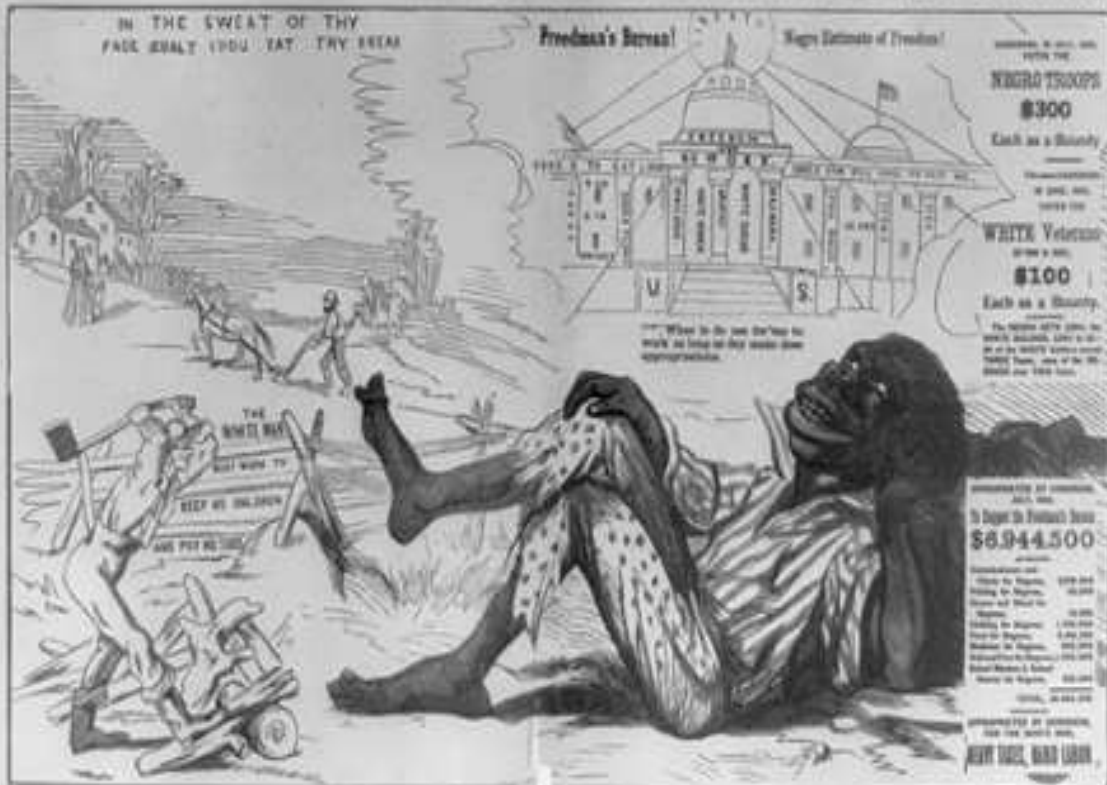
By 1874, many Northerners were critical of corruption in government in Republican administrations.

White woman=Columbia=symbol of America

1. Describe the African Americans in this cartoon. Is this a positive or a negative image? Explain.
2. What is Columbia trying to do?
3. What is the message of this cartoon? How does it differ from the message of Cartoon #1?
4. Why might the cartoons have different messages?
5. What do these cartoons tell us about the how some people in the North felt about freedmen during Reconstruction? How did these attitudes change over the course of Reconstruction?

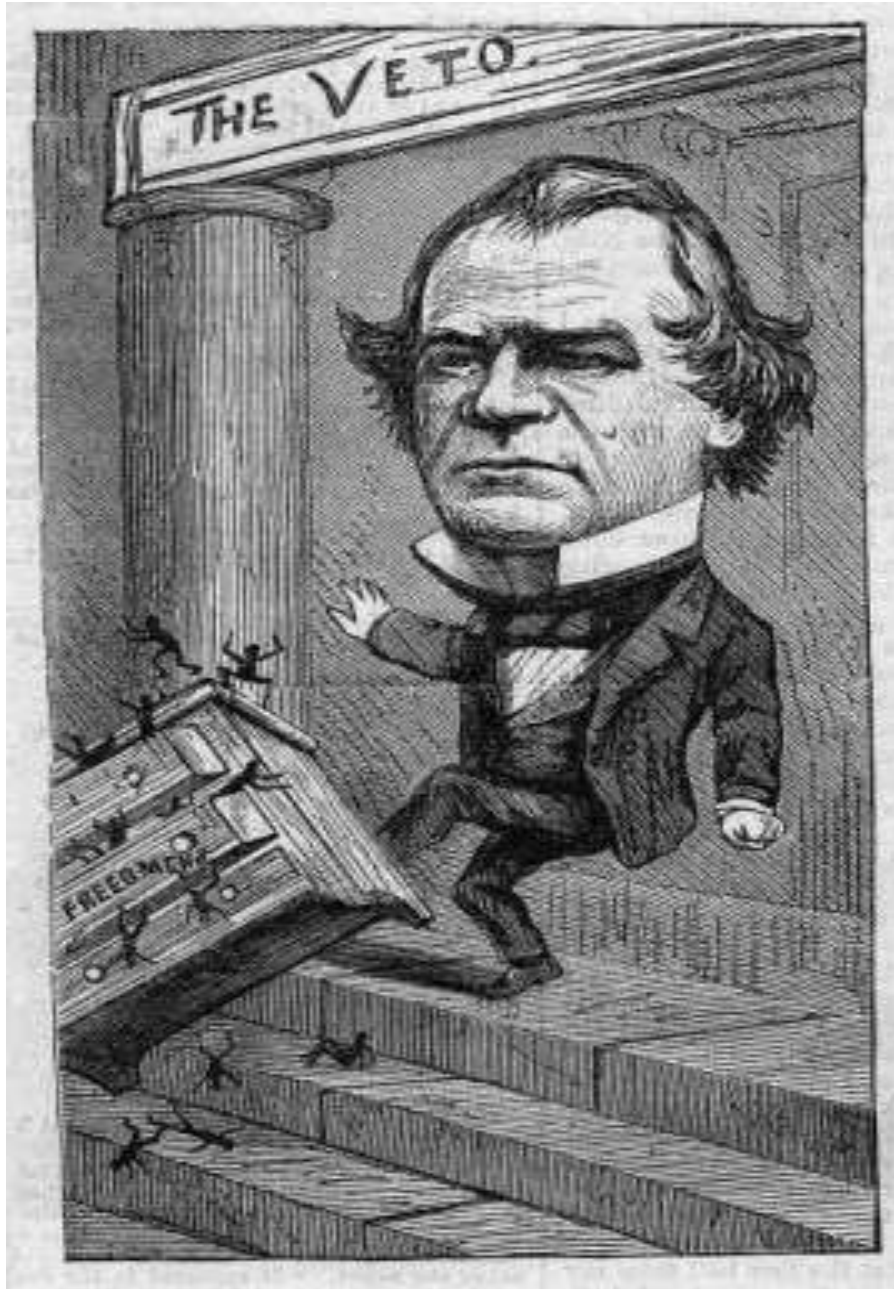
THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU!

AN AGENCY TO KEEP THE **NEGRO** IN IDLENESS AT THE **EXPENSE** OF THE WHITE MAN
 TWICE VETOED BY THE **PRESIDENT**, AND MADE A LAW BY **CONGRESS**.
 SUPPORT CONGRESS & YOU SUPPORT THE NEGRO. SUSTAIN THE PRESIDENT & YOU PROTECT THE WHITE MAN



For 1864 and 1865, the FREEDMAN'S BUREAU cost the Tax-payers of the Nation, at least TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. For 1866, THE SHARE of the Tax-payers of Pennsylvania will be about \$100,000 OF DOLLARS. CLYMER is OFFICED to it.

1. Explain the meaning of the cartoon above.



Source: "The Veto," Andrew Johnson, April 1866, Thomas Nast cartoon

The word on the drawer says "FREEDMAN"

1. Explain the meaning of the cartoon above.



THIS LITTLE BOY WOULD PERSIST IN HANDLING BOOKS ABOVE HIS CAPACITY.



AND THIS WAS THE DISASTROUS RESULT.

"The Pen is Mightier than the Sword."

Davis Collamore & Co.,
479 BROADWAY, 4 doors below Broome Street.

China. Glass. Clocks.

**WRIGHT'S ALCONATED GLYCERIN TABLET
OF SOLIDIFIED GLYCERIN.**

Softens and smooths the skin, prevents chapping, imparts beauty and brightness to the complexion.

Source: "This Little Boy Would Persist in Handling Books Above His Capacity. And This Was the Disastrous Result", Harpers Weekly, 1868

1. Explain the meaning of the cartoon above.