THE CIVIL WAR DRAGGED TO ITS AWFUL AND BLOODY END.

THE UNION IS PRESERVED...

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE.

THE GOVERNMENT THAT PROTECTS ITS PEOPLES' FREEDOMS...

AFTER THE WAR, WHAT DO BLACK PEOPLE DO?

THEY MOVE AROUND.

THEY DON'T WANT TO SERVE THE MASTER.

THE OTHER THING THEY TRY TO DO IS RECONSTITUTE FAMILIES.

THE... THE ABANDONMENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT--

WHEN DOES THAT START?

TRADITIONALLY, PEOPLE MARK 1877 AS THE END.

( gunshots )

THE GOVERNMENT... THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS NO LONGER INVOLVED TO TRY TO ASSIST THE TRANSITION TO FREEDOM.

AS A NATION REBUILDS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

WHAT IS LOST?

"RECONSTRUCTION," TODAY, ON A BIOGRAPHY OF AMERICA.

THE WORST SIGHT IN WAR IS A BATTLEFIELD AFTER THE BATTLE.

AT GETTYSBURG, WHERE THERE WERE 50,000 CASUALTIES

THE SCENE WAS BEYOND BELIEF.

TWO GIGANTIC ARMIES-- ROBERT E. LEE'S ARMY OF 70,000--

ANNEBERG/CPB

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WHAT IS LOST?
AS THEY COULD IN SHALLOW GRAVES.

32 01:02:31:16 01:02:34:04  BUT HEAVY RAINS WASHED AWAY
THESE THIN BLANKETS OF EARTH

33 01:02:34:06 01:02:36:11  LEAVING HEADS AND FEET
STICKING OUT THE GROUND.

34 01:02:38:25 01:02:41:02  MANGLED BODY PARTS
WERE EVERYWHERE

35 01:02:41:04 01:02:43:13  AND SUN-BLACKENED,
SWOLLEN CORPSES

36 01:02:43:15 01:02:44:21  WERE FOUND BY TOWNSPEOPLE

37 01:02:44:23 01:02:46:18  HIDDEN BEHIND ROCKS
OR IN HEAVY UNDERBRUSH.

38 01:02:49:12 01:02:52:10  LOCAL FAMILIES WHO WENT
TO GETTYSBURG AFTER THE BATTLE

39 01:02:52:12 01:02:55:10  LOOKING FOR THEIR BOYS,
FOUND HANDS AND ARMS IN TREES

40 01:02:55:12 01:02:58:21  BOOTS WITH FEET IN THEM

41 01:02:56:23 01:02:58:25  BODIES FLATTENED
INTO SHAPELESS HORDORS

42 01:02:58:27 01:03:00:18  BY CLOSE-RANGE ARTILLERY FIRE

43 01:03:00:20 01:03:03:27  HEADLESS MEN, LEANING AGAINST
TREES, THEIR ARMS SHOT OFF.

44 01:03:05:24 01:03:08:11  IF THEY CAME BY TRAIN,
THEY PASSED THROUGH THE TOWN

45 01:03:08:13 01:03:09:27  TO GET TO THE BATTLEFIELD.

46 01:03:09:29 01:03:13:05  AND VIRTUALLY EVERY HOUSE
HAD BEEN TURNED INTO A HOSPITAL

47 01:03:13:07 01:03:15:21  IN AN EFFORT TO CARE FOR
THE 22,000 WOUNDED MEN

48 01:03:15:23 01:03:18:00  LEFT BEHIND BY BOTH ARMIES.

49 01:03:21:25 01:03:24:04  AS STUNNED TOWNSPEOPLE
AND GRIEVING PARENTS

50 01:03:24:06 01:03:26:03  PASSED THROUGH THIS SCENE
FROM HELL

51 01:03:26:05 01:03:29:18  THEY MUST HAVE ASKED THEMSELVES:
WHAT WAS THIS FOR?

52 01:03:29:20 01:03:32:02  AND WAS IT WORTH IT?

53 01:03:34:27 01:03:37:13  THAT SUMMER, ABRAHAM LINCOLN
HIMSELF WAS SEARCHING

54 01:03:37:15 01:03:39:23  FOR SOME WAY TO EXPLAIN
TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

55 01:03:39:25 01:03:43:05  THIS FRIGHTFUL WAR--
THESE STAGGERING SACRIFICES.

56 01:03:45:28 01:03:48:22  NOT LONG AFTER WORD REACHED
WASHINGTON OF THE VICTORIES

57 01:03:48:24 01:03:50:06  AT VICKSBURG AND GETTYSBURG

58 01:03:50:08 01:03:52:20  LINCOLN SPOKE TO A CROWD
OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE

59 01:03:52:22 01:03:55:19  TELLING THEM HOW FITTING IT WAS
THAT THESE TWIN TRIUMPHS

60 01:03:55:21 01:03:57:17  HAD OCCURRED
ON THE NATION'S BIRTHDAY.

61 01:03:59:15 01:04:00:27  "HOW LONG IS IT," HE SAID

62 01:04:00:29 01:04:03:11  "EIGHTY-ODD YEARS,
SINCE ON THE FOURTH OF JULY

63 01:04:03:13 01:04:05:28  "FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

64 01:04:06:00 01:04:07:22 "A NATION, BY ITS REPRESENTATIVES ASSEMBLED AND DECLARED AS A SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH THAT 'ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.'"

67 01:04:13:25 01:04:15:12 THE WAR, HE TOLD THE CROWD HAD BEGUN AS AN EFFORT TO SUBVERT THAT IDEA

69 01:04:18:01 01:04:21:09 AND NOW THE REBELS HAD SUFFERED TWO STAGGERING DEFEATS

70 01:04:21:11 01:04:24:24 ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

71 01:04:24:26 01:04:28:06 "GENTLEMEN," HE CONCLUDED, "THIS IS A GLORIOUS THEME AND THE OCCASION FOR A SPEECH BUT I AM NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ONE WORTHY OF THE OCCASION."

74 01:04:34:27 01:04:36:06 LINCOLN MADE THAT SPEECH-- THE MOST MEMORABLE IN AMERICAN HISTORY--

76 01:04:38:13 01:04:39:15 THE FOLLOWING NOVEMBER.

77 01:04:41:16 01:04:44:06 THE OCCASION WAS THE DEDICATION OF A CEMETERY FOR THE UNION SOLDIERS KILLED AT GETTYSBURG.

79 01:04:46:28 01:04:49:04 IN THREE MINUTES-- IN JUST 272 WORDS--

80 01:04:49:06 01:04:51:17 LINCOLN EXPLAINED WHAT THE WAR WAS ABOUT AND WHY IT HAD TO CONTINUE.

81 01:04:51:19 01:04:53:08 "IT WAS A FIGHT," HE SAID "TO PRESERVE AND ADVANCE TWO FUNDAMENTAL AMERICAN IDEAS;"

84 01:04:59:10 01:05:03:03 CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTY AND HUMAN EQUALITY."

85 01:05:03:05 01:05:05:22 THE NATION CREATED BY THE CONSTITUTION OF 1787

86 01:05:05:24 01:05:08:11 WAS A PERMANENT BOND THAT COULD NOT BE BROKEN

87 01:05:08:13 01:05:11:07 BY A DISCONTENTED MINORITY.

88 01:05:11:09 01:05:13:24 AS LINCOLN HAD SAID, IN PRIVATE, TWO YEARS BEFORE:

89 01:05:13:26 01:05:15:17 "THE WAR MUST SETTLE THIS QUESTION--

90 01:05:15:19 01:05:17:09 "WHETHER IN A FREE GOVERNMENT TO BREAK UP THE GOVERNMENT

91 01:05:17:09 01:05:19:29 "THE MINORITY HAVE THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO GOVERN."

92 01:05:20:01 01:05:21:06 "WHEN THEY CHOOSE.

93 01:05:21:08 01:05:23:03 "IF THEY FAIL, IT WILL GO FAR

94 01:05:23:05 01:05:26:12 TO PROVE THE INCAPACITY OF THE PEOPLE TO GOVERN." AT GETTYSBURG,

95 01:05:26:14 01:05:29:05 LINCOLN REITERATED THIS IN SOARING LANGUAGE.
"THESE MEN HAD DIED AND MANY MORE WOULD DIE," HE SAID, SO THAT...

BUT WHAT BEGAN AS A STRUGGLE TO PRESERVE DEMOCRACY HAD BECOME, AS WELL, A WAR TO INSURE WHAT LINCOLN CALLED A "NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM"

A GOVERNMENT "DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL."

LINCOLN DID AN AMAZING THING IN HIS GETTYSBURG ADDRESS. HE INFORMALLY AMENDED THE CONSTITUTION-- WHICH TOLERATED SLAVERY-- PLEDGING THE NATION TO THE IDEA OF HUMAN EQUALITY EMBODIED IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

LATER IN THE WAR WHEN THE COUNTRY GREW WEARY OF THE KILLING LINCOLN WAS PRESSURED TO DROP EMANCIPATION AS A CONDITION OF PEACE. HE FLATLY REFUSED. OVER 130,000 AFRICAN AMERICANS WERE THEN FIGHTING FOR THE UNION AND HE WOULD NOT "BETRAY THEM," HE SAID.

THEY WERE FIGHTING FOR THE PROMISE OF FREEDOM. "AND THE PROMISE MADE," HE SAID, "MUST BE KEPT."

THIS IS WHY LINCOLN, ALONG WITH GENERALS GRANT AND SHERMAN BELIEVED THAT THE WAR WOULD CONTINUE AND BECOME EVEN BLOODIER BECAUSE THE SOUTH WOULD NEVER, ON ITS OWN, ELIMINATE SLAVERY.

WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN PUT IT IN MORE BLUNTLY: "A WAR OF ATTRITION;"

HOLDING ON UNTIL THE UNION PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER 1864 IN THE HOPE, SOMEHOW, THAT LINCOLN WOULD BE DEFEATED
BY A "PEACE DEMOCRAT"
WILLING TO NEGOTIATE
AN END TO THE SLAUGHTER
AND AN ARMISTICE
THAT WOULD LEAVE SLAVERY
AND THE CONFEDERACY INTACT.
IN THE FALL OF 1863,
THIS SEEMED HIGHLY UNLIKELY.
UNION WAR MORALE WAS HIGH
WHEN LINCOLN GAVE
HIS GETTYSBURG ADDRESS
AND IT SOARED EVEN HIGHER
WHEN ULYSSES GRANT
WAS MADE GENERAL-IN-CHIEF
OF ALL UNION ARMIES
AND WAS BROUGHT EAST IN 1864
TO FINISH OFF ROBERT E. LEE.
WHILE GRANT WENT AFTER LEE
IN VIRGINIA
SHERMAN REMAINED IN THE WEST
AND MOVED CONFIDENTLY
TOWARD ATLANTA
THE CONFEDERACY’S LARGEST CITY.
BUT LEE PUT UP A DESPERATE FIGHT
IN VIRGINIA
TAKING AND DELIVERING
THE HEAVIEST BLOWS OF THE WAR.
THERE WAS NO DENYING GRANT,
HOWEVER.
THE BULLDOG-LIKE GRANT PUSHED
LEE ALL THE WAY TO RICHMOND
AND PETERSBURG-- A RAIL CENTER
JUST SOUTH OF RICHMOND.
ONCE THERE, HOWEVER,
HE COULDN’T PUNCH THROUGH
THE RING OF HEAVY FORTIFICATIONS
AROUND THE TWO CITIES.
SO, HE SETTLED DOWN, AS HE DID
AT VICKSBURG, FOR A SIEGE--
ONLY THIS ONE WOULD LAST
NINE MONTHS, NOT 47 DAYS.
AND IT TAXED HEAVILY
THE PATIENCE OF A PUBLIC
ANXIOUS FOR A QUICK END
TO THE WAR.
( gunshots and shouting )
SHERMAN ALSO RAN INTO PROBLEMS.
THAT AUGUST, HIS ADVANCE STALLED
IN FRONT OF THE EARTHENWORKS
ENCIRCLING ATLANTA.
AND HE, TOO,
SET UP SIEGE OPERATIONS.
IT BEGAN TO LOOK,
AS IT DID IN THE WINTER OF 1863
LIKE THE CONFEDERACY
COULDN'T BE BEATEN.

162 01:08:54:22 01:08:58:22 AND CIVILIANS IN THE NORTH
READ OF CASUALTIES THAT TOTALED
163 01:08:58:24 01:09:02:00 A STAGGERING 110,000
IN THREE PREVIOUS MONTHS.
164 01:09:02:02 01:09:04:25 "STOP THE WAR."
NORTHERN NEWSPAPERS DEMANDED.
165 01:09:04:27 01:09:06:28 AND ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS
THAT SUMMER
166 01:09:07:00 01:09:09:04 LINCOLN AGREED
TO SECRET PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
167 01:09:09:06 01:09:10:13 WITH CONFEDERATE AGENTS.
168 01:09:10:15 01:09:13:02 BOTH MEETINGS BROKE DOWN
WHEN THE REBELS LEARNED
169 01:09:13:04 01:09:15:08 THAT LINCOLN'S
UNCOMPROMISING CONDITIONS
170 01:09:15:10 01:09:19:02 WERE RESTORATION OF THE UNION
AND THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.
171 01:09:19:04 01:09:21:14 THE SOUTH WOULD ACCEPT NEITHER.
172 01:09:21:16 01:09:23:08 THAT AUGUST,
THE DEMOCRATS NOMINATED
173 01:09:23:10 01:09:25:18 FORMER GENERAL GEORGE McCLELLAN
FOR PRESIDENT
174 01:09:25:20 01:09:27:08 AND PASSED A PLATFORM
175 01:09:27:10 01:09:29:17 CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE END
OF HOSTILITIES.
176 01:09:30:25 01:09:33:18 A DESPONDENT LINCOLN
TOLD HIS CABINET
177 01:09:33:20 01:09:36:15 HE DIDN'T EXPECT
TO WIN THE ELECTION.
178 01:09:36:17 01:09:38:28 "I'M GOING TO BE BEATEN BADLY,"
HE TOLD AN ARMY OFFICIAL
179 01:09:39:00 01:09:40:20 "UNLESS SOME GREAT CHANGE
TAKES PLACE."
180 01:09:43:00 01:09:45:13 WELL, THAT GREAT CHANGE TOOK
PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 2
181 01:09:45:15 01:09:47:28 WHEN SHERMAN BROKE THROUGH
AND CAPTURED ATLANTA.
182 01:09:51:09 01:09:52:26 WHILE SHERMAN OCCUPIED ATLANTA
183 01:09:52:28 01:09:54:28 GENERAL PHIL SHERIDAN,
"LITTLE PHIL"--
184 01:09:55:00 01:09:57:08 A PINT-SIZED,
FEROCIOUSLY AGGRESSIVE FIGHTER
185 01:09:57:10 01:10:01:02 SMASHED CONFEDERATE FORCES
IN VIRGINIA'S SHENANDOAH VALLEY.
186 01:10:01:04 01:10:02:09 LINCOLN WAS SAVED.
187 01:10:04:05 01:10:06:02 THAT NOVEMBER HE WON
A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
188 01:10:06:04 01:10:07:10 THAT HAD MORE RIDING ON IT
189 01:10:07:12 01:10:09:15 THAN ANY OTHER ONE
IN AMERICAN HISTORY.
190 01:10:11:08 01:10:15:12 AFTER THIS, GRANT AND SHERMAN
BEGAN FINISHING OFF THE SOUTH.
191 01:10:15:14 01:10:18:01 WHILE GRANT CONTINUED
TO PIN DOWN LEE
192 01:10:18:03 01:10:19:16 AT RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG
SHERMAN CUT LOOSE FROM ATLANTA
AND MARCHED TO THE SEA
DESTROYING EVERYTHING
IN HIS PATH
IN AN EFFORT TO TERRORIZE
THE SOUTH
AND BREAK ITS WILL
AND ABILITY TO FIGHT.
AS SHERMAN SAID
BEFORE HIS MARCH
"THIS WAR IS DIFFERENT
FROM EUROPEAN WARS OF THE PAST.
"WE'RE FIGHTING
NOT ONLY A HOSTILE ARMY
BUT A HOSTILE PEOPLE.
"AND WE MUST MAKE THEM,
OLD AND YOUNG, RICH AND POOR
FEEL THE HARD HAND OF WAR."
HIS MOST DEVASTATING BLOWS
FOR HIS NEXT TARGET--
SOUTH CAROLINA,
THE SEAT OF SECESSION.
EARLY THAT APRIL,
AFTER PLUNDERING SOUTH CAROLINA
AND PUSHING NORTHWARD
TOWARD RICHMOND
SHERMAN HEARD THAT GRANT
HEARD THAT GRANT
HAD BROKEN THROUGH
LEE'S RICHMOND DEFENSES
NEAR APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA
WHERE HE ACCEPTED
LEE'S SURRENDER.
BACK IN WASHINGTON, A JUBILANT
LINCOLN SPOKE ABOUT HIS PLANS
FOR BRINGING THE SOUTH
BACK INTO THE UNION.
HE HAD NOT SETTLED ON
A FINAL RECONSTRUCTION POLICY
BUT HE HOPED, HE SAID,
THAT THE VOTE WOULD BE EXTENDED
AT LEAST, TO LITERATE BLACKS
AND BLACK ARMY VETERANS.
"THAT MEANS NIGGER CITIZENSHIP,"
SAID A MAN IN THE CROWD
A STAGE ACTOR AND CONFEDERATE
SUPPORTER FROM MARYLAND
NAMED JOHN WILKES BOOTH.
"THAT'S THE LAST SPEECH
HE'LL EVER MAKE," BOOTH UTTERED.
WHEN NEWS OF LEE'S SURRENDER
WENT OUT ON THE TELEGRAPH WIRES
WILD CELEBRATIONS BROKE OUT
ALL OVER THE NORTH.
BUT SEVERAL DAYS LATER,
THE MOOD TURNED SOMBER AND ANGRY

WHEN THE NATION LEARNED
THAT JOHN WILKES BOOTH
HAD ASSASSINATED LINCOLN.
LINCOLN WAS
THE FIRST AMERICAN PRESIDENT
EVER TO BE ASSASSINATED.
THE NEXT WEEK,
GENERAL JOSEPH JOHNSTON
OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY
THAT SHERMAN HAD BEEN PURSUING
IN NORTH CAROLINA, SURRENDERED.
The SOUTH HAD NO MORE ARMIES.
The WAR WAS OVER.
The MARTYRED LINCOLN ACHIEVED
WHAT HE HAD CALLED FOR
IN HIS GETTYSBURG ADDRESS:
SECESSION WAS DEAD,
AND WITH IT, SLAVERY--
AT A TERRIBLE COST
OF 620,000 LIVES
AND THE UTTER DESTRUCTION
OF THE SOUTH.
BUT TWO GREAT QUESTIONS
REMAINED:
WHAT WOULD BE THE PLACE
IN THE RECONSTRUCTED NATION
OF THE ALMOST FOUR MILLION
NEWLY FREED SLAVES
AND OF THE DEFEATED SOUTH?
RECONSTRUCTION WAS ONE OF
THE MOST DAUNTING CHALLENGES
BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
THE NORTHERN ECONOMY EMERGED
FROM THE WAR STRONGER THAN EVER
POISED FOR
AN UNPRECEDENTED EXPANSION.
BUT THE SOUTH WAS BANKRUPT
AND PROSTRATE
ITS FARMS AND FACTORIES
IN RUINS.
AS REBEL SOLDIERS HEADED HOME
ALONG DUSTY ROADS
THEY PASSED WAGONS FILLED
WITH WHITE REFUGEES--
OLD MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN--
RETURNING, LIKE THE SOLDIERS
TO HOMES AND TOWNS
RAVAGED BY YANKEE ARMIES.
WHEN THESE VICTIMS OF THE WAR
ARRIVED HOME
THEY FOUND THINGS
GREATLY CHANGED.
19-YEAR-OLD HUGH MOSS, A VETERAN
OF THE SIEGE OF VICKSBURG

IN LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA
256 01:13:25:17 01:13:27:06 WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN,
IN THEIR WORDS
258 01:13:28:20 01:13:30:19 WHO WOULD NO LONGER
TAKE ORDERS FROM THEM.
259 01:13:32:12 01:13:35:00 THE NEWLY FREED BLACKS,
MOSS WROTE IN HIS DIARY
260 01:13:35:02 01:13:38:03 WERE "PUTTING THEMSELVES
ON AN EQUALITY WITH WHITES."
261 01:13:38:05 01:13:40:26 THIS, MOSS SAID,
MADE HIS "BLOOD BOIL."
262 01:13:42:20 01:13:44:02 TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE
263 01:13:44:04 01:13:47:12 TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CONFEDERATE
VETERANS RETURNED HOME
OF MISSISSIPPI SPENT
266 01:13:51:16 01:13:54:07 OVER ONE-FIFTH OF ITS BUDGET
FOR ARTIFICIAL LIMBS
267 01:13:54:09 01:13:56:02 FOR ITS VETERANS.
268 01:13:56:04 01:13:58:22 THIS IS HOW RECONSTRUCTION
BEGAN FOR SOUTHERNERS
269 01:13:58:24 01:14:00:20 IN A CLIMATE
OF SEETHING PASSIONS
270 01:14:00:22 01:14:02:17 AND DEEP-FELT HATRED OF YANKEES.
271 01:14:02:19 01:14:04:03 BUT FOR BLACK PEOPLE
272 01:14:04:05 01:14:06:01 RECONSTRUCTION BEGAN
ON HIGH HOPES.
273 01:14:06:03 01:14:11:14 AT FIRST, FREEDOM MEANT
SIMPLY FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.
274 01:14:11:16 01:14:13:21 LONG RESTRICTED
TO THE PLANTATION
275 01:14:13:23 01:14:15:28 OR TO LIMITED TRAVEL
WITH A PASS
276 01:14:16:00 01:14:18:16 NEWLY FREED SLAVES
TOOK TO THE ROAD
277 01:14:18:18 01:14:20:26 AND TRAVELED
FROM PLACE TO PLACE
278 01:14:20:28 01:14:23:15 TESTING THEIR ABILITY
TO MOVE ABOUT
279 01:14:23:17 01:14:25:16 OR JUST SEARCHING
FOR FAMILY MEMBERS
280 01:14:25:18 01:14:28:02 WHO HAD BEEN SOLD OFF
TO OTHER PLANTATIONS.
281 01:14:28:04 01:14:31:07 THOUSANDS OF FORMER SLAVES
SHED THEIR SLAVE NAMES
282 01:14:31:09 01:14:35:04 AND ALL OVER THE SOUTH, THERE
WERE MASS MARRIAGE CEREMONIES.
283 01:14:35:06 01:14:38:04 EVEN THE SMALLEST THINGS
MATTERED-- LIKE IN VICKSBURG
284 01:14:38:06 01:14:40:00 WHEN FOR THE FIRST TIME
285 01:14:40:02 01:14:43:15 DEAD BLACK PEOPLE WERE LISTED
ON BURIAL RECORDS BY THEIR NAMES
AND NOT BY THE TERM "PERSON, COLORED."

AS THEY REBUILT THEIR FAMILIES NEWLY FREED SLAVES ALSO CREATED THEIR OWN CHURCHES--

THE FIRST SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN AMERICA

FULLY CONTROLLED BY BLACK PEOPLE--

AND THEY WENT TO SCHOOL.

THE FIRST SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN AMERICA FULLY CONTROLLED BY BLACK PEOPLE--

AND THEY WENT TO SCHOOL.

NORTHERN MISSIONARIES AND PHILANTHROPISTS FUNDED AND STAFFED BLACK SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

BUT TO A LARGE EXTENT IT WAS BLACKS THEMSELVES WHO CREATED, PAID FOR AND RAN THEIR OWN SCHOOLS.

AS BOOKER T. WASHINGTON MARVELED "IT WAS A WHOLE RACE TRYING TO GO TO SCHOOL."

IDA B. WELLS, WHO WOULD LATER LEAD A NATIONAL ANTI-LYNCHING MOVEMENT RECALLED THAT HER ILLITERATE MOTHER WENT TO SCHOOL WITH HER IN HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, WEARING HER BEST DRESS SO SHE COULD LEARN TO READ THE BIBLE.

NOTHING ANGERED WHITE SOUTHERNERS MORE THAN THESE BLACK SCHOOLS.

AS ONE MISSISSIPPI POLITICIAN DECLARED: "WHAT THE NORTH IS SENDING SOUTH IS NOT MONEY BUT DYNAMITE; THIS EDUCATION IS RUINING OUR NEGROES.

THEM MUST HAVE ACCESS TO LAND.

THE CRY WENT UP ALL OVER THE SOUTH: "40 ACRES AND A MULE."

THIS EXPRESSION, IRONICALLY, HAD ITS ORIGINS IN THE SURPRISING ACTION OF A UNION GENERAL--

KNOWN FOR HIS RACIST VIEWS--WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN.

IN HIS MARCH TO THE SEA

SHERMAN HAD LIBERATED THOUSANDS OF GEORGIA SLAVES

WHO FOLLOWED HIS ARMY--
SO MANY SLAVES

319 01:16:11:16 01:16:14:06 THAT SHERMAN FEARED THEY WOULD DISRUPT HIS ARMY'S CAPACITY

320 01:16:14:08 01:16:15:18 TO MAKE WAR.

321 01:16:15:20 01:16:18:14 SO WHEN SHERMAN REACHED SAVANNAH, GEORGIA


323 01:16:20:27 01:16:23:23 IT SET ASIDE THE SOUTH CAROLINA SEA ISLES

324 01:16:23:25 01:16:27:07 AND EXTENSIVE RICE-GROWING LAND TO THE SOUTH OF CHARLESTON--

325 01:16:27:09 01:16:30:06 LAND ABANDONED BY FORMER WHITE PLANTERS--

326 01:16:30:08 01:16:33:04 FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF BLACKS.

327 01:16:33:06 01:16:36:12 SHERMAN CONSIDERED THIS A TEMPORARY WAR MEASURE.

328 01:16:36:14 01:16:38:26 THE 40,000 FORMER SLAVES WHO SETTLED

329 01:16:38:28 01:16:41:22 ON WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS "SHERMAN'S LANDS"

330 01:16:41:24 01:16:43:23 HAD DIFFERENT IDEAS.

331 01:16:43:25 01:16:45:06 AS ONE BLACK MAN SAID "I ALWAYS KEPT MASTER AND ME; I GUESS I CAN KEEP ME."

332 01:16:45:08 01:16:47:27 THIS PLAN TO REDISTRIBUTE CONFISCATED LAND WOULD HAVE REVOLUTIONIZED THE SOUTH.

333 01:16:47:29 01:16:50:29 BUT WITHIN A YEAR, THE LAND WAS RETURNED TO ITS FORMER OWNERS.

334 01:16:51:01 01:16:53:20 WHO HAD BEGUN TO FARM IT WERE TOLD TO WORK FOR THE ORIGINAL OWNERS OR BE EVICTED.

335 01:16:53:22 01:16:58:10 THIS WAS PART OF A PLAN BY LINCOLN'S SUCCESSOR, PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON

336 01:16:58:12 01:17:00:29 JOHNSON HOPED TO BRING THE SOUTH BACK INTO THE UNION ON LENIENT TERMS, WITH WHITE SUPREMACY INTACT.

337 01:17:01:01 01:17:04:20 BUT JOHNSON DIDN'T SPEAK FOR THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENT.

338 01:17:04:22 01:17:06:06 HIS RECONSTRUCTION POLICIES WERE VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED IN CONGRESS.

339 01:17:06:08 01:17:08:18 BY A GROUP OF REPUBLICANS LED BY CONGRESSMAN THADDEUS STEVENS OF PENNSYLVANIA AND SENATOR CHARLES SUMNER OF MASSACHUSETTS.

340 01:17:08:20 01:17:11:20 NEWSPAPERS CALLED THEM "RADICAL REPUBLICANS."
ABOLITIONISTS BEFORE THE WAR, THEY WANTED TO PUNISH THE SOUTH
AND PROVIDE LEGAL PROTECTION--INCLUDING THE VOTE--
FOR THE FREEDMEN.
THADDEUS STEVENS WAS ALMOST ALONE AMONG THEM, HOWEVER
IN PUSHING FOR A POLICY OF LAND CONFISCATION AND REDISTRIBUTION.
BOTH A LANDED ARISTOCRACY AND A LANDLESS CLASS WERE
HE SAID, DANGEROUS TO A DEMOCRACY.
JOHNSON, A TENNESSEAN OF HUMBLE BACKGROUND
HAD BEEN PUT ON THE LINCOLN TICKET IN 1864
TO GET SUPPORT FROM PRO-WAR DEMOCRATS.
IN 1861, HE WAS THE ONLY SENATOR FROM A SECEding STATE
THAT HAD REMAINED LOYAL TO THE UNION.
A TAILOR BY TRADE, JOHNSON HAD NEVER GONE TO SCHOOL.
AND LIKE MANY OF HIS MOST ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTERS--
THE POOR WHITES OF TENNESSEE--HE HATED THE PLANTATION ARISTOCRACY.
THIS AT FIRST ENCOURAGED THE RADICALS REPUBLICANS.
BUT THEY SOON LEARNED THAT HE HATED BLACKS EVEN MORE.
JOHNSON WAS WILLING TO OFFICIALLY PARDON THE CONFEDERATE LEADERS BY THE THOUSANDS
IN ORDER TO KEEP THE SOUTH WHITE MAN'S COUNTRY.
IN AN OFFICIAL ADDRESS TO CONGRESS, HE DECLARED THAT NEGROES "HAVE LESS CAPACITY FOR GOVERNMENT"
THAN ANY OTHER RACE OF PEOPLE," AND WHEN LEFT ALONE
HAD "A TENDENCY TO RELAPSE INTO BARBARISM."
THAT MIGHT BE THE MOST EXTREME STATEMENT EVER TO APPEAR IN AN OFFICIAL PAPER BY AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT.
AT FIRST, THE RADICALS HAD THE COUNTRY BEHIND THEM
AND THEY WON BACK CONTROL OF RECONSTRUCTION
FROM THE PRESIDENT IN 1866.

NOW, FOR A STATE TO BE READMITTED TO THE UNION IT HAD TO ACCEPT THE NEWLY-RATIFIED 14th AMENDMENT WHICH GAVE BLACKS THE VOTE AND CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS.

THESE RIGHTS WOULD BE FURTHER PROTECTED WITH THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15th AMENDMENT IN 1870.

SOUTHERN STATES WERE PUT UNDER MILITARY RULE UNTIL THEY ACCEPTED THESE TERMS.

WHEN JOHNSON URGED THE SOUTHERN STATES TO DEFY CONGRESS THADDEUS STEVENS LED A SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO IMPEACH HIM.

IN MARCH, 1868, JOHNSON WAS ACQUITTED BY ONE VOTE IN A SENATE TRIAL; BUT HE WAS A PERMANENTLY DAMAGED PRESIDENT.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TURNED TO THE MOST POPULAR MAN IN AMERICA ULYSSES GRANT, WHO WAS ELECTED BY A HUGE MAJORITY.

LIKE LINCOLN BEFORE HIM, GRANT WAS COMMITTED TO NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. HIS CAMPAIGN SLOGAN WAS "LET US HAVE PEACE."

BUT EVEN AS HE CAMPAIGNED RACIAL VIOLENCE BROKE OUT ALL OVER THE SOUTH.

THE CHIEF INSTRUMENT OF INTIMIDATION WAS THE KU KLUX KLAN. THE KLAN WAS FOUNDED IN TENNESSEE RIGHT AFTER THE WAR AND GREW STRONGEST IN AREAS WHERE BLACKS WERE POLITICALLY ACTIVE.

BLACKS AND THEIR WHITE POLITICAL ALLIES--CALLED "SCALAWAGS" IF THEY WERE FROM THE SOUTH WERE POLITICALLY ACTIVE.

IF THEY WERE FROM THE NORTH--THE KLAN WAS FOUND IN TENNESSEE RIGHT AFTER THE WAR CALLED "CARPETBAGGERS" IF FROM THE NORTH--

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THE KLAN WAS FOUND IN TENNESSEE RIGHT AFTER THE WAR CALLED "CARPETBAGGERS" IF FROM THE NORTH--

GOVERNED THE RECONSTRUCTION SOUTH.

WITH WHITES HOLDING MOST OF THE HIGH POLITICAL OFFICES.

ALTHOUGH BLACKS THEMSELVES
NEVER COMPLETELY CONTROLLED

ANY SOUTHERN STATE

THEY HELD POLITICAL OFFICE

ALL OVER THE SOUTH.

THE KLAN WENT AFTER

THESE BLACK OFFICEHOLDERS

AS WELL AS THOSE

WHO VOTED FOR THEM.

BLACK PEOPLE WERE ATTACKED,

WHIPPED, AND OFTEN LYNCHED

BY ARMED MEN DRESSED

IN WHITE HOODS AND SHEETS--

EX-CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS.

GRANT WAS UNWILLING TO WAGE

WHAT HE CONSIDERED A SECOND WAR

AGAINST WHITE SOUTHERNERS.

BUT REPORTS

OF MOUNTING KLAN TERRORISM

FINALLY FORCED HIM TO ACT

WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT

OF CONGRESS

AND HIS COURAGEOUS

ATTORNEY GENERAL, AMOS Akerman.

USING FEDERAL TROOPS

AND NEW FEDERAL LAWS

GRANT CRUSHED THE KLAN.

BUT HE KNEW

THAT VIOLENCE WOULD CONTINUE

AND THAT THE NORTHERN PUBLIC--

MORE INTERESTED NOW

IN ECONOMIC PROGRESS

THAN BLACK PROGRESS--

WOULDN'T SUPPORT CONTINUED

FEDERAL INTERVENTION.

SO HE REMOVED Akerman

AND EMBRACED CONCILIATION.

SMELLING VICTORY

WHITE SUPREMacists WERE

IN NO MOOD TO COMPROMISE.

ON DECEMBER 21, 1874, THERE WAS

AN OUTBREAK OF RACIAL VIOLENCE

VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI.

AFTER WHITES DEMANDED THE

RESIGNATION OF A BLACK SHERIFF

VIOLENCE ERUPTED BETWEEN

HIS BLACK SUPPORTERS

AND CITY OFFICIALS.

ARMED BANDS OF THE LOCAL WHITE

MAN'S PARTY, AS IT WAS CALLED

ROAMED THE COUNTRYSIDE

WITH LONG RIFLES

MURDERING AS MANY

AS 300 BLACK PEOPLE.

(maple leaf)
GRANT ORDERED IN TROOPS TO RESTORE SHERIFF PETER CROSBY.

BUT JUST AS HE DID, ANOTHER CRISIS ERUPTED IN LOUISIANA.

THERE, DEMOCRATS ATTEMPTED TO ILLEGALLY SEIZE CONTROL OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

AGAIN, GRANT SENT TROOPS THIS TIME UNDER THE COMMAND OF HIS OLD ARMY PAL, PHIL SHERIDAN.

FEDERAL SOLDIERS MARCHED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS.

AND REMOVED THE DEMOCRATIC CLAIMANTS--MEMBERS OF A GROUP CALLED "THE WHITE LEAGUE."

THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH THESE WHITE RADICALS WAS TO DECLARE THEM BANDITTI AND EXECUTE THEM.

THE INCIDENT UNLEASHED A STORM OF CRITICISM IN THE NORTH.

GRANT WAS CONDEMNED FOR HIS RESORT TO "GOVERNMENT BY BAYONET."

"WAS THIS AMERICA?"

ASKED A LEADING REPUBLICAN PARTY CRITIC OF GRANT.

"IF THIS CAN BE DONE IN LOUISIANA, HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE IT CAN DONE IN MASSACHUSETTS AND OHIO?"

GRANT DEFENDED HIS ACTIONS IN A COURAGEOUS SPEECH IN WHICH HE MADE REFERENCE TO A MASSACRE THAT OCCURRED A FEW YEARS BEFORE, IN COLFA, LOUISIANA.

IN THAT INCIDENT, RAMPAGING WHITES MURDERED 280 BLACKS AND NONE OF THE WHITES HAD BEEN ARRESTED.

"WHY IS IT," GRANT ASKED, "THAT NO WAY CAN BE FOUND IN THIS BOASTED LAND OF CIVILIZATION AND CHRISTIANITY TO PUNISH THE PERPETUATORS OF THIS BLOODY AND MONSTROUS CRIME?"

"BUT AFTER THIS, GRANT BACKED OFF."

ON ONE OCCASION, HE TURNED DOWN AN URGENT PLEA FROM THE RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNOR.
OF MISSISSIPPI

TO SEND TROOPS
TO PROTECT BLACK VOTERS
AGAINST VIOLENT INTIMIDATION
BY A LOCAL WHITE LEAGUE.
GRANT REFUSED TO INTERVENE
BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE HURT
HIS PARTY'S CHANCES
OF RETAINING THE WHITE HOUSE
IN 1876.

SO THE DEMOCRATS SWEPT THE
MISSISSIPPI ELECTION OF 1875
USING FORCE AND FRAUD.
THE REPUBLICANS WERE OVERTHROWN,
AS THEY WOULD BE TWO YEARS LATER
IN EVERY SOUTHERN STATE.
THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN PARTY
SAT BACK
AND WATCHED THIS HAPPEN.
BUT THIS WAS NO LONGER
THE PARTY OF THADDEUS STEVENS.
THE PARTY WAS NOW CONTROLLED
BY POWERFUL NORTHERN BUSINESSMEN
AND GRANT CATERED TO THEM.
THE RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNOR
OF MISSISSIPPI, ADEBERT AMES
HAD IT RIGHT:
THE SOUTH PREVAILED BECAUSE
THE NORTH WAS NOT PREPARED
AS GRANT, SHERMAN, AND LINCOLN
HAD BEEN PREPARED
DURING THE CIVIL WAR
TO USE RADICAL MEASURES AGAINST
AN UNDECLARED REVOLUTION
AGAINST
CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.
THESE TOUGHER MEASURES
COULD HAVE INCLUDED
CONFISCATION AND REDISTRIBUTION
TO BLACK FARMERS
OF THE LAND OF FORMER MASTERS;
LONG PRISON SENTENCES FOR TOP
CONFEDERATE LEADERS--
JEFFERSON DAVIS, FOR EXAMPLE,
GOT THE LONGEST PRISON SENTENCE
A MERE TWO YEARS--
AND A LONG-TERM MILITARY
PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH
TO PROTECT BLACK PEOPLE.
WHY THE NORTH DIDN'T
TAKE STRONGER MEASURES
IS EXPLAINED, IN PART
IN A LETTER WILLIAM TECUMSEH
SHERMAN SENT TO A FELLOW OFFICER
WHO BELIEVED IN BLACK SUFFRAGE.
"THERE IS POWERFUL RACIAL
PREJUDICE ALL OVER AMERICA

511 01:25:09:00  01:25:12:06  "IF WE BEGIN TO FORCE THE NEGRO ON THE SOUTH AS A VOTER
512 01:25:12:08  01:25:15:09  "WE BEGIN," WHAT SHERMAN CALLED, "A NEW REVOLUTION."
513 01:25:15:11  01:25:17:06  THEN, SHERMAN STRONGLY IMPLIED
514 01:25:17:08  01:25:20:15  THAT HE MIGHT TAKE A DIFFERENT SIDE IN THIS REVOLUTION
516 01:25:23:14  01:25:26:26  TO CRUSH A REVOLUTION AGAINST CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.
517 01:25:26:28  01:25:28:21  SO WITH NORTHERN COMPLIANCE
519 01:25:32:09  01:25:35:06  UNTIL A BLACK CHURCH LEADER NAMED MARTIN LUTHER KING
520 01:25:35:08  01:25:37:07  INAUGURATED A SECOND RECONSTRUCTION.
521 01:25:41:08  01:25:44:10  [Captioned by
The Caption Center
WGBH Educational Foundation]