8.84 Compare the 10 Percent Plan to the Radical Republican Plan for Reconstruction.

Reconstruction: Goals, Successes and Failures

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjGNq2qDU-0

10 Percent Plan

Abraham Lincoln wanted a plan for Reconstruction that would united the country quickly. He wanted to make it fairly easy for the Southern states to rejoin the Union. Lincoln’s plan for Reconstruction was named the 10 Percent Plan.

Under the 10 Percent Plan, a state could rejoin the Union when it had met the following:

- A new state government could be formed when 10 percent of its voters pledged its allegiance to the United States. States could then elect Congressmen and participate in the national government.
- Southern states admitted by this plan would need a plan to abolish slavery and deal with the freed slaves.
- Confederates, except high officials, could receive a government pardon, if they swore loyalty to the Union.

Some of the Radical Republicans thought the plan was too easy on the South. Lincoln was just trying to reunite the country.

Radical Reconstruction

The Radical Republicans believed blacks were entitled to the same political rights and opportunities as whites. They also believed that the Confederate leaders should be punished for their roles in the Civil War. Leaders like Pennsylvania REPRESENTATIVE THADDEUS STEVENS and Massachusetts SENATOR CHARLES SUMNER vigorously opposed Andrew Johnson’s lenient policies. A great political battle was about to unfold.

Americans had long been suspicious of the federal government playing too large a role in the affairs of state. But the Radicals felt that extraordinary times called for direct intervention in state affairs and laws designed to protect the emancipated blacks. At the heart of their beliefs was the notion that blacks must be given a chance to compete in a free-labor economy. In 1866, this activist Congress also introduced a bill to extend the life of the Freedmen’s Bureau and began work on a CIVIL RIGHTS BILL.
FIGURE 1.2
In Baltimore on May 19, 1870, 20,000 participants celebrate the ratification of the 15th Amendment.

FIGURE 1.3
Hiram Revels of Mississippi was elected Senator and six other African Americans were elected as Congressmen from other southern states during the Reconstruction era.

President Johnson stood in opposition. He vetoed the Freedmen’s Bureau Bill, claiming that it would bloat the size of government. He vetoed the Civil Rights Bill rejecting that blacks have the "same rights of property and person" as whites.

 Moderate Republicans were appalled at Johnson’s racism. They joined with the Radicals to overturn Johnson’s Civil Rights Act veto. This marked the first time in history that a major piece of legislation was overturned. The Radicals hoped that the Civil Rights Act would lead to an active federal judiciary with courts enforcing rights.

Congress then turned its attention to amending the Constitution. In 1867 they approved the far-reaching Fourteenth Amendment, which prohibited "states from abridging equality before the law." The second part of the Amendment provided for a reduction of a state’s representatives if suffrage was denied. Republicans, in essence, offered the
South a choice — accept black enfranchisement or lose congressional representation. A third clause barred ex-
Confederates from holding state or national office.

**Which plan do you think was better? The 10 Percent plan or Radical Reconstruction; justify your answer,
citing text when possible.**

Emboldened by the work of the Fourteenth Amendment and by local political victories in the 1866 elections, the
Republicans went on to introduce the Reconstruction Act of 1867. This removed the right to vote and seek office
by "leading rebels." Now the SOUTHERN UNIONISTS — Southerners who supported the Union during the War
— became the new Southern leadership. The Reconstruction Act also divided the South into five military districts
under commanders empowered to employ the army to protect black property and citizens.

The first two years of Congressional Reconstruction saw Southern states rewrite their Constitutions and the ratifica-
tion of the Fourteenth Amendment. Congress seemed fully in control. One thing stood in the way — it was President
Johnson himself. Radical leaders employed an extraordinary Constitutional remedy to clear the impediment —
Presidential impeachment.

### Successes and Failures of Reconstruction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Successes</th>
<th>Failures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The Union is restored.</td>
<td>• Distribution of wealth and power in the South remains unchanged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Southern economic rebuilding begins.</td>
<td>• Many southerners are caught in a cycle of poverty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• African Americans are granted citizenship and voting rights.</td>
<td>• Southern governments limit African American voting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Freedmen’s Bureau helps African Americans get education, housing, and jobs.</td>
<td>• Racism continues in the North and South.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Public school system develops in the South.</td>
<td>• Many southerners remain bitter toward the federal government and Republican Party.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>