**Class Notes: Radical Reconstruction**

* Due to Johnson’s “Swing around the Circle” campaign, Republican’s gained control of both the senate and House of Representative (1866)
* This resulted in the period known as “Congressional Reconstruction” or Radical Reconstruction

**Reconstruction Act:**

* Congress began the process of reorganizing the South
* The Reconstruction Act reduced the Confederate States into conquered territories
* Congress divided the south into 5 military districts
* Each district was governed by a military general
* Martial law was used to keep the peace and protect African Americans
* All 11 southern states had to re-draft new state constitutions, ratify the 14th Amendment, Union troops were in charge of voter registration
* Congress had to override two presidential vetoes to get the construction act passed

**The Fifteenth Amendment:**

* Radicals in congress believed the only way to prevent the old south from regaining power was to give African Americans the right to vote
* To prevent the repeal of black suffrage, a amendment to the constitution was purposed
* The Fifteenth Amendment guaranteed that all African American males had the right to vote
* And ¾ ratified the amendment in 1870 (all southern states awaiting re-admission to the union had to ratify the amendment first)
* The 15th Amendment gave southern blacks the right to vote, but also gave northern black the right as well
* This amendment gave African American a political voice in the entire US

**Women’s Suffrage:**

* The Abolitionist movement and women’s suffrage was closely link
* Once the 15th Amendment was passed many believed that they (women) would also gain the right to vote
* Radicals in congress feared if they gave the vote to women with the African Americans they would loose support
* Many women were angry about being left out of the 15th Amendment

**Republicanism takes hold in the South**

* Now with the right to vote, and their rights safe guarded, many African American began to registry as republican
* Landless white males also register to vote in large numbers as well

**Black Political Power**

* African American voters quickly made their presence known in the south
* The new voters quickly elect African American to state legislature, and the House of Representatives and the Senate

**Johnson Tried and Acquitted**

* Tenure of Office Act was passed
* This act protected Republican in office within Johnson’s administration
* Radical Republicans wanted to keep sec. of War Edwin M. Stanton in office to have control over the military
* Johnson angered over the act, fired Stanton and replaced him with Ulysses S. Grant in 1867
* Congress forced Johnson to replace Grant and rehire Stanton
* Congress tired of fighting with Johnson voted to impeach him
* Charged with violating the Tenure of office act and slandering congress, Johnson went on trial
* In the final vote, congress was one vote shy of impeaching Johnson
* No other President has been impeached until Bill Clinton in 1998