

Reader's Guide

R*econstruction Era: Almanac* presents a comprehensive overview of the Reconstruction era, the period stretching roughly from the end of the American Civil War in April 1865 to the inauguration of President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1877. Reconstruction was a federal policy intended to restore the relationship between the former Confederate states and the federal Union, to oversee the transition of the newly freed slaves into citizens, and to help convert the Southern economy from one based on slave labor to one based on paid labor. Reconstruction officially ended following the resolution to the controversial presidential election of 1876 in which an electoral commission declared Hayes the victor, just days before he was inaugurated in March 1877. The new president had federal troops removed from the former Confederate region in the South to bring an end to the Reconstruction era.

Coverage and features

Reconstruction Era: Almanac's nine chapters include information about the effects of freedom on black family life,

Radical Republicans, carpetbaggers and scalawags, amnesty for white Southerners, Black Codes, the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson, the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, attempts to restore the old order in the South, the disputed presidential election of 1876, and the Compromise of 1877. Each chapter contains two types of sidebars: “Words to Know” boxes, which define important terms discussed in the chapter; and boxes that describe people, events, and facts of special interest. Each chapter concludes with a list of additional sources students can go to for more information. Nearly sixty black-and-white photographs and maps help illustrate the book.

The volume begins with a “Words to Know” section that features important terms from the entire Reconstruction era; a “Reconstruction Era Timeline” that lists significant dates and events of the Reconstruction era; and a “Research and Activity Ideas” section with suggestions for study questions, group projects, and oral and dramatic presentations. The volume concludes with a general bibliography and an index so students can easily find the people, places, and events discussed throughout *Reconstruction Era: Almanac*.

U•X•L Reconstruction Era Reference Library

Reconstruction Era: Almanac is only one component of the three-part U•X•L Reconstruction Era Reference Library. The other two titles in this set are:

- *Reconstruction Era: Biographies*: This volume presents twenty-five entries covering twenty-eight people who lived during the Reconstruction era. Profiled are well-known figures such as embattled president Andrew Johnson, his political enemies Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner, and African American pioneers Frederick Douglass and Hiram Revels, as well as lesser-known individuals such as chemist and home economics founder Ellen Richards, 1876 presidential election loser Samuel J. Tilden, and early baseball star Harry Wright. *Biographies* includes nearly eighty black-and-white photographs and illustrations, a timeline, and an index.

- *Reconstruction Era: Primary Sources*: This title tells the story of the Reconstruction era in the words of the people who lived and shaped it and the laws that contributed to it. Nineteen complete or excerpted documents provide a wide range of perspectives on this period of history. Included are excerpts from abolitionist Frederick Douglass's famous article about Reconstruction, Frances Butler Leigh's account of life after slavery as the daughter of a plantation owner, former slave John Paterson Green's experiences with the Ku Klux Klan, and U.S. senator Charles Sumner's argument in favor of the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. *Primary Sources* includes nearly sixty black-and-white photographs and illustrations, a timeline, and an index.
- A cumulative index of all three titles in the U•X•L Reconstruction Era Reference Library is also available.

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Comments and suggestions

We welcome your comments on *Reconstruction Era: Almanac* and suggestions for other topics to consider. Please write: Editors, *Reconstruction Era: Almanac*, U•X•L, 27500 Drake Rd., Farmington Hills, Michigan 48331-3535; call toll free: (800) 877-4253; fax to (248) 699-8097; or send e-mail via <http://www.gale.com>.