

Reader's Guide

R*econstruction Era: Primary Sources* 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. The Reconstruction era was 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: Primary Sources's 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. Document-specific glossaries provide context to unfamiliar terms on the pages on which they appear.

Each document presented in *Reconstruction Era: Primary Sources* includes the following additional material:

- An **introduction** places the document and its author in a historical context.
- **"Things to remember while reading ..."** offers readers important background information and directs them to central ideas in the text.
- **"What happened next ..."** provides an account of subsequent events, both in Reconstruction and in the life of the author.
- **"Did you know ..."** provides significant and interesting facts about the document, the author, or the events discussed.
- **"Consider the following ..."** gives students and teachers research and activity ideas that pertain to the subject of the document.
- **"For more information"** lists sources for further reading on the author, the topic, or the document.

Reconstruction Era: Primary Sources also features sidebars containing interesting facts about people and events related to immigration and migration, nearly sixty black-and-white photographs, a "Reconstruction Era Timeline" that lists significant dates and events associated with Reconstruction, and an index.

U•X•L Reconstruction Era Reference Library

Reconstruction Era: Primary Sources 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: Almanac*: This volume presents a comprehensive overview of the Reconstruction era. Its nine chapters are arranged chronologically and explore such topics as 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. The *Almanac* also contains nearly sixty black-and-white photographs and maps, “Words to Know” boxes, a timeline, research and activity ideas, and an index.
- *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 photographs and illustrations, a timeline, and an index.

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Comments and suggestions

We welcome your comments on *Reconstruction Era: Primary Sources* and suggestions for other topics to consider. Please write: Editors, *Reconstruction Era: Primary Sources*, 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>.