

Different Plans for the Future

Consensus for how the nation should approach Reconstruction was difficult to come by. President Lincoln proposed the first plan before his assassination. When Andrew Johnson ascended to the presidency, he proposed a similar plan. Congress, however, would ultimately enact a decisive plan in 1867 which laid the groundwork for the national approach to Reconstruction. Below is a chart outlining the highlights of each plan. Review and answer the questions that follow.

Question	Lincoln	Johnson	Congress
How do southern states rejoin the Union?	In Lincoln's Plan, ten percent of a state's citizens were required to pledge an oath of allegiance to the United States. Then, states could elect legislators to re-write state constitutions.	Johnson's plan was like Lincoln's, in that ten percent of citizens were required to pledge an oath of allegiance to the United States for the state to be able to have elections and to send representatives to Congress. Johnson's plan required the state to ratify the 13 th Amendment and to re-write state constitutions.	In Congressional Reconstruction, southern states were required to ratify the 14 th Amendment, write new state constitutions, guarantee equal protections, disenfranchise ex-Confederate officers, and accept military rule.
How will the Government help the former enslaved people?	Lincoln's main goal was to restore the Union as quickly and as painlessly as possible and thus, refrained from proposing legislation that he thought would threaten this goal in his plan for Reconstruction. Assassinated in April of 1865, Lincoln was unable to complete this plan.	Johnson's plan was far less specific in promoting Civil Rights and equal protections for African Americans than the Congressional plan.	The Southern states were required to adopt new state constitutions that guaranteed African Americans the right to vote and hold office. These new constitutions also had to be approved by Congress.
What should happen to ex-Confederates?	All would be pardoned except for this highest-ranking generals and officers. Lincoln guaranteed the protection of private property apart from slaves.	Johnson's plan resulted in the pardoning of countless Confederate officers, including Jefferson Davis. It also returned lost land to slave owners.	The Southern states were required to disenfranchise former Confederate officials and military officers from holding any public office. This was to prevent them from regaining political power and perpetuating their discriminatory practices.

Questions

- 1.) Which of the plans was MOST committed to protecting the rights of former enslaved people?
- 2.) Which plan was most generous to Confederate officers?
- 3.) Which plan(s) required ten percent of a state's citizens to take an oath of allegiance to the United States before it could be considered for re-joining the Union?
- 4.) Why was Lincoln's plan for Reconstruction incomplete?
- 5.) Which plan(s) protected the property rights of Southern landowners?
- 6.) Which plan(s) required states to ratify new Constitutional amendments for consideration to rejoin the Union?

What do you see as the main problem in the...?

Lincoln Plan

Johnson Plan

Congressional Plan

Answers:

1.) Which of the plans was MOST committed to protecting the rights of former enslaved people?

CONGRESSIONAL

2.) Which plan was most generous to Confederate officers?

JOHNSON

3.) Which plan(s) required ten percent of a state's citizens to take an oath of allegiance to the United States before it could be considered for re-joining the Union?

LINCOLN; JOHNSON

4.) Why was Lincoln's plan for Reconstruction incomplete?

He was assassinated

5.) Which plan(s) protected the property rights of Southern landowners?

LINCOLN; JOHNSON

6.) Which plan(s) required states to ratify new Constitutional amendments for consideration to rejoin the Union?

JOHNSON; CONGRESSIONAL

What do you see as the main problem in the...?

Lincoln Plan

ANSWERS WILL VARY

Johnson Plan

ANSWERS WILL VARY

Congressional Plan

ANSWERS WILL VARY