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United States History 1865 to the Present

Presentation 1: Reconstruction and Recreation

Chronology

- ✓ 1863: Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction
- ✓ 1864: 10 Percent Plan
- ✓ 1864: Wade Davis Bill
- ✓ 1864: Lincoln re-elected; Andrew Johnson Vice President.
- ✓ 1865: Lincoln assassinated.
- ✓ 1865: Johnson declares the South has been readmitted to the Union.
- ✓ 1866: Freedmen's Bureau Bill
- ✓ 1866: Civil Rights Act
- ✓ 1866: The Republicans win a supermajority in the Congress.



- 1862-1877
- Maybe longer? 1862-1975
- Process by which the United States was “recreated.”
- Changes on every level of society.
- Most of the focus by historians has generally been on the South, but the whole Union (now “nation”) was affected by Reconstruction and Republican Party policies.

A Changing Union: From Republic to Empire

- Economic reconstruction: Central government promotion of industry, commerce, and finance (Hamiltonian or “American System”).
- Political and governmental consolidation: The centralization of power in Washington D.C. and a loss of federalism or State power.
- Aggressive foreign policy and the spread of American “liberty and democracy.”
- A “progressive” America.

North Over South

- Once the South was “out” of the Union in 1861, the North could operate the general government with little interference.
- The loss of the agrarian order in the United States.
- Northern ideology dominates; the South is unable to mount a lasting opposition to Reconstruction or the transformation of the United States after returning to the Union in 1865.
 - Northern view of the War
 - Northern view of history
 - Northern economics
 - Northern mythology
 - Northern culture (literature, art, values, etc.)

The Republican Economic Agenda

- The creation of a national bank: National Banking Acts of 1863-64.
- The fusion of government and finance.
- Promotion of industry through protective tariffs.
- Land grants to the railroads—the origin of the “Gilded Age.”
- Income taxes and greenbacks—inflation.

Reconstruction in the West and South

- Congressional policy of retribution—punishing the South for her “sins.”
 - Punished with poverty and the economic and physical cost of the war.
 - Personal cost of the war.
- The Union Army and the American Indian Tribes in the West.
 - Sherman: “The only good Indian is a dead Indian.”
 - The Western Indian War and expansion.
- Changing social order in the United States—the role of minority groups in America.
 - The New United States for black Americans?

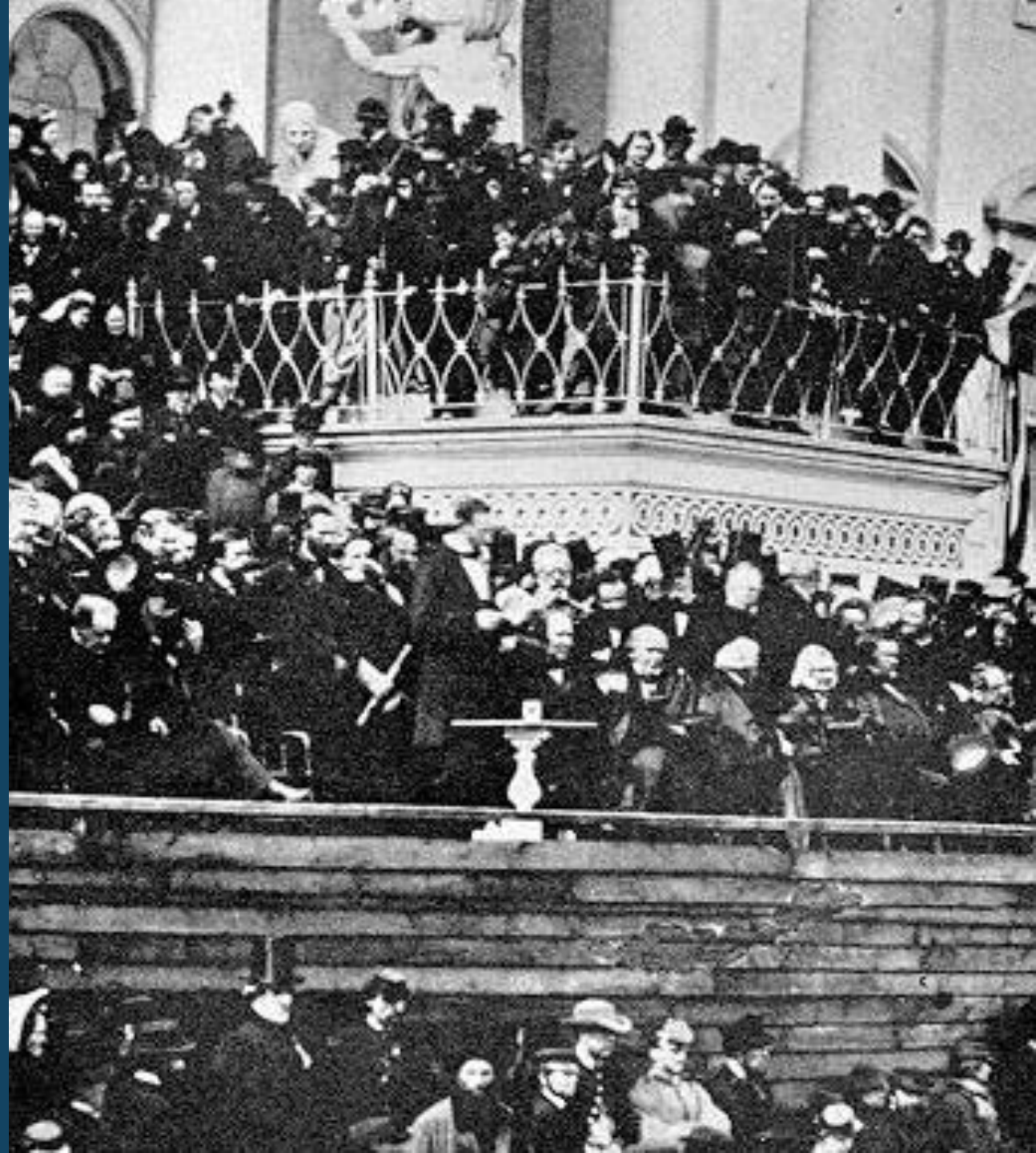
Social and Physical Destruction of the South

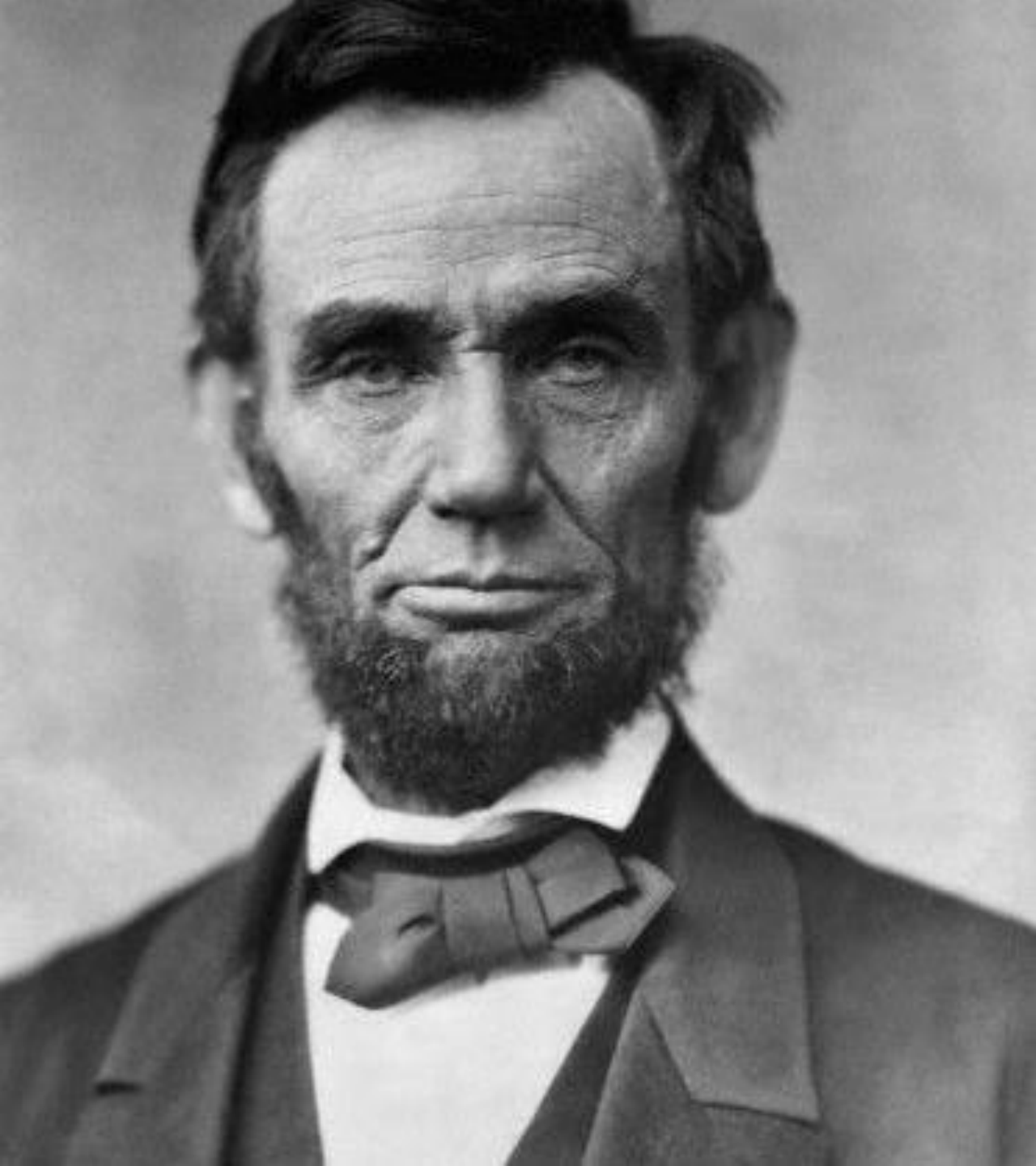
- Almost 400,000 killed and wounded during the War.
- 75% of white Southerners fought in the War; perhaps as many as 90,000 black Southerners served the C.S.A. in some capacity (Horace King).
- Atlanta, Richmond, Charleston and Columbia, SC, Columbus, GA along with countless homes, businesses, farms, and industries were destroyed during the War; no infrastructure; railroads and bridges destroyed.
- Poverty affects the entire Southern population, not just white Southerners.

Southern Economic and Political Distress

- Confederate money and bonds were worthless.
 - Land was heavily taxed and slave property was lost to abolition.
 - Major trading centers were damaged or destroyed by the War.
 - South the only place in the world where people build chimney's without houses.
 - Many white Southerners were denied the vote or the ability to hold office at some point after the War.
 - An uncertain future; depression marked the face of every Southerner.
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- Early Reconstruction efforts in the South.
- Abraham Lincoln
- March, 1865:
- “With malice toward none, with charity for all...let us...strive to bind up the nation’s wounds.”
- “Let ‘em up easy.”
- “Root, hog, or die.”



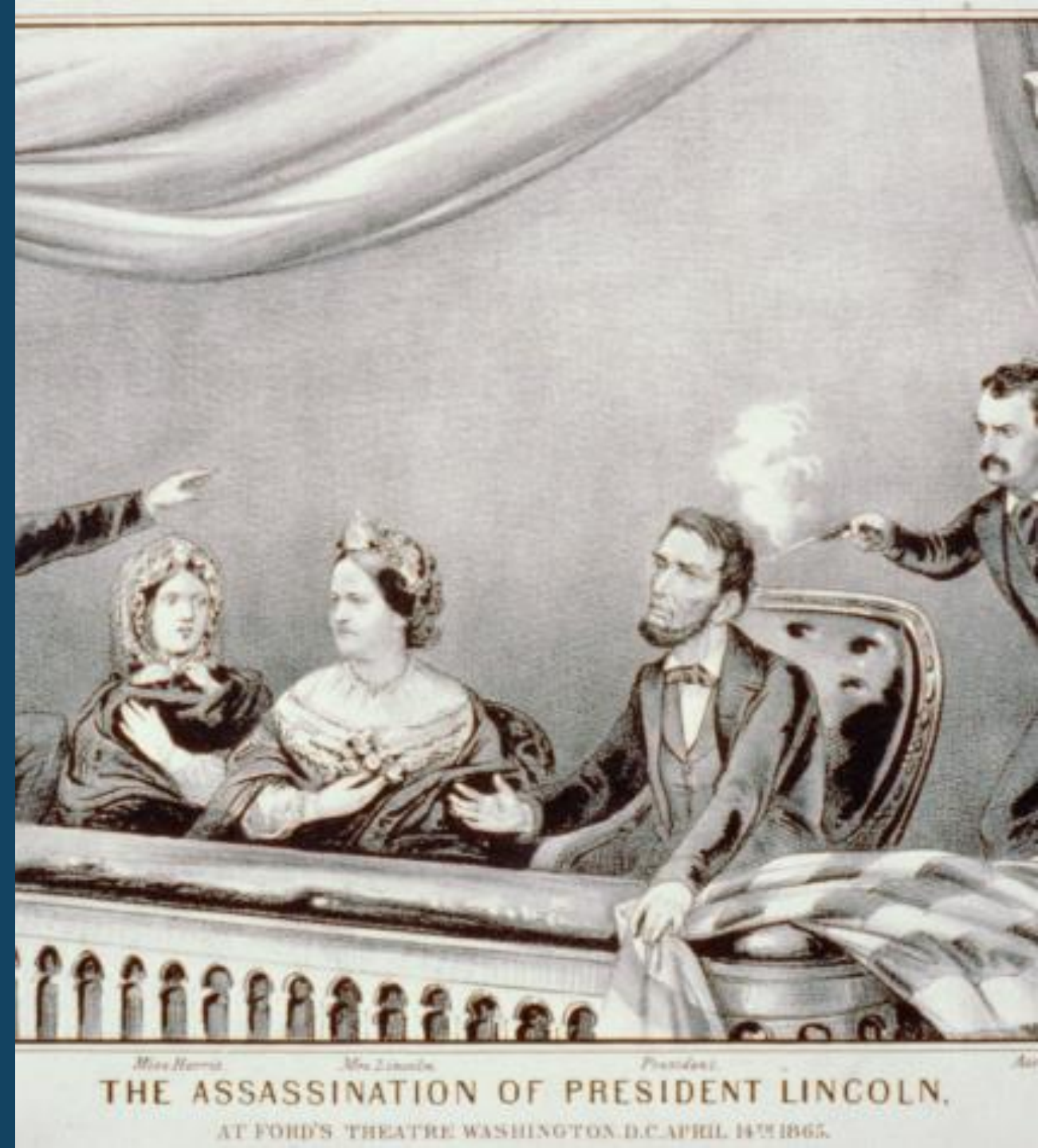


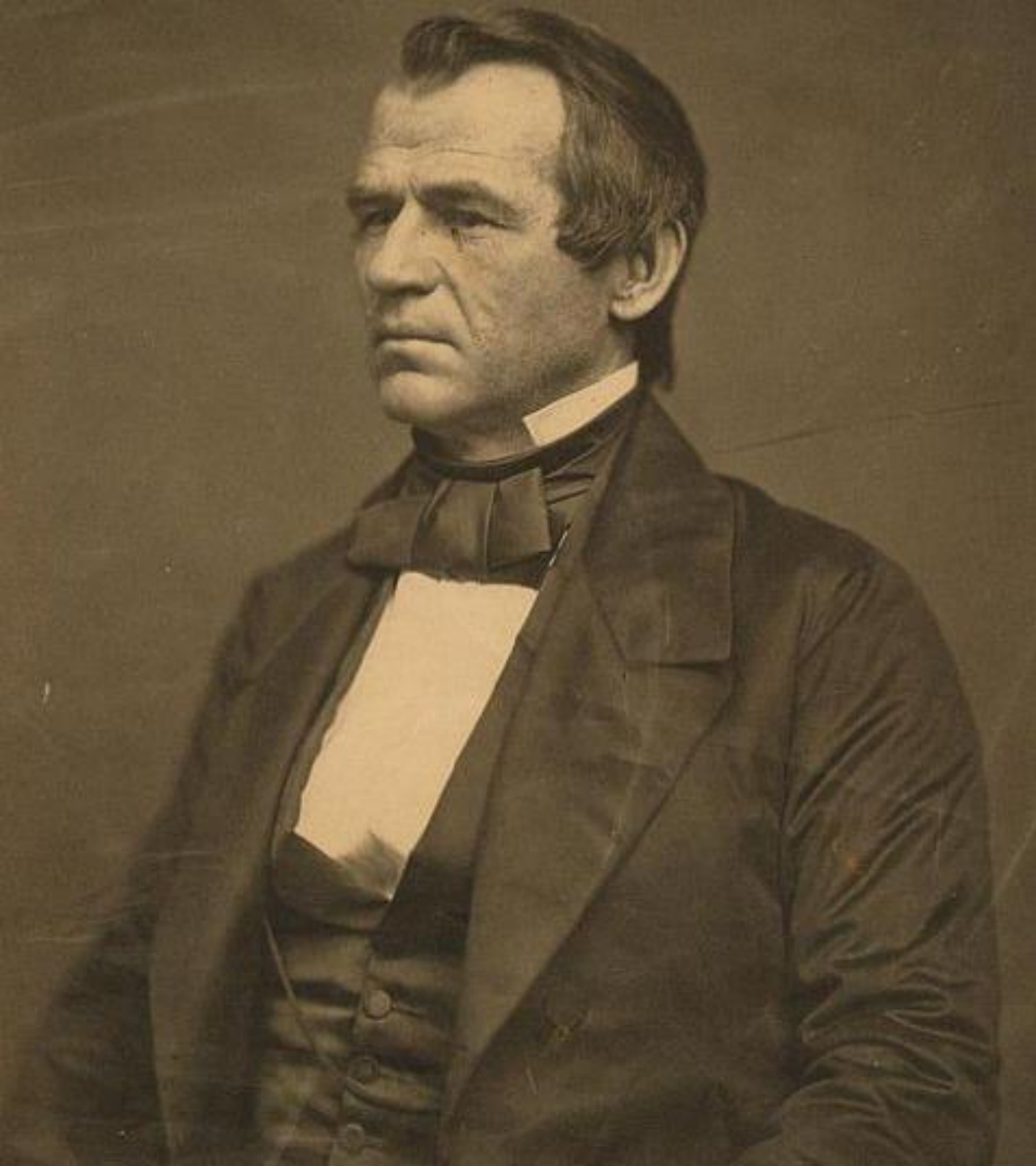
- 1863: Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction.
- 1864: The Ten-Percent Plan.
- Lenient plan of reconstruction.
- Lincoln wanted to resume the Union as quickly as possible.
- Resumption rather than reconstruction (the legal reasoning).
- Louisiana, Tennessee, and Arkansas “back” in the Union by 1864.

The Wade-Davis Bill 1864

- Radical reaction to Lincoln's soft approach to the South.
- Required an "ironclad oath" that the individual never supported the Confederacy.
- 50 percent was required for rejoining the Union.
- Lincoln uses a pocket-veto.
- Sets the stage for conflict between the moderate Republicans and Radical Republicans.

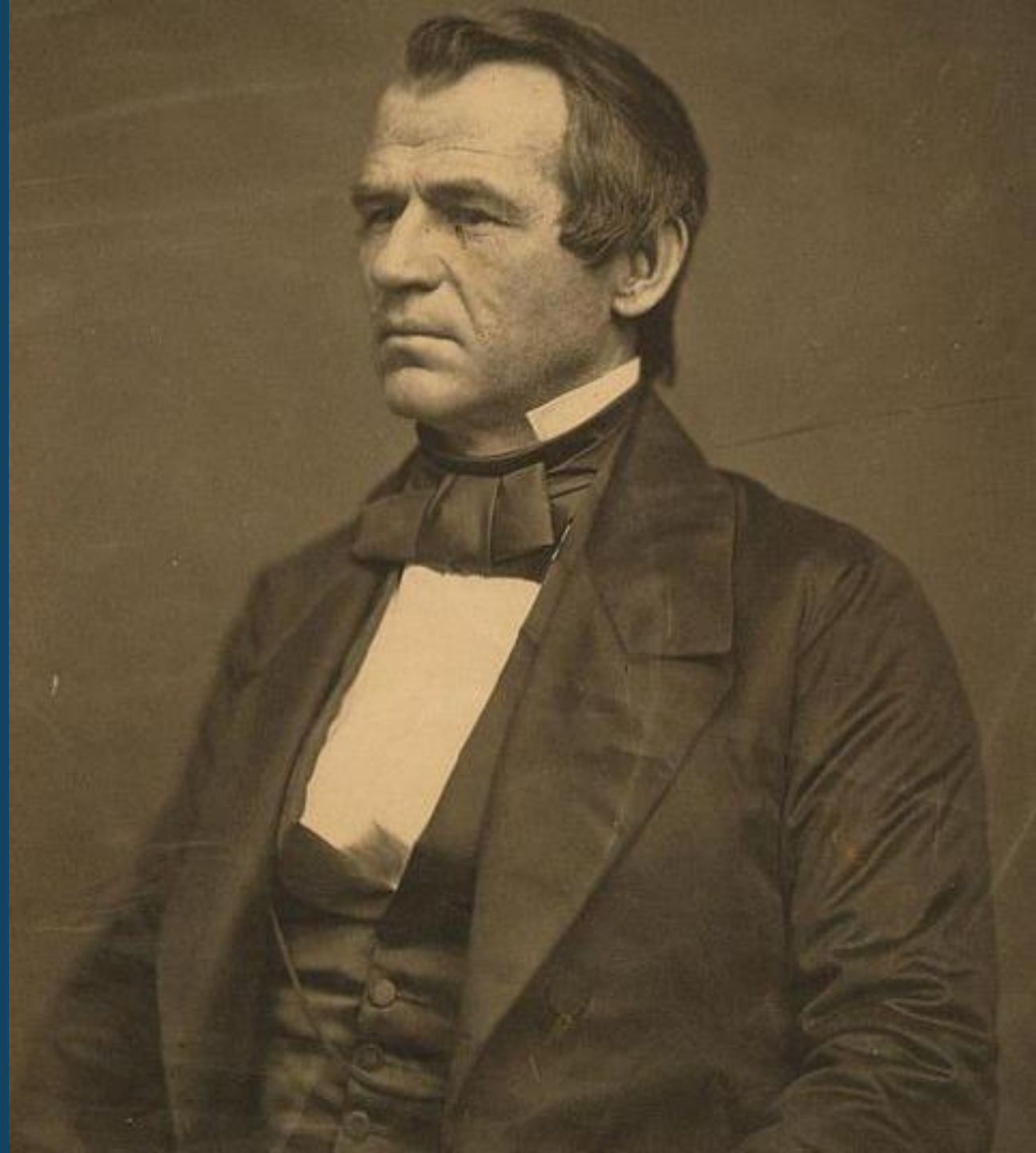
- April 1865: Lincoln assassinated in Washington, D.C. (John Wilkes Booth).
- Changed the course of Reconstruction.
- Battle between the Executive Branch and the Congress intensified.





- Andrew Johnson
- TN
- 17TH President of the United States.
- 1865-1869
- A “War Democrat.”
- What course would he follow toward Reconstruction?

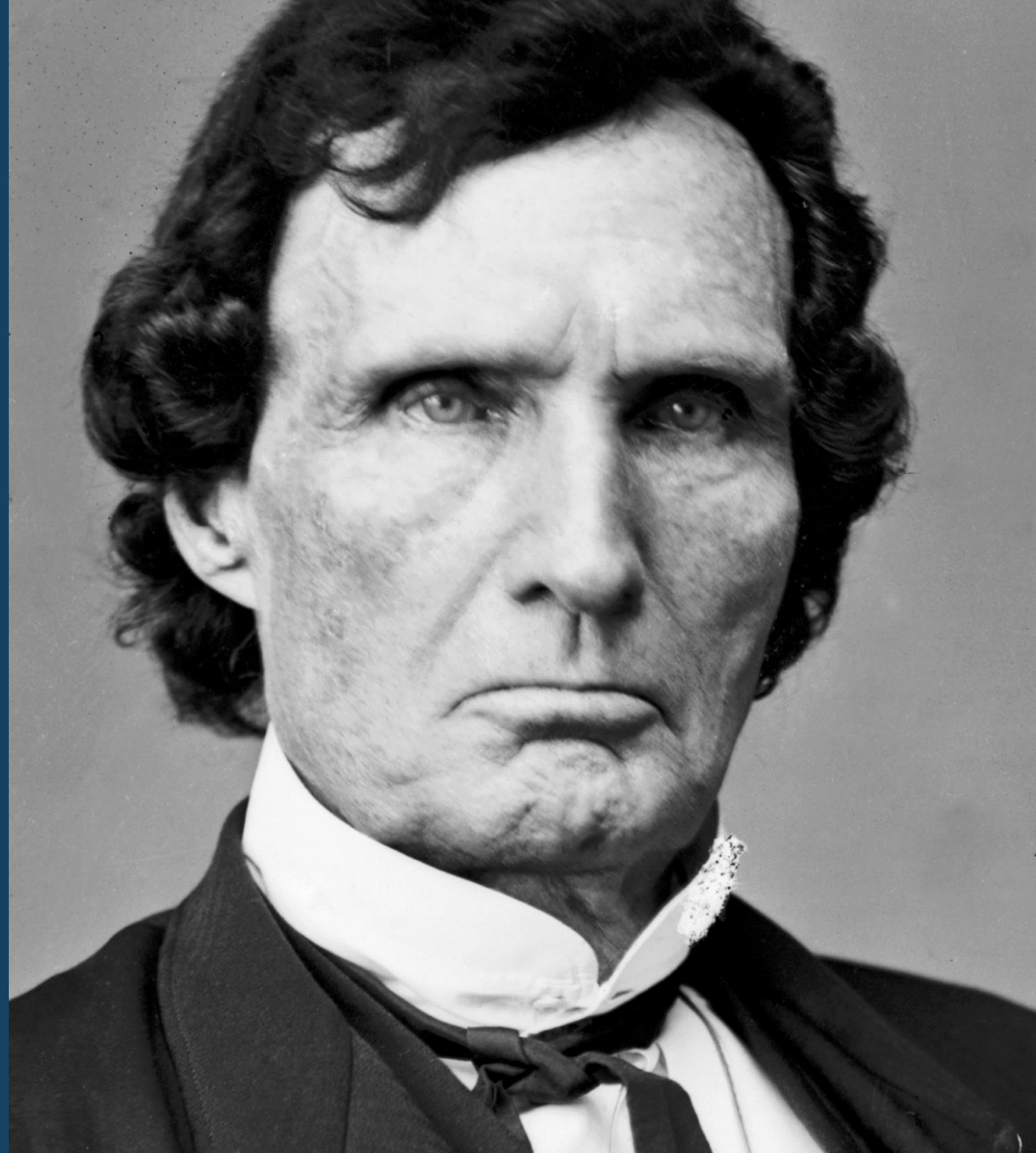
- December 1865:
- Johnson proclaims Union has been restored.
- All former Confederate States except Texas send delegates to the United States Congress—were not seated by the Republicans.
- Follows Lincoln’s Reconstruction plan with some modifications, i.e. restrictions on former high-ranking Confederate officials from receiving pardon, etc.
- The battle with Congress begins.





- Johnson's Reconstruction plan rejected by the Radical Republicans in Congress.
- The Joint Committee on Reconstruction 1865-1866.
- Congress believes that only it has the power to handle Reconstruction.
- Several former high-ranking officials in the Confederate government were refused seats in Congress, including former V.P. Alexander H. Stephens.
- Who were the Radicals?

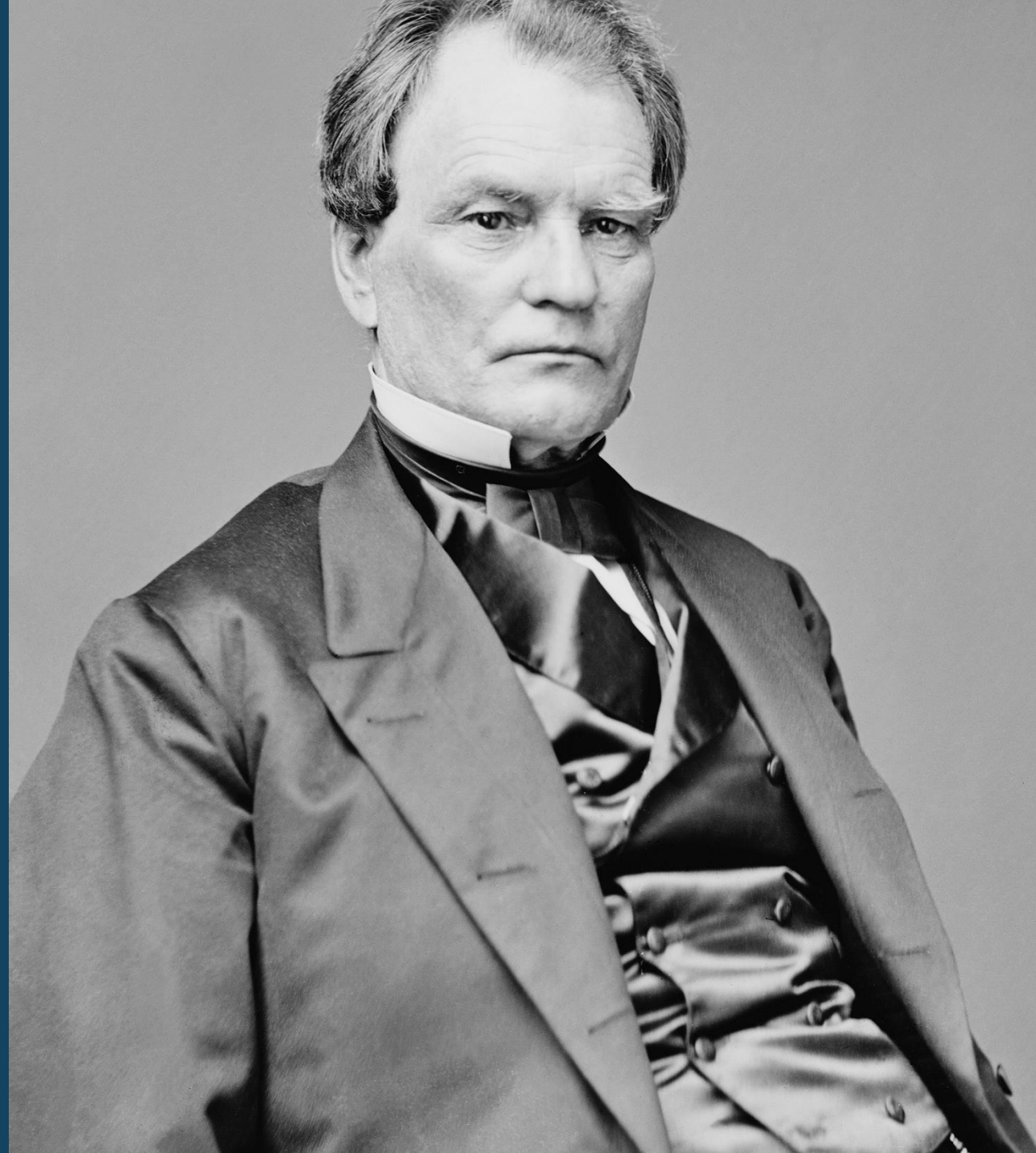
- Thaddeus Stevens
- “The Great Commoner”
- PA
- 1792-1868
- Wealthy industrialist and lawyer who owned several large iron foundries—railroads.
- Abolitionist member of the House of Representatives.
- The Southern States were “conquered provinces.”





- Charles Sumner
- 1811-1874
- MA
- Radical Republican and abolitionist Senator.
- Secession meant reverting to “territorial status.”
- Long history of anti-Southern rhetoric.

- Benjamin F. Wade
- 1800-1878
- OH
- Radical Republican Senator.
- Co-Author of the Wade-Davis Bill.
- Wanted to arm the slaves, confiscated Southern property, and execute Confederate leaders.
- Instrumental in the Johnson impeachment process.



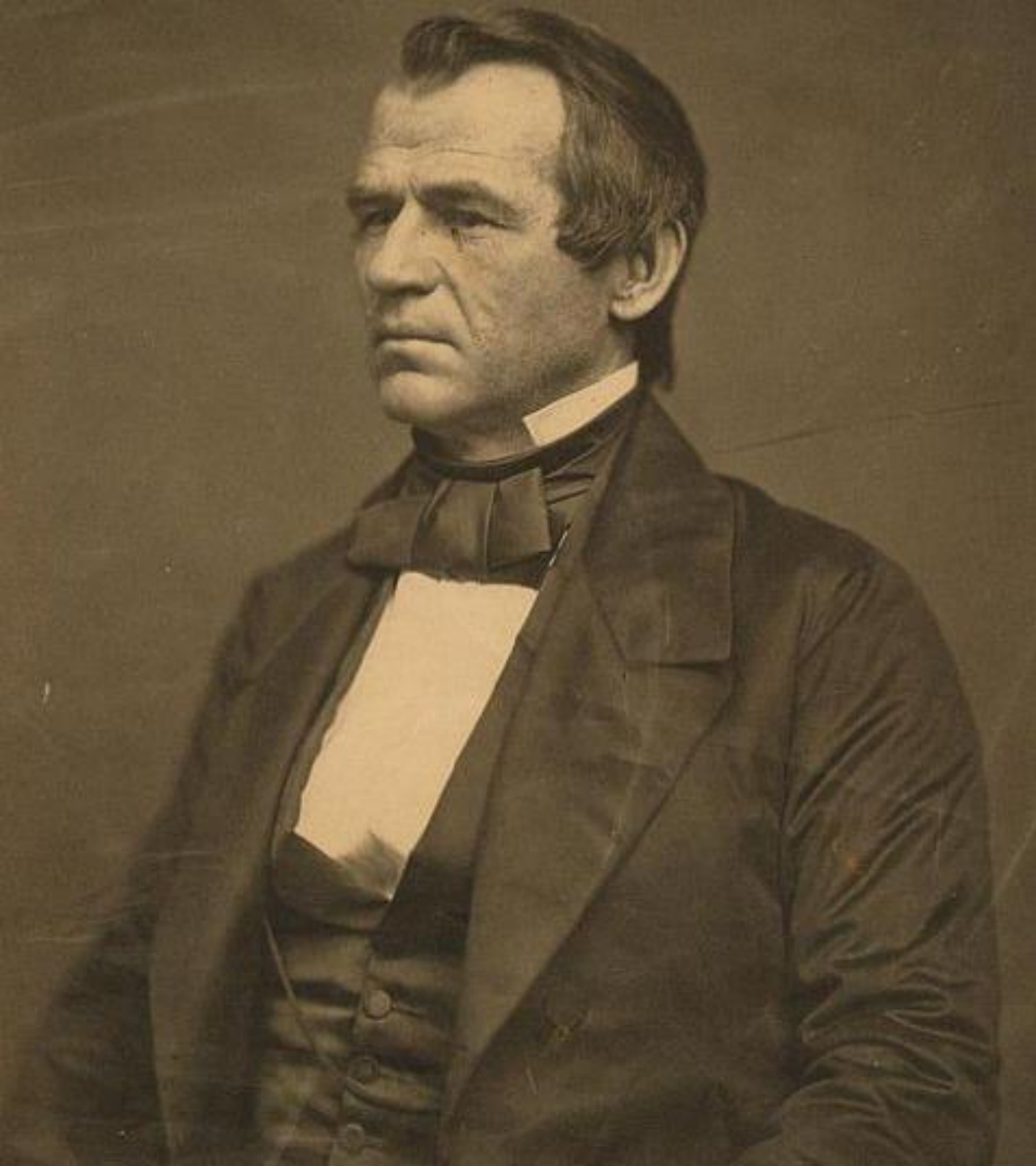
The Black Codes

- 1866
 - Similar to laws against free blacks in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.
 - Aimed at preventing vagrancy.
 - Prohibited interracial marriage.
 - Established a “master-servant” relationship by law.
 - Allowed Northern leaders to chastise the South-led to Radical Republican attacks.
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Republican Legislation



- Freedman's Bureau Bill, 1866
 - Designed to enforce the 13th Amendment—Votes.
 - Set up schools for former slaves.
- Civil Rights Act, 1866
 - Granted freedman citizenship—Allowed former slaves to own property and sue in court.



- Johnson vetoes both pieces of legislation— declares they are unconstitutional and a violation of State powers.
- Congress over-rides his vetoes—both pieces become law in 1867.
- 1866 Election—The Republicans rout the Democrats and control over 75% of congressional seats—A supermajority.
- The South still not represented in Congress.
- The beginning of Congressional or Military Reconstruction.

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Thank You