**Impact of Reconstruction**

* The South changed radically during Reconstruction
* Radical Reconstruction changed state gov’t, local sheriffs, school boards, etc.
* Freed slaves and abolitionists gladly filled these roles

Voting in the South

* Jan. of 1870 MS state legislature elected Hiram Revels to the US Senate



* He became the 1st AA to serve in the Senate
* Revels was born free in NC
* He was a minister that wasn’t initially interested in serving in the Senate
* Revels would fill the vacated seat of Jefferson Davis, former President of the Confederacy
* MS also sent Blanche Bruce to the Senate in 1874



* Bruce was the last AA to serve in the Senate until 1966
* 22 AAs served in Congress during Reconstruction
* Reconstructed state gov’ts expanded the right to vote
* New state constitutions created public school systems

Protecting Civil Rights

* Federal gov’t tried to protect AA voting rights and Republican state gov’ts
* *15th Amendment:* a person couldn’t be denied voting rights because of their race



* This didn’t outlaw poll taxes, literacy tests, & property qualifications
* Congress also passed the *Enforcement Acts*: passed to prevent Ku Klux Klan violence & prevent AAs from being arrested without cause



Reconstruction Ends

* The North lost interest in the cause
* By 1877 all federal troops were withdrawn from the South
* Southerners viewed this as “redemption”