*Period 5: Slavery and Transformation (1844 - 1877)*

* ***Rise of Slavocracy:***

* **The White Minority and Southern Culture**
  + The cotton gin’s introduction quickly brought slavery back to the forefront of the South’s economy
  + Cotton and slavery were unprofitable, but the cotton gin reversed this
  + Even the North profited off of slavery → ran textile mills
  + Even Britain depended on cotton, buying a ton of it from the South → if war broke out, the North/Britain would lose profits
  + Less than 10% of the Southern families owned 100+ slaves, but this small percentage influenced the government/economy
  + These rich planters were part of the “slavocracy” of the South
  + Cotton destroyed land, causing overspeculation and financial instability, and it led to a one-crop economy
  + The culture of the South drifted towards monopolies → bigger plantations kept buying smaller ones from small farmers
  + The South repelled immigrants because they couldn’t stand competition from the German/Irish workers against the slaves
* **The White Majority and Free Blacks**
  + Three quarters of whites owned no slaves at all, instead choosing to raise corn and hogs, and poorer whites who did own slaves usually only owned about 1 or 2
  + Although many whites owned no slaves, they still supported the system because it reinforced their racial superiority against the black slave and some hoped to gain a slave or two through social mobility
  + Free blacks usually bought their own freedom, but were often barred from rights like voting, public schools, and some occupations → this prejudice was often stronger in the North
* ***Life Under Slavery:***
* **Self-Sustaining Slaves**
  + Slaves made up a majority or near majority in many lower South states like Alabama, Mississippi, etc
  + Slaves had quadrupled in the South despite the outlawing of slave imports in 1808 → this was due to some smuggling but it was mostly the slaves reproducing and making more slaves
  + Slave women were sometimes rewarded or even freed for yielding many slave children to be used for work
  + Slaves were considered investments and a major indicator of wealth, so they were usually spared from dangerous work like tunnel blasting or roof laying → this work was given to Irishmen who actually earned wages
* **Conditions and Treatment**
  + Slave auctions often separated entire families, but this usually happened on small plantations → slaves were also branded and examined for lashes while naked
  + Slave conditions often varied throughout the South, but it was true everywhere that they worked dawn to dusk and had little protection from the law
  + Floggings were common, but masters were not keen to beat slaves bloody because marks lowered their resale value
  + Slaves often merged their own cultural values and traditions into their Christianization from the Second Great Awakening
  + 90% of slaves were illiterate and deprived of their dignity under the institution
  + In protest of the “peculiar institution,” slaves worked extremely slow, sabotaged equipment, and poisoned their master’s food
  + Slaves rebelled various times, but were never successful despite scaring the whites (which led to tighter rules)
* ***Fight for Abolition:***
* **Early Efforts**
  + Some societies focused on transporting slaves back to Africa, specifically Liberia which was created for former slaves
  + Slaves often hated this idea because they were already partially Americanized and most were born in America anyways
  + Abolition turned “radical” once reformers began calling for outright abolition instead of African displacement
  + Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass were among the greatest abolitionists → Douglass was a runaway slave who gave speeches in the North
* **Southern Scorn**
  + While anti-slavery societies were originally more numerous in the South, they were quickly stifled by the pro-slavery whites
  + Pro-slavery whites cited the affectionate relationship between slave and master along with the outdoor conditions as better than the Northern detached-and-dark factory system of wage-earning Blacks
  + Issues like the Nullification Crisis and several rebellions, like Nat Turner’s in 1831, raised fear in the whites over the future of their way of life
  + Petitions against slavery became so frequent that the Gag Resolution was instated → Congress wouldn’t even look at it
  + By 1850, the Underground Railroad was flourishing and the South was demanding stricter fugitive slave laws
  + Abolitionists, while unpopular at first, had begun to sway people
* ***The Political Minefield:***
* **Election of 1848**
  + Lewis Cass was the Democratic nominee → supported extension or elimination of slavery through popular sovereignty
  + The Whigs ran Zachary Taylor, a Mexican-American war general, instead of Henry Clay because of his many enemies
  + Slavery was a minefield of an issue → both parties had supporters in both sections of the U.S. so both avoided taking a definite stance on it, especially the Whigs who were notorious for playing on personality over policy
  + Zachary Taylor won the election, but Lewis Cass would’ve won if Martin Van Buren hadn’t siphoned away Democratic support for his own candidacy in New York with the Free Soil Party which advocated against slavery
  + The Free Soil party included people who: distrusted both major party candidates, were resentful at the half-acquisition of Oregon by Polk, and supported internal improvements
* **The California Problem and Solution**
  + California’s Gold Rush in 1848 drove many settlers to race to the future state in hopes of “striking it rich”
  + The new settlers brought on a wave of crime and lawlessness, unable to be handled by the rudimentary government → President Taylor privately encouraged California to apply for statehood, which would upset the sectional balance
  + To solve this problem, the Whigs met and crafted the Compromise of 1850 which benefited the North more. It was signed into law by Millard Fillmore after Taylor died (he had vetoed every compromise bill) →

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| **The North** | **The South** |
| **California is a free state** | **No slavery restriction in UT/NM** |
| **Slave trade banned in D.C.** | **Slaveholding allowed in D.C.** |
| **TX loses its claim to NM land** | **TX gets $10 million** |
|  | **Fugitive Slave Law** |

* + The new Fugitive Slave Law said that runaway slaves couldn’t testify on their own behalf, the commissioner handling the case could essentially be bribed, and people could be ordered to help look for slaves → angered people on both sides
  + Fighting didn’t begin in 1850 over this law, which helped the Union win the war because the decade before the Civil War was one of rising population and wealth in crops, factories, and railroads
* ***Expansion and Conflict:***
* **Election of 1852**
  + The Democrats nominated Franklin Pierce, an unknown lawyer who had no enemies
  + The Whigs nominated Winfield Scott, an army general
  + Both parties tried to capitalize on the Compromise of 1850, and Scott wasn’t likable to even the Whigs so he lost in a landslide
  + This represented the death of the Whig party
* **Latin American Conflict**
  + William Walker, an adventurer, seized control of Nicaragua in 1856 → he declared himself president and legalized slavery
  + A coalition of Latin American countries overthrew him, but the damage was done to the South’s image → people believed that the South was constantly looking for slave land
  + The U.S. attempted to buy Cuba, and even attack it, several times, but Spain denied or stopped all advances
  + After the failed advances on Cuba, and even Canada, America looked to the East, where Commodore Matthew Perry signed a treaty to open up Japan from isolation to the rest of the world
* **Railroads and Gadsden**
  + CA and OR were so far that many Americans viewed them as faraway islands → a railroad needed to be built to reach them
  + A bitter dispute occurred between the North and South over where the railroad should be built
  + The South prevailed when America bought the Gadsden Purchase, a small strip of land, off of Mexico to use for the railroad
  + This land was already organized and could be defended from native attacks, which made it a better choice than the North’s desire to go through the unorganized Nebraska territory
  + In response to this, the Democrats supported organizing the Nebraska territory → it would be split into Kansas and Nebraska and both would vote on slavery
  + The Democrats assumed that KS would vote for slavery and that NE would vote against, but NE didn’t have the right to vote on it due to the Missouri Compromise already banning slavery and KS was above the compromise’s line
  + In order to vote on slavery, a bill was rammed through Congress by Senator Douglass, repealing the Missouri Compromise
  + This act shook the Democrats almost into oblivion and saw the rise of the Republican party
  + The Kansas-Nebraska Act shattered the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and the Compromise of 1850 where it seemed slavery had been settled
* ***Tensions Rise:***
* **Disunity Begins**
  + Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote a book called Uncle Tom’s Cabin about slavery and separation of families → hugely popular in the North and abroad, hated in the South
  + Hinton Helper penned a book detailing why slavery was actually bad for whites, which further enraged the South
  + In the aptly named Bleeding Kansas, violence erupted between Northerners and Southerners over popular sovereignty
  + Things got worse when John Brown, an insane abolitionist, hacked 5 pro-slavery men to death
  + He even tried to arm slaves for a revolt, which failed miserably and ended in his hanging → martyr for Northerner abolitionists
  + The Lecompton Constitution in Kansas was boycotted by abolitionists → it was a document that was going to be voted on whether it should or should not include slavery, but the outcome would not affect current slaves in Kansas
  + President Buchanan supported the document, but Senator Douglas opposed this form of semi-popular sovereignty, so instead of voting for a slavery clause the entire document was voted upon and it was voted into oblivion by abolitionists
  + The Democratic Party was now at a breaking point; Republicans were sectional and Whigs were dead but Democrats were losing their national footing
  + Further disunity was seen by Senator Brooks from the South beating Senator Sumner from the North into a coma with his cane
* **Election of 1856**
  + Buchanan (D) **✓** v. Frémont (R)
  + The Know-Nothings injected nativism into the campaign, and they nominated Millard Fillmore
  + Buchanan won easily when people were faced with doubts of the Republican’s judgment and when bullied by the South
  + It is usually thought that it was good that the Republicans lost this time → Frémont wouldn’t be able to handle secession the same way as Lincoln did
  + Buchanan’s presidency was immediately rocked by the Dred Scott Supreme Court Case → Scott had lived with his master in free territory for years and sued the government for his freedom when his master died, but the court decided he had no right to sue since he was a slave
  + The ruling was backed by the Fifth Amendment (property) and it further invalidated the constitutionality of the Missouri Compromise of 1820
  + The South was now in power in terms of influence → President, Supreme Court, and Constitution all back them while North only has a Congress that can’t even ban slavery
  + The Financial Crash of 1857 also hit Buchanan’s presidency early on → caused by overspeculation and too much California gold entering the economy
  + The crash hurt the North, but the South was basically unaffected
* **Rise of Lincoln**
  + Lincoln originally lost a senate seat to Douglas, but not without several famous debates
  + The Democrats finally split into Northern and Southern factions, fatally weakening their electoral chances
  + Election of 1860 →
    - Northern Democrat → Douglas
    - Southern Democrat → Breckinridge
    - Republican → Lincoln **✓**
    - Constitutional → Bell
  + The Republicans won not only because they hadn’t nominated the controversial Seward, but also because of their wide appeal to many people and advantage over the disorganized Democrats
  + The election was entirely sectional →
    - Douglas won Missouri (popular sovereignty land)
    - Breckinridge won the South
    - Lincoln won the North
    - Bell won the middle border states
  + The South’s embarrassing defeat resulted in secession
* **Secession Begins**
  + The South seceded just days to weeks later, forming the Confederate States of America with Jefferson Davis as president
  + Buchanan is largely blamed for doing nothing → he believed the South should stay to preserve the Union, but he couldn’t find anything in the Constitution to prevent their exodus while also being surrounded by Southern advisors
  + The Crittenden Compromise was proposed → it would allow voting on slavery below the MO line but Lincoln rejected it due to party values
  + The South felt justified in their secession → based it on the Revolutionary War’s colonial secession and their claim of subordinated rights
  + Lincoln said the Union couldn’t physically split, and secession actually complicated things like allocation of federal debt
  + A divided United States would also be a show of weakness, a gift to Europe who wanted to undermine the Monroe Doctrine
* **The Fort Sumter Spark**
  + The Confederacy had seized many federal forts within its new borders, but Fort Sumter had not been taken yet
  + The fort was running out of provisions, so Lincoln informed the state of South Carolina that he was sending provisions, which they interpreted as reinforcements for war
  + S.C. opened fire and the fort was lost, prompting more seceding states but energizing the North for war
  + After four more states left the Union following the incident, Lincoln was careful not to threaten the states on the border
  + The border states were especially important to the Union as they provided a large amount of manufacturing capacity that would help the Confederacy win if they seceded
  + In order to keep the states, he had to declare martial law in Maryland and place troops in Missouri and West Virginia
  + Lincoln had to say that he was fighting for the Union and not to abolish slavery → if not, the border states would go instantly
  + Due to their own slave practices, the Five “Civilized” Tribes mainly supported the South
* ***War Begins:***
* **Friend or Foe**
  + While the South seemed to be at the defensive advantage along with several first-rate generals such as Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, they lagged behind the North
  + Supplies often ran low for the South, and their economy was not as large as the manufacturing North’s
  + The North also boasted a larger population, more than double than that of the South, and controlled the seas → blockade
  + The North also possessed alliances because foreign countries were not inclined to support rebellious countries
  + The South was counting on foreign powers to help them → however, while European rulers supported their cause, European citizens who had read Uncle Tom’s Cabin were strongly for the North and therefore no aid was given
  + The South expected Europe to come to their side once they realized they need cotton; they didn’t → India produced cotton for England and North sent cotton from liberated areas and cotton was already a surplus in Europe
  + European citizens were starving, so they preferred the corn and wheat of the North over the inedible cotton of the South
* **Punches Pulled**
  + Lincoln initially thought the war would be a 90-day feat, but the Union quickly realized the war would last much longer after their disorganized defeat at Bull’s Run
  + The South’s strength and the obsoleteness of wooden ships was demonstrated by their resistance to the blockade in the *Monitor v. Merrimack* ship battle
  + After surprising losses, the Union shifted towards a total war strategy that can be summed up by: divide, blockade, liberate (Anaconda Plan)
  + Some Union generals during the war included Winfield Scott, George McClellan, Henry Halleck, and Ulysses S. Grant
  + The South came close to victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run under General Lee, but McClellan managed to stop them at Antietam Creek → it was an explosive and bloody victory for the Union that gave Lincoln reasonable cause to announce the Emancipation Proclamation
  + This document freed slaves in the Confederacy, an area he technically had no jurisdiction over, and not the border states → if he had free border-state slaves, the states may have seceded
  + Blacks began to enlist in the army following the proclamation, and the North got to pass many laws without Southern interference
  + Northern Democrats split again →
    - War Democrats → support Lincoln’s war
    - Peace Democrats → oppose Lincoln’s war
    - Copperheads → *extreme* opposition to the war
  + The War Democrats temporarily joined with the Republicans to form the Union Party and nominate Lincoln, while McClellan was the Democrat for this election
* **Two Countries**
  + The Confederacy’s Constitution had a flaw → couldn’t prevent secession from the secession because the entire country was based on the principle of secession
  + Lincoln made many tyrannical decisions such as suspension of the habeas corpus, acting without Congress, enacting a blockade, intimidation of border states, etc, but he justified them by saying they were necessary in order to win the war
  + The Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War was opposed to an expansion of presidential power during the war, so they vehemently opposed Lincoln’s decisions
  + Both countries had many volunteers for the war, about 90% at first, but enthusiasm died down and they had to resort to the draft → it unevenly targeted the poor because the rich could pay them to go fight in their place → riots in NYC
  + The North, under economic stress, passed the Morrill Tariff Act, which increased rates from 5% up to 10%, and the National Banking Act in order to create a national currency and banking system (first step back towards National Bank ever since Jackson killed the B.U.S. in 1836)
  + In the South, paper money faced a 9000% inflation rate as the Union stagnated their economy further with their blockade
* **Aftermath**
  + The war ended with the burning of Richmond and Lee’s surrender at Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia
  + Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, which was unfortunate for the South because Lincoln would’ve treated them better during Reconstruction
  + At the end of the war, the North was actually better off with more factories and new inventions like the sewing machine and the reaper
  + The rights of women expanded seeing that they had filled the roles traditionally filled by men during the wartime or had even gone to war themselves
  + The wealth of the South dropped from 40% of the U.S. to only 12%, and incomes dropped significantly along with it → transportation was also heavily affected as it collapsed
* ***Peace and Rebuilding:***
* **Rough Beginnings**
  + Confederate leaders imprisoned, then pardoned by Johnson
  + The South found itself in total urban, agricultural, and industrial collapse → factories crippled, slavery crippled completely
  + Many Southerners were still angry and hated the North
  + Emancipation was uneven, with many slaves being freed and then enslaved multiple times due to confusion and resentment
  + Plantation owners resisted in many ways, like claiming slavery was still lawful until something more official occurred or by lynching any blacks trying to leave slavery
  + The Freedmen’s Bureau was formed → it gave food, clothing, medicine, education, etc to freedmen and white refugees
  + The Bureau upset white supremacists in the South, including Andrew Johnson who made multiple efforts to kill it
* **Different Plans**
  + Lincoln had proposed a 10% Plan before his death → it decreed that only 10% of a Confederate state’s voters must pledge loyalty to abide by emancipation and to the Union in order to be readmitted
  + Congress, split between moderates and radical Republicans, repudiated the “soft plan,” thinking the states had committed suicide and should be treated like conquered provinces
  + Congress introduced the Wade-Davis Bill → instead of 10%, the state must get 50% of voters to take this oath
  + The radical Republicans that supported this bill believed that the South deserved to suffer for the war and make it nearly impossible for them to rejoin the Union
  + Johnson, a Democrat, disagreed with both approaches, issuing his 10%+ Plan that specifically punished wealthy Confederate aristocrats that had controlled the South and forcing the implementation of the Thirteenth Amendment
  + However, Johnson quickly realized that he would need these people for proper functioning in the South and pardoned many of them, to the fury of the Republicans
* **The Plight of Freedmen**
  + Emancipated blacks were soon subject to black codes that regulated them and their affairs, especially to make them a stable workforce to revive the South
  + Voting and serving on juries was not allowed, and “idleness” was punished
  + The new sharecropping system plunged freedmen into a cycle of debt → instead of being provided clothing, food, and tools by a slavemaster they now had to buy all of this from an employer to work on their land, which became nearly impossible to pay off
  + However, blacks finally counted as a single person and not 3/5ths, a worrying fact for the Republicans in terms of the political balance
  + The KKK (“the Invisible Empire of the South”) formed during this time due to anger over successful black legislators → they intimidated and killed people, resulting in the much-too-late Force Acts of 1870 and 1871
* **Johnson’s Battle**
  + Johnson began to veto many bills that the Republican-dominated Congress passed, including an extension of the Freedmen’s Bureau
  + Congress started to override many of his vetoes, especially in the case of the Civil Rights Bill that gave citizenship rights to blacks and struck at black codes
  + Fearing a Southern takeover and repeal of the bill, Congress passed the 14th Amendment, guaranteeing citizenship to blacks
  + The radicals were disappointed that it didn’t guarantee the right to vote
  + Johnson, frustrated with the uncooperative Congress, went on his famous and failed Swing Round the Circle where he promoted his “soft on the South” ideology in a series of speeches while also insulting the radicals → it ended with Congress gaining more than a two thirds majority, making it veto-proof
* **Congress Takes Charge**
  + Congress used its newfound power to pass the Reconstruction Act, which divided the South into 5 military districts policed by Union soldiers, setting up a policy of “military reconstruction”
  + The 14th Amendment was needed for readmittance, and Congress finally passed the 15th Amendment soon enough, giving blacks the right to vote, but angering many women who still did not have the right to vote
  + Blacks began to participate in Union League, which educated members and helped elect Republican candidates → blacks were gaining roles of power in government too
  + Scalawags were Southerners accused of plundering state treasuries for personal gain, and carpetbaggers were Northerners who came down South for power or profit
* **Impeachment Looming**
  + Congress continued to cut power off from Johnson, passing the Tenure of Office Act in 1867 that required Senate approval before the removal of a cabinet member
  + This act was designed to keep a spy in the cabinet for the Republicans, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton
  + Johnson dismissed Stanton anyways, and he was charged with “high crimes and misdemeanors”
  + Johnson defended himself with the statement that he believed the act was unconstitutional and that he had dismissed Stanton to take the issue up with the Supreme Court
  + Congress failed to impeach Johnson by only one vote