

WHO KILLED RECONSTRUCTION NORTH OR SOUTH

WHO KILLED RECONSTRUCTION NORTH OR SOUTH IS A QUESTION THAT HAS INTRIGUED HISTORIANS AND SCHOLARS FOR DECADES. RECONSTRUCTION, THE PERIOD FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, AIMED TO REBUILD THE SOUTH AND INTEGRATE FORMERLY ENSLAVED AFRICAN AMERICANS INTO SOCIETY AS FREE CITIZENS WITH EQUAL RIGHTS. HOWEVER, THIS ERA ENDED PREMATURELY AND CONTROVERSIALLY, LEADING TO A CENTURY OF RACIAL SEGREGATION AND DISENFRANCHISEMENT. UNDERSTANDING WHO KILLED RECONSTRUCTION INVOLVES EXAMINING THE ROLES PLAYED BY BOTH NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FORCES, AS WELL AS THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO ITS DEMISE. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE COMPLEX INTERPLAY BETWEEN NORTHERN POLITICAL WILL, SOUTHERN RESISTANCE, AND BROADER NATIONAL DYNAMICS THAT LED TO THE COLLAPSE OF RECONSTRUCTION. THE ANALYSIS WILL CLARIFY WHETHER THE NORTH, THE SOUTH, OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH BEARS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FAILURE OF RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS. THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS PROVIDE A DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF THE KEY PLAYERS AND EVENTS THAT INFLUENCED THIS CRITICAL PERIOD IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

- THE GOALS AND CHALLENGES OF RECONSTRUCTION
- SOUTHERN RESISTANCE TO RECONSTRUCTION
- NORTHERN POLITICAL SHIFTS AND WANING COMMITMENT
- THE ROLE OF VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION
- ECONOMIC FACTORS AND THE COMPROMISE OF 1877
- SUMMARY OF WHO KILLED RECONSTRUCTION: NORTH, SOUTH, OR BOTH?

THE GOALS AND CHALLENGES OF RECONSTRUCTION

RECONSTRUCTION AIMED TO ADDRESS THE DEVASTATION WROUGHT BY THE CIVIL WAR, REBUILD THE SOUTHERN ECONOMY, AND SECURE CIVIL RIGHTS FOR NEWLY FREED AFRICAN AMERICANS. KEY OBJECTIVES INCLUDED REINTEGRATING THE FORMER CONFEDERATE STATES INTO THE UNION, ESTABLISHING NEW STATE GOVERNMENTS BASED ON EQUAL RIGHTS, AND IMPLEMENTING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS SUCH AS THE 13TH, 14TH, AND 15TH AMENDMENTS TO ABOLISH SLAVERY AND PROTECT CITIZENSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ASPIRATIONS

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, LED INITIALLY BY PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND LATER BY RADICAL REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS, SOUGHT TO TRANSFORM SOUTHERN SOCIETY BY DISMANTLING THE OLD SLAVEHOLDING ELITE AND PROMOTING RACIAL EQUALITY. THIS INVOLVED ENFRANCHISING BLACK MEN, CREATING PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND ENFORCING CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS. RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNMENTS IN THE SOUTH WERE OFTEN COALITIONS OF FREEDMEN, NORTHERN TRANSPLANTS KNOWN AS "CARPETBAGGERS," AND SOUTHERN WHITE ALLIES CALLED "SCALAWAGS."

CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES

DESPITE THESE AMBITIOUS GOALS, RECONSTRUCTION FACED SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES. DEEP-SEATED RACIAL PREJUDICES, ECONOMIC INSTABILITY, AND POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN THE SOUTH UNDERMINED EFFORTS. ADDITIONALLY, THE NORTH'S RESOLVE WEAKENED OVER TIME DUE TO POLITICAL FATIGUE, ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS, AND SHIFTING NATIONAL PRIORITIES. THESE

CHALLENGES SET THE STAGE FOR THE EVENTUAL COLLAPSE OF RECONSTRUCTION POLICIES.

SOUTHERN RESISTANCE TO RECONSTRUCTION

SOUTHERN OPPOSITION PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE DEMISE OF RECONSTRUCTION. MANY WHITE SOUTHERNERS VIEWED RECONSTRUCTION AS AN IMPOSED REGIME THAT THREATENED THEIR SOCIAL ORDER AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS. THIS RESISTANCE MANIFESTED IN POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND VIOLENT FORMS AIMED AT RESTORING WHITE SUPREMACY AND REVERSING GAINS MADE BY AFRICAN AMERICANS.

POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND THE REDEEMERS

WHITE SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS "REDEEMERS," SOUGHT TO REGAIN CONTROL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS AND DISMANTLE RECONSTRUCTION REFORMS. THROUGH ORGANIZED POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND VOTER SUPPRESSION TACTICS, THEY GRADUALLY REGAINED POWER IN SOUTHERN LEGISLATURES. THEIR AGENDA FOCUSED ON REDUCING THE RIGHTS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS, CUTTING FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SERVICES BENEFITING FREEDMEN, AND PROMOTING SEGREGATIONIST POLICIES.

VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION

ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE KU KLUX KLAN AND OTHER WHITE SUPREMACIST GROUPS USED TERROR TACTICS TO INTIMIDATE BLACK VOTERS, REPUBLICAN OFFICIALS, AND SUPPORTERS OF RECONSTRUCTION. VIOLENCE, INCLUDING LYNCHING AND ARSON, WAS EMPLOYED TO SUPPRESS POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND RESTORE WHITE DOMINANCE. THESE ACTIONS SIGNIFICANTLY WEAKENED RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNMENTS AND UNDERMINED FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.

NORTHERN POLITICAL SHIFTS AND WANING COMMITMENT

THE NORTH'S CHANGING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ENDING RECONSTRUCTION. INITIAL SUPPORT FOR RECONSTRUCTION WANED AS NORTHERN PRIORITIES SHIFTED TOWARD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECONCILIATION WITH THE SOUTH. POLITICAL COMPROMISES AND FATIGUE ERODED THE RESOLVE TO ENFORCE RECONSTRUCTION POLICIES VIGOROUSLY.

DECLINE OF RADICAL REPUBLICAN INFLUENCE

RADICAL REPUBLICANS, WHO CHAMPIONED CIVIL RIGHTS AND STRICT RECONSTRUCTION MEASURES, LOST POLITICAL POWER BY THE MID-1870s. MODERATE REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS GAINED INFLUENCE, ADVOCATING FOR REDUCED FEDERAL INTERVENTION IN SOUTHERN AFFAIRS. THIS SHIFT LED TO A DECLINE IN SUPPORT FOR POLICIES PROTECTING AFRICAN AMERICAN RIGHTS AND ALLOWING SOUTHERN STATES MORE AUTONOMY.

ECONOMIC CONCERNS AND THE PANIC OF 1873

THE PANIC OF 1873, A SEVERE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION, DIVERTED NORTHERN ATTENTION AWAY FROM RECONSTRUCTION. ECONOMIC RECOVERY BECAME A PRIORITY, AND MANY NORTHERNERS GREW IMPATIENT WITH THE ONGOING COSTS AND CONFLICTS ASSOCIATED WITH SOUTHERN RECONSTRUCTION. THIS ECONOMIC DOWNTURN CONTRIBUTED TO A BROADER RETREAT FROM RECONSTRUCTION COMMITMENTS.

THE ROLE OF VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION

VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION WERE PIVOTAL IN UNDERMINING RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS. BOTH ORGANIZED GROUPS AND INFORMAL NETWORKS OF WHITE SOUTHERNERS EMPLOYED TERROR TACTICS TO SUPPRESS BLACK POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPUBLICAN INFLUENCE.

KU KLUX KLAN AND WHITE SUPREMACIST GROUPS

THE KU KLUX KLAN (KKK), FOUNDED IN 1866, BECAME THE MOST NOTORIOUS WHITE SUPREMACIST ORGANIZATION DURING RECONSTRUCTION. THROUGH THREATS, BEATINGS, AND MURDERS, THE KKK SOUGHT TO ELIMINATE REPUBLICAN POWER AND INTIMIDATE FREEDMEN FROM VOTING OR HOLDING OFFICE. DESPITE FEDERAL LAWS SUCH AS THE ENFORCEMENT ACTS DESIGNED TO COMBAT SUCH VIOLENCE, ENFORCEMENT WAS INCONSISTENT AND OFTEN INEFFECTIVE.

IMPACT ON RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNMENTS

THE WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE CONTRIBUTED TO THE COLLAPSE OF RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNMENTS BY UNDERMINING PUBLIC ORDER AND DETERRING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AMONG FREEDMEN AND THEIR ALLIES. THIS CLIMATE OF FEAR FACILITATED THE RETURN OF CONSERVATIVE WHITE DEMOCRATS TO POWER AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JIM CROW LAWS.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND THE COMPROMISE OF 1877

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS AND POLITICAL COMPROMISE PLAYED CRITICAL ROLES IN THE FINAL DEMISE OF RECONSTRUCTION. THE UNRESOLVED 1876 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LED TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT THAT EFFECTIVELY ENDED FEDERAL INTERVENTION IN THE SOUTH.

THE COMPROMISE OF 1877

IN EXCHANGE FOR RUTHERFORD B. HAYES BECOMING PRESIDENT, REPUBLICANS AGREED TO WITHDRAW FEDERAL TROOPS FROM THE SOUTH, ENDING MILITARY ENFORCEMENT OF RECONSTRUCTION LAWS. THIS WITHDRAWAL REMOVED THE PRIMARY MECHANISM PROTECTING AFRICAN AMERICAN RIGHTS AND RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNMENTS, ALLOWING SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS TO CONSOLIDATE POWER.

ECONOMIC PRESSURES IN THE SOUTH

THE SOUTHERN ECONOMY REMAINED DEVASTATED AFTER THE WAR, WITH MANY FREEDMEN AND POOR WHITES TRAPPED IN CYCLES OF POVERTY AND SHARECROPPING. ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNMENTS TO SUSTAIN REFORMS AND PUBLIC SERVICES, FURTHER WEAKENING THEIR LEGITIMACY AND EFFECTIVENESS.

SUMMARY OF KEY ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FACTORS

- NATIONAL DESIRE FOR POLITICAL STABILITY OVER RACIAL JUSTICE

- END OF FEDERAL MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH
- ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS REDUCING NORTHERN SUPPORT
- SOUTHERN ECONOMIC STRUGGLES LIMITING REFORM CAPACITY

SUMMARY OF WHO KILLED RECONSTRUCTION: NORTH, SOUTH, OR BOTH?

DETERMINING WHO KILLED RECONSTRUCTION—NORTH OR SOUTH—IS A COMPLEX QUESTION WITH NO SINGLE ANSWER. BOTH REGIONS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO ITS COLLAPSE THROUGH A COMBINATION OF POLITICAL DECISIONS, SOCIAL ATTITUDES, AND ECONOMIC REALITIES. THE SOUTH'S VIOLENT RESISTANCE, POLITICAL OPPOSITION, AND EFFORTS TO RESTORE WHITE SUPREMACY DIRECTLY UNDERMINED RECONSTRUCTION GOALS. MEANWHILE, THE NORTH'S RETREAT FROM RECONSTRUCTION ENFORCEMENT, POLITICAL COMPROMISES, AND SHIFTING PRIORITIES ALLOWED SOUTHERN OPPOSITION TO PREVAIL.

ULTIMATELY, THE DEATH OF RECONSTRUCTION WAS THE RESULT OF INTERTWINED FACTORS INVOLVING NORTHERN FATIGUE AND POLITICAL COMPROMISE ALONGSIDE SOUTHERN RESISTANCE AND VIOLENCE. THIS CONVERGENCE OF FORCES LED TO THE ABANDONMENT OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO PROTECT AFRICAN AMERICAN RIGHTS AND THE RISE OF JIM CROW SEGREGATION THAT WOULD PERSIST FOR DECADES.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO IS CONSIDERED RESPONSIBLE FOR THE END OF RECONSTRUCTION, THE NORTH OR THE SOUTH?

BOTH THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH PLAYED ROLES IN THE END OF RECONSTRUCTION. THE SOUTH RESISTED RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS THROUGH VIOLENCE AND POLITICAL OPPOSITION, WHILE THE NORTH'S WANING COMMITMENT AND POLITICAL COMPROMISES ULTIMATELY LED TO ITS DEMISE.

DID NORTHERN POLITICIANS CONTRIBUTE TO THE FAILURE OF RECONSTRUCTION?

YES, NORTHERN POLITICIANS CONTRIBUTED TO RECONSTRUCTION'S FAILURE BY LOSING INTEREST OVER TIME, PRIORITIZING ECONOMIC ISSUES, AND MAKING COMPROMISES SUCH AS THE COMPROMISE OF 1877, WHICH EFFECTIVELY ENDED FEDERAL INTERVENTION IN THE SOUTH.

HOW DID SOUTHERN RESISTANCE IMPACT THE SURVIVAL OF RECONSTRUCTION?

SOUTHERN RESISTANCE, INCLUDING THE RISE OF WHITE SUPREMACIST GROUPS LIKE THE KU KLUX KLAN AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BLACK CODES, UNDERMINED RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS BY INTIMIDATING AFRICAN AMERICANS AND REPUBLICAN SUPPORTERS, LEADING TO THE COLLAPSE OF RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNMENTS.

WAS THE NORTH'S WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS A KEY FACTOR IN ENDING RECONSTRUCTION?

YES, THE WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL TROOPS FROM THE SOUTH IN 1877 WAS A PIVOTAL FACTOR IN ENDING RECONSTRUCTION, AS IT REMOVED THE ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM PROTECTING AFRICAN AMERICAN RIGHTS AND ALLOWED SOUTHERN STATES TO IMPOSE SEGREGATION AND DISENFRANCHISEMENT.

DID ECONOMIC FACTORS IN THE NORTH INFLUENCE THE END OF RECONSTRUCTION?

ECONOMIC CONCERNS IN THE NORTH, INCLUDING THE PANIC OF 1873 AND A FOCUS ON INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, SHIFTED ATTENTION AWAY FROM RECONSTRUCTION, REDUCING SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFFAIRS.

HOW DID THE COMPROMISE OF 1877 CONTRIBUTE TO THE 'KILLING' OF RECONSTRUCTION?

THE COMPROMISE OF 1877 RESOLVED THE DISPUTED 1876 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BY AWARDING THE PRESIDENCY TO RUTHERFORD B. HAYES IN EXCHANGE FOR THE REMOVAL OF FEDERAL TROOPS FROM THE SOUTH, EFFECTIVELY ENDING RECONSTRUCTION AND ALLOWING SOUTHERN STATES TO REASSERT CONTROL.

WERE SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDERMINING RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNMENTS?

YES, SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS ACTIVELY WORKED TO UNDERMINE RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNMENTS THROUGH POLITICAL OPPOSITION, VIOLENCE, AND VOTER SUPPRESSION, WHICH CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE COLLAPSE OF RECONSTRUCTION REFORMS.

CAN RECONSTRUCTION BE SAID TO HAVE BEEN 'KILLED' MORE BY NORTHERN APATHY OR SOUTHERN AGGRESSION?

RECONSTRUCTION WAS 'KILLED' BY A COMBINATION OF SOUTHERN AGGRESSION—THROUGH VIOLENCE AND SYSTEMIC RACISM—AND NORTHERN APATHY, AS THE NORTH GRADUALLY ABANDONED ENFORCEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR RECONSTRUCTION POLICIES.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. *WHO KILLED RECONSTRUCTION? A HISTORICAL INQUIRY INTO THE NORTH AND SOUTH*

THIS BOOK EXAMINES THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC FACTORS THAT LED TO THE DEMISE OF RECONSTRUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES. IT DELVES INTO THE ROLES PLAYED BY BOTH NORTHERN POLITICIANS AND SOUTHERN RESISTANCE, ANALYZING HOW CONFLICTING INTERESTS UNDERMINED EFFORTS TO REBUILD THE SOUTH AND SECURE RIGHTS FOR FREED SLAVES. THE AUTHOR PROVIDES A BALANCED VIEW, HIGHLIGHTING THE COMPLEXITIES THAT MADE RECONSTRUCTION'S FAILURE ALMOST INEVITABLE.

2. *THE DEATH OF RECONSTRUCTION: NORTHERN RETREAT AND SOUTHERN RESISTANCE*

FOCUSING ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF NORTHERN SUPPORT AND THE RISE OF SOUTHERN WHITE SUPREMACIST GROUPS, THIS BOOK EXPLORES THE DUAL FORCES THAT ENDED RECONSTRUCTION. IT DISCUSSES THE IMPACT OF THE COMPROMISE OF 1877 AND THE ABANDONMENT OF FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS. THE NARRATIVE REVEALS HOW POLITICAL COMPROMISES AND VIOLENT OPPOSITION IN THE SOUTH COMBINED TO DISMANTLE RECONSTRUCTION POLICIES.

3. *RECONSTRUCTION'S END: BLAME AND CONSEQUENCE IN POST-CIVIL WAR AMERICA*

THIS TITLE INVESTIGATES THE COMPETING NARRATIVES ABOUT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COLLAPSE OF RECONSTRUCTION. THE AUTHOR CRITIQUES HISTORICAL INTERPRETATIONS THAT SOLELY BLAME THE SOUTH OR THE NORTH, INSTEAD ARGUING THAT SYSTEMIC RACISM, POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY, AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN BOTH REGIONS CONTRIBUTED TO RECONSTRUCTION'S DOWNFALL. THE BOOK ALSO LOOKS AT THE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.

4. *THE SOUTHERN DEFEAT: HOW THE NORTH ABANDONED RECONSTRUCTION*

BY EMPHASIZING THE ROLE OF NORTHERN POLITICAL FATIGUE AND SHIFTING PRIORITIES, THIS BOOK ARGUES THAT THE NORTH'S RETREAT WAS THE DECISIVE FACTOR IN ENDING RECONSTRUCTION. IT DETAILS HOW ECONOMIC CONCERNS, WANING PUBLIC SUPPORT, AND POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN THE NORTH LED TO DECREASED ENFORCEMENT OF RECONSTRUCTION POLICIES. THE AUTHOR ALSO DISCUSSES THE REPERCUSSIONS FOR FREEDMEN AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JIM CROW LAWS.

5. *RECONSTRUCTION'S BETRAYAL: THE ROLE OF THE SOUTH IN ITS OWN UNDOING*

THIS BOOK CENTERS ON SOUTHERN WHITE RESISTANCE, INCLUDING THE RISE OF THE KU KLUX KLAN AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BLACK CODES, AS PRIMARY REASONS FOR RECONSTRUCTION'S FAILURE. IT HIGHLIGHTS THE VIOLENT AND POLITICAL EFFORTS BY SOUTHERNERS TO REGAIN CONTROL AND SUPPRESS AFRICAN AMERICAN RIGHTS. THE NARRATIVE INVESTIGATES HOW SOUTHERN LEADERS ACTIVELY UNDERMINED FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS.

6. *BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH: THE COMPLEX END OF RECONSTRUCTION*

EXPLORING THE NUANCED INTERACTIONS BETWEEN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ACTORS, THIS BOOK PRESENTS RECONSTRUCTION'S END AS A PRODUCT OF MUTUAL FAILURES. IT DISCUSSES HOW NORTHERN INDIFFERENCE AND SOUTHERN HOSTILITY COMBINED TO HALT PROGRESS ON RACIAL EQUALITY. THE AUTHOR USES PERSONAL LETTERS, POLITICAL SPEECHES, AND CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNTS TO ILLUSTRATE THE CONFLICTING MOTIVATIONS THAT SHAPED THIS ERA.

7. *THE COMPROMISE OF 1877 AND THE DEATH OF RECONSTRUCTION*

THIS BOOK OFFERS A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE POLITICAL DEAL THAT EFFECTIVELY ENDED RECONSTRUCTION BY WITHDRAWING FEDERAL TROOPS FROM THE SOUTH. IT EXAMINES THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS' CIVIL RIGHTS. THE AUTHOR ARGUES THAT THIS COMPROMISE SYMBOLIZED THE PRIORITIZATION OF NATIONAL UNITY OVER JUSTICE.

8. *RECONSTRUCTION: WHO LOST THE SOUTH?*

FOCUSING ON THE POWER STRUGGLES AND IDEOLOGICAL BATTLES BETWEEN NORTHERN REFORMERS AND SOUTHERN CONSERVATIVES, THIS BOOK INVESTIGATES WHO ULTIMATELY "LOST" THE SOUTH DURING RECONSTRUCTION. IT ASSESSES THE FAILURES OF BOTH REGIONS TO CREATE A LASTING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ORDER THAT INCLUDED AFRICAN AMERICANS. THE BOOK CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEBATE WITH FRESH ARCHIVAL RESEARCH AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS.

9. *END OF AN ERA: NORTHERN AMBIVALENCE AND SOUTHERN DEFIANCE IN RECONSTRUCTION'S FALL*

THIS BOOK PORTRAYS THE END OF RECONSTRUCTION AS A CLASH BETWEEN NORTHERN AMBIVALENCE TOWARD RACIAL JUSTICE AND SOUTHERN DEFIANCE OF FEDERAL AUTHORITY. IT EXPLORES THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC REASONS BEHIND THE NORTH'S DECLINING COMMITMENT AND THE SOUTH'S AGGRESSIVE PUSHBACK. THE AUTHOR PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF HOW THESE DYNAMICS COMBINED TO END RECONSTRUCTION PREMATURELY.

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