Reconstruction
1867

- Congress fears Johnson wants to check their power
  - Pass **Army Appropriations Act** – Filter Johnson’s power through Grant to 5 commanders governing South.
  - Pass **Tenure of Office Act** – Officeholder approved by Senate must serve until Senate approves successor

- AJ wants to test TOA through his right to appoint Cabinet members →
  - Removes Sec. of War Edwin Stanton during recess and replaces him w/ Grant (1868)
Entanglement

• Senate refuses to acknowledge Grant→ removes himself→ asks Sherman→ No.

• Next appointee is Johnson’s protégé, Lorenzo Thomas, and RadReps are worried about enforcing Reconstruction→

– 2/28/1868 – impeachment vote 126-47 for “high crimes and misdemeanors”

Sorry, Andy…
Trial in the Senate

• **BLUM**: President causing discord between executive and legislative branches $\rightarrow$ if impeached, it would set an important precedent.

• Argues that TOA didn’t apply to him b/c Stanton was Lincoln’s appointee

• Senate acquits him by one vote.
  – Tenure of Office Act eventually declared unconstitutional
Was the Civil War a Draw?

- **Ex parte Milligan** (1866) – SupCt. rules that it’s unconstitutional to try civilians in military courts in non-combat areas.
  - **BLUM**: Weakens Freedmen’s Bureau & hurts those it intended to help

- **Cummings vs. MO** (1867) – Loyalty oaths illegal (ex post facto laws, bills of attainder)

- Court refuses to rule on Reconstruction Act, so legal

- **Slaughterhouse Cases** (1873) – States can create laws defining how its citizens should run their lives → negates the clause in 14th Amendment that calls for due process to be applied to the states
Election of 1868

- **Grant (R)** – Support of Black Republicans, favored hard money $\rightarrow$ bonds redeemed by gold/silver

- **Horatio Seymour (D)** – Amnesty of Confederates & restoration of political rights, black suffrage left to states, cheap money $\rightarrow$ Greenbacks reissued to pay for bonds

- Grant wins 214-80
A Time of Scandal

- **Credit Mobilier** (1872) – Congressmen received bribes in return for not investigating corporation building Union Pacific RR (diverted funds from actually building RR to UP promoters incl. VP Colfax)

- **Gold Scandal** (1869) – Fisk & Gould bought a lot of gold on insider trading info from Grant’s brother-in-law
  - Grant’s sister & wife also held gold
  - Grant sold millions in gold to stabilize market
  - His people all sold, and caused gold crash 9/24/1869
And a few more...

- Appointees to Supreme Court – favored pro-Greenback policy for paying war debts

- **Boss Tweed** – Tammany Hall NYC political machine
  - Samuel Tilden (Also D) – wants to control city by smashing the “ring”

- Rampant corruption in South
  - Misuse of Reconstruction funds, carpetbaggers and scalawags take over. Few black in Congress
Election of 1872

- Grant vs. Horace “Go West Young Man” Greeley
  - Editor of NY Tribune who began a party of intellectuals to challenge corruption in party → Liberal Republicans
  - Restore government authority to upper class in N&S
  - Supported by southern Democrats
  - Grant wins easily by appealing to working class

Respect the Neard!

No… Respect the Working class...
(And then crash their economy)
Grant Being Grant

- **Panic of 1873** – Major bank failure – Starts in Vienna following Franco-Prussian War → Jay Cooke & Co. collapses due to RR speculation
  - Freedmen’s Savings Bank collapses under Douglass & blacks lose savings
  - Six year worldwide depression

- Bribery scandals ranging from surveying contracts to naval supplies to NAm trading post kickbacks wrack Grant’s Cabinet
  - Private secretary defrauds gov. of whisky taxes & Grant gets him acquitted.
1876 Election

• Tilden (D) vs. Rutherford B. Hayes (R)

• Tilden wins pop. Vote by 250K votes, 1 vote short in electoral college (184-165)
  – 20 contested votes (19 in South) claimed by Republicans so Hayes could win
  – 15 member commission appointed to resolve issue (7 from each party + 1 from SupCt.) give Hayes the election in a really shady way ➔ Dems filibuster ➔
Compromise of 1877

- Hayes will be president & will remove federal troops from South, end Freedmen’s Bureau & restore “home rule.”