

**Spring 2016 History & Heritage -- #5**  
(A Seasonal Catechism for the Study of Western and American Civilization)

**Republicanizing the South --- (Johnson; *North Against South*, pp. 225-229)**

**This political goal** was vigorously pursued through a series of Reconstruction Acts authored by Congress once its majority party won the 1866 midterm elections? The congressional majority was wroth when its 14th Amendment was rejected by Johnson's reconstructed Southern States, prompting efforts to deny their legitimacy and keep them under military domination. Republicans knew an effectual makeover of Dixie would require greater enfranchisement of blacks and deeper disenfranchisement of whites.

**Grant Sweeps --- (Johnson; *NAS*, pp. 239-241)**

**This title** suggests a resounding victory both in popular and Electoral College votes for a celebrated Union general (and his adopted party) in the presidential contest of 1868? Republicans and Democrats, of course, had their differences on money matters, Negro suffrage, and Reconstruction generally, but the campaign took a nasty, scurrilous turn. Candidates came under a barrage of personal insults and the parties swapped barbs, such as when Republicans charged Democrats with pro-secessionist/slavery treason.

**The White House v. Capitol Hill --- (Johnson; *NAS*, pp. 229-231)**

**This heading** evokes the 1867-68 battle between President A. Johnson and congressional Republicans with possible impeachment looming in the background? Johnson sought to execute only in part Congress's Reconstruction Acts by interpreting their provisions narrowly and by checking the power of Union generals over the South. Congress then joined with Sec. of War Stanton and Gen. of the Army Grant to counter the executive's directives to federal officials as well as his power to dismiss them.

**Amendments Pass --- (Johnson; *NAS*, pp. 241-244)**

**This title** notes that three Reconstruction amendments to the U.S. Constitution (13th, 14th, 15th) were ratified in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War (bet. 1865-1870)? Manipulation took place by means of requiring Southern approval to regain State status; whether the 14th was ever lawfully ratified remains something of a mystery. Nevertheless, slavery and race requirements in voting were done away with (13th & 15th), and States were to be compelled to safeguard every citizen's equal rights (14th).

**The Impeachment Circus --- (Johnson; *North Against South*, pp. 231-239)**

**This title** exposes how flimsy the case and shameless the conduct of Republicans when in 1868 they accused A. Johnson of offenses warranting his disqualification? When Johnson dismissed Sec. of War E. Stanton, the House charged, he violated the Tenure of Office Act, a dubious measure not even applicable to the shifty Lincoln-appointee. Legality, however, hardly mattered to the Republicans; Stanton was their ally in aborting Johnsonian Reconstruction and substituting for it their own version.