

## *Elements of the Reconstruction Plan... You Decide*

**Directions:** You have all been assigned a group. The groups are: Carpetbaggers and Scalawags, Radical Republicans, Freedman, Southern Aristocracy (Plantation Owners), Former Confederate Officers, and finally your average Southern white citizen (poor whites and small farm owners). You must now choose from the elements below and pick which numbers that you feel would make the best Reconstruction plan that will be fair for you and the country. Choose as many as you want.

**Key terms:**

Reconstruction: A time period after the Civil War when the United States began to rebuild the South.

Scalawag: A Southerner who supports Reconstruction.

Carpetbagger: A name for a Northerner who went to the South after the Civil War. He/She is also a supporter of Reconstruction.

Freedman: A person freed from slavery.

- I. Southern states have to promise to end slavery. (Ratify the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment)
- II. All Southerners have to take a loyalty oath to the Union and then former Confederate leaders can remain in leadership roles.
- III. Southern states have to write a new state constitution (Set up a new government).
- IV. Southern states must have new leaders (Not the leaders during the war).
- V. Former Confederate officials and supporters will not be able to vote or hold office.
- VI. Southern states will decide individually, if freedmen should be allowed to vote.
- VII. The freedman must be given the right to vote in all states in the newly formed Union.
- VIII. Southern states and former Confederate leaders will not be punished too harshly (This may cause too much anger and resentment).
- IX. Former Confederate leaders will be punished harshly.
- X. Black Americans (freedmen) must have the same rights as white Americans.
- XI. All people born in the United States are citizens and state governments can't take away the rights of any citizen, including the right to vote. Also, former Confederate leaders can't hold office (This is the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment).
- XII. If Southern States don't accept the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the military will have to occupy and control the region.
- XIII. All adult black males and all white males who were not Confederate leaders or supporters, can vote.
- XIV. The freedman must get assistance in establishing new lives.