

End of Reconstruction

The national mood to end violence

Republicans move to moderation

The violence in the South continues

The disputed election of 1876

The Compromise of 1877

Mood after Grant's re-election, 1872...

...nation tired of war

...tired of violence in South

...tired of support for black rights

...business interests urged new ventures, western settlement, railroads, urban expansion

Radical Republicans were out of favor...

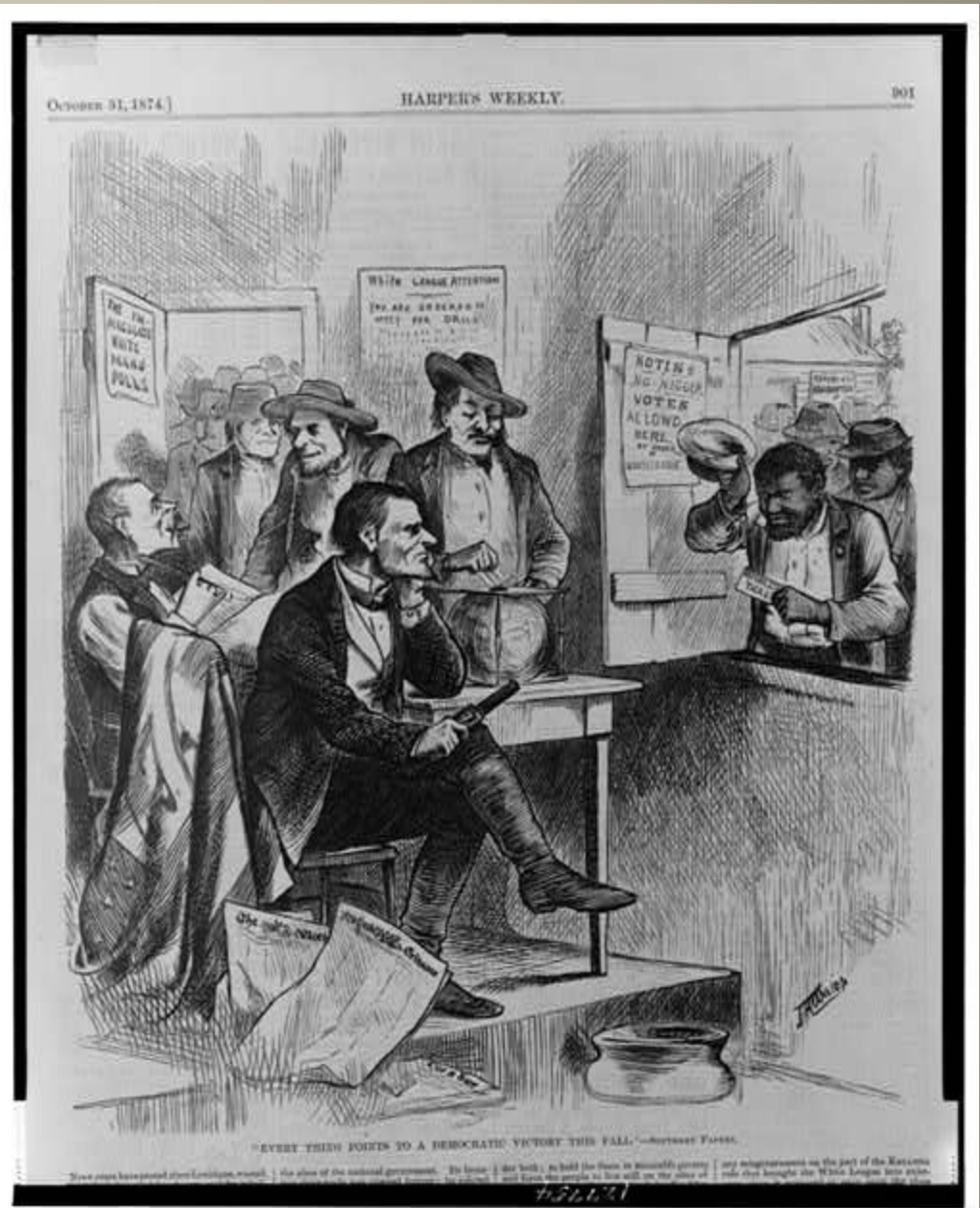
...Grant's election a move to moderation

...bayonet rule and violence in support of Black Republicans grew weary

...Growing white power among Southern Democrats demanded recognition

...Republican office holders lost ground in 1874 elections

Cartoon talks of likely Democratic victory this Fall, 1874. Note intimidation of black voters.



Violence in Louisiana...

...in 1874-1876 a series of pitched battles and riots broke out in Louisiana

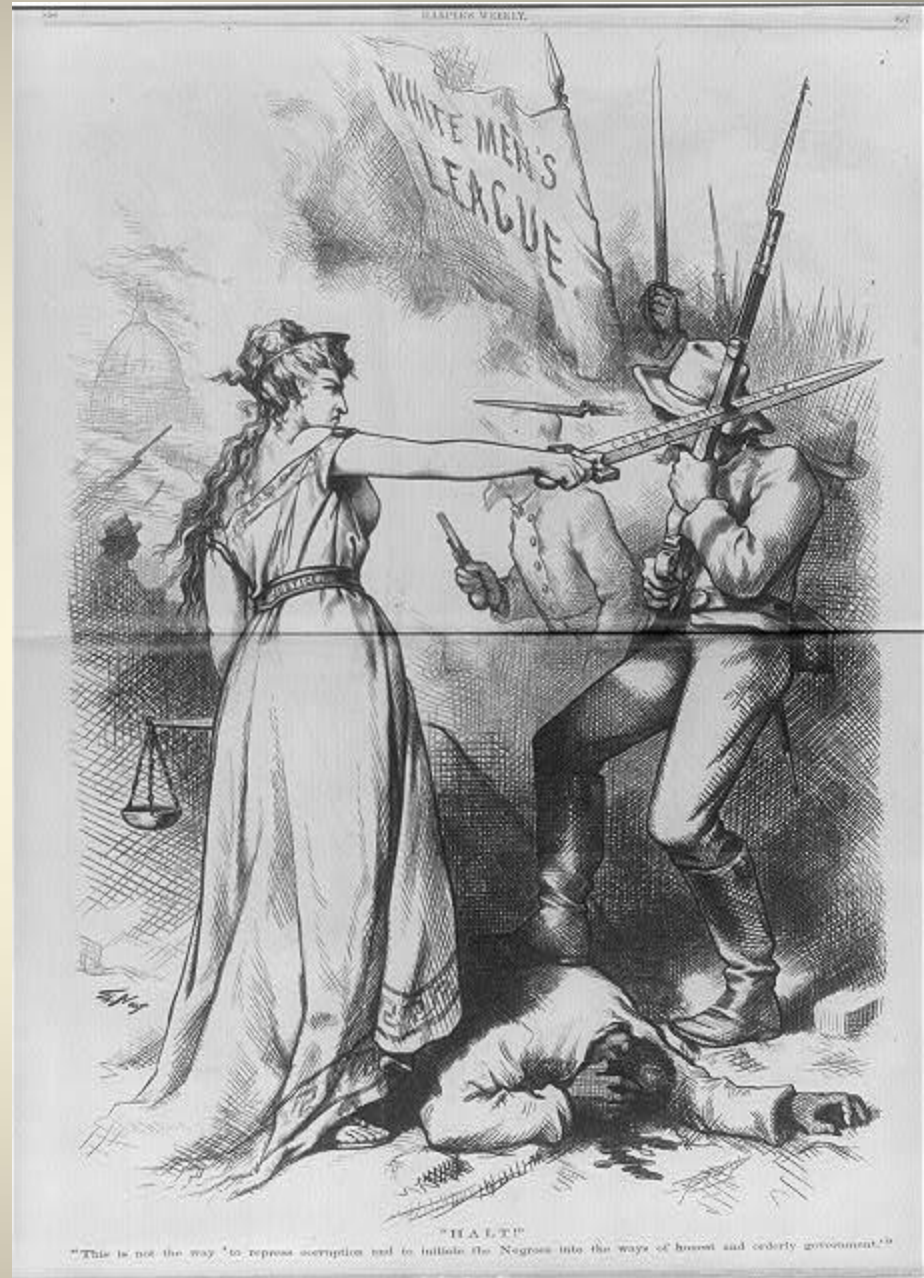
...In New Orleans white vigilantes fought black troops for state power

...Armed "White Leagues" commanded by former Confederates were so intimidating that many Republicans in Louisiana resigned

...Gen. Sheridan requested force to "crush them"

...but moderates and Grant refused

“Justice”
smiting the
White Men’s
League



Wheeler Compromise in Louisiana...

...Democrats and Republicans would share power in the Louisiana House and Senate in exchange for elimination of violence...

...background for the compromise to come in 1877

Southerner Democrats saw their chance—in Mississippi Plan, 1875...

...Intimidate all white voters to move to Democratic party

...Intimidate black voters at the polls

...Violence in approach of the 1876 elections

...Once again Grant refused to send more troops

...1876, 30 % Democratic majority in Mississippi

Democrats and 1876 Presidential election...

...Democrats embraced “reform”...

...Reform meant an end to the forced rule by carpet baggers...

...end to unreasonable “rights” for blacks...

...Samuel J. Tilden, Gov New York...

...would “save the nation from carpet-bag rule”

Tilden & Hendericks Ticket



Republicans and 1876 Presidential Election...

...Republicans embraced “moderation”...

...This largely meant making no statement at all, but curbing “radical” Republican impulses...

...no statement on “rights” for blacks...

...Rutherford B. Hayes, Ohio...

Rutherford B. Hayes



Hamburg Massacre, SC, July 1876...

...during the campaign violence broke out in SC between blacks and whites...

...Republicans were forced to make a stand...

...After two refusals, Grant sent more troops to SC...

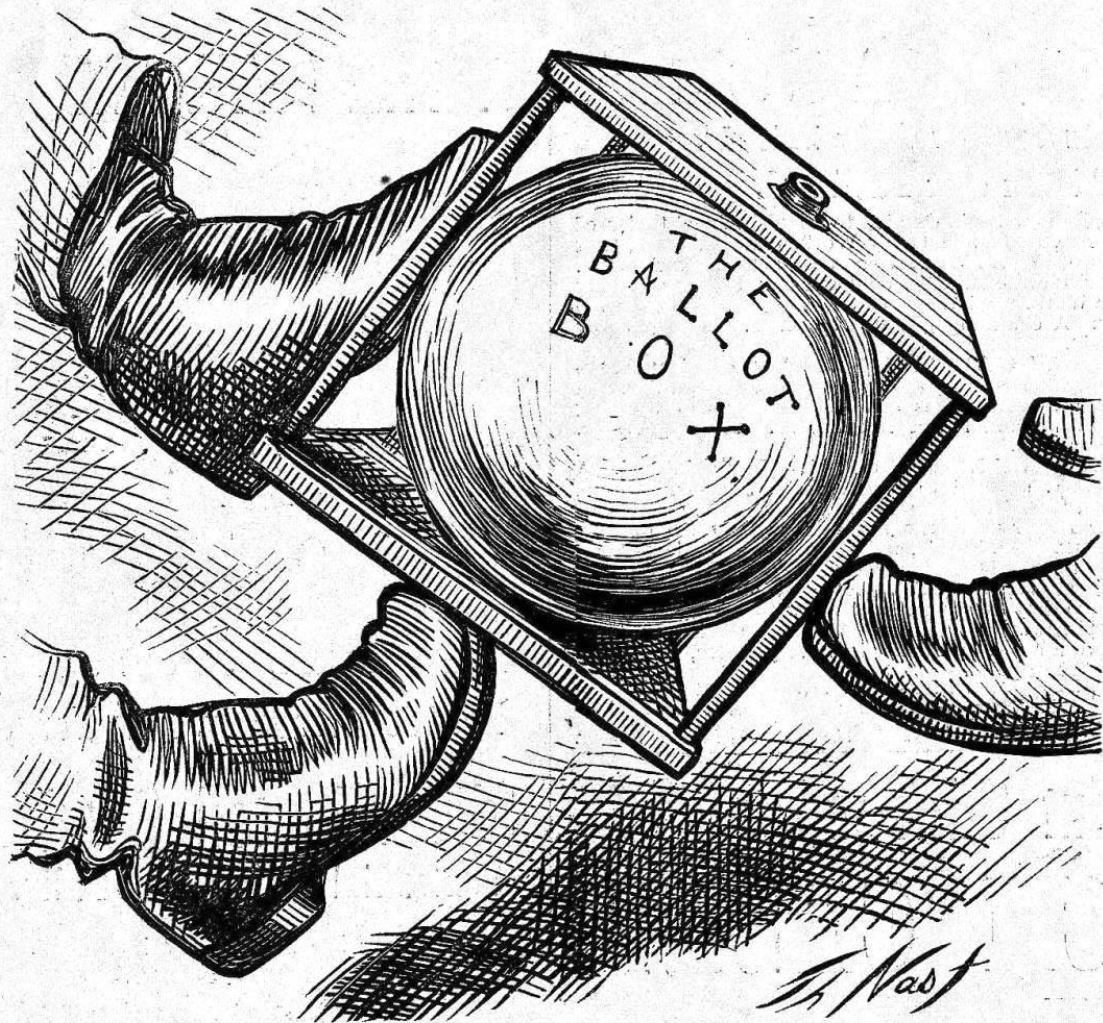
...rumors of renewed Civil War grew, but were mostly unfounded...

...but the return to “bayonet” rule pushed public support toward the Democrats

By midnight on Election Day, Tilden had 184 of the 185 electoral votes needed to win. He led the popular vote by 250,000.

But Republicans refused to accept the result.

They accused the Democrats of using physical intimidation and bribery to discourage African Americans from voting in the South.



A NATIONAL GAME THAT IS PLAYED OUT.

Disputed Returns...

...Dem. Tilden needed all of the South plus only a few Northern states.

...Three Southern States, SC, LA, FL had disputed returns.

...Accusations of fraud very real.

...Of the three states, Rep. Hayes needed all 19 electoral votes to win.

...Dem. Tilden needed only one electoral vote to win.

Criticism of the Louisiana Returns

THE POLITICAL FARGE OF 1876.

We can prove beyond a shadow of doubt that Louisiana and Florida voted for TILLY by decisive majorities, and we are prepared to show up the villainous frauds of the Returning Boards. All we ask is investigation by this commission.

Clifford, Field, Bayard, Abbott, Hanton, Thurman & Payne.

We would be perfectly willing to examine into the merits of the case, but the evidence is all against us. We therefore declare it "Albino," "7 into 8 case," and "Joe Bradley" over.

Miller, Strong, Morton, Garfield, Frelinghuysen, Edmunds, Hear & Bradley.



No man worthy of the office of President should be willing to hold it if counted in, or placed there, by any fraud. Either party can afford to be disappointed in the result, but the country cannot afford to have the result tainted by the suspicion of illegal, or false returns.

U. S. Grant.

I could never have been reconciled to the elevation by the smallest aid of mine of a person, however respectable in private life, who must forever carry upon his brow the stamp of fraud first triumphant in American history. No subsequent action, however meritorious, can wash away the letters of that record.

Charles Francis Adams.

THE TWO NEGROES AND TEN WHITES

Who defeated the will of the American people, as expressed through the Ballot box, on the 7th day of November 1876.

Electoral Commission...

...Since Constitution had no guidelines for disputed state results...

...Congress appointed a joint Commission to decide the electoral votes.

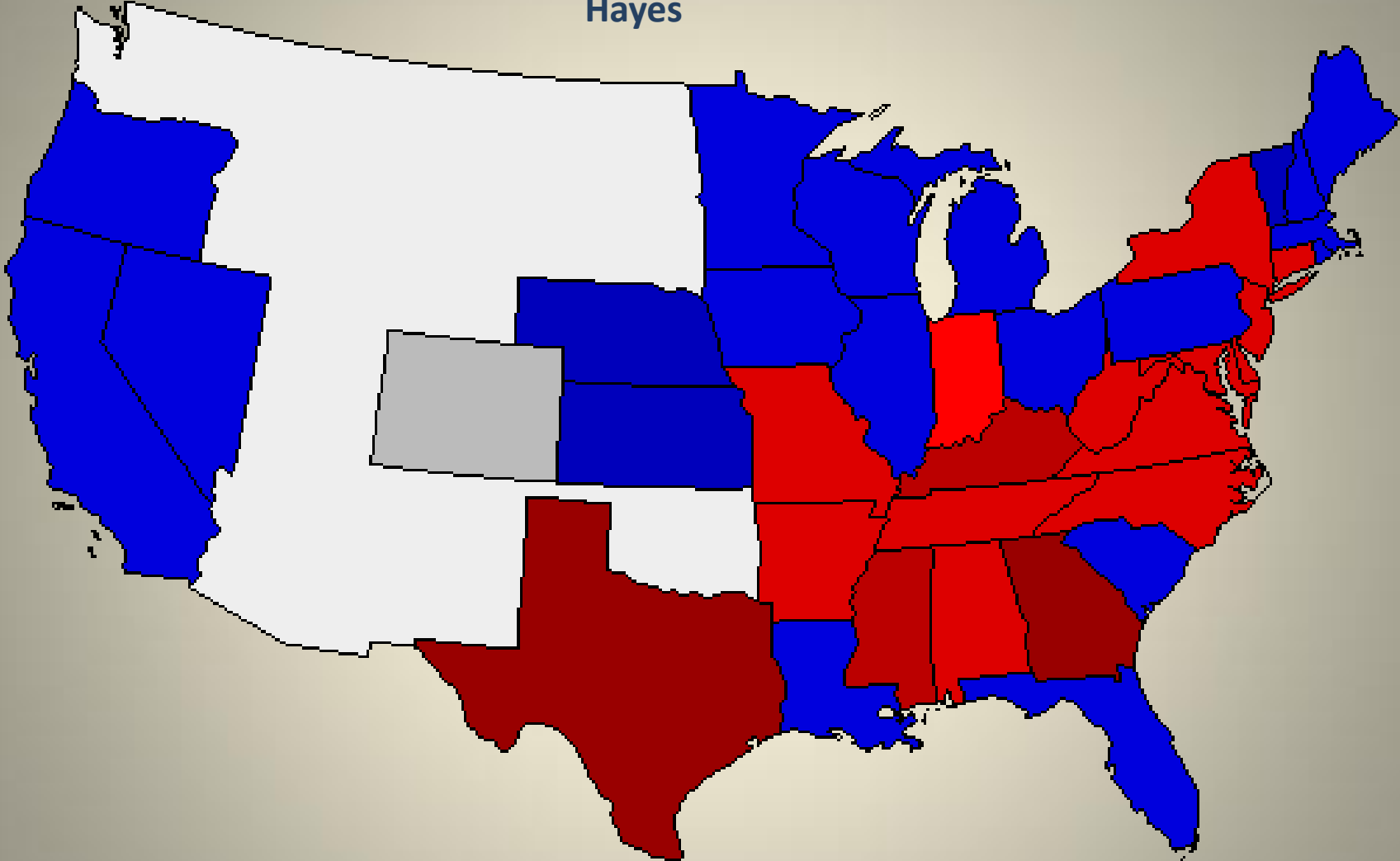
...The Commission endorsed the state returns from Florida, which went Republican, then for the other two states as well.

...The Senate approved the Commission action, but the House declared foul and tried to unseat the results

...Chaos and public outcry ensued.

Tilden

Hayes



Compromise of 1877.....NOT a single deal but a series of informal negotiations...

...Tilden had already given up his pursuit.....main compromise points...

The removal of all Federal troops from the former Confederate States.

The appointment of at least one Southern Democrat to Hayes' cabinet.

The construction of another transcontinental railroad using the Texas and Pacific .

Legislation to help industrialize the South.

The Compromise of 1877...staying the hand of more bloodshed...



Conclusions: End of Reconstruction, “to what end war?”

...it would take years, but a solid Democratic South emerged...

...Blacks in the South were legally separated

..The West ignored the politics, fought Indians, and enjoyed profits

...The North became an industrial hub

...What had the war accomplished?