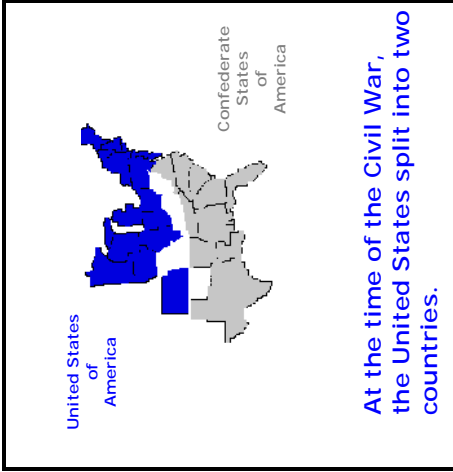


Reconstruction

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Reconstruction was the period following the Civil War in which Congress passed laws designed to rebuild the country and bring the southern states back into the Union.

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Reconstruction and Virginia's Economic Development



Tobacco farming and tobacco products became important Virginia industries.

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During and After Reconstruction

During Reconstruction

During Reconstruction, African Americans began to have power in Virginia's government, and men of all races could vote.



African American men elected to office during Reconstruction.



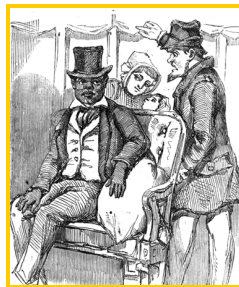
Waiting in Line to vote

After Reconstruction

After Reconstruction, these gains were lost when "Jim Crow" Laws were passed by southern states. "Jim Crow" Laws established segregation or separation of the races. These laws reinforced prejudices held by whites.

Virginia "Jim Crow" Law

"The conductors or managers on all such railroads shall have power, and are hereby required, to assign to each white or colored passenger his or her respective car, coach or compartment. If the passenger fails to disclose his race, the conductor and managers, acting in good faith, shall be the sole judges of his race."



African American man forced to move from his seat because of the Jim Crow law.

Freedmen's School in Richmond

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The Freedmen's Bureau was a government agency that provided food, schools, and medical care for freed slaves and others in Virginia and the rest of the South.