

10% Plan (Lincoln's Plan)

Abraham Lincoln had thought about the process of restoring the Union from the earliest days of the war. His guiding principles were to accomplish the task as rapidly as possible and ignore calls for punishing the South.

In late 1863, Lincoln announced a formal plan for reconstruction:

1. A general amnesty would be granted to all who would take an oath of loyalty to the United States and pledge to obey all federal laws pertaining to [slavery](#)
2. High Confederate officials and military leaders were to be temporarily excluded from the process
3. When one tenth of the number of voters who had participated in the 1860 election had taken the oath within a particular state, then that state could launch a new government and elect representatives to Congress.

However, the Lincoln plan was not acceptable to Congress, and was not fully put into practice. Additionally, Lincoln's assassination ended Lincoln's plans for Reconstruction.

Presidential Reconstruction (Johnson's Plan)

The looming showdown between Lincoln and the Congress over competing reconstruction plans never occurred. The president was [assassinated](#) on April 14, 1865. His successor, [Andrew Johnson](#) of Tennessee, lacked his predecessor's skills in handling people; those skills would be badly missed. Johnson's plan envisioned the following:

- Pardons would be granted to those taking a loyalty oath
- No pardons would be available to high Confederate officials and persons owning property valued in excess of \$20,000
- A state needed to abolish [slavery](#) before being readmitted
- A state was required to repeal its secession ordinance before being readmitted.

Most of the seceded states began compliance with the president's program. Congress was not in session, so there was no immediate objection from that quarter. However, Congress reconvened in December and refused to seat the Southern representatives.

Reconstruction had produced another deadlock between the president and Congress.

Military Reconstruction (Radical Republican's Plan)

The postwar [Radical Republicans](#) were motivated by three main factors:

1. Revenge — a desire among some to punish the South for causing the war
2. Concern for the freedmen — some believed that the federal government had a role to play in the transition of freedmen from [slavery](#) to freedom
3. Political concerns — the Radicals wanted to keep the Republican Party in power in both the North and the South.

With the Radical Republicans fully in control of Congress after the mid-term elections of 1866, they quickly passed the **Military Reconstruction Acts of 1867**.

- These acts divided the south into five military districts.
- Each district was placed under military leadership and new elections were held with voting only allowed by Congress' approved voters, which were mostly former slaves.
- Each state was also required to ratify the 13th and 14th Amendments after drafting new state constitutions. This could only be done after new public officials were elected that had pledged their loyalty to the Union.

Most of these were either poor whites or former slaves. This new influx of voters led to the Republican control of a traditionally Democratic south. Tennessee was the only state exempt from military reconstruction because it had a large number of Union supporters and had met most of the Radical Republicans' demands for reconstruction. The rest of the Confederacy was split up under the rule of former Union general