

Name: _____

Period: _____

Reconstruction Progress Report

Directions: Read the passage then use it to respond to the questions that follow.

Major General Carl Schurz toured the South after the war and reported his findings to President Johnson. He was most concerned about the attitudes of former supporters of the Confederacy and former slave owners. Here are parts of his 1866 report.



Treason against the United States does...not appear odious (hateful) in the South. The people are not impressed with any sense of its criminality. And...there is, as yet, among the southern people an utter absence of national feeling...

The principal cause of that want of national spirit which has existed in the South so long, and at last gave birth to the rebellion, was that the southern people cherished, cultivated, idolized (worshipped) their particular interests and institutions in preference to those which they had in common with the rest of the American people.

In at least nineteen cases out of twenty the reply I received to my inquiry about their views on the new system [of labor] was uniformly this: "You cannot make the Negro work without physical compulsion (force)."

There is another popular notion prevalent in the South...It is that the Negro exists for the special object of raising cotton, rice and sugar for the whites, and that it is illegitimate (illegal) for him to indulge, like other people, in the pursuit of his own happiness in his own way.

When the rebellion was put down they found themselves not only conquered in a political and military sense, but economically ruined...From early youth they have been acquainted (familiar) with but one system of labor, and with that one system they have been in the habit of identifying all their interests. They know no way to help themselves but the one they are accustomed (used) to...To try [wage or contract labor] they consider an experiment they cannot afford to make while their wants are urgent.

One reason the southern people are so slow in accommodating themselves to the new order of things is, that they confidently expect soon to be permitted to regulate (control) matters according to their own ideas.

Schurz, Carl. *The Condition of the South: Extracts from the Report of Major-General Carl Schurz, on the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana: Addressed to the President* (Washington, 1866)

1. What is the attitude of southerners following the Civil War according to Schurz?
2. What major cause of the Civil War is Schurz describing in the first two paragraphs?
3. According to Schurz, did the Civil War resolve this problem?
4. What is the southern view of African Americans according to Schurz?
5. In the fifth paragraph, what does Schurz describe as the problems facing freed slaves in the South following the war?
6. Based on this report, what does it tell you about the results of the Civil War and the situation that existed in the south?
7. What do you think is the best way for President Johnson to handle this situation after reading this report?