**Directions**: Complete the following tasks for the Abc-clio readings below.

- Circle unknown or impressive sounding words (I will be checking this. Even if you know the word, if it is impressive sounding, circle it.)
- Create a chart or diagram that explains the differences and similarities between Senators Bruce and Revels in your composition books.
- Using complete sentences that reflect the question in the answer, answer the following questions in your composition books:
  1. What were the government’s policies towards the South during Presidential Reconstruction?
  2. Who led the Radical Republicans?
  3. What were the goals of the Radical Republicans?
  4. Why was the Election of 1876 controversial? Explain the election in your answer.

**Hiram Revels**

Revels was born in September 1822 in Fayetteville, North Carolina to free parents. After training for the seminary at Ohio and Knox College in Illinois, Revels was ordained a minister of the African Methodist Church in 1845. He preached throughout the Midwest and eventually settled in Baltimore, Maryland, where he became the pastor of a church and principal of a school for African Americans.

During the Civil War, Revels helped to raise and organize African-American Union regiments in Maryland and Missouri. He enlisted in the Union Army in 1864 and served as a chaplain in a Mississippi regiment before briefly occupying the post of provost marshal of captured Vicksburg, Mississippi.

After the war, Revels settled in Natchez, Mississippi, and embarked upon a political career as a Republican. First as an alderman in 1868, then as a state senator, he managed to balance his religious and political duties. In January 1870, he was elected to the U.S. Senate seat once occupied by Confederate President Jefferson Davis. In a conciliatory gesture toward whites, Revels recommended the full restoration of civil and political rights to all ex-Confederates. As a dignified and moderate senator, he quickly won support from even white members of the state.

After leaving the Senate in 1871, Revels became the president of Alcorn University, a Mississippi college for African Americans, and in 1873, he was secretary of state ad interim of Mississippi. In 1874, he was dismissed as president of Alcorn University by the Republican governor. According to his critics, Revels had alienated African Americans and deferred too much to Democrats. The next
year, Revels joined the Democratic opposition and helped to defeat the reelection of the Republican carpetbag government. He was reappointed president of Alcorn University by the new Democratic governor in 1876 and later that year became the editor of the Southwestern Christian Advocate. For the remainder of his life, he devoted himself to religious work. He died on January 16, 1901.


Blanche K. Bruce

Born on March 1, 1841 in Farmville, Virginia, Bruce grew up as a slave in Missouri. Tutored by his master’s son, he moved to Ohio at the outbreak of the Civil War and attended Oberlin College for two years. In 1868, he moved to Mississippi, then under the rule of a Reconstruction government, and purchased enough land to acquire a substantial plantation.

As one of only a few educated and affluent African Americans in Mississippi, Bruce immediately assumed a leadership position in the community. After teaching for a brief period, he entered politics and held several state government positions, including sergeant at arms in the state Senate in 1870, assessor of Bolivar County in 1871, and county sheriff from 1872 to 1875.

In 1874, Bruce was elected as a Republican to the U.S. Senate near the end of the rule of the Reconstruction government in Mississippi. During his one term in the Senate, he fought to protect the voting rights of newly enfranchised African Americans in the South, to deal fairly with Indians, and to improve flood control and navigation routes for the Mississippi River. He opposed the exclusion of Chinese immigrants to America and the awarding of disability pensions to former Confederate soldiers.

Bruce had no hope of reelection in 1880 due to the demise of the Reconstruction government in Mississippi. President James Garfield appointed him as register of the treasury in 1881, a position Bruce held for four years. In 1889, President Benjamin Harrison appointed him recorder of deeds in the District of Columbia, a position Bruce retained until President William McKinley reappointed him register of the treasury in 1895. He was still serving in this post at the time of his death on March 17, 1898.

Reconstruction

Reconstruction refers to the post-Civil War policies of the U.S. government toward the former Confederate states of the South. These policies dictated the terms by which Southern states could rejoin the Union and reassert their full political and civil rights under the U.S. Constitution.

The Reconstruction period was divided into two phases. Presidential Reconstruction, during 1865-1867, was the period when President Abraham Lincoln and his successor, President Andrew Johnson, guided the federal government's policy toward the South. Both Lincoln and Johnson favored a moderate policy that would allow the Southern states to rejoin the Union quickly and without enacting substantial changes to their political, economic, or social structures.

After Lincoln's assassination in April 1865, Johnson was unable to maintain sufficient congressional or public support for those policies. Presidential Reconstruction ended in March 1867, when a newly elected Congress, dominated by Radical Republicans, opened its session. This second phase, which was known as Radical Reconstruction and lasted from 1867 to 1877, was guided by such congressional leaders as Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner. The Radical Republicans' goal was to punish white Southerners for rebelling against the Union and to elevate African Americans in the South to alleviate the effects of slavery. By passing several substantial pieces of legislation, Congress hoped to enact significant political, economic, and social change in the South and restructure Southern society.

The federal government had only limited success with its plans, primarily because of political infighting in the North among Radical Republicans, Republicans, and Democrats. In addition, white Southerners worked diligently to undermine the effects of legislation and exert local control over Southern society. Reconstruction paved the way for blacks to be enfranchised for the first time, but it generated enormous anger among whites. Largely as a result of compromises surrounding the presidential election of 1876, by 1877, all the former Confederate states had been readmitted to the Union, and federal troops withdrew from the South that same year.

The Election of 1876

Although it is not generally regarded as a realigning election, the presidential election of 1876 is especially important. The compromise that settled the election brought military Reconstruction to an end. The election also serves as an example of the *winner of the popular vote not winning the electoral college.*
Republicans nominated Governor Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio for president and William Almon Wheeler of New York for vice president. Democrats nominated New York governor Samuel J. Tilden for president and Indiana’s Thomas Hendricks for vice president. In a campaign characterized by harsh words and widespread fraud and intimidation (especially in the South), Tilden received a reported 4,284,020 votes to Hayes' 4,036,572. Tilden also claimed 184 electoral votes to Hayes' 165, but 20 additional votes from the states of Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana (and later Oregon) were disputed.

After Democratic and Republican groups certified different outcomes in each state, Congress created an electoral commission comprising 15 members—seven Democrats, seven Republicans, and one independent, Supreme Court justice David Davis. When Davis resigned from the commission after being selected as an Illinois senator, Republican justice Joseph Bradley was appointed in his place. In subsequent votes, the electoral commission split eight to seven (Bradley voted with the Republicans) to give all the disputed votes to Hayes, who became president with a one-vote margin of victory in the electoral college.

Although Democrats were hardly pleased with the outcome, they had worked behind the scenes for concessions. Most important, Republicans agreed to withdraw federal troops from the Southern states, and Democrats gave vague guarantees to respect the civil rights of both black and white citizens.

The withdrawal of federal troops from the South in 1877 is generally regarded as the end of Reconstruction. Although the electoral college is sometimes blamed for giving the election to the candidate who did not win the popular vote, disputes under any system were almost inevitable given the climate of the times, and it can be argued that the electoral college actually helped to confine the controversy to a distinct section of the nation rather than expand it nationwide.