

Primary Source (Image)

“The Union As It Was”, Thomas Nast, 1874

Guiding Question What were the experiences of African Americans during Reconstruction?

Objectives

- ✎ I can analyze primary sources related to the Ku Klux Klan.
- ✎ I can discuss how violence affected the lives of formerly enslaved people.

Background Information

Thomas Nast was a well-known political cartoonist who created drawings for *Harper's Weekly*, a popular magazine in New York that shared news, stories, and illustrations. In 1874, Nast made the following image for *Harper's Weekly*. In his drawing, he shows a member of the White League and a member of the Ku Klux Klan shaking hands over a shield with the words “The Lost Cause.” An African American family crouches in fear under a skull, while a schoolhouse burns and a man is being lynched in the background.

Text	Vocabulary and Context
"The Lost Cause"	A historical interpretation of the Civil War that mythologizes the Confederacy as nobly defending a traditional way of life against northern aggressors
White League	A group formed in the Southern United States in 1874 that used threats and violence to try to stop Black men from voting and to prevent political groups they disagreed with, like the Republican Party, from organizing.
Ku Klux Klan	A group formed after the Civil War in the United States. Its members believed in white supremacy, meaning they thought white people were better than

	<p>people of other races. The KKK used violence, threats, and fear to try to control and harm Black people and other groups they did not like. Their goal was to stop Black people from having the same rights, like voting, and to keep control over communities, especially in the Southern United States.</p>
Lynching	<p>An act where a group of people, often driven by hate or prejudice, illegally kills someone, usually by hanging, without a fair trial or legal process. It was often used in American history to terrorize and harm African Americans and other minority groups.</p>

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Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconstruction_era#/media/File:The_Union_as_It_Was.jpg

