

The background of the slide is a textured, slightly faded American flag. The stars are visible in the upper left quadrant, and the stripes extend across the rest of the image.

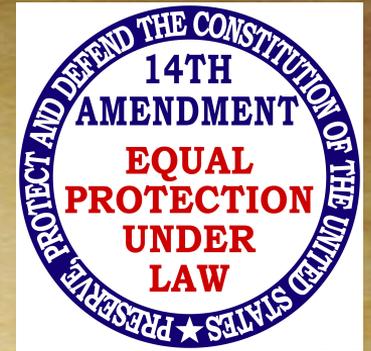
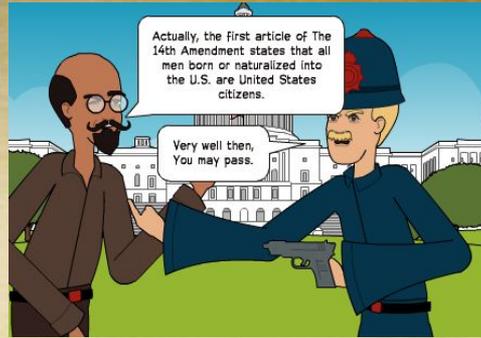
# 12.12 Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments

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Period 5

# Amendment XIV

## Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.



# Amendment XV

## Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

## Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



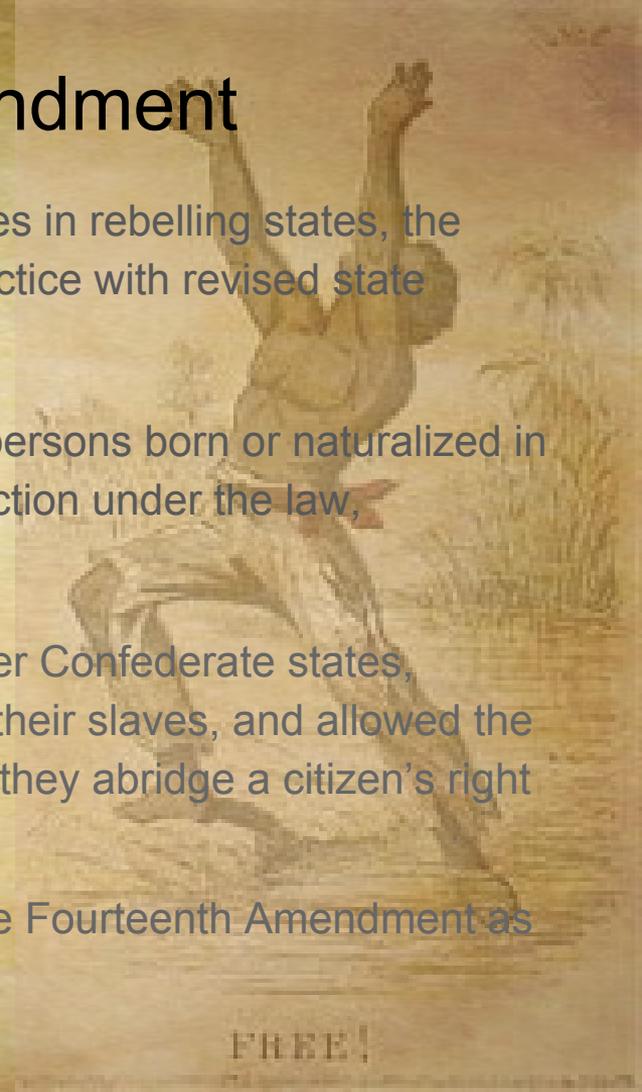
# Historical Context - Fourteenth Amendment

After President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in rebelling states, the Thirteenth Amendment kept the states from reinstating the practice with revised state constitutions.

The Fourteenth Amendment was ratified on July 9th, 1868. All persons born or naturalized in the United States were granted citizenship and had equal protection under the law, regardless of any former forms of servitude.

The amendment forbid the action of repaying war debts to former Confederate states, banned compensating former slave owners for the liberation of their slaves, and allowed the government to decrease a state's representation in Congress if they abridge a citizen's right to vote.

It was compulsory for Former Confederate states to sanction the Fourteenth Amendment as a condition of regaining national representation.

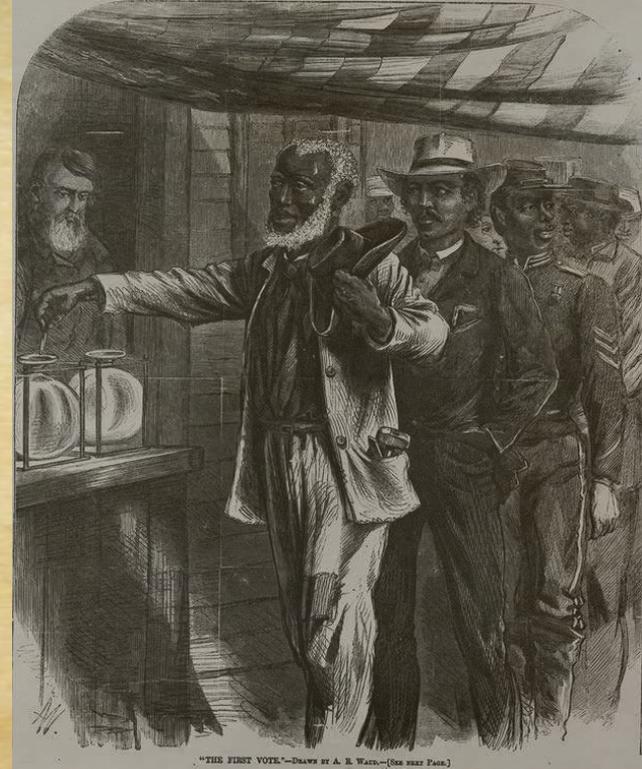


# Historical Context - Fifteenth Amendment

William Stewart of Nevada, a member of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, advocated the Fifteenth Amendment and saw it ratified on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1870. The amendment outlawed the practice of disqualifying voters “on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

However, the states found a loophole. They seized the possibility the amendment left open to institute voter qualifications equally to all races. The former confederate states took advantage of this provision by instituting poll taxes, literacy tests, and others.

The Reconstruction amendments added to the Constitution provided new constitutional protections to blacks and former slaves but true equality wouldn't be achieved until the twentieth century.



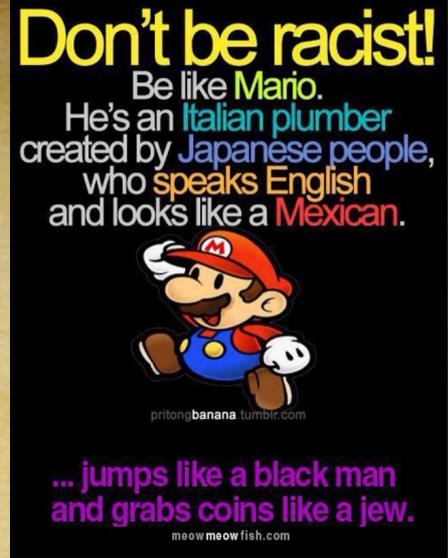


# Purpose - Fourteenth Amendment

The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments were created to guarantee rights and equality to recently emancipated slaves.

According to Amendment XIV, anyone born on American soil is assured American citizenship and all citizens are warranted “equal protection of the laws,” meaning states cannot discriminate against certain groups of people.

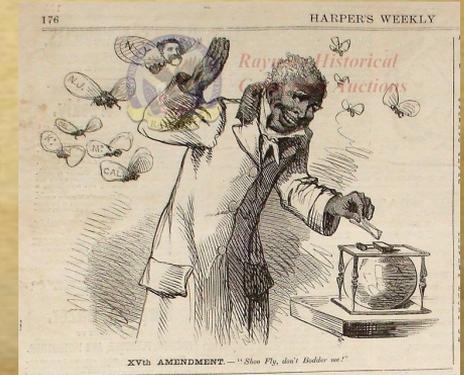
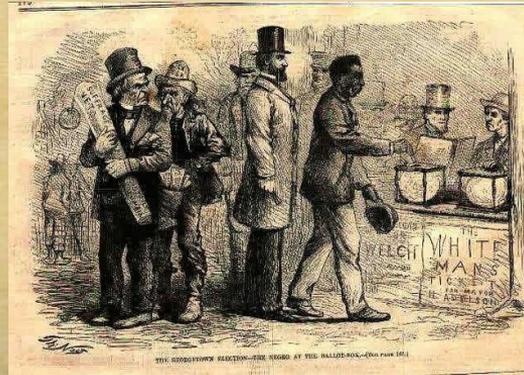
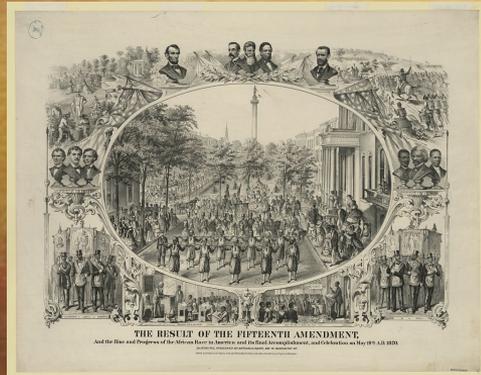
The Fourteenth Amendment also prohibits states from stripping its residents of the full privileges of American citizenship and from passing irrational or unfair laws.



# Purpose - Fifteenth Amendment

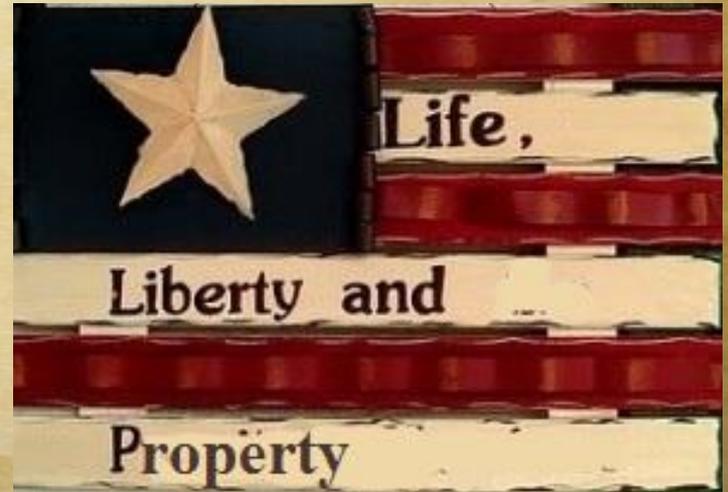
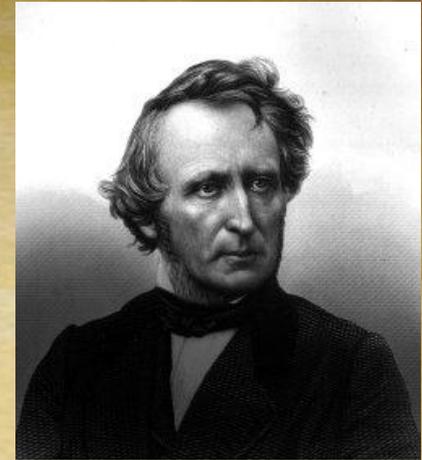
The Fifteenth Amendment sought to guarantee that former slaves would retain the right to vote by banning state suffrage laws that discriminated against any group of citizens on the basis of race.

The fifteenth amendment prohibits the government from denying a citizen of the United States the right to vote based off of their race, color, or condition of servitude.



# Point of View: Fourteenth Amendment

The fourteenth amendment was written in an anti-slavery perspective. Even though slaves had been emancipated at this point in time, southerners attempted to find loopholes through this emancipation. The author of the fourteenth amendment, John A. Bingham, was predisposed to these loopholes and made it clear in the fourteenth amendment that it would be unacceptable to deprive anyone of their natural rights of life, liberty, and property.



# Point of View: Fifteenth Amendment

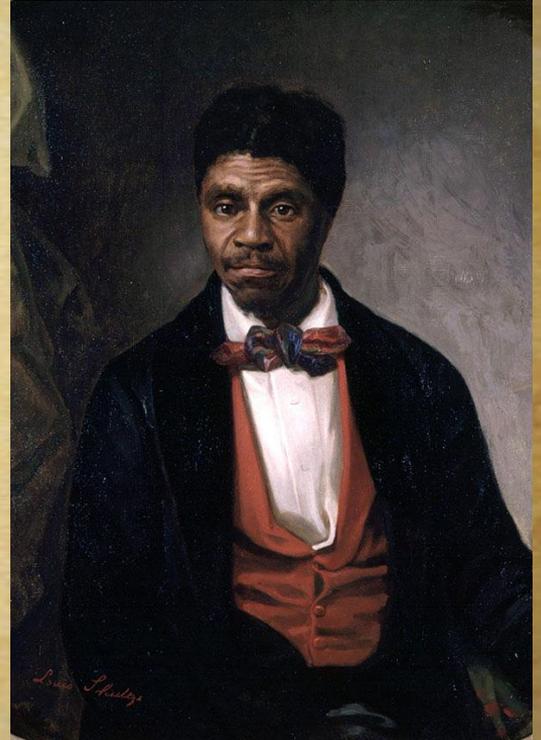
The fifteenth amendment was written in an equal rights perspective. It is evident that because the author of the fifteenth amendment advocated the suffrage of “all race(s), color(s), and previous condition(s) of servitude,” the author supported the extension of their equal rights as well.



# Outside Information/Examples: Fourteenth Amendment

Dred Scott v Sanford Case (1857):

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that slaves were not U. S. citizens, and therefore, were not allowed to sue in court. Dred Scott sued for his freedom after his slave owner, John Emerson, passed away. Scott claimed that being on free soil made him free. When the case reached the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney concluded that citizenship belonged only to descendants of Europeans present in 1787.



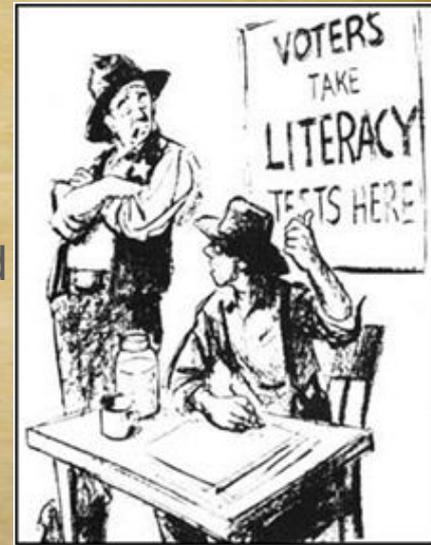
# Outside Information/Examples: Fifteenth Amendment

Various strategies to keep African Americans from voting:

Grandfather Clause (1898-1915): People that could not read and did not own property could vote if their fathers or grandfathers could vote before 1867.

Literacy Tests (1890s-1960s): Literacy was tested in order to vote; most blacks were not literate, so therefore, were not allowed to vote.

Violence: Whites used violence toward African Americans to intimidate them and keep them from even thinking about voting.



# Synthesis

The fourteenth and fifteenth amendment can be connected to the Emancipation Proclamation. The Emancipation Proclamation declared “that all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious states “are, and henceforward shall be free.” The fourteenth and fifteenth amendments protected equality for emancipated slaves by banning slavery, defining citizenship, and ensuring voting rights. The amendments outlawed former confederate states from re-paying war debts and reimbursing former slave owners for the emancipation of their slaves. Finally, it granted congress the power to enforce this amendment (fourteenth amendment), which led to other landmark legislation, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The fifteenth amendment extended new constitutional protections to blacks; however, the struggle to fully achieve equality would continue into the 20th century.

