

Timeline of the Reconstruction Era (1865 – 77) and the beginning of legalized segregation

- 1865** The Civil War ends. Lincoln is assassinated. The 13th Amendment is ratified, prohibiting slavery.
- 1866** The “Black Codes” are passed by all white legislators of the former Confederate States. Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, conferring citizenship on African Americans and granting them equal rights to whites.
The Ku Klux Klan is formed in Tennessee.
- 1868** The 14th Amendment is ratified, defining citizenship. Overturns the *Dred Scot* decision.
- 1870** The 15th Amendment is ratified giving African Americans the right to vote.
- 1877** A deal is made with southern democratic leaders which made Rutherford B. Hayes president in exchange for the withdrawal of federal troops from the South, and put an end to federal efforts to protect the civil rights of African Americans.
- 1879** Thousands of African Americans migrate from the South to the West to escape oppression.
- 1881** Tennessee passes the first of the “Jim Crow” segregation laws, segregating state railroads. Similar laws are passed over the next 15 years throughout the Southern states.
- 1896** *Plessy v. Ferguson* case. The U.S. Supreme Court rules that “separate but equal” public facilities for whites and African Americans are legal.