



**Heather Cox Richardson (TDPR)**

@HC\_Richardson

Subscribe

3 days ago, 27 tweets, 10 min read [Read on Twitter](#)



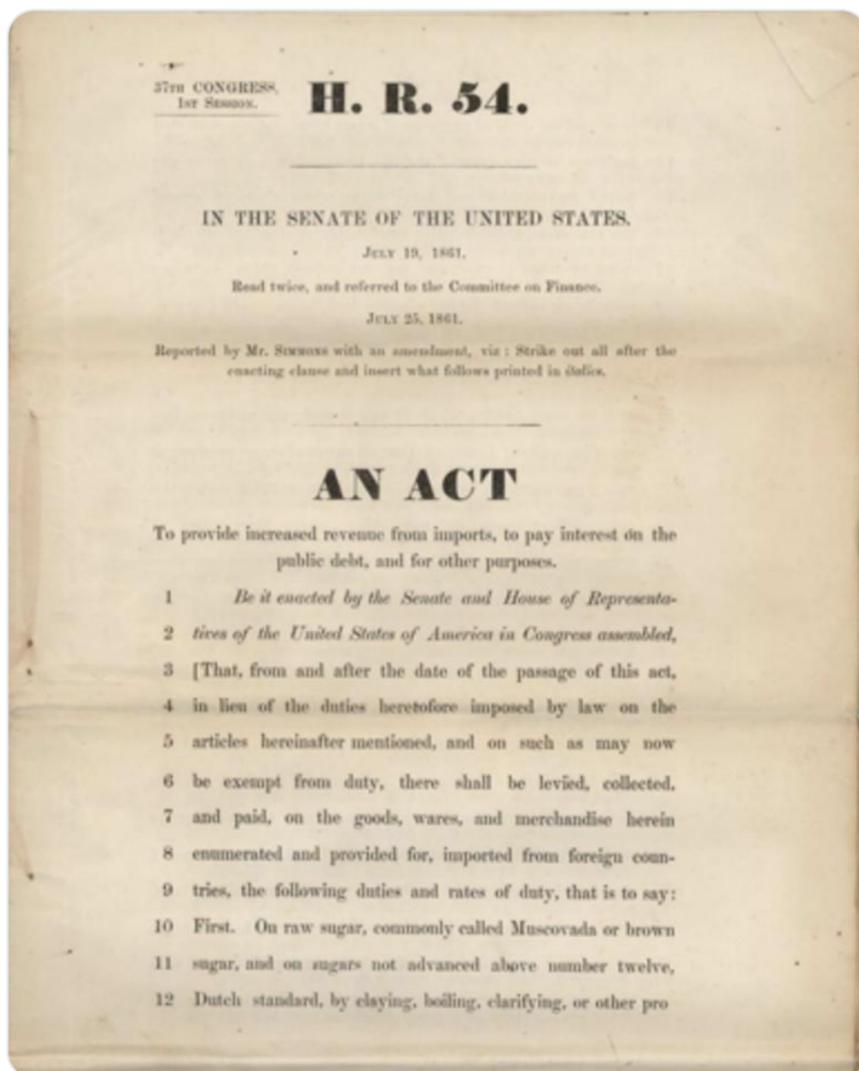
Bookmark

Save as PDF

After the Civil War, heroic individuals rebuild their lives and rededicated the nation. At the same time, angry and desperate men warped our politics in ways that still echo.

Let's take a look at Reconstruction, shall we? /1

During the Civil War, the Republicans under Abraham Lincoln invented national taxation (including the income tax and the IRS), and ended racial slavery to enable black men to work hard and rise. The conjunction of these two things was crucial. /2



#### Thirteenth Amendment

**Section 1.** Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

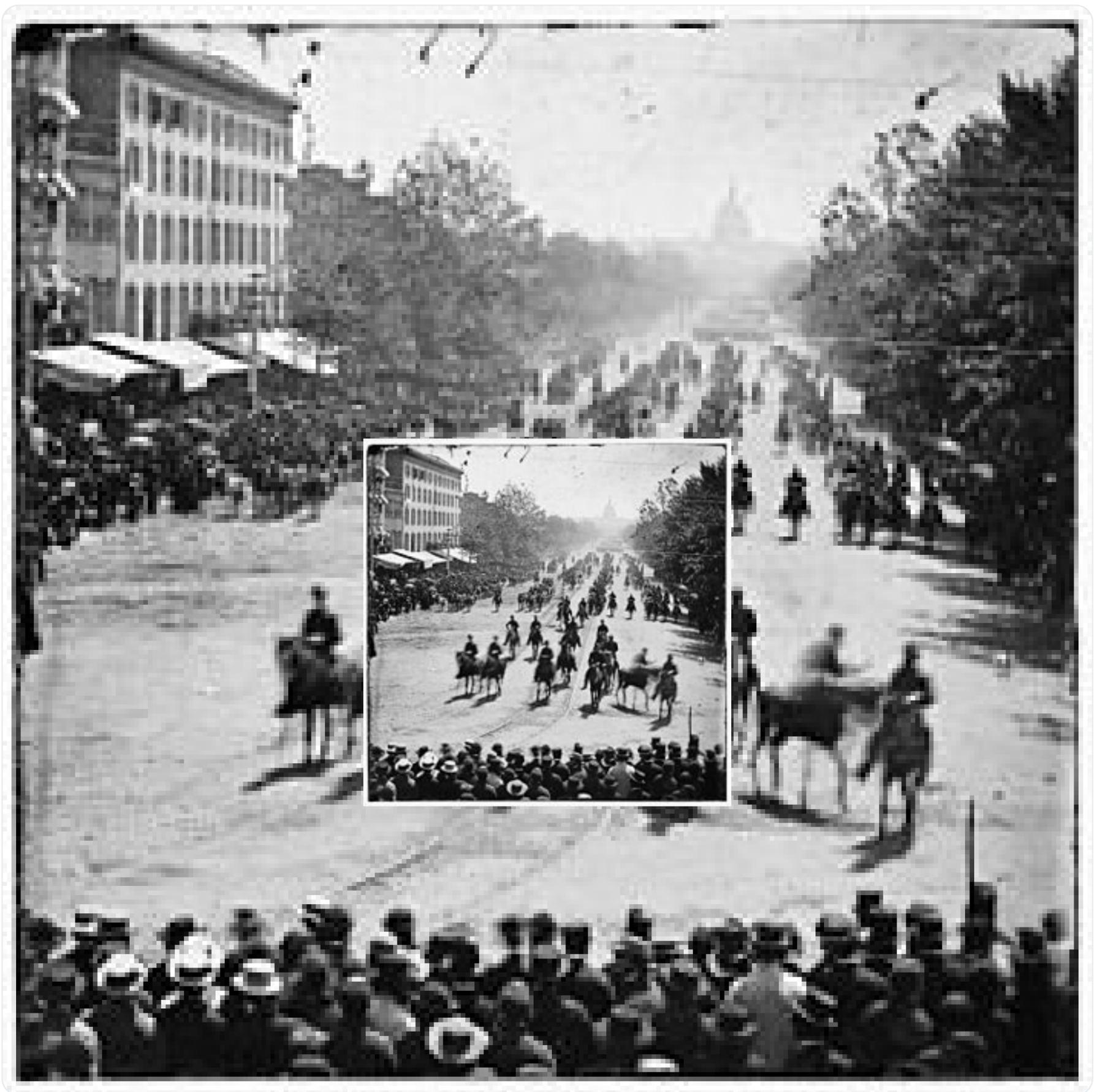
**Section 2.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Taxes were enormously popular, except w/Democrats, who insisted they crushed ordinary Americans (in fact, the North thrived during the war). Still, everyone was happy when the war ended and the government was safe and strong economically. /3

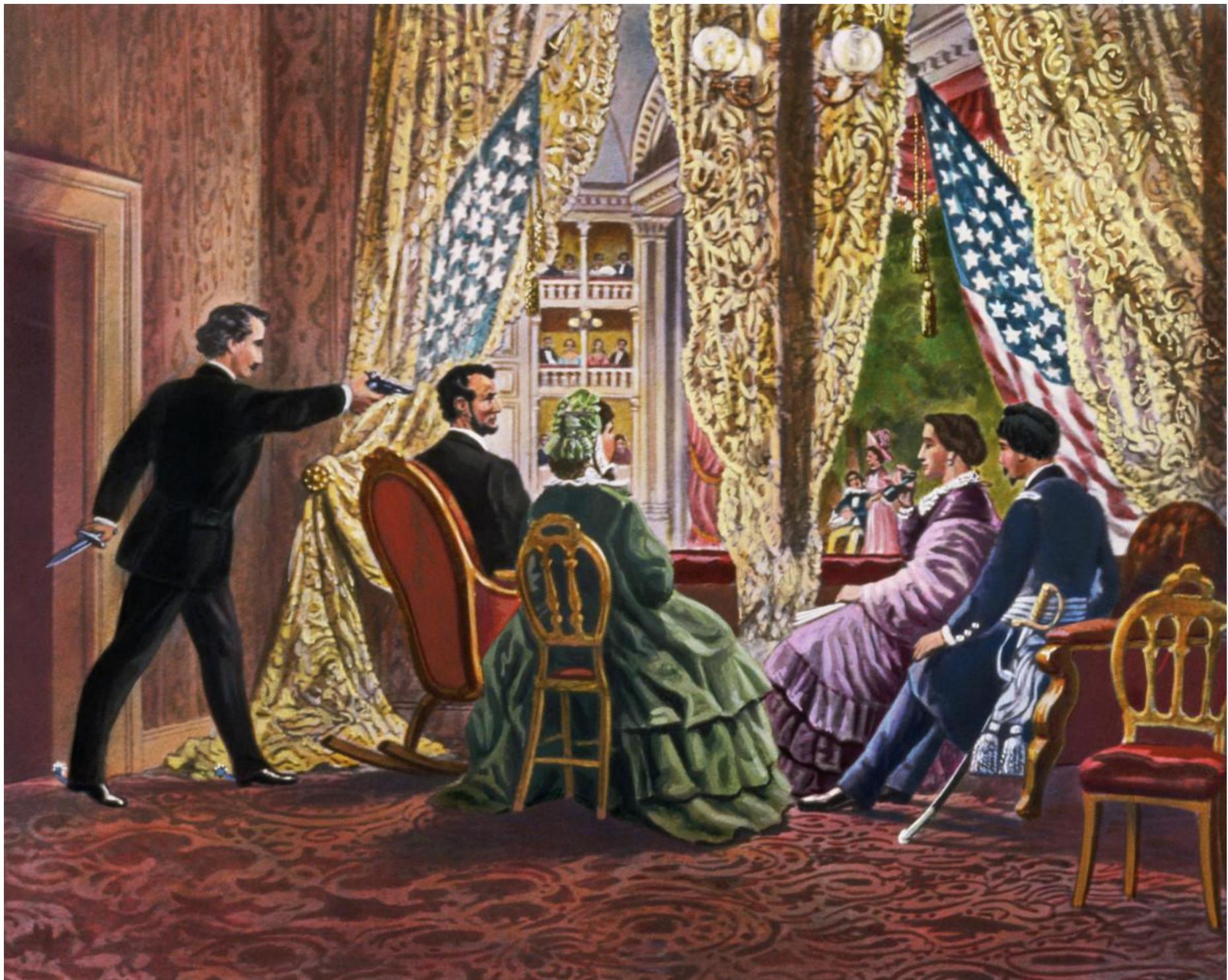
Follow Us on Twitter!

Tweet

Share



Congress went on recess. Lincoln was so happy he took the night off and went to the theater. An unfortunate move, it turned out, because a racist Confederate sympathizer, convinced Lincoln was becoming a dictator, murdered him. /4



Lincoln's vice-president, Andrew Johnson, was a Democrat who hated black folks and Republicans both. He knew that his own career was toast if he didn't have Democrats to support him. So he told southern whites to rebuild their prewar governments, but without slavery. /5



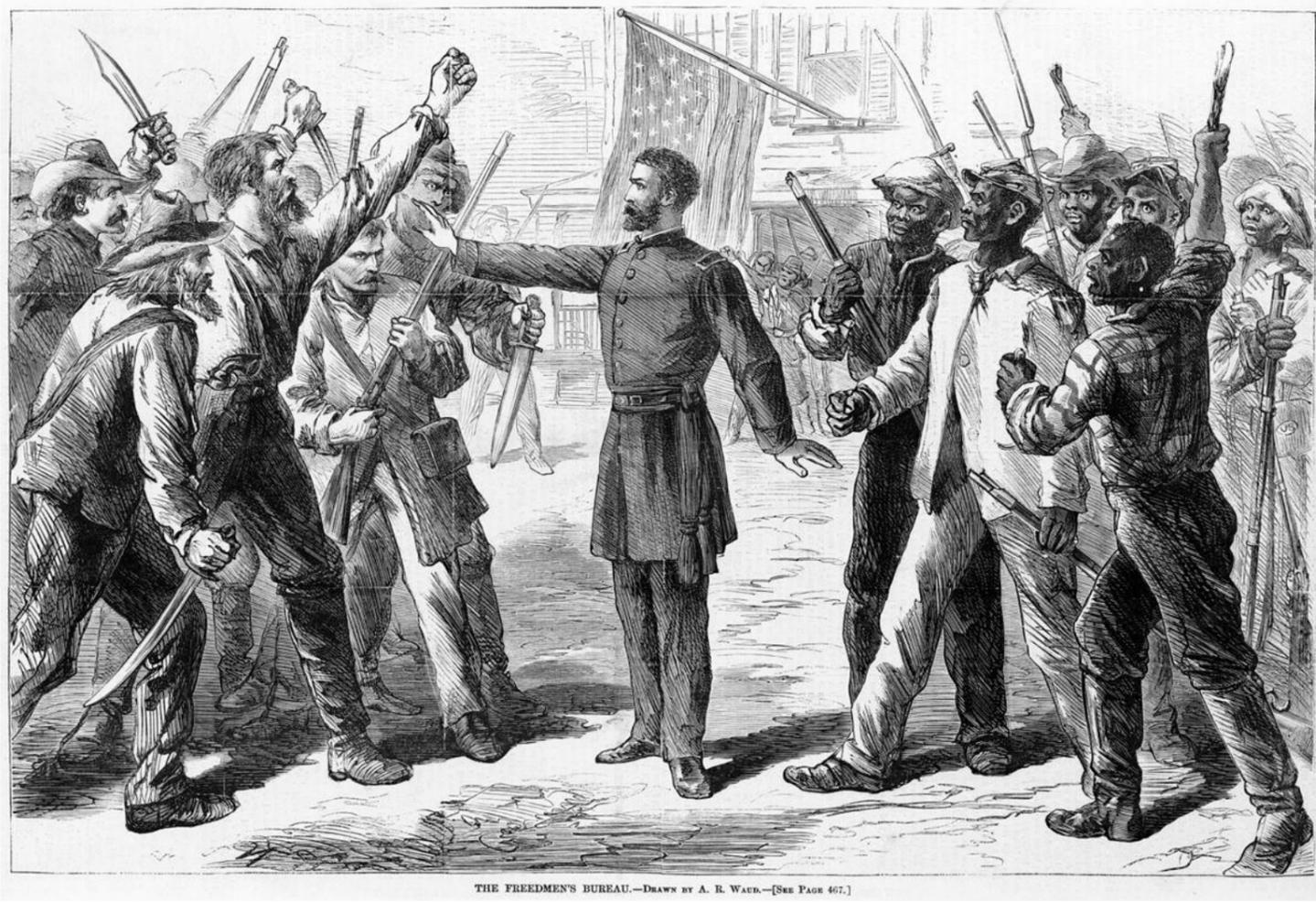
They did, passing Black Codes that essentially created black serfdom. Some whites cheated blacks of wages, raped them, assaulted them, and killed them. Black folks couldn't testify against whites, so couldn't protect themselves.

/6



They turned to officials of the Freedmen's Bureau, established by Congress within the army, who decided in their favor 68% of the time in summer 1865. White abusers were furious at federal interference in their "local customs."

/7



They began to say that they had not fought the war over slavery, but rather over states' rights. They revised history for their present political needs. (This was wrong. This is what Georgia's Alexander Stephens, vice-president of the Confederacy, had to say about it....) /8

**Our new government is founded... upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery subordination to the superior race is his natural and normal condition. This, our new government, is the first, in the history of the world, based upon this great physical, philosophical, and moral truth.**

**--Alexander Stephens, Cornerstone Speech, March 21, 1861**

In December 1865, Congress met, and Johnson said Reconstruction was over. They had to seat the southern officials newly elected under his governments (including Alexander Stephens). The 1870 census would count blacks as whole people, these men would be more powerful than ever. /9

The Three-Fifths Clause, Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution: |

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.

Northern congressmen said NFW. The war had taken 600,000 lives and more than \$5 billion. They were not going to hand the government over to the men who caused it. They refused to seat the southerners, and named a committee to figure out the next steps. /10



Then, Congress passed a civil rights bill to give black men the same rights to protection of property and person as a white man, and expanded the Freedmen's Bureau to put folks on land and give them courts where they could testify. It seemed uncontroversial. /11

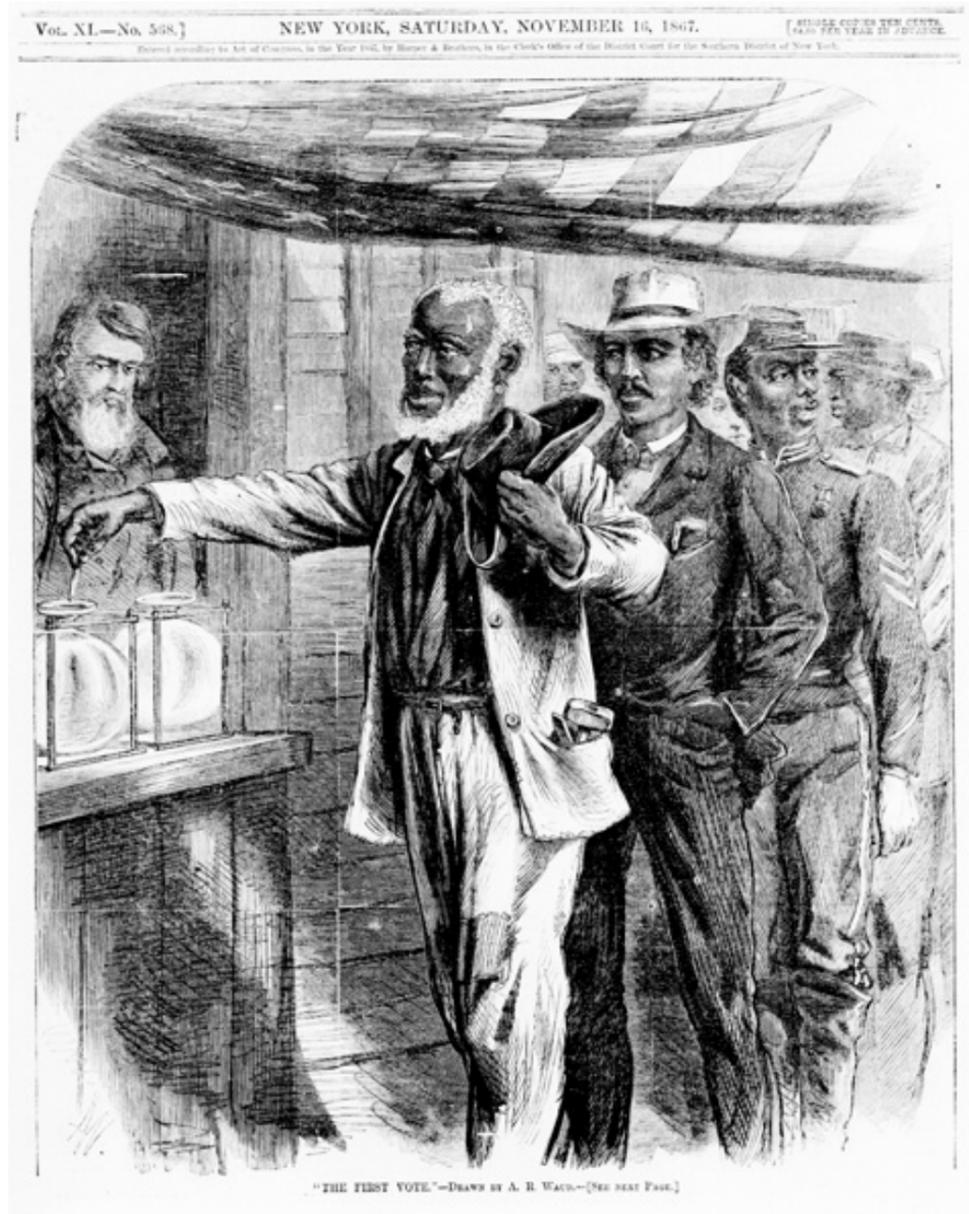




Congress tried to guarantee black rights with the 14th and 15th. After all, black men were the only clearly loyal southerners, and had fought for the government, dying at disproportionately high rates. They ought to have at least as much a say in their government as rebels. /13



But the 15th gave Johnson's argument teeth. Democrats insisted that black voters would elect officials who would give them stuff paid for with tax dollars. And since white people owned most of the property, this equation could be spun as black voters taking white tax dollars. /14



When SC elected a black-majority legislature, opponents howled that a "proletariat Parliament" of "the ignorant class, which only yesterday hoed the fields and served in the kitchen" was "plundering taxpayers." In 1871, they formed a "tax-payers' protest" against the rabble. /15



This exchange of class for race attracted northerners, who worried about their own workers doing the same thing. When Paris Communards took over their city in 1871, Americans worked they were next, especially after Chicago burned in October (hence the Mrs. O'Leary myth). /16

## AMERICAN COMMUNISM.

29

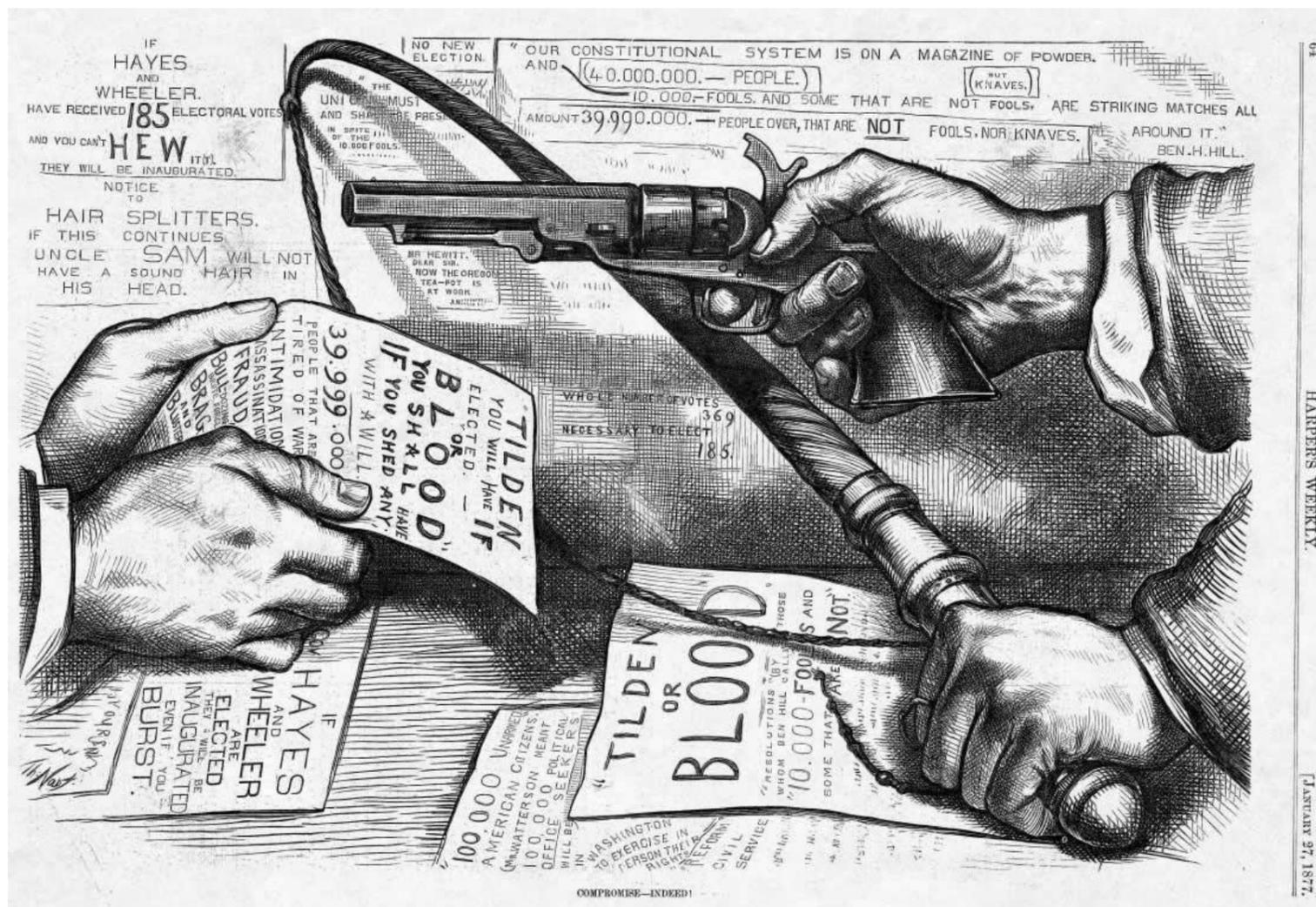
## THE DANGERS.

It has been common, since the recent terrible Communistic outbreak in Paris, to assume that France alone is exposed to such horrors; but, in the judgment of one who has been familiar with our "dangerous classes" for twenty years, there are just the same explosive social elements beneath the surface of New York as of Paris.

There are thousands on thousands in New York who have no assignable home, and "flit" from attic to attic, and cellar to cellar; there are other thousands more or less connected with criminal enterprises; and still other tens of thousands, poor, hard-pressed, and depending for daily bread on the day's earnings, swarming in tenement-houses, who behold the gilded rewards of toil all about them, but are never permitted to touch them.

All these great masses of destitute, miserable, and criminal persons believe that for ages the rich have had all the good things of life, while to them have been left the evil things. Capital to them is the tyrant.

If black voters were dangerous revolutionaries, good Americans should "redeem" the government from them. In 1876, southern reactionaries kept blacks from the polls. In 1880, the South went solidly Democratic. In 1890, new constitutions cut out black voters (and poor whites). /17



Black people who wanted the government to establish a level playing field were a "special interest" trying to pervert the country. They must not vote; they must not be in positions of power. They had to be purged from society. (Not going to post a lynching picture.) /18

There things stood until WWII, when people of color rallied to the US government and then demanded equality. In 1954, SCOTUS under former GOP CA governor Earl Warren outlawed school segregation in Brown v. Board. Eisenhower sent troops to do it. White southerners went nuts. /19



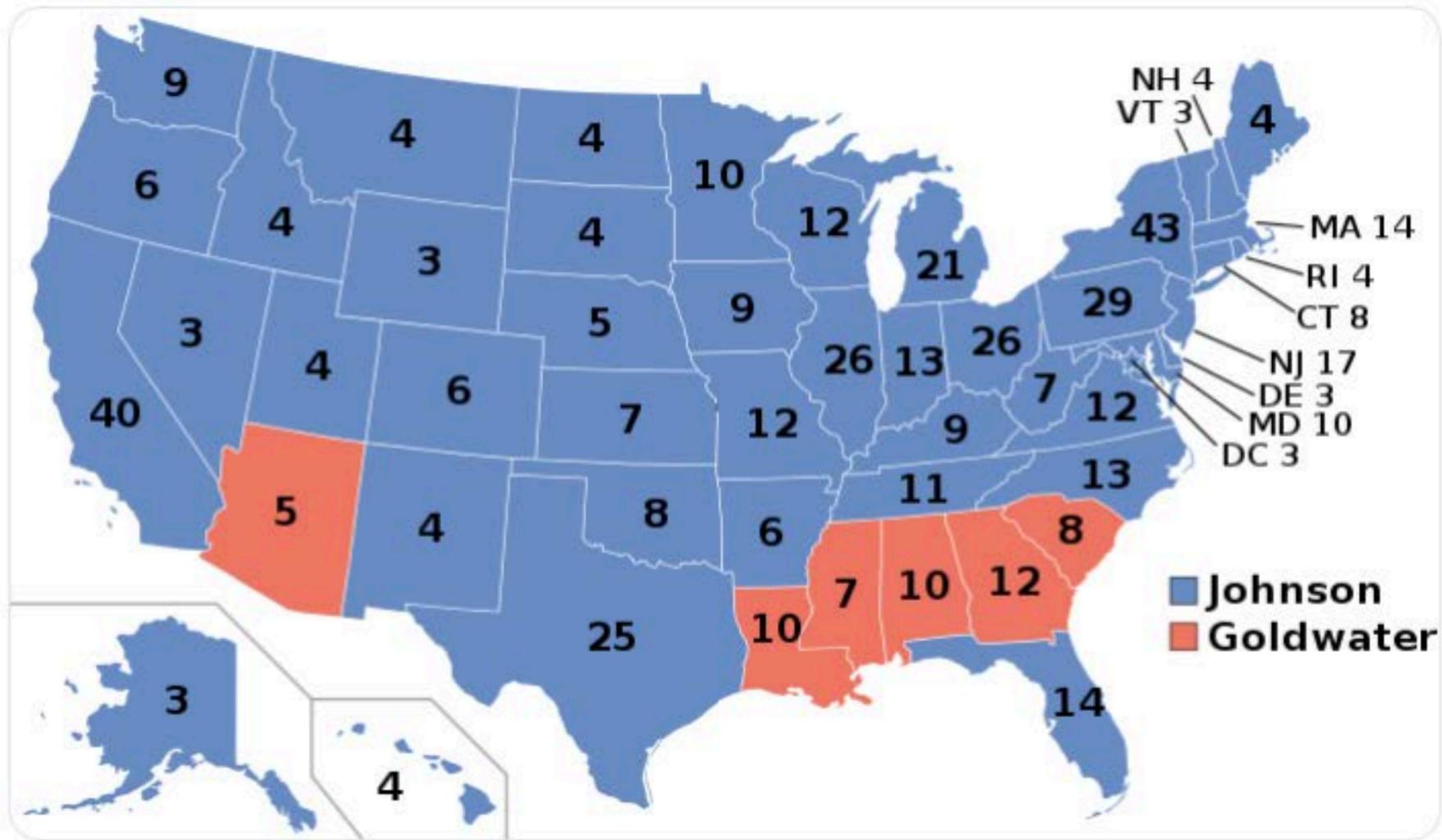
Young William F. Buckley, Jr., who staunchly opposed government regulation of business, started National Review in 1955 to stand against "Social Engineering" and "communism." He opposed Brown v. Board, and assured readers that blacks were culturally inferior to whites. /20



In 1956, southern politicians, led by SC Democrat Strom Thurmond, issued the Southern Manifesto rejecting desegregation, which would overturn "habits, traditions, and a way of life." When JFK and RFK desegregated Ole Miss in 1962, southerners called them communists. /21



In 1964, GOP presidential nominee Barry Goldwater opposed civil rights legislation. Strom Thurmond supported him and became a Republican, and Goldwater picked up five states in the Deep South (and his own state of Arizona). /22



But voters gave Democrat LBJ a supermajority, and in 1964 a bipartisan Congress passed a civil rights act, and then in 1965, the Voting Rights Act. The stage was set for a revival of Andrew Johnson's argument that black rights meant a redistribution of wealth. /23



GOP Richard Nixon courted Thurmond in 1968, adopting the "Southern Strategy," promising to turn race issues back over to the states. (Agnew dedicated GA's Stone Mountain in 1970.) Nixon claimed everyone who wanted a level playing field wanted a handout: esp. blacks and women. /23



Reagan gave the Reconstruction formula a new form, with the Welfare Queen. His language was about taxes and responsibility, but his message was clear: people of color and women who wanted a level playing field wanted white male tax dollars. /24

## The "Welfare Queen"

"She has 80 names, 30 addresses, 12 Social Security cards and is collecting veteran's benefits on four non-existing deceased husbands. And she is collecting Social Security on her cards. She's got Medicaid, getting food stamps, and she is collecting welfare under each of her names."

-- Ronald Reagan, 1976

His strategist, Lee Atwater, spelled it out. Talk about tax cuts and people will hear racial dog whistles. It has been a key GOP strategy ever since. Reconstruction never ended. It set the weird twisting of race and class that continues to warp our national progress today. /25

You start out in 1954 by saying, "N--, n--, n--". By 1968 you can't say "n--"—that hurts you. Backfires. So you say stuff like forced busing, states' rights and all that stuff. You're getting so abstract now [that] you're talking about cutting taxes, and all these things you're talking about are totally economic things and a byproduct of them is [that] blacks get hurt worse than whites. And subconsciously maybe that is part of it. I'm not saying that. But I'm saying that if it is getting that abstract, and that coded, that we are doing away with the racial problem one way or the other. You follow me—because obviously sitting around saying, "We want to cut this", is much more abstract than even the busing thing, and a hell of a lot more abstract than "N--, n--". So, any way you look at it, race is coming on the backbone.

Lee Atwater, 1981|

But that is not what Lincoln and the Civil War GOP wanted. They deliberately used the government to promote equality of opportunity. It seems odd that a racist and power hungry accidental president, rather than Abraham Lincoln, should continue to determine our nation's fate. /END



Missing some Tweet in this thread?  
You can try to [force a refresh](#).

Tweet	Share	Email	Embed
-------	-------	-------	-------

### Like this thread? Get email updates or save it to PDF!

Subscribe to [Heather Cox Richardson \(TDPR\)](#)



Get real-time email alerts when new unrolls are available from this author!

[Subscribe](#)

**This content may be removed anytime!**

Twitter may remove this content at anytime, convert it as a PDF, save and print for later use!

[Save as PDF](#)

### Try unrolling a thread yourself!

Follow Us on Twitter!

Tweet Share

28 289 730

Tweet your reply

**Matthew Ball** @ballmatthew · Dec 3  
2/ Netflix reportedly holds the right to keep renewing these shows, irrespective of Disney's preferences. Disney may be entering Netflix's territory with Disney+, but that didn't drive the cancellations. Netflix was making a rationale decision based on quality, cost, viewership

4 27 102

**Matthew Ball** @ballmatthew · Dec 3  
3/ To point, the shows will remain NETFLIX ORIGINALS for years, Disney would have to buy them back (and says they don't fit with Disney+'s positioning and

1) Follow [Thread Reader App on Twitter](#) so you can easily mention us!

2) Go to a Twitter thread (series of Tweets by the same owner) and mention us with a keyword "unroll"

[@threadreaderapp unroll](#)

You can [practice here](#) first or read more on our [help page!](#)

## More from @HC\_Richardson

see all



### Heather Cox Richardson (TDPR)

@HC\_Richardson

a month ago

The problem is not necessarily the Electoral College; the problem is that in the early 19th C the EC changed from a deliberative system to a winner-take-all system. Both add a mechanism between the popular vote and the president, but one is a brake, the other an accelerator. /1

To understand how we got here, you have to remember that the Framers did not foresee the rise of political parties. Or rather, they hoped it would never happen. so they created a system divided horizontally, if you will, rather than vertically.

Read 9 tweets



### Heather Cox Richardson (TDPR)

@HC\_Richardson

3 months ago

.@DeGolierThomas challenged me to 7 book covers, 7 days, no explanation. Here's #1.

Read 3 tweets



### Heather Cox Richardson (TDPR)

@HC\_Richardson

3 months ago

The recent disinformation campaign against New York's new abortion law reflects the takeover of the GOP by radical Movement Conservatives in the 1970s. It's a story not about principle, but about power. Let's take a look at the modern political history of abortion, shall we? /1

States began to criminalize abortion in the 1870s (a process itself about politics that I will tell someday). By 1960, an observer estimated between 200K and 1.2 million illegal US abortions a year, endangering women, primarily poor ones

Read 21 tweets

## Related threads



### Filomena Rocha, President European Co...

@Filomen03258997

a month ago

16. - Attempted coup in Venezuela with support from the US - 2010 #Venezuela #AttemntCoupInVenezuela #War

Follow Us on Twitter!



### Filomena Rocha, President European Co...

@Filomen03258997

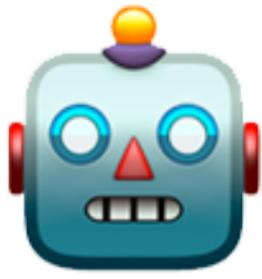
a month ago

14. - Attempted coup in Venezuela with support from the US - 2010 #Venezuela #AttemntCoupInVenezuela #War

Tweet

Share





# Did Thread Reader help you today?

Support us! We are indie developers!

---

This site is made by just three indie developers on a laptop doing marketing, support and development! [Read more about the story.](#)

**Become a Premium Member** (\$3.00/month or \$30.00/year) and get exclusive features!

 [Become Premium](#)

Too expensive? **Make a small donation** by buying us coffee (\$5) or help with server cost (\$10)

 [Donate via Paypal](#) |  [Become our Patreon](#)

♥♥ Thank you for your support! ♥♥



[Help](#) | [About](#) | [TOS](#) | [Privacy](#)

 [Follow Us on Twitter!](#)

 [Tweet](#)  [Share](#)