Prejudice and Discrimination

“Jim Crow”

The attempt by the South to re-claim the ante-bellum (pre-Civil War) social order.
**RECONSTRUCTION FELL SHORT:**

- No economic gains were made by freedmen
- Political gains were only temporary
- Reconstruction did not guarantee African Americans of equal rights
- State governments found loopholes in 14th and 15th Amendments and passed discriminatory laws
What is Thomas Nast’s comment on the South?

What imagery does the artist use to make his point?

What does Nast want to see happen?
Jim Crow was the name of a minstrel character who became associated with the "Black Codes" - which took away many of the rights which had been granted to Blacks through the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

"Come listen all you galls and boys,
I'm going to sing a little song,
My name is Jim Crow.
Weel about and turn about and do jis so,
Eb'ry time I weel about I jump Jim Crow."
THE BLACK CODES:

- Laws limited African American freedoms.
- These laws limited property ownership, regulated labor, denied legal rights in courts, established curfews, and upheld corporal punishment.
- Purpose was to retain social structure of the South.

This Thomas Nast cartoon depicts the government structure after Reconstruction. What would be a good title for this work?
How did race relations in the South change after Reconstruction, and what was the African American response?

Discrimination and segregation against African Americans intensified and took new forms in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.
Discrimination and segregation against African Americans

- Laws limited African American freedoms.
- After reconstruction, many Southern state governments passed “Jim Crow” laws forcing separation of the races in public places.

Here is a classic example of the segregation in the South.

Photo courtesy chicora.org
Discrimination and segregation against African Americans

- Intimidation and crimes were directed against African Americans (lynchings).
- African Americans looked to the courts to safeguard their rights.

Two images of extreme prejudice and discrimination

Courtesy Library of Congress
Discrimination and segregation against African Americans

- In 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court ruled that “separate but equal” did not violate the 14th Amendment, upholding the “Jim Crow” laws of the era.
- Facilities were separate, but never equal.
Discrimination and segregation against African Americans

- During the late 19th and early 20th century, African Americans began the “Great Migration” to Northern cities in search of jobs and to escape poverty and discrimination in the South.

- Jim Crow laws were not popular in the North, but the migrants still suffered from discrimination!
Problems in the North

- African Americans faced racism and discrimination in the North as well.
- Confrontations with immigrant groups were a result of competition for jobs.
- De Facto segregation arose as African Americans settled in their own ethnic communities.
African Americans disagreed about how to respond to the developments.
Ida B. Wells

- She led an anti-lynching crusade and called on the federal government to take action.
- Congress failed to make such a law, however a great deal of public awareness was raised!
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON:

- He believed the way to equality was through vocational education and economic success; he accepted social separation.
- Economic success would precede social equality!

Photo credit: Library of Congress
W.E.B. Du Bois:

- He believed that education was meaningless without equality.
- He supported political equality for African Americans by helping to form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
The early years of response to “Jim Crow” would be followed by a half-century of struggle known as the Civil Rights Movement.