

THE END OF RECONSTRUCTION

Unit IV: The Civil War and
Reconstruction

PRESIDENT GRANT = CORRUPTION



First President in the Post-Civil War Era (1868)

Credit Mobilier Scandal: Government officials create a “business” – Credit Mobilier - to construct a railroad and issue “themselves” contracts to build

Salary Grab: Congress voted itself a 50% pay raise and added two years of “back pay” – public outcry results in an overturn

- There was a proposed amendment to prevent this! OH immediately ratifies it
- It is now the 27th Amendment passed in 1992

Whiskey Ring: Whiskey distillers paid graft to federal tax collectors rather than pay for their liquor

*Corruption was becoming widespread in the north as evidenced by Tammany Hall in New York City (next unit!)

DECLINE OF SUPPORT

Northerners grew tired of supporting Reconstruction

Many felt African Americans now had to fight for themselves

Political and economic support waned

Federal troops were ineffective against the presence of white supremacy groups including the KKK

Northern and southern elites looked to make financial gains

- In turn, they relied on each other to trade
- Their ideals change and grow together now



1876 ELECTION

Rutherford B. Hayes (R-OH) v. **Samuel Tilden** (D-NY)

Democratic candidate Tilden wins the *popular* election but neither gains the majority of the electoral (due to a third party candidate)

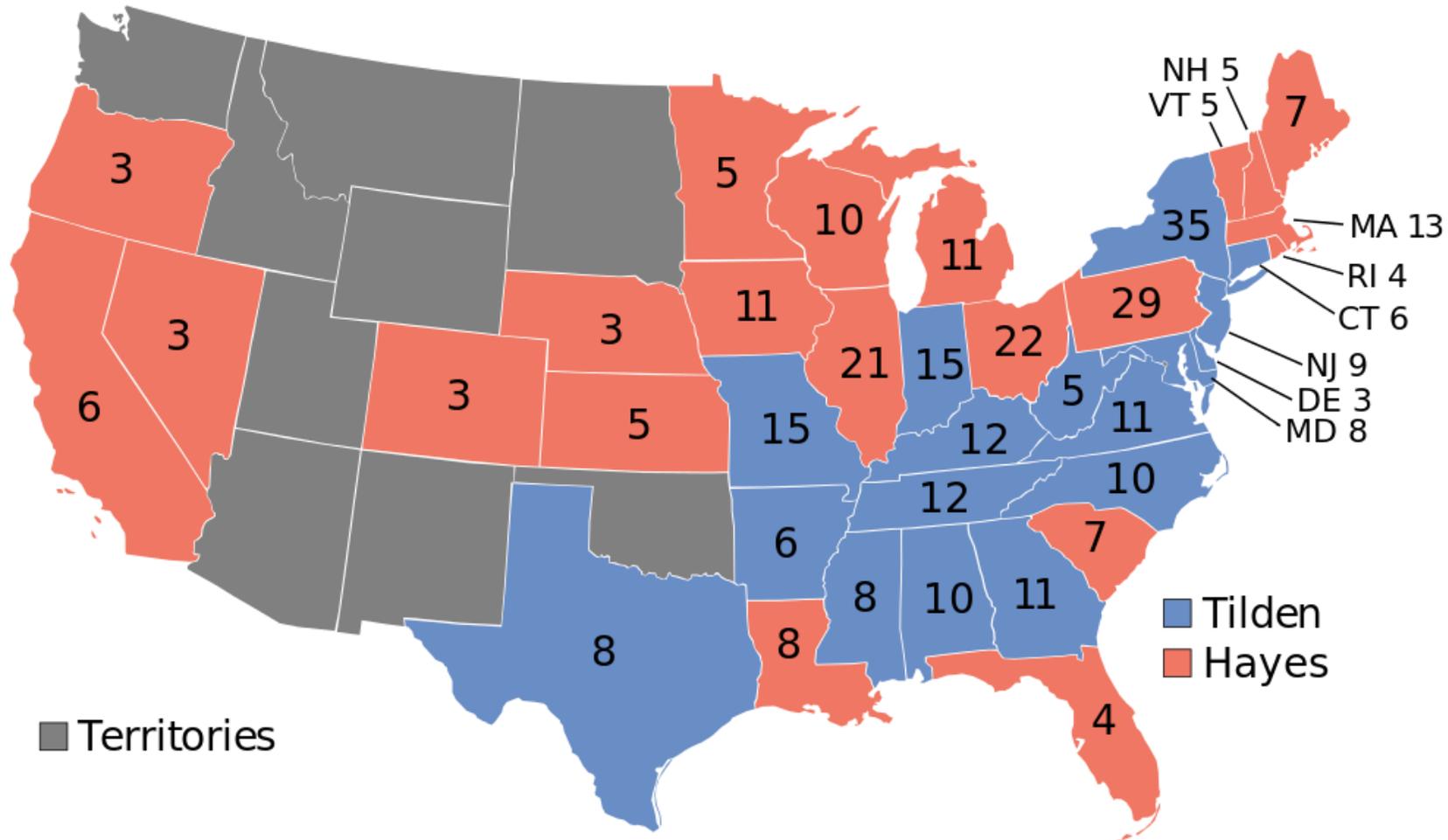
Tilden gains 184, Hayes wins 165, 20 votes are “unresolved”

Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Oregon “failed” to have verified votes or eligible electors (OR)

COMPROMISE OF 1877 – One of the most controversial decisions ever made

- Democrats concede the 20 votes to Hayes and in return federal troops are removed from the South
- White southerners regain control of local/state government, especially with Johnson’s pardons!
- Federal government promises federal-level funding for southern railroads

ELECTORAL CORRUPTION



ELECTORAL VOTES:
185 to 184 – Hayes Wins

POPULAR VOTE:
4,034,311 (Hayes) 47.9%
4,288,546 (Tilden) 50.9%

81.8% of eligible
Americans voted in 1876 –
the most ever!

CLAIMS OF INJUSTICE

Voting Fraud

Threats of Violence

- White supremacy groups threatened violence against Republican supporters and new black voters (Amendment XV)

Illiterate Voters

- Symbols used on ballots
- A picture of Lincoln represented “democratic” vote (Lincoln was a Republican)

Ineligible Electors

- An Oregon elector was declared ineligible
- They were a post office employee or “person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States.”
- Replacement vote was “ignored” by two Republican electors who claimed all 3 were for Hayes when democrats claimed 1 was for Tilden

Congress Intervenes

- Forms a 15 person “Electoral Commission” (5 Senators, 5 HR, 5 SC Justices)

LEGACY

African Americans would continue to fight for equality

- Jim Crow Laws uphold “Separate but Equal” ruling
- Poll Taxes and Grandfather Clauses continue to disenfranchise free blacks
- White supremacist groups continue to terrorize

DuBois and Washington continue to lead a fragmented minority

Women’s Rights Movement ensues

Overall, many people consider Reconstruction to be a failure

***Government showed it *would* intervene one way or another in political and social movements**