RECONSTRUCTION

Many events in history changed the future of individual countries. The impacts of the events on the countries were both positive and negative. It is the occurrence of such events that made countries such as the United States of America what they are today. One such event is the reconstruction that occurred in the US. Reconstruction represented a period after the civil war whose main objectives were to reunite America, develop democracy based on different races, and build a new South after slavery (Foner). Reconstruction had its successes and failures that laid the foundation for the future of the nation.

Reconstruction was considered to be a success following the civil war. To the successes belonged the unification of a once divided nation. The years leading to the civil war as well as during the war, there was a division in the US between the North and South. Reconstruction united the two and led to what is known today as the United States of America. Some crucial legislations in the US can be attributed to reconstruction. The legislations included the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. The 13th amendment abolished slavery in the US, which characterized the country for years. The 14th amendment was vital in the citizenship status in the US as anyone born in the country could be considered to be a citizen while the 15th amendment gave African Americans and individuals from other nations the right to vote (Foggia). All these amendments make up the current US constitution.

Apart from the successes, there were also failures that characterized the reconstruction period. One critical failure of reconstruction was poverty. Just like the aftermath of any war, poverty described the United States after the civil war, especially the South. The South continued to suffer from the lack of houses and jobs, meaning that they did not have a reliable source of income. As a result, the economy in the South suffered greatly. Another failure of reconstruction was the black codes. As much as reconstruction resulted in several amendments that gave African American certain privileges, reconstruction created some restrictions to individuals from the community. The Black codes affected certain aspects of African Americans, such as movement and gathering. The black codes were implemented early during the reconstruction period and did not fit well the African Americans. The Jim Crow Laws represent another failure of reconstruction. The Jim Crow Laws resulted in racial segregation in the United States where African Americans and the native whites were separated in nearly all aspects of life including restaurants, public schools, and many more (Foggia). All these brought some challenges to the citizens of the US during reconstruction.

Given the failures identified during the reconstruction period, some could be avoided while others were inevitable. Aspects such as the Jim Crow laws and black codes could be avoided since one of the aims of reconstruction was to eliminate racial injustices. Issues such as poverty in the South could not be avoided. Given that it was defeated, the region had suffered
hard and it had experienced most of the adverse effects. It was unfortunate but destined that the South had more of poverty compared to the North. As for the successes, more should have been addressed. The amendments that awarded African Americans privileges should have included a non-segregation clause and allowed individuals from both communities to interact freely in various aspects in their lives. Reconstruction period plays a massive role in shaping the future of the United States of America. Current systems in the country reflect the changes that took place during the rebuilding period.

In summary, reconstruction represented a time in the United States where the country was in a rebuilding phase following the civil war. The period had its successes and failures in almost every aspect of the society. The successes and failures were crucial in shaping the current system of administration in the US.

IMMIGRANTS

The population in every country consists of individuals from different communities and backgrounds. The population make-up has resulted in countries such as the United States to be recognized as a culturally diverse nation. Having individuals from different parts of the world can both benefit as well as present some challenges to the nation. Among the individuals who constitute the population of any country are immigrants. Most of the developed nations have immigrants who migrated from both neighboring countries as well as far nations. Currently, the United States has nearly 40 million individuals classified as being immigrants. The result is that the US has the highest numbers of immigration population in the world (Radford). There were various factors that contributed to the immigrants moving to the US as well as the individual characteristics of the people moving to the United States, which is universally applicable to any country.

Immigrants started moving into the US as early as the 1800s. The individuals came to the United States due to various reasons. One key goal was to go to a place where they gain economic prosperity. Many regarded the US as the land of many opportunities (Library of Congress). Having such a notion in mind, many moved away from their native countries and migrated to the US to get better opportunities in life. The migration was made possible by Industrialization that took place in the US. Industrialization resulted in the rise and development of industries and manufacturing companies that provided employment for both local citizens and immigrants. As compared to other nations, which at that time were not developed, the US was going through industrialization, giving rise to companies in different industries. Besides the job opportunities that were available in the sectors, there was also the employment in the households for the native whites. The situation was mostly present among individuals having an African background who paved their way from being the US workers in plantations. While some were working in the farms and making money, others were brought in as slaves and exploited.

While the majority came to the US searching for employment opportunities and have a better life, others were running away from various persecutions they were facing in their native countries. The persecutions that such individuals were facing included both political and religious aspects. Some of the political persecutions included war crimes that such individuals were facing in their home country and found the US to be the perfect place to hide in since there were not many restrictions on entry to the country. Apart from political persecutions, there were also religious persecutions that some of the immigrants were avoiding in their home country.
Specific characteristics described the migrants entering America. One key feature involved their level of income. The immigrants had a low level of income; the economic situation in their country of origin was the driving force. The main reasons for coming to America was to live in improved living standards. Besides, low incomes levels and illiteracy were the other distinguishable factors. The immigrants entering the US had low literacy levels, they were attributed to the development levels in their country of origin. The low literacy levels meant that the education systems were below the required standards.

In summary, immigrants form part of the US population. The immigrants came to America in as early as the 1800s due to various factors. Among their key attributes were their low level of income and literacy levels. They wanted to be treated and have rights as any other citizen in the US.

MANIFEST DESTINY

Certain events in history impact the way the future of the country looks. While some events have a positive impact, others have adverse effects on the future of the nation. In the case of the United States, many occurrences led to what the country is today. Some of the events include the civil war and industrialization period. In some instances, notions that change the future of the country. In the case of the United States, one such idea is the Manifest Destiny. The Manifest Destiny was a philosophy that characterized the expansion of territory in the US. It was based on the idea that it was the destiny of the United States to expand to the whole of North America spreading its democracy and capitalism in the process (History). The Manifest Destiny entailed two periods, where there were two distinct philosophies. The old and the new Manifest Destinies were distinguishable, there were some critical elements of the economy that affected territorial expansion.

The old and the new Manifest Destinies are distinct based on some concepts that were key for territorial expansion. The concepts included aspects of economic, philosophical, and racial attributes. One crucial distinguishable characteristic was the philosophy behind territorial expansion between the old and the new Manifest Destiny. While the old Manifest Destiny focused much on expansion in North America, the new Manifest Destiny went beyond the borders of North America. The old Manifest Destiny witnessed expansion within North America, creating present-day states such as California, Texas, New Mexico, and Oregon. The new Manifest focused more on expansion on the global scale spreading its views to other parts of the world (Heidler and Heidler). Another philosophical influence that distinguished the two was the main influence behind Manifest Destiny. The old Manifest Destiny was influenced more by sectional concerns; the new Manifest Destiny was more of patriotism and nationalism. The new Manifest focused more on spreading American nationalism to other countries beyond the continent of North America creating allies on the way. The spread eventually led to World War I (Heidler and Heidler). The old Manifest, on the other hand, focused on territorial power and how the US can spread its territory.

From an economic point of view, the main objective of the old Manifest Destiny was to find new lands to achieve agricultural interest. At that time, agriculture was the primary source of income, and territorial expansion focused on acquiring new land for farming. In contrast, the new Manifest aims at the industrial need of the nation. The new Manifest Destiny aimed at the acquisition of raw materials as well as surplus goods from the rise of industrialization. The
objectives of the new Manifest Destiny were aimed at progressing the economy of the United States at an international level.

From a racial point of view, the two also displayed some distinct features. While the old Manifest Destiny was challenging to implement because of the fear of different races coming together. The native whites were finding it difficult to mix with other races. On the other hand, the new Manifest Destiny was encouraged by racial factors. The native whites in the US at that time wanted to expand their domination beyond North America and other races. All the elements that distinguished the new from the old Manifest Destiny were present in the older continental expansionism. Given that continental expansionism occurred at the same time as the old Manifest Destiny, the same factors applied.

In conclusion, the Manifest Destiny represented a philosophy for territorial expansion for the United States. The Manifest was divided into the old and new, which were distinguished by key features. The key factors include economic, philosophical, and racial aspects. All the elements were key in shaping the present-day United States of America.

PLAIN INDIANS

Many indigenous communities are part of both the current and past American population. The indigenous communities had distinct features, such as their way of lives and cultural aspects. With the past lives of such indigenous communities, various factors affected some elements of their culture as well as their daily lives. Among the communities there are the Great Plains Indians. The Plains Indians, as the name suggests, represented an indigenous community that resided in the plains and hills in North America. Some of the technological and government transformations that occurred affected some aspects of their lives, which had both positive and adverse impacts.

As far as technological changes are concerned, various changes in technology were introduced. The most visible change included the construction of the railroad. At the time when the transport sector was going through some changes, the railroad passed through the north where the Plain Indians resided. Since the railroad passed through their lands, many of the Plains Indians were forced to give up their lands to allow the construction of the railroad. Giving up their lands resulted in the Plains Indians losing their ancestral land as well as their homes (Rex-Atzet 8). By losing their lands, there were many conflicts between the Plains Indians and the Europeans.

Besides the construction of the railroad, another technological advancement included the barbed wire. With the development of the barbed wire, a normal way of living of the Plains Indians was interrupted. The Plains Indians could not move freely as they once did, and they were restricted to specific areas. Besides restricted movement, the barbed wire also interrupted their hunting activities. The buffalo and bison, which were the main animals that the Plains Indians hunted were in decline, which affected their main source of food.

Government interventions represent another aspect that affected the lives of the Plains Indians. One form of government intervention entailed laws such as the Dawes Act of 1887. As much as one can view the Dawes Act as one who benefited the Plains Indians, the ultimate effect was adverse. The act divided the community, and the government saw it as one way of dealing with the resistance of Plains Indians (Picotte). The implementation of the Dawes Act of 1887 led
to another key government intervention. The Dawes Act resulted in the establishment of Indian schools. The introduction of Indian schools gave the Plains Indians basic education which they lacked. From the Plains Indians perspective, the introduction of schools was an attempt to change their native values.

In summary, Plains Indians represented part of the native communities in America in the 19th century. The Plains Indians faced different technological and government interventions, which affected some aspects of their daily lives. The changes played a crucial role in their present-day distribution and livelihood.
Works Cited


