

Democratic Socialism is the Superior of Social Darwinism

Asa Gordon_First Social Message, March 2020

"Labor is the Superior of Capital"

Abraham Lincoln_First Annual Message, December 3, 1861

The spectra of Social Darwinism will permeate our national efforts to effect an egalitarian redress for the public welfare from the coronavirus pandemic.

The leading sociologist of his time, Herbert Spencer adapted Darwin's theory of biological evolution to sociological and ethical evolution. Inspired by Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*, (1859), Spencer coined the expression "survival of the fittest" in *Principles of Biology* (1864). Spencer's Social Darwinism is America's origin pseudo-scientific basis for white identity politics to justify political conservatism, imperialism, and white supremacy to preserve nature's naturally selected favored race. Spencerism's secular doctrine is intuitive to our racialized slave legacy culture to discourage democratic socialized government intervention for egalitarian reform that will prevent the weak from dying out.

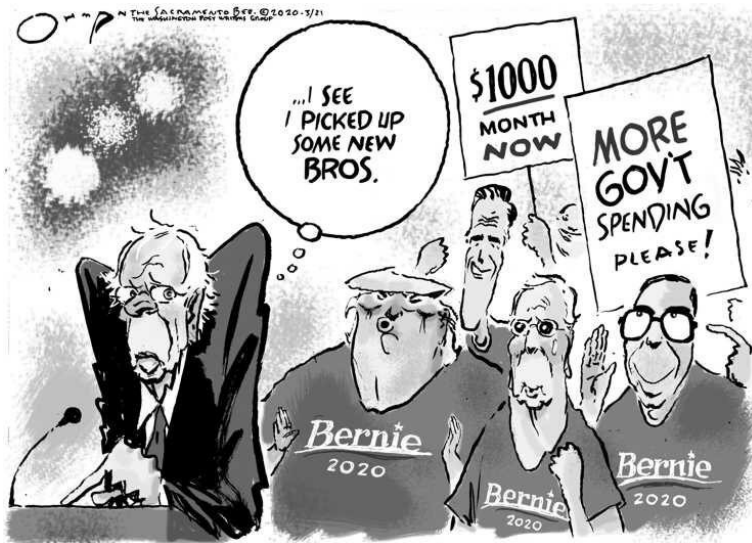
Spencerian Social Darwinism is why political appeals to white anxiety over the perceived existential demographic threats to the loss of hierarchical racial status and America's global dominance, reign supreme over all ideological political considerations.

Our nation's Democratic Socialism has evolved from the ambivalent ideals for a more perfect union, grounded in Abraham Lincoln's evaluation of the relative value of labor vis a' vis capital. Abraham Lincoln declared in his first annual message on December 3, 1861 that:

"It is not needed, nor fitting here [in discussing the Civil War] that a general argument should be made in favor of popular institutions; but there is one point, with its connections, not so hackneyed as most others, to which I ask a brief attention. It is the effect to place capital on an equal footing with, if not above, labor, in the structure of government. ... Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration."



The global coronavirus pandemic is forcing a bi-partisan consensus on the hierarchal political social "ism" needed to redress an existential threat to the national public welfare. To this end, the compromises of the Republican Party's Spencerian Social Darwinism in the House is purportedly yielding to the to the ambivalent majority Democratic embrace of the Lincolnian Democratic Socialist model wherein "Labor is the Superior of Capital".



By the end of negotiations over a coronavirus pandemic stimulus package, the Republican Party and a majority of the white electoral support for Trump will be stripped of all of its political pretenses for: a market economy, small government, fiscal responsibility, individual freedoms, conservative moral values, aversion to socialist public policies and exposed for what it has always held as its highest socialist political ideal: that race is the superior of labor and capital, and that the nation's founding DECLARATION only

applied to the white race. As declared by the highest tribunal in the land "at the time of the Declaration of Independence the opinion was fixed and universal in the civilized portion of the white race, regarded as an axiom in morals as well as in politics, that black men had no rights which the white man was bound to respect".

Whereas the Senate led Republican Party is committed to Spencerian Social Darwinism, the House led Democratic Party is ambivalent about the efficacy of Lincolnian Democratic Socialism as envisioned by egalitarian Reconstruction era Republicans like Thaddeus Stevens and Wendell Phillips.

Any finalized Congressional negotiations over a fiscal stimulus package to ameliorate the devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic will expose the public policy priority of the Republic and Democratic Parties. Policy input by the Republican Party will prioritize, in order, the status of: race, capital, labor whereas the Democratic Party input will prioritize in reverse order: labor, capital, race. Independents and third party Progressives are disdainful of the duopoly corporate parties irrespective of their ordering of public priorities. Compromises made by the duopoly corporate parties over the coronavirus pandemic stimulus package will force a realization by progressives that their heretofore failures of appeals for socialistic public policies were unpersuadable, not because of deficiencies in exposing fiscal disparities in social class, but in arguments that public policies should be egalitarian in application.

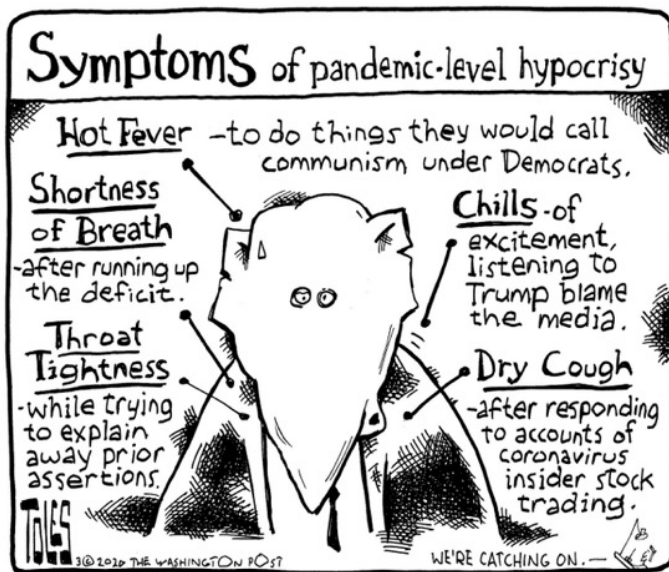
It is difficult for Republican conservatism to not treat the coronavirus pandemic as a biological affirmation of Social Darwinism. For the Republican Party, this virus is an apocalyptic coming of age for laissez faire "survival of the fittest" public policy by race and class. The Republican Party will exploit the pandemic as an opportunity to exploit any consensus pandemic stimulus package to facilitate the degradation of liberal government intervention compromises made to ameliorate the expiration of the old and weak and sustain social inferiors. The Republican Party insistence on investing the White House with discretionary authority to allocate public funds, assures Social Darwinian rewarding of cultural and capital superiors. Trump's White House will administer any stimulus package to favor capital over labor and the public welfare of

social and racial inferiors. Compromises will be made in a coronavirus package to Democratic Socialist policies that favor labor over capital by addressing: funding the federal student loan dept, Social Security payments, extended unemployment insurance, restrictions on companies that receive bailout money, blocking stock buybacks and executive compensations, free health treatments, and cash handouts to poorer Americans. These are acceptable to the extent that they yield to the racial status anxiety of the white electorate. The Democratic Party ambivalent Democratic Socialism is amenable to compromising any fragile egalitarian structure of the coronavirus pandemic stimulus package.

Any compromised congressional legislation will feature bipartisan socialist policies to address public anxiety over the existential threat to social and economic norms posed by the coronavirus pandemic. The political heresies inherent in the adoption of these policies by the White House and the Republican Party are acceptable to a majority of the white electorate because they are assured they will be unequalitarian in application. Donald J. Trump has declared his discretionary Presidential authority to faithfully execute laws. He has signaled his intent to treat congressional legislation as advisory to his Presidential exercise of Social Darwinism. The coronavirus pandemic augments the Republican Party and Donald J. Trump's appeal to a majority white electorate primal anxiety over perceived national and global demographic threats to the hierarchical status of white America.

Frederick Douglass' observations on the naïveté of the Supreme Court's color-blind reasoning in the civil rights cases(1883) is a salient comment on any contemporary economic stimulus package. Douglass declared "The practical construction of American life is a convention against us. Human law may know no distinction among men in respect of rights, but human practice may. Examples are painfully abundant ". As successive stimulus packages are rolled out under the facade of Democratic Socialism , the examples of its Social Darwinian implementation will become painfully abundant.

Trump's labeling of COVID-19 as the "Chinese Virus" is a deliberate appeal to white anxiety over the loss of dominant global racial status. The public reports by the coronavirus pandemic task force provide a thinly veiled "bully pulpit" for Trump to engage in a daily drum beat of revisionist history of his administrations' disastrous racist, xenophobic mismanagement of the national threat posed by the emerging coronavirus pandemic. The President's pandemic task force provides Trump a daily political platform to appropriate as his own: innovative initiatives taken by state governors, local and democratic politicians, public servants and the private sector. Furthermore, the President's virus briefings provide a daily political platform for Trump to propagandize a false counter narrative to the legacy of his managerial incompetence, as evidenced by his administration's: constant turnovers and reliance on "acting" officials for critical agencies e.g. OMB, OPM, DHS, DOD, and FDA; stonewalling of congressional oversight; undermining of public health; depleting the government of scientific expertise; reckless Social Darwinian tax stimulus legislation accelerating draconian national fiscal deficits; badgering the Federal Reserve to an inopportune lowering of interest rates therein emasculating a vital monetary tool to allay economic panic; and a prophetic petulant Obamaphobic systematic dismantling of U.S. pandemic response capabilities, dissolving the National Security Council's global health security unit and slashing funding to the CDC's global health section.



The White House daily briefings on Coronavirus response are being prioritized by Trump as a campaign to create an alternate reality in the public mind that eradicates the recent history of Trump and Fox News in downplaying the severity of the coronavirus pandemic by accusing Democrats and the media of purposefully fearmongering in order to hurt President Donald Trump's reelection chances. Trump declared at his infected Mar-a-Lago resort that: "They're trying to scare everybody, from meetings, cancel the meetings, close the schools — you know, destroy the country. And that's okay, as long as we can win the election."

Trump is using the coronavirus pandemic task force as a credible stage prop to evangelize the public to his alt-reality assertion that "I inherited a MESS and am in the process of fixing it" that the "dishonest media" is not giving him the proper credit he deserves, declaring "Don't believe the main stream (fake news) media. The White House is running VERY WELL. " Trump knows that with repetition, in the formal setting of briefing on the virus, the media will be loath to constantly expose Trump's mendacity in his Orwellian assertions "I felt it was a pandemic long before it was called a pandemic." and that he had "always treated the Chinese Virus very seriously."

Trump's MAGA appeal is to a materialistic, white, super id majority's anxiety over loss in superior status.

The forgotten House of Representatives' resolution that condemned President Trump's "racist comments that have legitimized fear and hatred of new Americans and people of color," with the overwhelming consensus of black commentators and politicians was not disqualifying to a white majority. White racism, or the unqualified support of white supremacists, has never been deplorable enough in presidential elections to be disqualifying to a majority of the white electorate. A majority of whites will more than likely still vote for a presidential candidate condemned by the former GOP Speaker of the House of Representatives as racist and anti-Semitic.

Trump's successful appeal to the White Super Id is personified by Lindsey O. Graham's (R-S.C.) evolution from abhorrence, first describing Trump as "a race-baiting, xenophobic religious bigot," and then affirming Trump's xenophobic ancestral racism by asserting, "Well, we all know that [Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez] and this crowd are a bunch of communists, they hate Israel, they hate our own country." Trump is confident that scores of "independent" whites who claim to abhor racism will find their own path to replicate Graham's mental gymnastics to rationalize voting for a racist to secure white privilege.

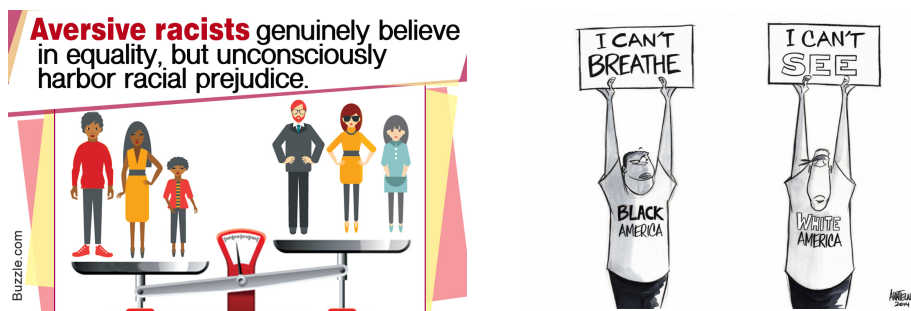
Trump is not running an exclusively hyper-based turnout election. Trump is running, in concert with the GOP, a white super id plurality election. White supremacists are the base of the Republican Party, just as the victims of White Supremacy form the base of the Democratic Party. These diametrically opposed political party bases are immaterial to naive "independents" and pseudo "progressives" who bemoan a corporate dominated two party duopoly whose political bases are equally deserving of their disrespect. White privilege progressivism, oblivious to white identity politics, will brand the 2020 election as a choice between the lesser of duopolistic corporate party evils.

To this end, Trump's Orwellian "socialist" branding of the Democratic Party is not targeted at his racist base. Its purpose is to provide a pseudo non-racist rationale to appease pseudo-white "independents" and provide plausible deniability to white-identity politics. The "socialist" branding of his opponents expands his electoral viability beyond his white nationalist base. In satisfying the white super id, the irrational "socialist" party branding of Democrats by conservatives will "trump" the rational corporate duopoly party branding by progressives.

People voting over 90% one way are depressed by having an existential choice of a lesser evil. People voting within a 10% spread are tolerable to the cost of rejecting a lesser evil choice that will, after all, represent the majority choice of their people for the greater evil. For the undecided 51-43 percent spread of persuadable whites, white supremacy is endurable and not disqualifying. For the 90% plus of non-whites it's about survival.

A black electorate faced with the choice of an alternative to corporate white nationalism must suffer the ahistorical arrogance of paternalistic white presumption that blacks who vote for any Democratic candidate are just as naive as the working class white males who vote for the xenophobic and racist Trump in 2020.

Trump's base appeal is also a majority appeal to aversive racism.



<https://psychology.iresearchnet.com/social-psychology/prejudice/aversive-racism/>

Scientific sociological studies (by white scientists) establish that a majority of whites are delusional about the state of the nation's racial composition and the negative effect of racial discrimination in America. Approximately six in ten (57%) white Americans and roughly two-thirds (66%) of white working-class Americans agree that discrimination against whites is as big a problem today as discrimination against blacks and other minorities.



Despite numerous scientific reports confirming the disproportionate racial impact of voter ID laws and judicial findings of deliberate racial bias of voter ID laws, a white majority concerned with the potential of voter fraud "trumps" the reality of proven voter suppression of racial minorities. Outsized racialized delusions and the fear of the dominance of a non-white electoral preference "trumps" all other political factors to garner a majority of the white electorate.

<http://www.ppri.org/research/ppri-brookings-immigration-report/>

The Trump presidency has exposed a timeless intractable axiom that is at the core of America's dysfunctional political existence: that portion of the national electorate for which white racism is embraced or is of no disqualifying concern, constitutes a majority of the white electorate. The political survival of the ideal expressed in the nation's founding DECLARATION depends on an overwhelming majority support of the nonwhite electorate. White racists, whites indifferent to white racism, and whites who only need a flimsy rationale to abstain or vote to sustain white racism represent the white swing vote. Unfortunately, it appears that progressive politics depends on depressing the white majority to low single digits below a national majority while maximizing the black majority vote and turnout to super high double digits over 90%.

The racialized electoral legacy of our nation's progressivism emerged out of the crucible of slavery, civil war and reconstruction. The abolition of slavery as a principle means of production gave rise to a uniquely Americanized Social Darwinian Capitalist class to establish control over the nation's post-war productive forces. America's evolving Darwinian bourgeoisie was alarmed by the emergence of a post-bellum American populism and the post-war reconstruction policies for debtor relief, federal regulations covering worker's safety, wages and hours, the legalization of trade unions, and the expansion of civil and political rights to Freedmen, led by Radical Republicans like Thaddeus Stevens and Wendell Phillips.

"My vocation, as an Abolitionist, thank God, is ended," declared William Lloyd Garrison, after the adoption of the 13th amendment ending slavery. To which Frederick Douglass replied, "Slavery is not abolished until the black man has the ballot." After an ill-tempered debate, Garrison's proposal was defeated. Wendell Phillips replaced him as the society's president, and the National Anti-Slavery Standard appeared with a new motto on its masthead: **"No Reconstruction Without Negro Suffrage."** **Moving beyond the abolitionists' traditional critique of slavery as essentially a moral condition, Phillips turned his attention to the balance of class power in a reconstructed South. Unless the freedmen were granted the vote, the planters' hegemony would be restored and the promise of emancipation undermined. "I do not believe," he wrote, "in an English freedom, that trusts the welfare of the dependent class to the good will and moral sense of the upper class."** _ *National Anti-Slavery Standard*, May 20. 1865.

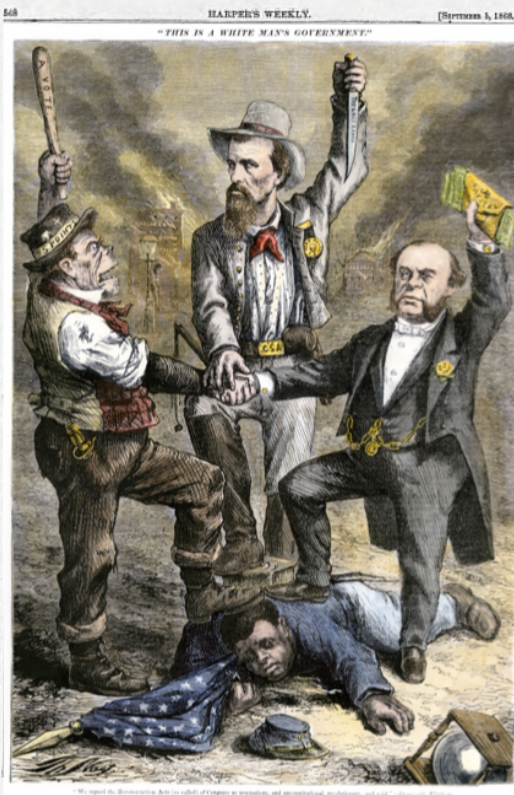
In this manner, the democratic socialism of the New Dealers urged their claim to the Lincoln tradition. Was it not Lincoln who said **"the legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do for themselves, in their separate and individual capacities"**? Roosevelt was so taken with this apparent justification of the New Deal's economic policies that he quoted the statement on at least three occasions.

The Trumpian Republican Party is a natural evolution in the emergence of a post civil war Conservative party grounded in Social Darwinism. The "survival of the fittest" political cult of Herbert Spencer advocates for public policies that assure the fittest should survive and the weak should be allowed to die out. Republican conservative policies are based on the belief that the rich and powerful are so because they are better-suited to the social and economic climate of the time, and that it is natural or normal that the strong survive at the cost of the weak.

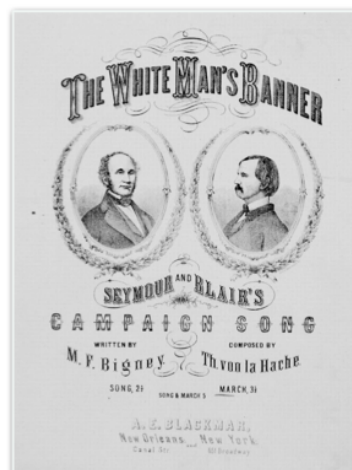
In the first presidential election in 1868, following the sacrifice of an estimated 620,000 men in America's Civil War, a majority of the white electorate voted against the General who led the union to victory in the war that ended slavery. Ulysses S. Grant, former Union commanding General, under the campaign slogan: "Let Us Have Peace" ran on a party platform to complete reconstruction based on a guarantee of equal suffrage to blacks and to provide federal protection of civil and political rights for Freemen. The white majority voted for Horatio Seymour, a former Governor of New York, under the campaign slogan: "This is a White Man's Government".



"We regard the Reconstruction Acts (so called) of Congress as usurpations, and unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void" - 1868 *Democratic Party Platform*



Thomas Nast's political cartoon depicts the Democratic Party as a coalition of working class whites represented by Irish immigrants (left), white supremacists portrayed by Nathan Bedford Forrest leader of the Ku Klux Klan (center), and Northern elitist capitalists represented by August Belmont, a financier who served as the national chair of the Democratic Party (right). Nast's cartoon depicts aggrieved white workers, white supremacists and capitalists as a coalition to preserve white privilege by the suppression of civil rights for blacks as represented by their collective trampling of a black union veteran bearing the American flag and reaching for a ballot box.



IN VINDICATING EVERY RIGHT
IN CRUSHING OUT EACH WRONG.
LET, THEN, ALL FREEBORN PATRIOTS,
JOIN WITH A BRAVE INTENT
TO VINDICATE OUR FATHER'S CHOICE,
"A WHITE MAN'S GOVERNMENT."

NO MENDICANT OR NEGRO RULE
FOR MEN WHO TRULY PRIZE
A HERITAGE OF GLORY FROM
THE GREAT, THE TRUE, THE WISE.
LET GRANT AND COLFAX FIGHT BENEATH
THE FLAG OF SABLE HUE;
A NOBLER BANNER WE WILL RAISE
AND NOBLER DEEDS WE'LL DO.

Trump's Republican Party is appealing to the same majority Make America Great (white) Again (MAGA) coalition of aggrieved white workers, white supremacists, and white capitalists that constituted the reactionary post-Civil War Reconstruction era Democratic Party. The legacy of slavery distinguishes America's white working class affinity for the non-egalitarian social darwinist appeal to the white super id expounded by Herbert Spencer from an embrace by working class whites of Abraham Lincoln's nascent egalitarian democratic socialism influenced by the ideals of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. Seymour ran on a party platform that promised to make America great again (MAGA#1) by pledging to reverse and bring an end to Reconstruction articles that established citizenship and civil rights to the formerly enslaved, grant general amnesty to former rebels, and restore "traditional" leaders to the south. Seymour's campaign openly appealed to racial fears and prejudice, winning a majority of the white vote.

The South's freedmen were enfranchised thanks to the first Reconstruction Act of March 2, 1867. Agents of the Freedmen's Bureau registered freemen throughout the South to vote for the first time. By the end of 1867, 735,000 blacks, in contrast to 660,000 whites, were registered to vote in the former Confederate states. The progressive radicals passed Union loyalty voter id legislation that disfranchised tens of thousands of former white confederates and enfranchised tens of thousands of formerly enslaved blacks to amend the disproportionate white supremacist racial quota representation articles in the nation's compromised founding constitution (1787).



"[T]he people of the South have rejected the constitutional amendment, and therefore we will march upon them and force them to adopt it at the point of the bayonet, and establish military power over them until they do adopt it."

— Sen. James Rood Doolittle, Wisconsin, February 20, 1867.

MILITARY RECONSTRUCTION ACTS



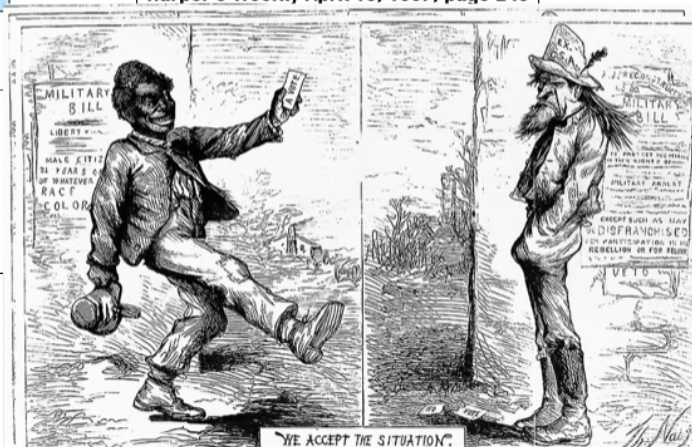
- ★ Johnson's "unreconstructed states" are divided into 5 military districts
- ★ Southern states had to ratify the 14th Amendment protecting black citizenship.
- ★ Ex-Confederate states are required to write new constitutions that provides for black suffrage.
- ★ Supplemental acts grant US troops the power to enforce Reconstruction, to register voters and disqualify "disloyal persons" from registering.

Harper's Weekly April 13, 1867, page 240

This, then, is your proposition. You go to the people of these ten States with the bayonet in one hand and your proposed constitutional amendment in the other, and ask them to make their choice—the amendment with negro suffrage or the bayonet and the sword and military government. That is, you propose to coerce by military power the people of these States into a ratification of your constitutional amendment and negro suffrage.

—Rep. William Edward Finck, Ohio, February 18, 1867

An African American man, a former Union soldier, proudly displays a slip of paper labeled "A vote" while a disgruntled former Confederate soldier, with a frown on his face, his hands in his pockets, and a torn slip of paper at his feet labeled "No vote", stands before a broadsheet "Military Bill" with the notice: "Except such as may be disfranchised [sic] for participation in the Rebellion or for felony".



Grant won the election with an electoral majority of 300,000 with a winning margin provided by 90% of 500,000 black votes. The party that represented the reconstruction era MEGA#1 coalition influenced by Social Darwinism cast zero votes for the adoption of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States constitution. The second founding of the United States constitution pursuant to the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments was secured by the votes of former enslaved blacks in concert with the suppression of votes from that class of whites that had fought to keep them slaves. There was no bipartisan support for the adoption of the reconstruction amendments by the party that represented the white majority MAGA#1 coalition. The vote of Blacks was necessary to reconstitute the Constitution in alignment with the nation's founding DECLARATION. However, it would not have been possible without pragmatic compromise legislation passed by a minority of progressive white radical legislators led by Thaddeus Stevens in the House and Charles Sumner in the Senate. Stevens and Sumner were radical but not progressive purists who allowed the desire for perfect legislation be the enemy of good legislation.



The question of suffrage is one which is likely to agitate the public so long as a portion of the citizens of the nation are excluded from its privileges in any State. It seems to me very desirable that this question should be settled now, and I entertain the hope and express the desire that it may be by the ratification of the fifteenth article of amendment to the Constitution. _ Grant's Inauguration Address



FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT

Ulysses S. Grant
Special Message
March 30, 1870



To the Senate and House of Representatives:

It is unusual to notify the two Houses of Congress by message of the promulgation, by proclamation of the Secretary of State, of the ratification of a constitutional amendment. In view, however, of the vast importance of the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution, this day declared a part of that revered instrument, I deem a departure from the usual custom justifiable. A measure which makes at once 4,000,000 people voters who were heretofore declared by the highest tribunal in the land not citizens of the United States, nor eligible to become so (with the assertion that "*at the time of the Declaration of Independence the opinion was fixed and universal in the civilized portion of the white race, regarded as an axiom in morals as well as in politics, that black men had no rights which the white man was bound to respect*"), is indeed a measure of grander importance than any other one act of the kind from the foundation of our free Government to the present day.

...

I repeat that the adoption of the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution completes the greatest civil change and constitutes the most important event that has occurred since the nation came into life...
U. S. GRANT.

The United States of America's political legacy that we can be most proud of spans just five years (1865-1870) with the adoption of the 13th(liberty), 14th(Equality) & 15th(fraternity) amendments, with the 14th&15th enabled by the votes of the formerly enslaved over the majority objection of the white electorate.

The post-Civil War "more perfect Union" required the election of a one party, veto-proof Congress.