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| **Why study the Reconstruction era?** |

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| The pressing social issues today—racism, violence, and injustice—are reminiscent of the instability of the Reconstruction era, when the U.S. struggled to rebuild a democracy after the civil war. Teaching this pivotal moment in U.S. history can provide context for students as they struggle to comprehend troubling events in today's headlines. Read [What I Got Wrong When I Taught Reconstruction](http://facingtoday.facinghistory.org/what-i-got-wrong-when-i-taught-reconstruction) on the *Facing Today* blog.[Download our free unit](https://www.facinghistory.org/sites/default/files/publications/The_Reconstruction_Era_and_The_Fragility_of_Democracy_2.pdf) on teaching Reconstruction.[Download writing strategies](https://www.facinghistory.org/sites/default/files/Writing_Strategies_for_Reconstruction_Unit_0.pdf) that supplement our Reconstruction unit.[Find professional development](https://www.facinghistory.org/get-to-know-us/calendar) for teaching the Reconstruction era. |

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