African Americans also took part in the new governments. Two men from Mississippi, Hiram Revels and Blanche K. Bruce, were elected to the U.S. Senate. There were African-American lieutenant governors in Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina. Although some African Americans were poorly prepared for their political duties, others had received a good education in Canadian or Northern schools and were very able officials.

**Changes in state governments**

The new Republican state governments brought many changes to the South. They started public school systems. They rebuilt vast areas that were destroyed in the war. They also tried to lay the basis for further economic growth. For example, they appropriated large amounts of tax money to help railroad companies lay track throughout the South. Government in the South also became more democratic, since planters no longer controlled state government. Poor people, both African American and white, had larger roles in political life.

**Resistance to change**

Many white Southerners did not like the changes that came to the South under Reconstruction. State governments were spending a lot of money and taxes were high. Critics of the government accused the Republicans of corruption. Also, Confederate army veterans resented the fact that they had no say in the new governments, while African Americans did.

A few people in the South resorted to violence. In 1866, a group of young ex-Confederates got together in Pulaski, Tennessee, and started a secret society known as the **Ku Klux Klan**. The Klan, which spread rapidly throughout the South, hoped to use intimidation to return political power to white men. Dressed in white robes and hoods, the Klan members attacked and even killed African Americans, as well as whites who helped African Americans.

**A new constitution for North Carolina**

In 1867, in compliance with Congress’s requirements for readmittance to the Union, North Carolina held its election for delegates to a state convention. However, under Congress’s guidelines, many of the prewar leaders of the state were ineligible to vote. In addition, the Conservatives were not well organized, and many who might have voted did not bother to register.

As a result, in the 1867 election, 107 of the 120 delegates elected were Republicans. Among them were 18 carpetbaggers and 15 African Americans. Other delegates included native-born whites, most of whom had never been elected to office. Some former Whigs as well as Democrats became Republicans and were elected. Among them were former Confederate officers and members of prominent families.

Delegates to the convention met in Raleigh from mid-January to mid-March 1868 and drew up a revised state constitution that, according to Congress’s decree, included the following provisions: North Carolina would...