***A People’s History of the United States*: Chapter 9 by Howard Zinn  
Reading Questions**

1. Why did the southern states secede? Give me a few specific reasons.
2. What was Lincoln’s primary goal in fighting the Civil War?
3. Who exactly was set free by the Emancipation Proclamation?
4. How was the Emancipation Proclamation a military tactic in the war?
5. What evidence supports the thesis that the North couldn’t have won the war without the help of American blacks?
6. Why was there resentment among poor whites in the North towards blacks and the idea of fighting to free the slaves in the South?
7. How did the election of Rutherford B. Hayes affect southern Reconstruction? Was it overall negative or positive?
8. After the South surrendered, how did Congress split up the land that was taken during the war? Why is this important and who does it affect the most?
9. The period after the end of the civil war was called Reconstruction. What did the federal government do to rebuild the South and protect free blacks? Do you think it worked?
10. Explain the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. What do they mean?
11. Why did Zinn say that laws calling for equal treatment of blacks were meaningless in practice?
12. What caused Republicans in the North to abandon their defense of black rights? Discuss economic as well as political reasons.

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