**1° OIB History Theme 2:**

**France and the US - Politics and Society**

Despite the assertion of fundamental rights in France (such as universal male suffrage and the abolition of slavery) the Second Republic collapsed and become the Second Empire. At around the same time tensions between North and South in America led to the Civil War. This was against a similar context for both countries – rapid industrial transformation and social change.

**Learning Objectives**

* To understand the causes, consequence and results of the Civil War
* To study the strengths and limitations of reconstruction
* To examine the factors that led to economic growth in France and the USA during the mid 19th century
* To understand the impacts of this growth in social and economic fields

**Key Questions**

* What were the most important causes of the American Civil War?
* How were US politics and society affected as a result of the Civil War?
* What were the strengths and limitations of reconstruction?
* What were the most important factors that contributed to American and French economic growth in the 19th century?

**France and the US - Politics and Society**

French History Historical Figures and DNL Vocabulary

**Napoleon III** (1808-73): nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, he was elected President of the Republic in December 1848 and maintained his hold on power after the coup d’état of 1851 becoming Emperor in 1852. His regime was initially authoritarian but became more liberal during the 1860s. He was removed from power following Prussia’s defeat of France in 1870.

**Georges Eugène Haussman** (1809-1891): made responsible for cleaning and improving the city of Paris in 1853. He created a modern sewer system but was a controversial figure and removed from office in 1870.

The **Pereire brothers**: Émile (1800-1875) and Isaac (1806-1880) invested in railways from 1837 onwards and subsequently acquired shares in more than 40 financial and industrial firms. The collapse of Crédit Mobilier in 1867, which they founded in 1852, led to their financial ruin.

**Paternalism**: system of management within businesses whereby directors took charge of a large number of aspects of their workers’ lives (housing, medical care, education).

US History DNL Vocabulary

**Abolitionism:** name of the movement to end slavery. After the [American Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolution) established the United States, northern states, [beginning with Pennsylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_Act_for_the_Gradual_Abolition_of_Slavery) in 1780, passed legislation during the next two decades abolishing slavery, sometimes by gradual [emancipation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emancipation).

**Civil War Amendments**: The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution. The **13th Amendment** banned slavery and all involuntary servitude, except in the case of punishment for a crime. The **14th Amendment** defined a citizen as any person born in or naturalized in the United States, overturning the Dred Scott V. Sandford (1857) Supreme Court ruling stating that Black people were not eligible for citizenship. The **15th Amendment** prohibited governments from denying U.S. citizens the right to vote based on race, colour, or past servitude.

**Compromise of 1850:** It consisted of laws admitting California as a free state, creating Utah and New Mexico territories with the question of slavery in each to be determined by popular sovereignty, settling a Texas-New Mexico boundary dispute in the former’s favor, ending the slave trade in Washington, D.C., and making it easier for southerners to recover fugitive slaves.

**Dred Scott:** an [enslaved](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_the_United_States) [African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American) man in the United States who unsuccessfully sued for his [freedom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_%28political%29) and that of his wife and their two daughters in the [*Dred Scott v. Sandford*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dred_Scott_v._Sandford) case of 1857, popularly known as the "Dred Scott case". The Scotts were [manumitted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manumission) by a private arrangement in May 1857. Dred Scott died of tuberculosis a few months later.

**Emancipation Proclamation:** An executive order issued by Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, during the American Civil War. It proclaimed the freedom of slaves in 10 states that were still in rebellion.

**Freedmen’s Bureau:**  this was the popular name for the U.S. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, established by Congress to provide practical [aid](https://www.britannica.com/topic/social-welfare-program) to 4,000,000 newly freed [African Americans](https://www.britannica.com/topic/African-American) in their transition from [slavery](https://www.britannica.com/topic/slavery-sociology) to freedom during the Reconstruction period.

**Jim Crow:** Southern United States racist and segregationist policies in the late 1800’s and early to mid 1900’s, taken collectively.

***Plessy v. Ferguson*** (1896): was a landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court that upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation laws for public facilities as long as the segregated facilities were equal in quality – a doctrine that came to be known as "separate but equal"

**Manumission**: release from slavery, freedom, the act of manumitting

**Reconstruction: t**he period 1865–77 following the American Civil War, during which the southern states of the Confederacy were controlled by federal government and social legislation, including the granting of new rights to black people, was introduced

**States’ rights:** States’ rights refer to the political rights and powers granted to the states of the United States by the U.S. Constitution. This means the federal government is not allowed to interfere with the powers of the states reserved or implied to them by the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which states “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

**Underground railway:** a network of secret routes and safe houses used by 19th-century black slaves in the United States to escape to free states and Canada with the aid of abolitionists and allies who were sympathetic to their cause