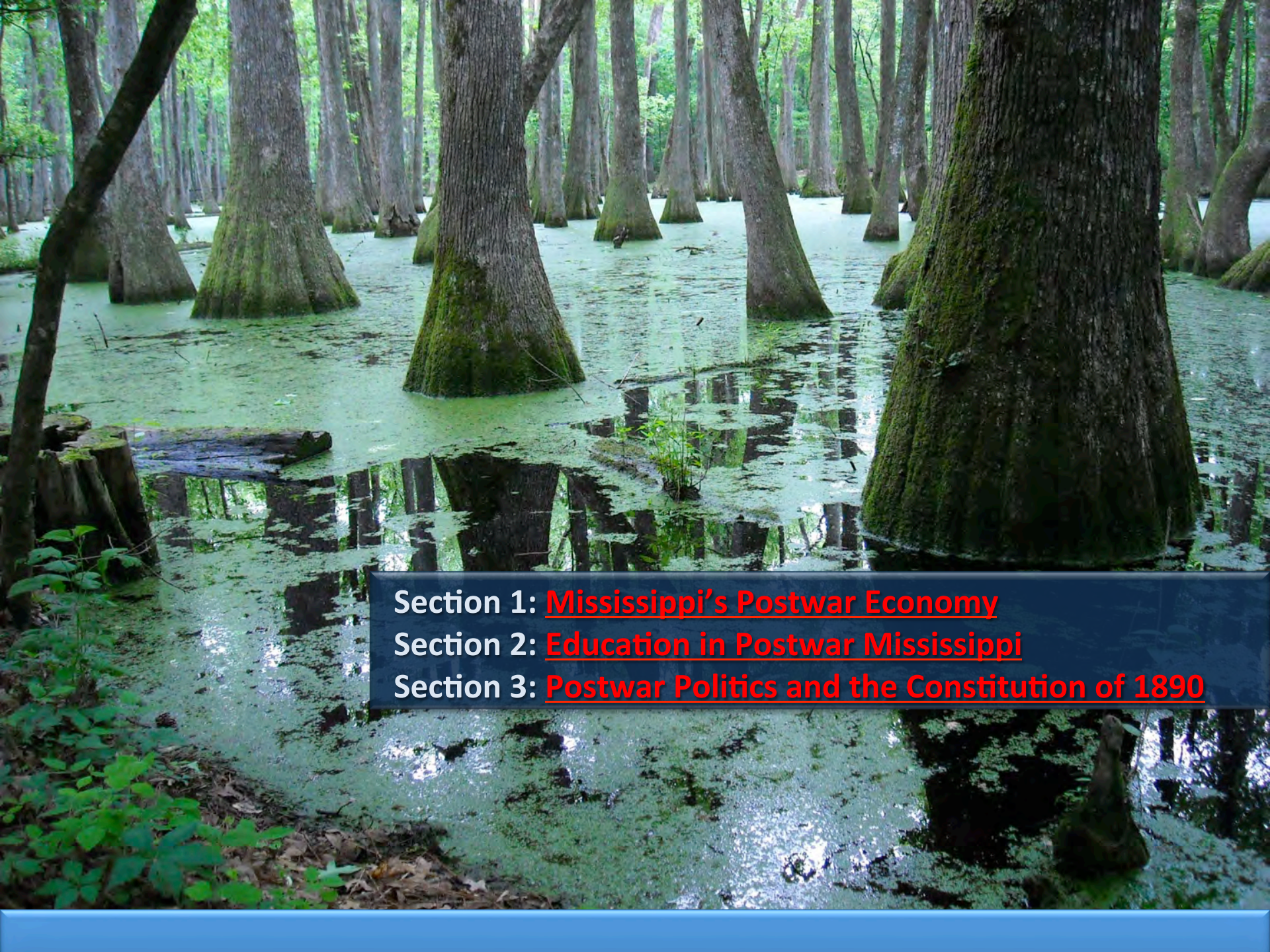


The image shows the Mississippi State Capitol building, a grand neoclassical structure with a prominent dome topped by a golden eagle. The building features a portico with tall columns and a pediment with a relief sculpture. The scene is set against a clear blue sky with some green foliage in the foreground.

# A Place Called Mississippi

Chapter 7: The Bourbon Era, 1876-1900  
STUDY PRESENTATION



Section 1: [Mississippi's Postwar Economy](#)

Section 2: [Education in Postwar Mississippi](#)

Section 3: [Postwar Politics and the Constitution of 1890](#)

# Section 1: Mississippi's Postwar Economy

- Essential Question: How did production, distribution, and consumption change after the Civil War?



# Section 1: Mississippi's Postwar Economy

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- convict lease system
- monopoly
- crop lien law
- Black Exodus



# Introduction

- Second to lives lost, economic disruption caused Mississippi to suffer after the Civil War.
- Mississippi's cotton fields, railroads, factories, livestock, bridges, and buildings were destroyed.
- Economic recovery was slowed because of political and racial conflict, but the Bourbon Democrats worked to overcome those distractions.



# Convict Lease System

- The Bourbons set up a controversial cost-cutting scheme called the convict lease system.
- The convict lease system arranged for prisoners to be leased as laborers to private businesses who were responsible for their upkeep.
- The state legislature worked to eliminate the cost of a state penitentiary (prison).
- The system became a scandal, because convicts were abused, overworked, underfed, poorly clothed, and poorly housed.
- The convict lease system was outlawed in 1903.

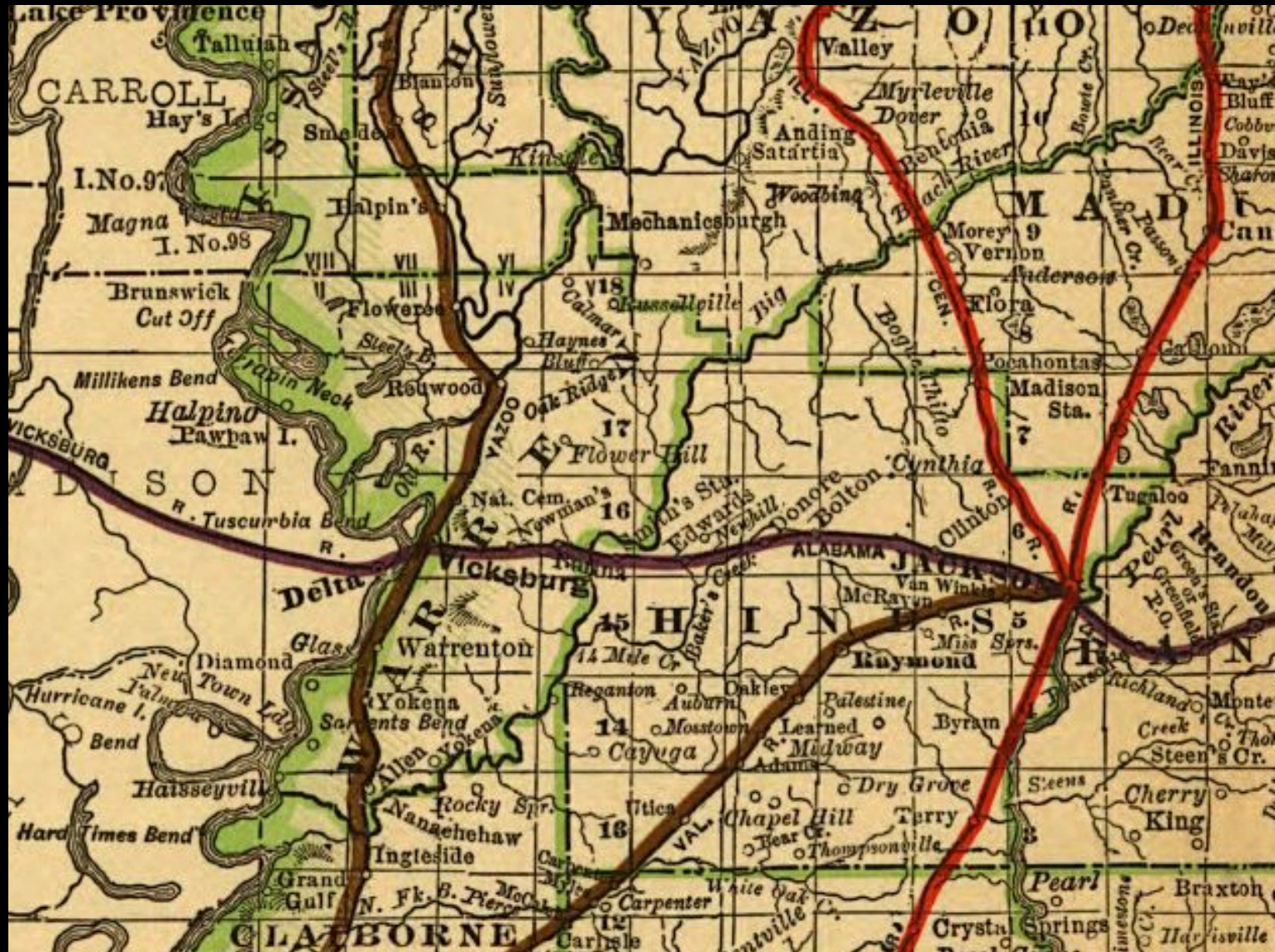


# Railroad Boom

- One of the most significant industrial developments in Mississippi after the Civil War was the growth of the railway system.
- An increase in timber production stimulated railroad construction.
- Increased vegetable farming across the country, in addition to a decline in water transportation, also helped to stimulate railroad construction.
- The problems caused by railroad expansion occurred mostly because railroads were not regulated; larger lines worked to put smaller lines out of business, and a few companies became a monopoly.
- Eventually, the Railroad Commission was established, and railroads became regulated by the government.



# Close-up view of 1888 Mississippi Railroad Map (click for larger view)





# Timber Production

- In 1865, over two-thirds of the land area in Mississippi was devoted to timber production.
- After the Civil War, the state's timber resources provided jobs and income to thousands of Mississippians.
- Timber production doubled from 1870 to 1890.



# Manufacturing

- The majority of the state's factories were destroyed during the war, and industry recovery was a slow and expensive process.
- In 1882, to promote economic recovery and attract industry to Mississippi, new industries were given a ten-year tax-free period (tax-exempt).
- Most manufacturing establishment were focused on agriculture but cotton thrived, especially.



# Sharecropping

- The emancipation of the state's slave population in addition to a disruption to the state's banking system meant that farming had to change in Mississippi.
- Banks were wary about loaning money to farmers, because they were uncertain about their ability to find laborers, grow a successful crop, and repay the money.
- If a planter was unable to get financial help from a banker, he would often turn to a local merchant for help.
- At the end of a growing season, a farmer would pay back a local merchant in full.
- After their emancipation, many black men took their wives and children out of the work force, making for a labor shortage in Mississippi.



# Sharecropping, continued

- The labor shortage in Mississippi worked in favor of free blacks; their labor was in great demand, and that fact gave them strength and power.
- A sharecropping system was created, where men worked on a planter's land in exchange for furnishings and a promise to share in the land's bounty.
- The sharecropping system proved unsatisfactory for both parties.
- Sharecroppers were required by a crop lien law to remain on the land they were put in charge of until all of their debts were paid off.
- Black and white farmers both suffered as a result of the agricultural depression of the 1880s.



# Black Exodus

- A few years after Reconstruction, blacks began to leave Mississippi in large numbers; this came to be known as the Black Exodus.
- Most of those blacks who left the state moved to Kansas where they were promised high-paying jobs.
- The promises were exaggerated, and Mississippi blacks who moved to Kansas found poverty and exploitation.
- Many Mississippians who moved to Kansas during the exodus returned to Mississippi.



# Attracting European and Chinese Immigrants

- Many white planters and political leaders believed that the Black Exodus would create a huge labor shortage in Mississippi.
- To help stop a possible labor shortage, the Bourbons tried to attract European and Chinese immigrants to Mississippi.
- The Bourbon's attempt to promote European and Chinese immigration to Mississippi was not nearly as successful as planned.
- Efforts to attract Chinese laborers were slightly more successful.
- Blacks continued to be the major supplier of labor.



# Section 2: Education in Postwar Mississippi

- Essential Question: What beliefs and ideals affected plans to educate young people in Mississippi after the Civil War?



# Section 2: Education in Postwar Mississippi

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- normal school
- Morrill Land Grant Act
- Jim Crow laws
- Plessy v. Ferguson decision
- Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, decision





# Introduction

- In the 1880s, there was a surplus in the federal treasury, and some of those funds were intended to be given to the nation's schools.
- Mississippi Senator L.Q.C. Lamar was strongly in favor of the funds being used toward schools.
- A bill that would have given the funds to schools was not passed, and Mississippi schools were underfunded.



# Public Education under the Bourbons

- The continued opposition to the education of blacks hindered the public school system.
- During most of the Bourbon period, there was a declining enrollment in black schools.
- Teacher's salaries and expenditures for black and white schools alike also declined during this period.



# Higher Education under the Bourbons

- Colleges and universities were better supported than elementary and secondary schools during the Bourbon era.
- Mississippi established the first agricultural and mechanical college for blacks and the first state college for women.
- From the end of the Civil War to the beginning of the twentieth century, four state institutions and many private colleges were established in Mississippi.



# Higher Education under the Bourbons: Alcorn State University

- In 1871, Alcorn University was established and named after Governor James L. Alcorn.
- The name changed to Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College (Alcorn A&M) when it received funds to educate young black men, a first in America.
- Alcorn began to admit women, and Alcorn became coeducational.
- The college name changed to Alcorn State University in 1974.



# Higher Education under the Bourbons: State Normal School at Holly Springs

- State Normal School was a coeducational college for blacks; it was established in 1870 as a department at Shaw University in Holly Springs.
- The enrollment of the school grew rapidly.
- State Normal President W.B. Higate was accused of encouraging his black students to be ambitious, and he was promptly fired.
- Mississippi Governor James K. Vardaman wanted the entire black school system to be abolished, but his attempts failed.



# Higher Education under the Bourbons: Mississippi State University

- The United States Congress passed the Morrill Land Grant Act in 1862; it granted every state a large area of land to be used in support of an agricultural and mechanical college.
- Originally, the land was granted to The University of Mississippi at Oxford, but very few students registered for the agricultural classes there.
- The state established Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College (Mississippi A&M) in 1878.
- The college became [Mississippi State University](#) in 1958.



# Higher Education under the Bourbons: Mississippi University for Women

- Sallie Reneau convinced the state to establish a college for women, but appropriate funds were not approved for the institution.
- The University of Mississippi admitted women in 1882, but there was still a push for a separate women's college.
- The Mississippi Industrial Institute and College for White Girls of Mississippi was established in 1884.
- The college was named Mississippi University for Women in 1974, and it began admitting male students in 1982.



# Higher Education under the Bourbons: Jackson State University

- In 1877, Jackson College was founded by the Baptist denomination in Natchez.
- In 1974, Jackson College had moved to Jackson and was renamed Jackson State University.





# Higher Education under the Bourbons: Private Colleges

- Blacks were eager to get an education after their emancipation, and several black private colleges were established in Mississippi after the Civil War.
- Some private colleges established include Campbell College, Shaw University, Tougaloo College, Port Gibson Institute, Grenada College, Blue Mountain, Belhaven, and Millsaps College.
- Several of the colleges established were supported by or affiliated with a religious denomination.



# *Plessy v. Ferguson*

- In 1896, The United States Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation of public facilities did not violate the United States Constitution if the separate facilities were equal.
- Mississippi and other states took advantage of the Supreme Court ruling, and they passed laws which segregated public facilities, schools included (known as “Jim Crow” laws).
- The *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in Topeka, Kansas overturned the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision in 1954.



# Section 3: Postwar Politics and the Constitution of 1890

- Essential Question: What beliefs and ideals led to a change in the state constitution in 1880?



# Section 3: Postwar Politics and the Constitution of 1890

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- color-line politics
- Farmers' Alliance
- Mississippi Constitution of 1890
- literacy test
- poll tax



# Introduction

- The Democratic politicians who helped defeat the Republican Party in 1875 were often called Redeemers by newspapers in Mississippi.
- The Redeemers had hoped to maintain political power, and they did so in a way that was both clever and effective.
- The Redeemers created the one-party system and color-line politics, which is the exclusion of people from political affairs on the basis of their color.
- The drafting of the constitution in 1890 was intended to keep power in the hands of the Bourbons, uplifting whites and crippling blacks.



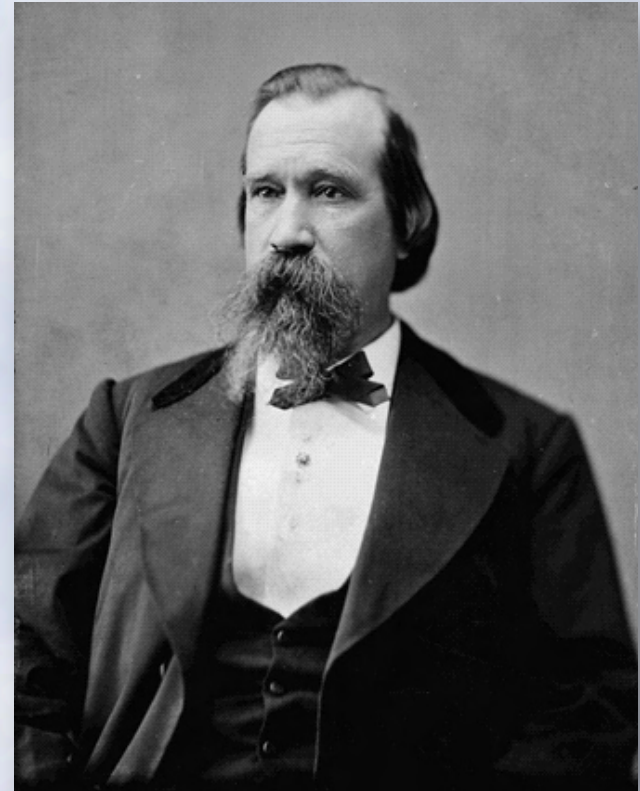
# One-Party System

- Bourbon politicians talked poorly about Republican rule and accused Republican officials of a number of untrue things.
- Newspapers echoed these accusations and contributed to them as well.
- The accusations were meant make people fearful of the Republican Party and dreadful of their return.
- Democratic officials warned the people that newly arising parties were like the Republican Party, and as a result, the state remained a one-party system for nearly a century.



# Color-Line Politics

- L.Q.C. Lamar, a United States senator and secretary of the interior, was the chief supporter of color-line politics in Mississippi.
- Lamar was highly influential, and he significantly influenced political appointments in Mississippi.
- L.Q.C. Lamar kept blacks in control of the Mississippi Republican Party for several decades.



L.Q.C. Lamar was a powerful Mississippi politician and later Supreme Court justice.



# Politics of Personality

- Exclusive groups developed in Mississippi during the time of a one-party system with likeminded views.
- Charismatic politicians emerged in Mississippi.
- The politicians that arose were well-equipped at speechmaking.
- The most successful Mississippi politicians could “cuss” the Republicans out the loudest, and they could keep blacks “in their place.”





# Frank Burkitt and the Farmers' Protest

- White farmers accused the Bourbons of neglecting their interests, because the conditions of agriculture were poor in Mississippi in the 1880s.
- Thousands of Mississippi farmers joined the Farmers' Alliance.
- The Farmers' Alliance encouraged cooperative buying and selling among farmers, and it promoted voting and participation in political campaigns.
- Frank Burkitt was the chief spokesman.



# A New Constitution in 1890

- Increased political unity among poor whites worried Bourbons, and they saw the need to draft a new state constitution to keep control.
- The Mississippi Constitution of 1890 gave the Bourbons control of the state legislature, and it deprived both blacks and poor whites who were dissatisfied with Bourbons.



# A New Constitution in 1890: Major Provisions of the Constitution of 1890

- The Mississippi Constitution of 1890 included new voting requirements, involving a literacy test, and it required a poll tax.
- These provisions were designed to make it difficult for blacks to vote and to eliminate blacks as a major force in state politics.
- The Democratic Party remained in control for another twelve years in Mississippi.



# A New Constitution in 1890: Other Provisions of the Constitution of 1890

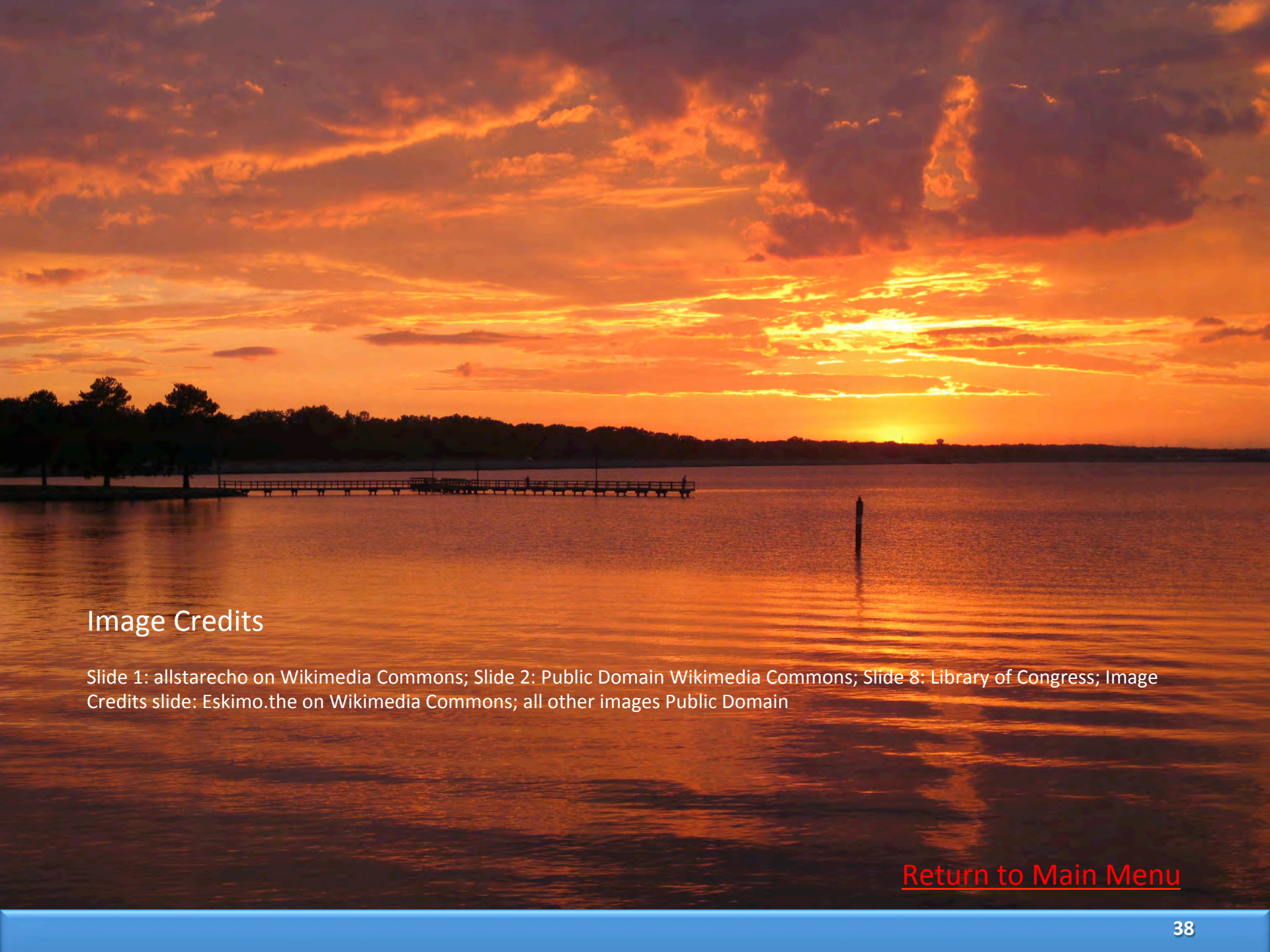
- Under the Constitution of 1890, a four-month school term in public schools was continued, the compulsory school attendance was repealed, the four-year term of the governor was continued, several state officials were prohibited from serving two terms, and state judges were appointed by the governor.



# A New Political Faction

- The 1890 Constitution was a disappointment to white farmers in Mississippi; it achieved virtually none of their goals.
- Small farmers and day laborers in the Piney Woods and Northeast Hills formed a new political group known as the “rednecks.”





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