

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

ERA 1: THE SYMBOLIC GENERATION OF BLACK AMERICANS IN CONGRESS

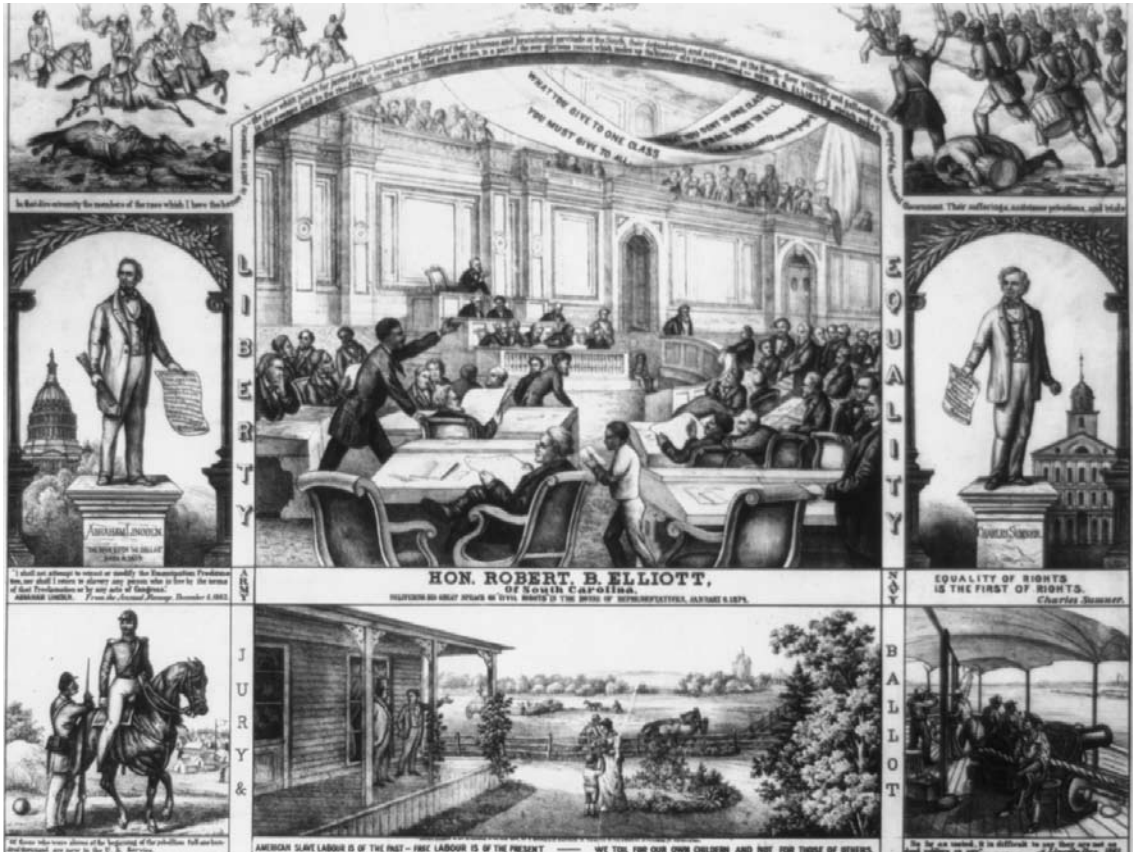
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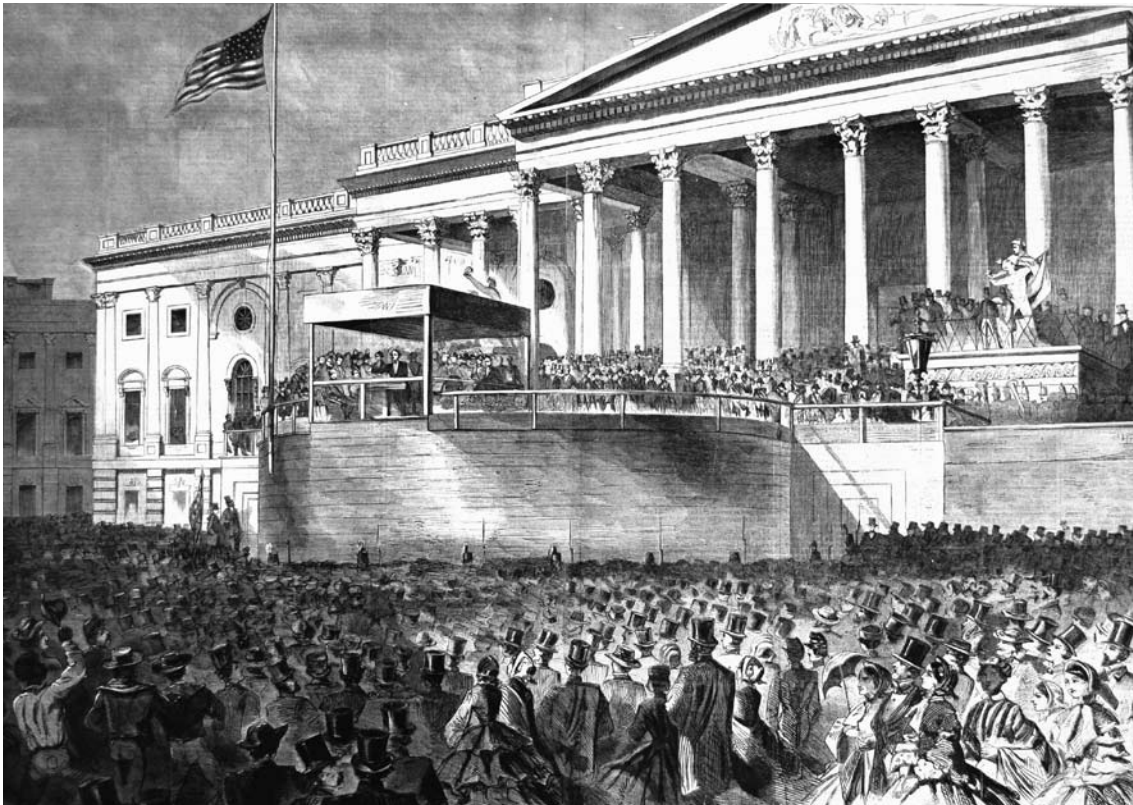
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ERA 2: JIM CROW AND THE EXCLUSION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS FROM CONGRESS

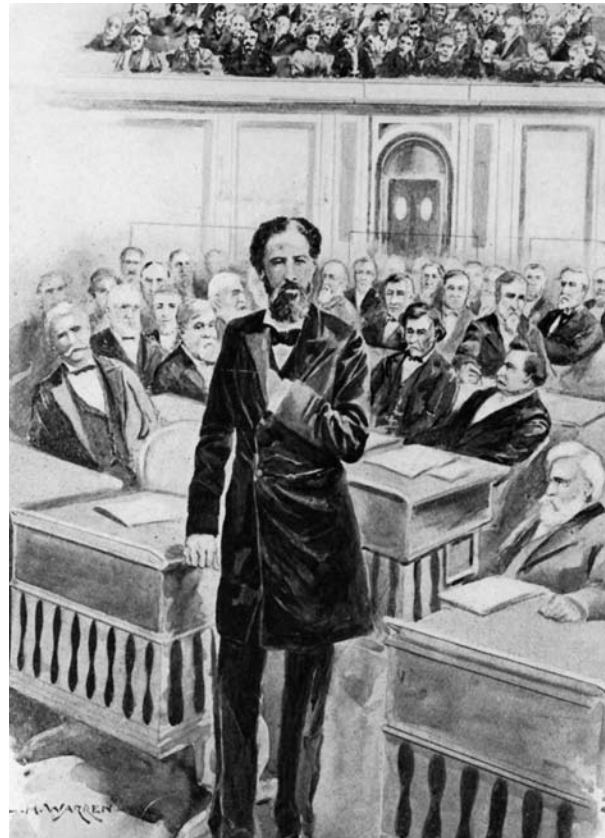
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ERA 3: AFRICAN AMERICANS RETURN TO CONGRESS

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**ERA 4: THE EXPANSION, ORGANIZATION, AND RISING INFLUENCE OF
AFRICAN AMERICANS IN CONGRESS**

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1. *This 1868 Currier & Ives print, titled “The Freedman’s Bureau,” featured a young man dressing for a visit to Congress. An ambivalent image highlighting both the subject’s conscientiousness and low economic status, this commercial decorative print reflected the complex attitudes toward African Americans during the period.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
2. *This famous print titled “The first colored senator and representatives—in the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States” was published by Currier & Ives in 1872. The group portrait assembled Robert De Large of South Carolina, Jefferson Long of Georgia, Hiram Revels of Mississippi, Benjamin Turner of Alabama, Josiah Walls of Florida, Joseph Ratney of South Carolina, and Robert Elliott of South Carolina.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
3. *Titled “The shackle broken—by the genius of freedom,” this print memorialized a defining moment in South Carolina Representative Robert Elliott’s congressional career; his 1874 speech in support of the Civil Rights Act.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
4. *President Abraham Lincoln became a symbol of hope for African Americans. Harper’s Weekly published this image, shown here in detail, of the crowd gathered at the Capitol for Lincoln’s first inauguration in 1861.*

COLLECTION OF U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. *In 1917, 75 sixth-graders shared a single room and teacher in segregated Muskogee, Oklahoma.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
6. *The federal government made segregation part of its institutional practice in the early 1900s. Patients at a health dispensary for government workers were directed to clearly marked segregated waiting rooms.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
7. *John M. Langston took his seat in Congress after contesting the election results in his district. One of the first African Americans in the nation elected to public office, he was clerk of the Brownhelm (Ohio) Township in 1855.*

JOHN MERCER LANGSTON, FROM *THE VIRGINIA PLANTATION TO THE NATIONAL CAPITOL* (HARTFORD, CT: AMERICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY, 1894)
8. *The Ku Klux Klan’s resurgence in the early 1900s ushered in a reign of violence, buttressed by public shows of power like this demonstration, just outside the U.S. Capitol in 1926.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
9. *In an effort to bring more African Americans to the polls, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) sponsored numerous voter registration drives such as this one at Antioch Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
10. *Nearly one million blacks served in World War II, most in the segregated U.S. Army. This 1942 picture of a military policeman astride his motorcycle on a base in Columbus, Georgia, underscored the reality that Jim Crow practices prevalent in civilian life were also a part of military service.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
11. *On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. The legislation suspended the use of literacy tests and voter disqualification devices for five years, authorized the use of federal examiners to supervise voter registration in states that used tests or in which less than half the voting-eligible residents registered or voted, directed the U.S. Attorney General to institute proceedings against use of poll taxes, and provided criminal penalties for violations of the act.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANK WOLFE, COURTESY OF THE LBJ LIBRARY
12. *On October 11, 1956, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., announced to reporters his decision to support incumbent Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Known as a political maverick, Powell had backed Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson in 1952, but broke with Stevenson in 1956 because of his ambivalent position on civil rights. Powell noted Eisenhower’s “great contribution in the civil rights field.”*

IMAGE COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, PROVIDED BY DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY
13. *During President Ronald Reagan’s eight years in office, he met once with the Congressional Black Congress (CBC). Pictured at the White House on February 3, 1981, the CBC sought Reagan’s assistance on domestic issues.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
14. *John Conyers, Jr., of Michigan, Charles Diggs, Jr., of Michigan, Bill Clay, Sr., of Missouri, Louis Stokes of Ohio, Charles Rangel of New York, Parren Mitchell of Maryland, George Collins of Illinois, and Walter Fauntroy of the District of Columbia gathered as a show of unity among black Members of Congress of the 92nd Congress (1971–1973).*

IMAGE COURTESY OF U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PHOTOGRAPHY OFFICE
15. *In this 1971 photograph, freshman House Members and outspoken peace advocates Ronald Dellums of California (center) and Bella Abzug of New York (in hat, at Dellums’s left), speak to reporters about their proposal to conduct an unofficial inquiry into alleged U.S. war crimes in Vietnam. Two years later, at the insistence of House leaders who overrode Chairman F. Edward Hebert of Louisiana, Dellums earned a seat on the House Armed Services Committee, which had jurisdiction over every facet of the defense establishment.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF MOORLAND–SPINGARN RESEARCH CENTER, HOWARD UNIVERSITY
16. *Representatives Yvonne Bratbwaite Burke of California, Harold Ford, Sr., of Tennessee, Walter Fauntroy of the District of Columbia, and Louis Stokes of Ohio were members of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. The committee, chaired by Stokes, investigated the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and President John F. Kennedy. In this image of a committee hearing, Burke (upper left), Fauntroy (second from upper left), and Stokes (fifth from upper left) listen to witness testimony.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PHOTOGRAPHY OFFICE