

The "Hampton Plan"

An education system designed in 1868 to create the Achievement Gap in Southern States as the intended consequence of conscious policies.

THREE PRONGS OF THE 1868 HAMPTON PLAN

1. Young black men and women must not get a liberal arts education --
No literature, no philosophy, no mathematics, no strategic or critical thinking;
2. Young black men and women must not get training in trades or enterprise that will enable them to compete economically, and
3. Young black men and women must internalize the fundamental principle that politics is "white folks business"!

But even as the leaders of the ex-slave class struggled to build an educational system to help reinforce their conceptions of freedom and social order, there was born in Hampton, Virginia, in 1868, a conjuncture of educational pedagogy and social ideology of different origins and character. [Samuel Chapman] Armstrong represented a social class, ideology, and world outlook that was fundamentally different from and opposed to the interests of the freedman. Thus in his establishment of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, he was neither unconscious nor contrarious, but honest.

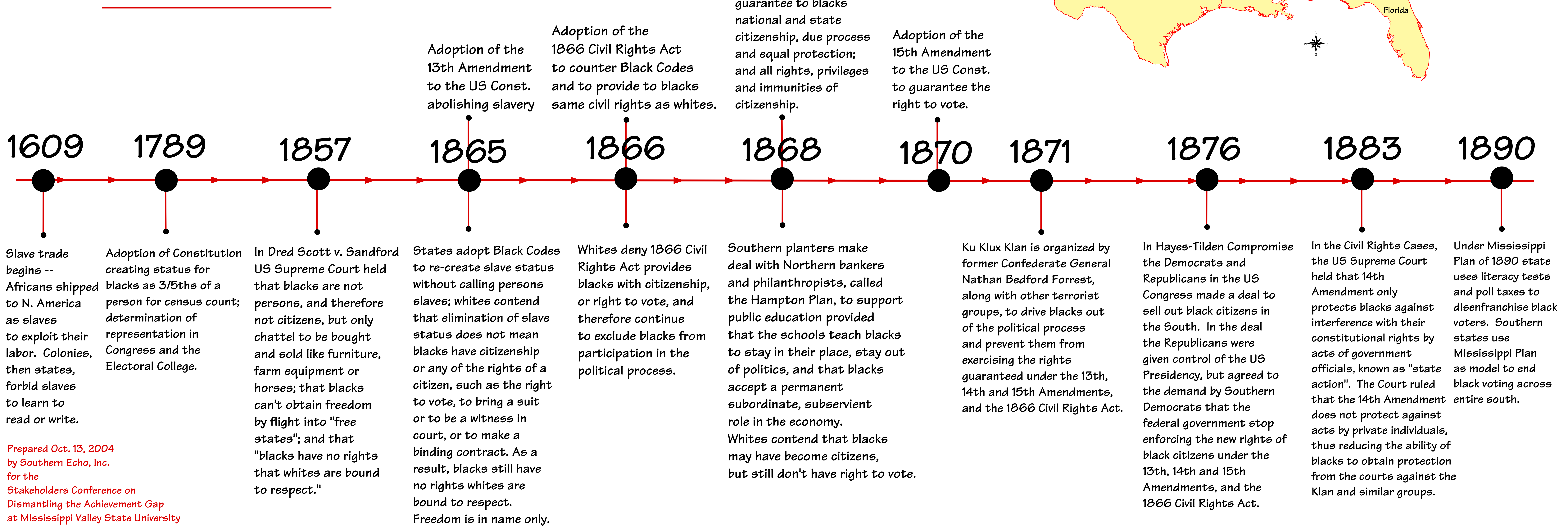
The institute's curriculum, values and ethos represented his social class and ideology as properly as the moral foundation of the Sabbath schools, free schools, public schools, and colleges represented the social and cultural values of the ex-slaves. The ex-slaves struggled to develop a social and educational ideology singularly appropriate to their defense of emancipation and one that challenged the power of the planter regime. Armstrong developed a pedagogy and ideology designed to avoid such confrontations and to maintain within the South a social consensus that did not challenge traditional inequalities of wealth and power.

Black education in Jim Crow Mississippi was separate but never equal. Paying little but lip service to a dual system of public education, the state invested most of its meager school dollars throughout the half century after 1890 in the education of its white minority. "It will be readily admitted by every white man in Mississippi," state Superintendent of Education A. A. Kincannon wrote in 1899, "that our public school system is designed primarily for the welfare of the white children of the state, and incidentally for the negro children."

"THE EDUCATION OF BLACKS IN THE SOUTH, 1860-1935"
by JAMES D. ANDERSON (1988)
University of North Carolina Press

"DARK JOURNEY
Black Mississippians in the Age of Jim Crow"
by NEIL R. MCMILLEN (1989)
University of Illinois Press

A TIMELINE TO VISUALIZE HOW THE HAMPTON PLAN WAS PART OF THE PROCESS TO SUBVERT THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF BLACK FREEDOM IN ORDER TO CREATE 2nd CLASS CITIZENSHIP



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