

## Lesson 3

## READ THIS STORY #1, Advanced

## Reconstruction

For ten years after the Civil War ended, states that had been members of the Confederacy were controlled by the federal government. During this time, known as the Reconstruction Period, Northerners were sent down to govern the South. According to legend, they arrived with only one piece of luggage called a carpetbag. That's why they were called Carpetbaggers. Southerners resented their presence and thought of them as interlopers who had no real interest in improving the situation in the South.

Peace had been declared, but the Southerners were suffering. Their economy was in ruins. Their money, stocks and bonds were all worthless. Hundreds of thousands of men had died during the Civil War. Crops and property had been destroyed. Some cities were just wastelands.

At this time, the Emperor of Brazil encouraged Southerners with expertise in farming cotton to immigrate to his country. About 9,000 people from all areas of the South settled in Brazil. They planted peaches, pecans, corn and cotton. A former confederate officer with a large group of immigrants from Alabama even founded a city in Brazil called Americana.

Many of these families returned to the United States after a few years. But those who remained became fully assimilated Brazilian citizens.