**Reconstruction Supreme Court Cases**

**Background**

Although Congress had passed important legislation to protect political and civil rights of African Americans, the Supreme Court began to take away those same protections. During the 1870s, the Supreme Court issued a series that undermined both the Fourteenth & Fifteenth Amendments.

**Your task**

To determine HOW the Fourteenth & Fifteenth Amendments were undermined and the impact of such upon democracy & authority. When we consider the impact of individual cases on democracy or authority, for democracy, think of individual rights or civil liberties that are gained or hindered, likewise for authority, think of the abilities of the federal, state or local government and how they are enabling democracy or hindering it.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Supreme Court Case | Brief Description of the Case | Impact on Democracy? | Impact on Authority? |
| Slaughterhouse Cases |  |  |  |
| Supreme Court Case | Brief Description of the Case | Impact on Democracy? | Impact on Authority? |
| U.S v. Reese |  |  |  |
| U.S v. Cruikshank |  |  |  |

**Evaluate:** How were the Fourteenth & Fifteenth Amendments undermined and what was the impact of upon democracy & authority?