

The Bourbon Triumvirate

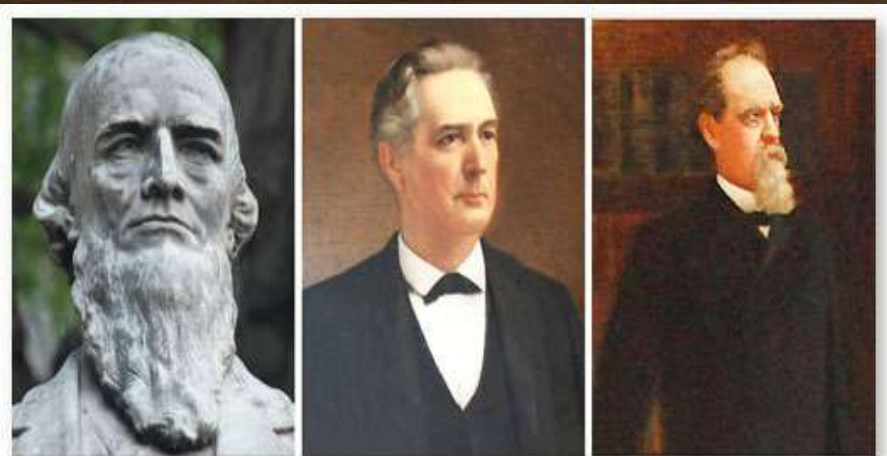
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The Bourbon Triumvirate

Main Idea: The Bourbon Triumvirate

Notes:

When Reconstruction was finally over and it was time to “redeem” the state of GA from the hardships it had fared, the job fell primarily to 3 Democrats—***Joseph E. Brown, Alfred H. Colquitt, & John B. Gordon.*** All of these leaders wanted stronger economic ties with the industrial North in order to expand Georgia’s economy. They also wanted to keep many old southern traditions including ***white supremacy*** (the belief that the white race is superior to any other race)



Photos: Ed Jackson

The Bourbon Triumvirate

Main Idea:

The Bourbon Triumvirate

Notes:

The three Georgia leaders were called the *Bourbon Triumvirate*. Bourbon was the name of a castle and territory in France, as well as a line of French kings who ruled for over 200 yrs.

Triumvirate refers to a ruling body of 3. Although the background of each man was different, politics and power drew them together.

The Bourbon Triumvirate

Main Idea:

Joseph E. Brown



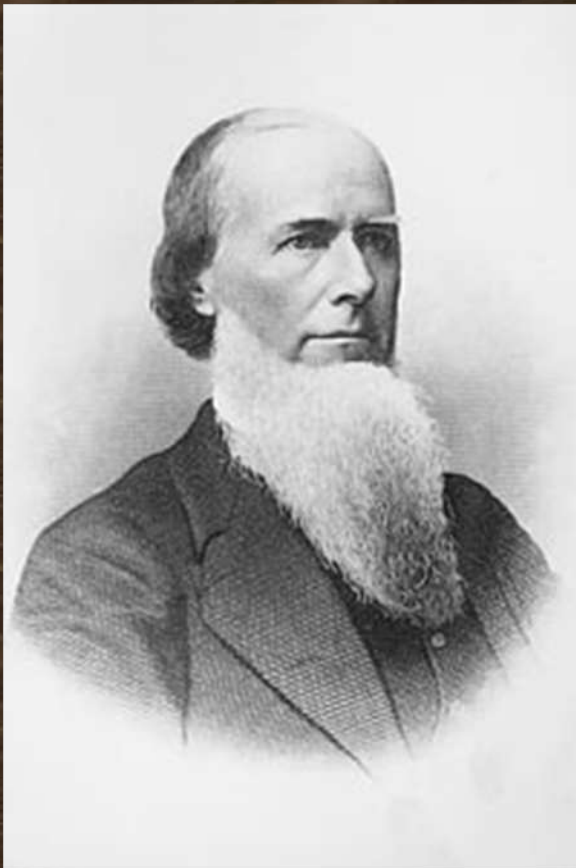
Notes:

Joseph E. Brown was a lawyer from Canton. He was elected to the state senate in 1849 and served there until 1855, when he became a judge for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit. In 1857, Brown was elected governor. He became a popular “states’ rights” governor.

The Bourbon Triumvirate

Main Idea:

Joseph E. Brown



Notes:

Governor Brown guided the state through the difficult war years. When Reconstruction began, Brown lost much of his popularity by asking Georgians to go along with radical Reconstruction policies, believing this would shorten Reconstruction. Brown remained in office until June 1865, when federal officials took over Reconstruction.

The Bourbon Triumvirate

Main Idea:

Joseph E. Brown



Governor Rufus Bullock

Notes:

Governor Rufus Bullock appointed Brown chief justice of the Georgia supreme court. He served there two years before resigning to head a company that leased the Western and Atlantic Railroad. In 1880, Brown re-entered politics. When John Gordon resigned from the U.S. Senate, Governor Colquitt appointed Brown to Gordon's Senate seat. Brown stayed in the Senate until 1891.

The Bourbon Triumvirate

Main Idea:

Alfred H. Colquitt

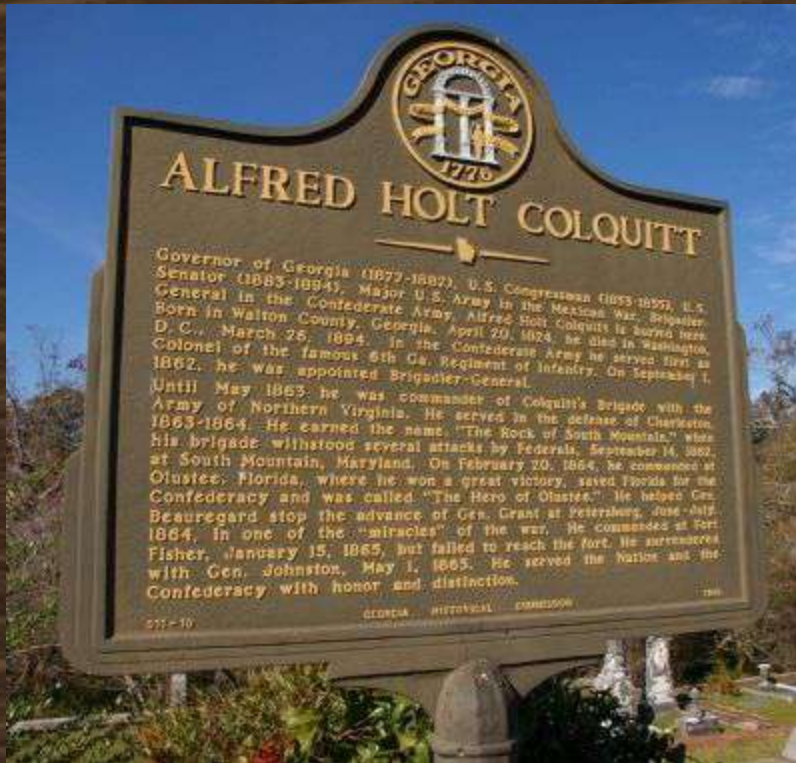


Notes:

Alfred H. Colquitt was the son of U.S. Senator Walter Colquitt, for whom Colquitt County is named. After graduating from Princeton University, he fought in the Mexican War. In 1849, he was elected to the state senate. Before the Civil War, Colquitt served in Congress and at Georgia's secession convention. During the war years, he was an able military leader and rose to the rank of major general.

The Bourbon Triumvirate

Main Idea: Alfred H. Colquitt



Notes:

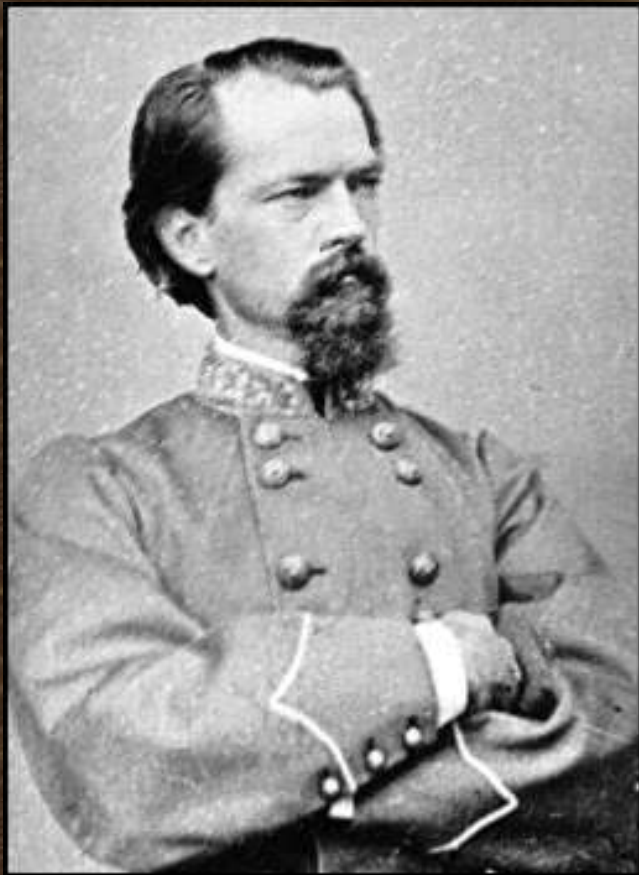
Colquitt was elected governor in 1876. Around that time, he became involved in a scandal over government jobs. Colquitt himself called for an investigation, and a legislative committee found Colquitt innocent of the charges.

Colquitt was re-elected and served until 1882. During his administration, the state's debt was reduced and in 1887, a new state constitution was approved.

The Bourbon Triumvirate

Main Idea:

John B. Gordon



Notes:

John B. Gordon, the 3rd member of the Bourbon Triumvirate, worked for a while as a newspaper correspondent, then as manager of a coal mine in Dade County. When Civil War broke out, Gordon proved an able leader and was one of 3 Georgia officers who reached the rank of lieutenant general. After the war, Gordon wrote a book and became a popular speaker across the nation.

The Bourbon Triumvirate

Main Idea:

John B. Gordon



Notes:

In 1872, Gordon defeated Alexander Stephens to become Georgia's U.S. Senator. In 1880, he resigned from the Senate and accepted a position with one of the railroads. In 1886, he began the first of his two terms as governor of Georgia. While governor, Gordon reduced the state's debt and brought new industry into the area.

Review Questions:

1. Which statement BEST explains why the term Bourbon Triumvirate was most appropriate for Joseph Brown, Alfred Colquitt, and John Gordon?
 - a) They shared a strong belief in white supremacy
 - b) They ruled the state consecutively for a period of over 30 years
 - c) They were political rulers drawn together by power and political goals
 - d) They were known for excessive business practices and high profit motives

Review Questions:

2. **Joseph Brown, a member of the Bourbon Triumvirate, did NOT support...?**
- a) increasing the number of industries in the south
 - b) creating stronger economic ties to the North.
 - c) White Supremacy
 - d) states' rights

Review Questions:

3. The Bourbon Triumvirate believed in...?

- a) lower taxes
- b) improving working conditions
- c) economic assistance for the poor
- d) expansion of educational opportunities

Review Questions:

4. Which description BEST explains how the Bourbon Triumvirate might have described the Redemption Period?
- a) A time for black and white southerners to come together and work in harmony to rebuild the state's economic, social, and political systems
 - b) A blending off the new and old, keeping old southern traditions while building new traditions around industries to rival the North
 - c) A New South Progressive era when farms had to be replaced by business and industry in order for the South to prosper.
 - d) a time for social, economic, and political reforms to ease the suffering caused by the war