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TENNESSEE JOHNSON

1943 Van Heflin, Ruth Hussey, Lionel Barrymore, 104 Min. NR

This film is a dramatization of Andrew Johnson's life. It is particularly good for examining the early years of Reconstruction (1865-1867) and the ideological and constitutional struggle between the legislative and executive branches.

Tennessee Valley, 1830.
Johnson arrives in Tennessee as a runaway apprentice; stays in town as a tailor.

9:00

Johnson confesses that he cannot read; trades tailoring for reading lessons.

16:00

Johnson gets involved in local politics.

25:45

Spring, 1860.

U.S. Senator Johnson pledges support for Lincoln.

28:30

Johnson speaks against secession.

36:00

Johnson joins the Union Army and becomes a hero at Nashville.

39:00

Johnson becomes Lincoln's Vice President.

51:00

Lincoln assassinated.

57:00

President Johnson meets with congressional leaders to discuss Reconstruction.

Segment: 39:00 – End.

This segment examines the Johnson's life from his selection as Lincoln's Vice President through his impeachment trial. Research topics will provide a context for discussing these events.

Seminar Questioning Sequence:

What were the causes of the tensions between President Johnson and Congress? Would Lincoln have experienced similar difficulties?

What were the differences among Lincoln's, Johnson's, and the Congressional Reconstruction Plans? Evaluate these plans in terms of their impact on: The North, the South, the freed-slaves, former Confederate leaders.

Why was Andrew Johnson impeached? Were the reasons for his impeachment valid under the guidelines of the Constitution? Was the impeachment of Johnson an appropriate/necessary use of the Checks and Balances system?

Wade-Davis Bill
Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address
Johnson's Plan for Reconstruction
The Reconstruction Acts
Charles Sumner
Thaddeus Stevens

<p>1:04:30</p> <p>Secretary of War Stanton is fired by Johnson.</p> <p>1:11:00</p> <p>Impeachment trial begins.</p> <p>1:22:00</p> <p>Johnson makes a speech in his defense; the Senate votes on the articles of impeachment.</p>		
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Notes