ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Occupation: Federal Military Government in the South

By Jacqueline Glass Campbell, Francis Marion University

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
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Cowen, Ruth Caroline	"Reorganization of Federal Arkansas, 1862-
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Fisher, Noel	War at Every Door: Partisan Politics and
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Organizations

Web Resources

Other Sources

Scholars

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Jacqueline Glass Campbell	jcampbell@fmarion.edu
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Topic Précis

Approximately one hundred southern towns and cities were occupied by Union forces at one time or another during the course of the Civil War. Northern policy initially encouraged southern Unionism which Lincoln and others believed to prevail among the majority of the southern population. They also believed (erroneously) that reinstalling loyal people and reintegrating the state into the Union would be a relatively simple process. But the complexities of occupational politics were myriad and the United States had only minimal experience as occupiers during the Mexican American war. Unlike their presence in a foreign country however, occupying forces in the American Civil War shared a legacy with the South; nor was it clear whether the seceding states were belligerent enemies or misguided family members who only required to be persuaded of their errors. As larger areas of the South came under Union control the Union faced enormous administrative

challenges and questions arose as to how to reignite loyalty to the Union, how to deal with fugitive slaves, and how to deal with the vigilante violence that sprang up around occupied areas. All of these problems had to be worked out during the course of the war.
