

James A. Wales. "The 'Strong' Government 1869-1877—The 'Weak' Government 1877-1880". (1880). Color lithograph (silked). Plate dimensions, $14\frac{7}{16} \times 18\frac{1}{2}$ ". Collection The General Library, University of California, Berkeley. Appeared in *Puck*, May 12, 1880.

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This cartoon contrasts the southern policies of Ulysses S. Grant with Rutherford B. Hayes. Hayes, an Ohio Republican, assumed the Presidency in 1876. The Republican and Democratic leaders had made a bargain that if the Democrats accepted Hayes as President, he would put an end to national interference in the South. This signified the end of "reconstruction," and the old-time Southern Democrats resumed control of their state governments. One result of this was that, in spite of the 15th Amendment which gave blacks the right to vote, state administration without federal intervention nullified the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

Puck's editorial viewpoint supported Hayes' policy rather than Grant's. Grant's strong government was supported by carpetbaggers and bayonets, whereas Hayes' weak government was plowing under the bloody shirt, the symbol of sectional strife, and bringing forth a new era. L.A./L.H.

THE "STRONG" GOVERNMENT 1869-1877—THE "WEAK" GOVERNMENT 1877-1880



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