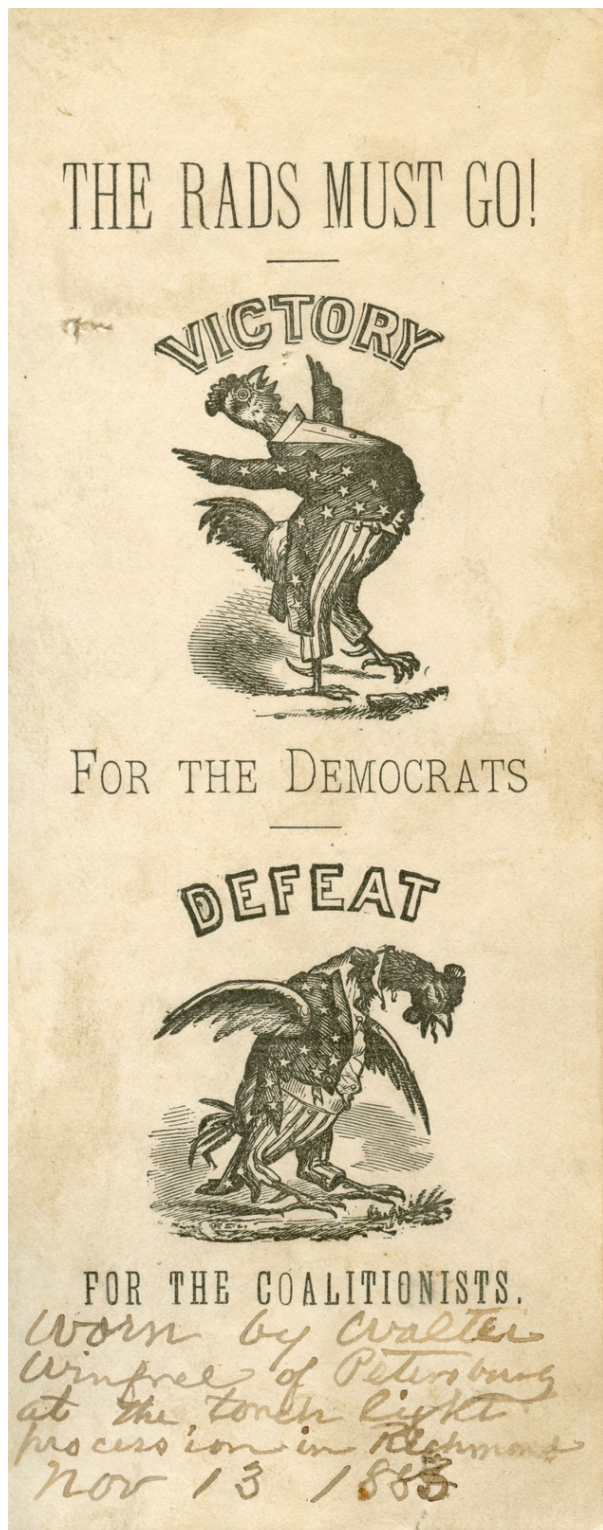


COLLECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

Rads Must Go handbill, 1883



ERA

Late 19th Century, Post-Reconstruction

THEMES

Politics, Voting

CITATION

Rads Must Go handbill, 1883, X.53.02.02, The Valentine

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Why was this handbill created? Who is the audience?
- What images or language does this handbill use to persuade its audience?
- What tools do we use today to persuade people to vote for someone running for political office?
- What was unique about the Readjuster Party?

CONTEXT

After the Civil War, Virginia found itself nearly 50 million dollars in debt. In 1879, a new political party emerged with a focus on readjusting and reducing the debt. Led by former Confederate General William Mahone, the Readjuster Party was made up of both Black and white Republicans and Democrats and won a majority in both state houses in the fall of 1879. The Readjusters were able to pass the Riddleberger Act of 1882 to reduce Virginia's debt, but by 1885 the party lost most of its elected offices and fell apart. This handbill was from a gathering in 1883 celebrating election victories of the newly reenergized Democratic party that criticized the biracial Readjuster party. A handwritten note at the bottom reads, "worn by Walter Winfree of Petersburg at the torch light procession in Richmond, Nov 13, 1883." This event was just weeks after the Readjuster party lost heavily in state elections.

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THE RADS MUST GO!

VICTORY



FOR THE DEMOCRATS

DEFEAT



FOR THE COALITIONISTS.

*Worn by Walter
Winfree of Petersburg
at the torch light
procession in Richmond
Nov 13 1883*

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