On Feb. 25, 1870, Hiram Revels is sworn in as the nation’s first black member of the United States Senate. He was part of a brief boom in black politicians who entered national, state and local politics.

With the end of Reconstruction in 1877, blacks were again largely shut out of government.

BLACK-AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA

- Hiram Revels (1870)
- Jefferson R. R. Long (1870-1871)
- Joseph R. Rainey (1871-1875)
- Robert C. De La Vergne (1875-1877)
- Robert E. Toombs (1877-1878)
- Benjamin B. D. Turner (1878-1879)
- Judah T. Hines (1879-1883)
- Richard H. Cain (1884-1887)
- John Roy Lynch (1887-1888)

YEARS OF SERVICE FOR THE NATIONS BLACK ELECTED U.S. SENATE AND U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

1860-1864: Hiram Revels
1865-1866: Jefferson R. R. Long
1867-1871: Joseph R. Rainey
1871-1875: Robert C. De La Vergne
1875-1877: Robert E. Toombs
1877-1879: Benjamin B. D. Turner
1879-1883: Judah T. Hines
1883-1887: Richard H. Cain
1887-1889: John Roy Lynch

1861: William Cooper Nell is the first African-American U.S. federal government clerk servant as clerk in the U.S. Post Office in Boston.

- FEB. 1, 1865: John Stewart Rock is named the first black attorney to be admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.
- MAY 9, 1865: End of Civil War.
- DEC. 6, 1865: Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, abolishing slavery.
- DEC. 24, 1865: Formation of the Ku Klux Klan.
- APRIL 9, 1866: Civil Rights Act of 1866 is passed, declaring that all persons born in the United States are now citizens, without regard to race, color or previous condition of servitude.

MARCH 23, 1867: Reconstruction Act of 1867 is passed, it divides former Confederate States into five military districts which would not be readmitted into the Union until they ratify the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and enact state constitutions that give African-Americans the right to vote.

1868: Pierre Cались Landry is the first African-American mayor. He is elected in Donaldsonville, La.

JUNE 13, 1868: Oscar James Dunn of Louisiana is inaugurated as the first African-American lieutenant governor.

JULY 9, 1868: Fourteenth Amendment is ratified, establishing citizenship and ensuring equal protection under the law.

MARCH 1, 1875: Civil Rights Act is approved by the U.S. Congress, it bans racial discrimination in hotels, theaters, public transportation and jury selection.

1877: Compromise of 1877 effectively ends the Reconstruction era. Federal troops are removed from the south and the 1876 presidential election is decided.

OCT. 15, 1883: Civil Rights Act of 1875 is nullified by the Supreme Court.