**Role A: Radical Republicans**

You have won the war and are proud of it. You intend to have the Republican Party take credit for saving the Union, and never let anybody forget it. You are not beyond waving a bloody shirt during political speeches to remind people what the Confederacy did to this country. You believe in severely punishing the South for breaking away from the Union and starting the war. You are glad that the question of whether the federal government should be more powerful than the states has been settled once and for all in favor of the federal government. You are anxious to use that new power to show the defeated southern states who is boss. You feel that if the South is treated too lightly they might rise up in rebellion again, and one civil war was enough. You are beginning to lose patience with the President for being too soft on the South and not moving quickly enough to help free blacks obtain their political and economic rights.

**Role B: Defeated Southern Leaders**

Despite your best efforts you have lost the war. Outnumbered by the North, and unable to get the support from England or France that you needed, your under supplied troops were forced to surrender to the North unconditionally. The Union government has occupied your land, freed the slaves, and dissolved the Confederate Government. The lifestyle that you were used to in slavery times will never be again; it is now “gone with the wind.” How do you live in peace with the former slaves now that the North is forcing you to share power with them? How can you try to regain your wealth now that the war has destroyed your lands and property, and the freed slaves insist that you pay them for their work? How do you make peace with the North and rejoin the Union you fought so hard to break away from?

**Role C: Moderate Republicans**

You have saved the Union at all costs. That included defeating the Confederacy and freeing the slaves. How hard will you be with the defeated South? You feel strongly that if you push them too far they will only rebel again. What kind of society will you set up now? Do you let tall groups have complete social and political freedom or is freedom from slavery enough? Some groups resent your use of the President’s power to make these sweeping changes. They miss the times before the war when Congress made most of the decisions. Others think that you are not acting quickly or strongly enough to deal with the problems at the end of the war. They want to punish the South and give complete freedom to blacks immediately. How will you keep a balance that will keep everyone happy and keep your party in power?