

PAIRED TEXT ANALYSIS DOCUMENTS

The Emancipation Proclamation

January 1, 1863

By the President of the United States of America:

A proclamation:

Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for [ending] said rebellion...

... do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within [States and parts of States where the people... are in rebellion against the United States], are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities... will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons...

... And I further declare and make known, that [freedmen] of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to [defend] forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man [ships] of all sorts in [service to the U.S. military].

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, [permitted] by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God...

By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

Lincoln, A. (1863). Emancipation proclamation. Retrieved from <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/>

Lincoln's First Inaugural Address

On March 4, 1861, Lincoln became President of a “not-so-united” United States. By the time Lincoln gave his inaugural address, seven states had already seceded from the union. In his First Inaugural Address, he said the following:

Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States, that by the [election] of a Republican Administration, their property, and their peace, and personal security, are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such [worry]... I do but quote from one of [my previously made] speeches when I declare that "I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no [desire] to do so.

Lincoln, A. (1861). Lincoln's first inaugural address. Retrieved from https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/lincoln1.asp