Considered to be among the greatest presidents of the United States, Abraham Lincoln was an American politician and advocate who served as the country’s 16th President. He assumed the office of the President of the United States of America on March 1861 and led the country until April 1865 after being assassinated. Abraham Lincoln, led the United States through the deadliest and costliest war in its soil, popularly known as the Civil War. In accordance to this, Abraham Lincoln abolished slavery in America, preserved the Union, modernized the American economy, and bolstered the federal government.

Lincoln was born in 1809 in Hodgenville, Kentucky. His family later moved to Indiana where he grew up. They were poor making him unable to get formal education. However, Lincoln understood the importance of education making him read with such hunger and drive when he was not working their family farm. He educated himself and ended up becoming a lawyer. He joined politics and went on to be a Whig party leader, Illinois state legislator and a United States Congressman.

In 1849, after being in politics for a while, he returned to practicing law but he couldn’t keep calm as the as the court allowed expansion of slavery in new territories through Kansas-Nebraska Act. In 1854, he got back into politics this time as the leader of the newly formed Republican party which had been formed by opposing factions against slavery in the North. By 1868, Lincoln had become popular and reached a national audience through the 1858 debates against Stephen Douglas and his remarkable speeches.

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln ran for the presidency and won with immense support coming from the North. The South States who supported slavery, saw his win as the North’s rejection of their “right” to continue slavery and subsequently began seceding. Lincoln, a moderate Republican, who strongly believed in the oneness of the Union, and abolition of slavery deemed the seceding illegal and called up forces to suppress the rebellion and restore unity in the Union.

The Southern Confederates despised Lincoln and began plotting hiss assassination. In 1861, the Civil War began after the first shots were fired by the Confederate forces. Lincoln navigated a contentious group of factions with allies and opponents to form a cabinet and a government of able men who would do the work a deliver America to peace. Lincoln did not worry too much with working with people he out rightly knew had very low opinions for him. To him, what matter most was having the most capable individual to the work.

He ensured the abolishment of Slavery through his Emancipation Proclamation and additionally encourage neighboring states to abolish the practice. After his re-election in 1864, Lincoln sought to heal the war ravaged country by ending the war and through reconciliation activities. However, in 1865, days after the Confederate forces surrendered, Lincoln was assassinated by a Confederate sympathizer while attending a play.