

The Emancipation Proclamation

Abraham Lincoln

January 1, 1863

By the President of the United States of America:

A Proclamation.

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

“That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

“That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be, in good faith, represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States.”

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 suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days, from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida,

Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the
 45 forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the coun-
 ties of Berkley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess
 Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth[]],
 and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this
 proclamation were not issued.

50 And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do
 order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said desig-
 nated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free;
 and that the Executive government of the United States, including the
 military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain
 55 the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to
 abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I rec-
 ommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully
 for reasonable wages.

60 And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suit-
 able condition, will be received into the armed service of the United
 States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to
 man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, war-
 65 ranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the con-
 siderate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty
 God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the
 seal of the United States to be affixed.

70 Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the
 year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of
 the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.