

Document A

Jefferson Davis,

Today is April 13th, the year of our Lord 1861. As you know yesterday, Americans were fired upon at Fort Sumter in South Carolina. You are an intelligent man, and I think we can both see how this will end up. I do not want battles; I do not want a war. I think that the Union is savable with your help. I did not even get a chance to promote my policies as president. South Carolina seceded the day after I won. I am a moderate when it comes to slavery. This is nothing more than a rebellion and I must quell the rebellion. You still have the chance to rejoin the Union and we will welcome you back as fast as possible.

Abraham Lincoln

President of the United States

April 13th, 1861

To what extent do the documents A – D support the idea that Lincoln did not want war?

He very clearly does not want war. These quotes prove this by saying “I do not want war.” He directly implies he will do what he can to prevent a war between the North and the South. He further states that, he will “...welcome you back as fast as possible.” The evidence shows that Lincoln was trying a method of saying that the South still has a chance to rejoin the Union. However, he does make it clear that he will respond by stating “... and I must quell this rebellion.” The evidence shows that while Lincoln is opposing of the war, he sees it as a rebellion, and will stop it. The source is a direct letter from Lincoln to CSA President Jefferson Davis, which proves Lincoln’s official stance and feelings for war being evitable at this point. This source was written a day after the start of the war, which would carry on throughout all of Lincoln’s Presidency and define both his presidency and the future for America. The source is very strong at answering the question as it highlights Lincoln’s direct thoughts on the matter to his official counterpart in the Confederacy. In the final analysis, document A agrees with the prompt as Lincoln argues to give him more time and reconsider but ultimately as President, he will stop this rebellion.