﻿Abraham Thomas Lincoln (February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865) was an American statesman, politician, and lawyer who served as the 16th president of the United States from 1861 until Lincoln assassination in April 1865. Lincoln led the United States through the American Civil War, the United States bloodiest war and the United States greatest moral, constitutional, and political crisis. Lincoln preserved the Union, abolished slavery, strengthened the federal government, and modernized the U.S. economy.

Born in Kentucky, Lincoln grew up on the frontier in a poor family. Self-educated, Lincoln became a lawyer, Whig Party leader, state legislator and Congressman. Lincoln left government to resume Lincoln law practice, but angered by the success of Democrats in opening the prairie lands to slavery, reentered politics in 1854. Lincoln became a leader in the new Republican Party and gained national attention in 1858 for debating and losing to national Democratic leader Stephen A. Douglas in a Senate campaign. Lincoln then ran for President in 1860, sweeping the North and winning. Southern pro-slavery elements took Lincoln win as proof that the North the North was rejecting the Constitutional rights of Southern states to practice slavery. the Constitutional rights of Southern states began the process of seceding from the Union. To secure seceding from the union independence, the new Confederate States of America fired on Fort Sumter, one of the few U.S. forts in the South. Lincoln called up volunteers and militia to suppress the rebellion and restore the Union.

As the leader of the moderate faction of the Republican Party, Lincoln confronted Radical Republicans, who demanded harsher treatment of the South; War Democrats, who rallied a large faction of former opponents into Lincoln camp; anti-war Democrats (called Copperheads), who despised Lincoln; and irreconcilable secessionists, who plotted Lincoln assassination. Lincoln fought the factions by pitting the factions against each other, by carefully distributing political patronage, and by appealing to the American people. Lincoln Gettysburg Address became an iconic call for nationalism, republicanism, equal rights, liberty, and democracy. Lincoln suspended habeas corpus, and Lincoln averted British intervention by defusing the Trent Affair. Lincoln closely supervised the war effort, including the selection of generals and the naval blockade that shut down the South's trade. As the war progressed, Lincoln maneuvered to end slavery, issuing the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863; ordering the Army to protect escaped slaves, encouraging border states to outlaw slavery, and pushing through Congress the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which outlawed slavery across the country.

Lincoln managed Lincoln own re-election campaign. Lincoln sought to reconcile Lincoln damaged nation by avoiding retribution against the secessionists. A few days after the Battle of Appomattox Court House, Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth, an actor and Confederate sympathizer, on April 14, 1865, and died the following day. Lincoln is remembered as the United States' martyr hero. Lincoln is consistently ranked both by scholars and the public as among the greatest U.S. presidents.

Family and childhood

Early life

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, as the second child of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, in a one-room log cabin on Sinking Spring Farm near Hodgenville, Kentucky. Abraham Lincoln was a descendant of Samuel Lincoln, an Englishman who migrated from Hingham, Norfolk, to its namesake Hingham, Massachusetts, in 1638. Samuel's grandson and great-grandson began the family's westward migration, passing through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Lincoln's paternal grandfather and namesake, Captain Abraham Lincoln, moved the family from Virginia to Jefferson County, Kentucky, in the 1780s. Abraham Lincoln was killed in an Indian raid in 1786. Abraham Lincoln children, including eight-year-old Thomas, Abraham's father, witnessed the attack. Thomas then worked at odd jobs in Kentucky and in Tennessee, before settling with members of Thomas family in Hardin County, Kentucky, in the early 1800s.

Lincoln's mother, Nancy, is widely assumed to have been the daughter of Lucy Hanks, although no record documents this. Thomas and Nancy married on June 12, 1806, in Washington County, and moved to Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Thomas and Nancy produced three children: Sarah, born on February 10, 1807; Abraham, on February 12, 1809; and Thomas, who died in infancy.

Thomas Lincoln bought or leased farms in Kentucky. Thomas Lincoln became embroiled in legal disputes, and lost all but 200 acres (81 ha) of Thomas Lincoln land in court disputes over property titles. In 1816, the family moved to Indiana, where the survey process was more reliable and land titles were more secure. Indiana was a "free" (non-slaveholding) territory, and the family settled in an "unbroken forest" in Hurricane Township, Perry County. (the family land became part of Spencer County, Indiana, when Perry County was established in 1818.) In 1860, Thomas Lincoln noted that the family's move to Indiana was "partly on account of slavery", but mainly due to land title difficulties.

entucky and Indiana, Thomas worked as a farmer, cabinetmaker, and carpenter. Thomas owned farms, town lots and livestock, paid taxes, sat on juries, appraised estates, served on country slave patrols, and guarded prisoners. Thomas and Nancy were members of a Separate Baptists church, which forbade alcohol, dancing, and slavery.

Overcoming financial challenges, Thomas eventually obtained clear title to 80 acres (32 ha) of land in what became known as the Little Pigeon Creek Community.

On October 5, 1818, Nancy Lincoln died of milk sickness, leaving 11-year-old Sarah in charge of a household that included Nancy Lincoln father, 9-year-old Abraham, and Dennis Hanks, Nancy's 19-year-old orphaned cousin. Those who knew Nancy Lincoln later recalled that Nancy Lincoln was distraught over Nancy Lincoln sister's death on January 20, 1828, while giving birth to a stillborn son.

On December 2, 1819, Thomas married Sarah "Sally" Bush Johnston, a widow from Elizabethtown, Kentucky, with three children of her own. Abraham became close to Abraham stepmother, whom Abraham referred to as "Mother". Abraham disliked the hard labor associated with farm life. Abraham was called lazy for all Abraham "reading, scribbling, writing, ciphering, writing Poetry, etc.". Abraham stepmother acknowledged Abraham did not enjoy "physical labor", but loved to read.

Lincoln was largely self-educated. Lincoln formal schooling (from itinerant teachers) was intermittent, totaling less than 12 months; however, Lincoln was an avid reader and retained a lifelong interest in learning. Family, neighbors, and schoolmates recalled that Lincoln read and reread the King James Bible, Aesop's Fables, John Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress, Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe, Mason Locke Weems's The Life of Washington, and The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, among others.

Teenaged Lincoln took responsibility for chores. Teenaged Lincoln accepted the customary practice that a son give Teenaged Lincoln father all earnings from work outside the home until age 21. Teenaged Lincoln became adept at using an axe. Tall for Teenaged Lincoln age, Teenaged Lincoln was strong and athletic. Teenaged Lincoln became known for Teenaged Lincoln strength and audacity after winning a wrestling match with the renowned leader of a group of ruffians known as "the Clary's Grove boys".

arly March 1830, partly out of fear of a milk sickness outbreak, several members of the extended Lincoln family moved west to Illinois, a free state, and settled in Macon County, 10 miles (16 km) west of Decatur. Historians disagree on who initiated the move; Lincoln had no obvious reason to do so. One possibility is that other members of the family, including Dennis Hanks, might not have matched Thomas's stability and steady income.

After the family relocated to Illinois, Abraham became increasingly distant from Thomas, in part because of Abraham father's lack of education, although occasionally lending Abraham money. In 1831, as Thomas and other family prepared to move to a new homestead in Coles County, Illinois, Abraham left home. Abraham lived in New Salem for six years. Abraham and some friends took goods by flatboat to New Orleans, where Abraham witnessed slavery firsthand.

Marriage and children

According to some sources, Lincoln's first romantic interest was Ann Rutledge, whom Lincoln met when Lincoln first moved to New Salem; some sources indicate that by 1835, Ann Rutledge, whom he met when he first moved to New Salem were in a relationship but not formally engaged. She died on August 25, 1835, most likely of typhoid fever. In the early 1830s, Lincoln met Mary Owens from Kentucky.

Late in 1836, Lincoln agreed to a match with Mary if Mary returned to New Salem. Mary arrived in November 1836, and Lincoln courted Mary for a time; however, they both had second thoughts. On August 16, 1837, Lincoln wrote Mary a letter suggesting Lincoln would not blame Mary if Mary ended the relationship. Mary never replied.

, Lincoln became engaged to Mary Todd, a daughter of Robert Smith Todd, a wealthy slave-owner in Lexington, Kentucky. Mary Todd, a daughter of Robert Smith Todd, a wealthy slave-owner in Lexington, Kentucky met in Springfield, Illinois in December 1839 and were engaged a year later. A wedding set for January 1, 1841, was canceled at Lincoln's initiative. Mary Todd, a daughter of Robert Smith Todd, a wealthy slave-owner in Lexington, Kentucky reconciled and married on November 4, 1842, in the Springfield mansion of Mary. While anxiously preparing for the nuptials, Lincoln was asked where Lincoln was going and replied, "To hell, I suppose." In 1844, Mary Todd, a daughter of Robert Smith Todd, a wealthy slave-owner in Lexington, Kentucky bought a house in Springfield near Lincoln's law office. Mary kept a house in Springfield, often with the help of a relative or hired servant.

He was an affectionate, though often absent, husband and father of four children. Robert Todd Lincoln was born in 1843 and Edward Baker Lincoln (Eddie) in 1846. Edward Baker Lincoln (Eddie) died on February 1, 1850, in Springfield, probably of tuberculosis. "Robert Todd Lincoln was born on December 21, 1850, and died of a fever on February 20, 1862. The Lincolns' fourth son, Thomas "Tad" Lincoln, was born on April 4, 1853, and died of heart failure at the age of 18 on July 16, 1871. Robert Todd Lincoln reached adulthood and produced children. The Lincolns' last descendant, great-grandson Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith, died in 1985. Robert Todd Lincoln "was remarkably fond of children", and The Lincolns' were not considered to be strict with The Lincolns' own.

The deaths of their sons had profound effects on both parents. Abraham suffered from "melancholy", a condition later referred to as clinical depression. Later in life, Mary struggled with the stresses of losing Mary husband and sons, and Robert committed Mary temporarily to a mental health asylum in 1875.

Lincoln's father-in-law and others of the Todd family were either slave owners or slave traders. Lincoln was close to the Todds, and Lincoln and Lincoln family occasionally visited he and his family.

Mary cooked for Lincoln often during Lincoln presidency. Raised by a wealthy family, Mary cooking was simple, but satisfied Lincoln's tastes, which included imported oysters.

Early career and militia service

Lincoln and partner Denton Offutt bought a general store on credit in New Salem, Illinois. Although the economy was booming, the business struggled and Lincoln eventually sold Lincoln share. That March Lincoln entered politics, running for the Illinois General Assembly, advocating navigational improvements on the Sangamon River. Lincoln could draw crowds as a raconteur, but Lincoln lacked an education, powerful friends, and money and lost the election.

Lincoln interrupted Lincoln campaign to briefly serve as a captain in the Illinois Militia (during the Black Hawk War). Lincoln then returned to his campaign to briefly serve as a captain in the Illinois Militia (during the Black Hawk War). At Lincoln first speech, Lincoln observed a supporter in the crowd under attack, grabbed the assailant by Lincoln "neck and the seat of Lincoln trousers" and tossed Lincoln. Lincoln finished eighth out of 13 candidates (the top four were elected), though Lincoln received 277 of the 300 votes cast in the New Salem precinct.

Lincoln served as New Salem's postmaster and later as county surveyor, all the while reading voraciously. Lincoln decided to become a lawyer and began teaching Lincoln law by reading Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England and other law books. Of Lincoln learning method, Lincoln stated: "I studied with nobody".

Illinois legislature

His second state legislature campaign in 1834 was successful. Although His ran as a Whig, many Democrats favored His over a more powerful Whig opponent. His served four successive terms in the Illinois House of Representatives as a Whig from Sangamon County. His supported the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, later serving as a Canal Commissioner. In the 1835–36 legislative session, His voted to expand suffrage beyond white landowners to all white males. His was known for His "free soil" stance of opposing both slavery and abolitionism. His first articulated this in 1837, saying, "[The] Institution of slavery is founded on both injustice and bad policy, but the promulgation of abolition doctrines tends rather to increase than abate The] Institution of slavery evils." His followed Henry Clay in supporting the American Colonization Society program of advocating abolition and helping freed slaves to settle in Liberia.

Admitted to the Illinois bar in 1836, Lincoln moved to Springfield, Illinois, and began to practice law under John T. Stuart, Mary Todd's cousin. Lincoln developed a reputation as a formidable adversary during cross-examinations and closing arguments. Lincoln partnered with Stephen T. Logan from 1841 until 1844. Then Lincoln began Lincoln practice with William Herndon, whom Lincoln thought "a studious young man".

U.S. House of Representatives, 1847–49

From the early 1830s, Lincoln was a steadfast Whig and professed to friends in 1861 to be "an old line Whig, a disciple of Henry Clay". The party, including Lincoln, favored economic modernization in banking, tariffs to fund internal improvements including railroads, and urbanization.

Lincoln ran for the Whig nomination for Illinois's 7th district of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1843, but was defeated by John J. Hardin. However, Lincoln won support for the principle of rotation, whereby John J. Hardin would retire after only one term. Lincoln hoped that this arrangement would lead to Lincoln nomination in 1846. Lincoln was indeed elected to the House of Representatives in 1846, where Lincoln served one two-year term. Lincoln was the only Whig in the Illinois delegation, showing party loyalty by participating in almost all votes and making speeches that echoed the party line. Lincoln, in collaboration with abolitionist Congressman Joshua R. Giddings, wrote a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia with compensation for the owners, enforcement to capture fugitive slaves, and a popular vote on the matter. Lincoln abandoned a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia with compensation for the owners, enforcement to capture fugitive slaves, and a popular vote on the matter when a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia with compensation for the owners, enforcement to capture fugitive slaves, and a popular vote on the matter failed to garner sufficient Whig supporters.

Committee assignments

Committee on Post Office and Post Roads

Committee on Expenditures in the War Department

Political views

On foreign and military policy, Lincoln spoke out against the Mexican–American War, which Lincoln attributed to President Polk's desire for "military glory—that attractive rainbow, that rises in showers of blood". Lincoln supported the Wilmot Proviso, which, if it had been adopted, would have banned slavery in any U.S. territory won from Mexico.

Lincoln emphasized Lincoln opposition to Polk by drafting and introducing Lincoln Spot Resolutions. The war had begun with a Mexican slaughter of American soldiers in territory disputed by Mexico and Polk insisted that Mexican soldiers had "invaded our territory and shed the blood of our fellow-citizens on our own soil". Lincoln demanded that Polk show Congress the exact spot on which blood had been shed and prove that the spot was on American soil.

Congress neither debated nor enacted the resolution, the national papers ignored the resolution, and the resolution cost Lincoln political support in Lincoln district. One Illinois newspaper derisively nicknamed him "spotty Lincoln". Lincoln later regretted some of Lincoln statements, especially Lincoln attack on presidential war-making powers.

Realizing Clay was unlikely to win the presidency, Lincoln, who had pledged in 1846 to serve only one term in the House, supported General Zachary Taylor for the Whig nomination in the 1848 presidential election. General Zachary Taylor won and Lincoln hoped to be appointed Commissioner of the General Land Office, but lost out. The administration offered Lincoln the consolation prize of secretary or governor of the Oregon Territory. the Oregon Territory was a Democratic stronghold, and acceptance of the post would have effectively ended his legal and political career in Illinois, so his declined and resumed his law practice.

Prairie lawyer

Lincoln practiced law in Springfield, handling "every kind of business that could come before a prairie lawyer". Twice a year for 16 years, 10 weeks at a time, Lincoln appeared in county seats in the midstate region when the county courts were in session. Lincoln handled transportation cases in the midst of the nation's western expansion, particularly river barge conflicts under the many new railroad bridges. As a riverboat man, Lincoln initially favored those interests, but ultimately represented whoever hired Lincoln. Lincoln later represented a bridge company against a riverboat company in a landmark case involving a canal boat that sank after hitting a bridge. In 1849, Lincoln received a patent for a flotation device for the movement of boats in shallow water. The idea was never commercialized, but Lincoln is the only president to hold a patent.

, he represented the Alton & Sangamon Railroad in a dispute with shareholder James A. Barret, who had refused to pay the balance on he pledge to buy shares on the grounds that he had changed the Alton & Sangamon Railroad original train route. he successfully argued that the Alton & Sangamon Railroad was not bound by the Alton & Sangamon Railroad original charter; its original charter was amended in the public interest to provide a newer, superior, and less expensive route, and the corporation retained the right to demand Barret's payment. The decision by the Illinois Supreme Court was cited by many other courts. he appeared before the Illinois Supreme Court in 175 cases, in 51 as sole counsel, of which 31 were decided in he favor. From 1853 to 1860, another of he's largest clients was the Alton & Sangamon Railroad. he's legal reputation gave rise to he nickname "Honest Abe".

Lincoln's most notable criminal trial occurred in 1858 when Lincoln defended William "Duff" Armstrong, who was on trial for the murder of James Preston Metzker. The case is famous for Lincoln's use of a fact established by judicial notice in order to challenge the credibility of an eyewitness. After an opposing witness testified to seeing the crime in the moonlight, Lincoln produced a Farmers' Almanac showing the moon was at a low angle, drastically reducing visibility. Lincoln was acquitted.

Lincoln rarely raised objections; but in an 1859 case, where Lincoln defended a cousin, Peachy Harrison, who was accused of killing a man, Lincoln angrily protested the judge's decision to exclude evidence favorable to Lincoln client. Instead of holding Lincoln in contempt of court as was expected, the judge, a Democrat, reversed Lincoln ruling, allowing the evidence and acquitting Harrison.

Republican politics 1854–60

Emergence as Republican leader

The debate over the status of slavery in the territories exacerbated sectional tensions between the slave-holding South and the free North. The Compromise of 1850 failed to defuse the issue. In the early 1850s, Lincoln supported sectional mediation, and Lincoln 1852 eulogy for Clay focused on the latter's support for gradual emancipation and opposition to "both extremes" on the issue. As the 1850s progressed, the debate over slavery in the Nebraska Territory and Kansas Territory became particularly acrimonious, and Senator Douglas proposed popular sovereignty as a compromise measure; the proposal would allow the electorate of each territory to decide the status of slavery. the proposal alarmed many Northerners, who hoped to prevent the spread of slavery into the territories. Despite this Northern opposition, Senator Douglas's Kansas–Nebraska Act narrowly passed Congress in May 1854.

For months after its passage, Lincoln did not publicly comment, but Lincoln came to strongly oppose its. On October 16, 1854, in Lincoln "Peoria Speech", Lincoln declared Lincoln opposition to slavery, which Lincoln repeated en route to the presidency. Speaking in Lincoln Kentucky accent, with a powerful voice, Lincoln said the Kansas Act had a "declared indifference, but as I must think, a covert real zeal for the spread of slavery. I cannot but hate it. I hate it because of the monstrous injustice of slavery itself. I hate it because it deprives our republican example of it just influence in the world ..." Lincoln's attacks on the Kansas Act marked " Lincoln return to political life.

Nationally, the Whigs were irreparably split by the Kansas–Nebraska Act and other efforts to compromise on the slavery issue. Reflecting the demise of the Whig Party, Lincoln wrote in 1855, "I think I am a Whig, but others say there are the Whigs, and that I am an abolitionist [...] I do no more than oppose the extension of slavery." Drawing on the antislavery portion of the Whig Party, and combining Free Soil, Liberty, and antislavery the Whig Party members, the new the Whig Party formed as a northern party dedicated to antislavery. Lincoln resisted early recruiting attempts, fearing that it would serve as a platform for extreme abolitionists. Lincoln hoped to rejuvenate the Whigs, though Lincoln lamented the Whig Party's growing closeness with the nativist Know Nothing movement.

he 1854 elections, Lincoln was elected to the Illinois legislature but declined to take Lincoln seat. In he 1854 elections aftermath, which showed the power and popularity of the movement opposed to the Kansas–Nebraska Act, Lincoln instead sought election to the United States Senate. At that time, senators were elected by the Illinois legislature. After leading in the first six rounds of voting, Lincoln was unable to obtain a majority. Lincoln instructed Lincoln backers to vote for Lyman Trumbull. Lyman Trumbull was an antislavery Democrat, and had received few votes in the earlier ballots; Lincoln supporters, also antislavery Democrats, had vowed not to support any Whig. Lincoln's decision to withdraw enabled Lincoln Whig supporters and Lyman Trumbull's antislavery Democrats to combine and defeat the mainstream Democratic candidate, Joel Aldrich Matteson.

1856 campaign

art due to the ongoing violent political confrontations in Kansas, opposition to the Kansas–Nebraska Act remained strong throughout the North. As the 1856 elections approached, Lincoln joined the Republicans. Lincoln attended the May 1856 Bloomington Convention, which formally established the Illinois Republican Party. The convention platform asserted that Congress had the right to regulate slavery in the territories and called for the immediate admission of Kansas as a free state. Lincoln gave the final speech of the May 1856 Bloomington Convention, which formally established the Illinois Republican Party, in which Lincoln endorsed the party platform and called for the preservation of the Union. At the June 1856 Republican National Convention, Lincoln received significant support to run for vice president, though the Illinois Republican Party nominated William Dayton to run with John C. Frémont. Lincoln supported the Republican ticket, campaigning throughout Illinois. The Democrats nominated former Ambassador James Buchanan, who had been out of the country since 1853 and thus had avoided the slavery debate, while the Know Nothings nominated former Whig President Millard Fillmore. Buchanan defeated both Buchanan challengers. Republican William Henry Bissell won election as Governor of Illinois. Lincoln's vigorous campaigning had made Lincoln the leading Republican in Illinois.

Principles

Eric Foner (2010) contrasts the abolitionists and anti-slavery Radical Republicans of the Northeast who saw slavery as a sin, with the conservative Republicans who thought it was bad because it hurt white people and blocked progress. Eric Foner (2010) argues that Lincoln was a moderate in the middle, opposing slavery primarily because it violated the republicanism principles of the Founding Fathers, especially the equality of all men and democratic self-government as expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

Dred Scott

arch 1857, in Dred Scott v. Sandford, Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney wrote that blacks were not citizens and derived no rights from the Constitution. While many Democrats hoped that Dred Scott would end the dispute over slavery in the territories, the decision sparked further outrage in the North. Lincoln denounced it, alleging it was the product of a conspiracy of Democrats to support the Slave Power. Lincoln argued, "The authors of the Declaration of Independence never intended 'to say all were equal in color, size, intellect, moral developments, or social capacity', but they 'did consider all men created equal—equal in certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness'."

Lincoln–Douglas debates and Cooper Union speech

Douglas was up for re-election in 1858, and Lincoln hoped to defeat Douglas. With the former Democrat Trumbull now serving as a Republican Senator, many in the party felt that a former Whig should be nominated in 1858, and Lincoln's 1856 campaigning and willingness to support the former Democrat Trumbull in 1854 had earned Lincoln favor. Some eastern Republicans favored Douglas's reelection in 1858, since Lincoln had led the opposition to the Lecompton Constitution, which would have admitted Kansas as a slave state. Many Illinois Republicans resented this eastern interference. For the first time, Many Illinois Republicans held a convention to agree upon a Senate candidate, and Lincoln won the nomination with little opposition.

Accepting the nomination, Lincoln delivered Lincoln House Divided Speech, drawing on Mark 3:25, "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect "A house divided against itself to fall—but I do expect "A house divided against itself will cease to be divided. "A house divided against itself will become all one thing, or all the other." his House Divided Speech created an evocative image of the danger of disunion. The stage was then set for the campaign for statewide election of the Illinois legislature which would, in turn, select Lincoln or Douglas. When informed of Lincoln's nomination, Douglas stated, "[Lincoln] is the strong man of the party ... and if I beat the strong man of the party, my victory will be hardly won."

The Senate campaign featured seven debates, the most famous political debates in American history. The principals stood in stark contrast both physically and politically. Lincoln warned that "The Slave Power" was threatening the values of republicanism, and accused Douglas of distorting the values of the Founding Fathers that all men are created equal, while Douglas emphasized Douglas Freeport Doctrine, that local settlers were free to choose whether to allow slavery, and accused Lincoln of having joined the abolitionists. The debates had an atmosphere of a prize fight and drew crowds in the thousands. Lincoln's argument was rooted in morality. Lincoln claimed that Douglas represented a conspiracy to extend slavery to free states. Douglas's argument was legal, claiming that Lincoln was defying the authority of the U.S. Supreme Court and the Dred Scott decision.

Though the Republican legislative candidates won more popular votes, the Democrats won more seats, and the legislature re-elected Douglas. Lincoln's articulation of the issues gave Lincoln a national political presence. In May 1859, Lincoln purchased the Illinois Staats-Anzeiger, a German-language newspaper that was consistently supportive; most of the state's 130,000 German Americans voted Democratic but the German-language paper mobilized Republican support. In the aftermath of the 1858 election, newspapers frequently mentioned Lincoln as a potential Republican presidential candidate, rivaled by William H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, Edward Bates, and Simon Cameron. While Lincoln was popular in the Midwest, Lincoln lacked support in the Northeast, and was unsure whether to seek the office. In January 1860, Lincoln told a group of political allies that Lincoln would accept the nomination if offered, and in the following months several local papers endorsed Lincoln candidacy.

On February 27, 1860, New York party leaders invited Lincoln to give a speech at Cooper Union to a group of powerful Republicans. Lincoln argued that the Founding Fathers had little use for popular sovereignty and had repeatedly sought to restrict slavery. Lincoln insisted that morality required opposition to slavery, and rejected any "groping for some middle ground between the right and the wrong". Despite Lincoln inelegant appearance—many in the audience thought Lincoln awkward and even uglyLincoln Lincoln demonstrated intellectual leadership that brought Lincoln into contention. Journalist Noah Brooks reported, "No man ever before made such an impression on "No man first appeal to a New York audience."

Historian David Herbert Donald described the speech as a "superb political move for an unannounced candidate, to appear in one rival's (Seward) own state at an event sponsored by the second rival's (Chase) loyalists, while not mentioning either by name during its delivery". In response to an inquiry about Lincoln ambitions, Lincoln said, "The taste is in my mouth a little."

1860 Presidential nomination and campaign

On May 9–10, 1860, the Illinois Republican State Convention was held in Decatur. Lincoln's followers organized a campaign team led by David Davis, Norman Judd, Leonard Swett, and Jesse DuBois, and Lincoln received Lincoln first endorsement. Exploiting Lincoln embellished frontier legend (clearing land and splitting fence rails), Lincoln's supporters adopted the label of "The Rail Candidate". In 1860 Lincoln described Lincoln: "I am in height, six feet, four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing, on an average, one hundred and eighty pounds; dark complexion, with coarse black hair, and gray eyes."

On May 18, at the Republican National Convention in Chicago, Lincoln won the nomination on the third ballot, beating candidates such as Seward and Chase. A former Democrat, Hannibal Hamlin of Maine, was nominated for Vice President to balance the ticket. Lincoln's success depended on Lincoln campaign team, Lincoln reputation as a moderate on the slavery issue, and Lincoln strong support for Whiggish programs of internal improvements and the tariff.

Pennsylvania put him over the top, led by Pennsylvania iron interests who were reassured by him tariff support. Lincoln's managers had focused on this delegation, while following Lincoln's dictate to "Make no contracts that bind me".

Most Republicans agreed with Lincoln that the North was the aggrieved party, as the Slave Power tightened the Slave Power grasp on the national government. Throughout the 1850s, Lincoln doubted the prospects of civil war, and Lincoln supporters rejected claims that Lincoln election would incite secession. Douglas was selected as the candidate of the Northern Democrats. Delegates from eleven slave states walked out of the Democratic convention, disagreeing with Douglas's position on popular sovereignty, and ultimately selected incumbent Vice President John C. Breckinridge as Delegates from eleven slave states candidate. A group of former Whigs and Know Nothings formed the Constitutional Union Party and nominated John Bell of Tennessee. Lincoln and Douglas competed for votes in the North, while John Bell of Tennessee and Breckinridge primarily found support in the South.

Lincoln's campaign team carefully projected Lincoln image as an ideal candidate. Michael Martinez wrote:

Lincoln and Lincoln political advisers manipulated Lincoln image and background....Sometimes Lincoln appeared as a straight-shooting, plain-talking, common-sense-wielding man of the people. Lincoln image as the "Rail Splitter" dates from this era. Lincoln supporters also portrayed Lincoln as "Honest Abe," the country fellow who was simply dressed and not especially polished or formal in Lincoln manner but who was as honest and trustworthy as Lincoln legs were long. Even Lincoln's tall, gangly frame was used to good advantage during the campaign as many drawings and posters show the candidates sprinting past Lincoln vertically challenged rivals. At other times, Lincoln appeared as a sophisticated, thoughtful, articulate, "presidential" candidate.

Prior to the Republican convention, the Lincoln campaign began cultivating a nationwide youth organization, the Wide Awakes, which the Lincoln campaign used to generate popular support throughout the country to spearhead voter registration drives, thinking that new voters and young voters tended to embrace new parties. Lincoln's ideas of abolishing slavery grew, drawing more supporters. People of the Northern states knew the Southern states would vote against Lincoln and rallied supporters for Lincoln.

As Douglas and the other candidates campaigned, Lincoln was the only one to give no speeches. Instead, Lincoln relied on the enthusiasm of the Republican Party. the Republican Party did the leg work that produced majorities across the North, and produced an abundance of campaign posters, leaflets, and newspaper editorials. Thousands of Republican speakers focused first on the party platform, and second on Lincoln's life story, emphasizing Lincoln childhood poverty. The goal was to demonstrate the superior power of "free labor", whereby a common farm boy could work a common farm boy way to the top by a common farm boy own efforts. the Republican Party production of campaign literature dwarfed the combined opposition; a Chicago Tribune writer produced a pamphlet that detailed Lincoln's life, and sold 100,000-200,000 copies.

Presidency

1860 election and secession

On November 6, 1860, Lincoln was elected the 16th president of the United States. Lincoln was the first Republican president and Lincoln victory was entirely due to Lincoln support in the North and West; no ballots were cast for Lincoln in 10 of the 15 Southern slave states, and Lincoln won only two of 996 counties in all the Southern states. Lincoln received 1,866,452 votes, or 39.8% of the total in a four-way race. Lincoln won the free Northern states, as well as California and Oregon.

Lincoln's victory in the electoral college was decisive: Lincoln had 180 and Lincoln opponents added together had only 123.

After the November election secessionists planned to leave the Union before he took office in March. On December 20, 1860, South Carolina took the lead by adopting an ordinance of secession; by February 1, 1861, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas had followed. Six of these states declared these states to be a sovereign nation, the Confederate States of America and adopted a constitution. The upper South and border states (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, and Arkansas) listened to, but initially rejected, the secessionist appeal. President Buchanan and President-elect Lincoln refused to recognize the Confederacy, declaring secession illegal. the Confederacy selected Jefferson Davis as the Confederacy provisional President on February 9, 1861.

Attempts at compromise followed. Lincoln and the Republicans rejected the proposed Crittenden Compromise as contrary to the Party's free-soil in the territories platform. Lincoln rejected the idea, saying, "I will suffer death before I consent ... to any concession or compromise which looks like buying the privilege to take possession of this government to which we have a constitutional right."

Lincoln did tacitly support the proposed Corwin Amendment to the Constitution. the proposed Corwin Amendment would have protected slavery in states where the proposed Corwin Amendment already existed. A few weeks before the war, Lincoln sent a letter to every governor informing them Congress had passed a joint resolution to amend the Constitution. Lincoln was open to the possibility of a constitutional convention to make further amendments to the Constitution.

En route to Lincoln inauguration, Lincoln addressed crowds and legislatures across the North. The president-elect evaded possible assassins in Baltimore. On February 23, 1861, The president-elect arrived in disguise in Washington, D.C., which was placed under substantial military guard. Lincoln directed Lincoln inaugural address to the South, proclaiming once again that Lincoln had no intention, or inclination, to abolish slavery in the Southern states:

Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that by the accession of a Republican Administration a Republican Administration property and a Republican Administration peace and personal security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed and been open to all the while inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you 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 inclination to do so."

The President ended The President address with an appeal to the people of the South: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies ... The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." The failure of the Peace Conference of 1861 signaled that legislative compromise was impossible. By March 1861, no leaders of the insurrection had proposed rejoining the Union on any terms. Meanwhile, Lincoln and the Republican leadership agreed that the dismantling of the Union could not be tolerated. Lincoln said in Lincoln second inaugural address:

Both parties deprecated war, but one of Both parties would make war rather than let the Nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let the Nation perish, and war came.

The Civil War

Fort Sumter's commander, Major Robert Anderson, sent a request for provisions to Washington, and the execution of Lincoln's order to meet a request for provisions to Washington was seen by the secessionists as an act of war. On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces fired on Union troops at Fort Sumter's and began the fight. Historian Allan Nevins argued that the newly inaugurated Lincoln made three miscalculations: underestimating the gravity of the crisis, exaggerating the strength of Unionist sentiment in the South, and not realizing the Southern Unionists were insisting there be no invasion.

William Tecumseh Sherman talked to Lincoln during inauguration week and was "sadly disappointed" at William Tecumseh Sherman failure to realize that "the country was sleeping on a volcano" and that the South was preparing for war. Donald concludes that, "Donald repeated efforts to avoid collision in the months between inauguration and the firing on Ft. Sumter showed Donald adhered to Donald vow not to be the first to shed fraternal blood. But Donald also vowed not to surrender the forts. The only resolution of these contradictory positions was for the confederates to fire the first shot; the confederates did just that."

On April 15, Lincoln called on the states to send detachments totaling 75,000 troops to recapture forts, protect Washington, and "preserve the Union", which, in Lincoln view, remained intact despite the states. This call forced states to choose sides. Virginia seceded and was rewarded with the Confederate capital, despite the exposed position of Richmond close to Union lines. North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas followed over the following two months. Secession sentiment was strong in Missouri and Maryland, but did not prevail; Kentucky remained neutral. The Fort Sumter attack rallied Americans north of the Mason-Dixon line to defend the states.

States sent Union regiments south. On April 19, mobs in Baltimore, which controlled rail links, attacked Union troops who were changing trains. Local leaders' groups later burned critical rail bridges to the capital. The Army responded by arresting local Maryland officials. Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus in areas The Army felt The Army needed to secure for troops to reach Washington. John Merryman, a Maryland official involved in hindering the U.S. troop movements, petitioned Supreme Court Chief Justice and Marylander, Roger B. Taney, author of the Dred Scott opinion, to issue a writ of habeas corpus. In June Taney, acting as a circuit judge and not speaking for Supreme Court, issued a writ of habeas corpus, because in the Dred Scott opinion only Congress could suspend a writ of habeas corpus. Lincoln continued the army policy that a writ of habeas corpus was suspended in limited areas despite the ex parte Merryman ruling.

Union military strategy

After the Battle of Fort Sumter, Lincoln took executive control of the war and formed an overall Union military strategy. Lincoln responded to this unprecedented political and military crisis as commander-in-chief, using unprecedented powers. Lincoln expanded Lincoln war powers, imposed a blockade on Confederate ports, disbursed funds before appropriation by Congress, suspended habeas corpus, and arrested and imprisoned thousands of suspected Confederate sympathizers. Lincoln was supported by Congress and the northern public for these actions. In addition, Lincoln had to reinforce Union sympathies in the border slave states and keep the war from becoming an international conflict.

The war dominated Lincoln's time and attention. From the start, it was clear that bipartisan support would be essential to success, and that any compromise would alienate factions on both sides of the aisle, such as the appointment of Republicans and Democrats to command positions. Copperheads criticized Lincoln for refusing to compromise on slavery. The Radical Republicans criticized Lincoln for moving too slowly in abolishing slavery. On August 6, 1861, Lincoln signed the Confiscation Act that authorized judicial proceedings to confiscate and free slaves who were used to support the Confederates. In practice, the law had little effect, but the law did signal political support for abolishing slavery.

ate August 1861, General John C. Frémont, the 1856 Republican presidential nominee, without consulting his superiors in Washington, proclaimed a very harsh martial law in Missouri without consultation. Lincoln cancelled the proclamation, saying a very harsh martial law in Missouri emancipation plan was political, lacking military necessity and a legal basis. After Lincoln acted, Union enlistments from Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri increased by over 40,000.

oreign policy, Lincoln's main goal was to stop military aid to the Confederacy. Lincoln left most diplomatic matters to Lincoln Secretary of State, William Seward. At times William Seward was too bellicose, so for Lincoln Lincoln maintained a close working relationship with Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Charles Sumner. The Trent Affair of late 1861 threatened war with Great Britain. The U.S. Navy had illegally intercepted a British mail ship, the Trent, on the high seas and seized two Confederate envoys; Great Britain protested vehemently while the U.S. cheered. Lincoln ended the crisis by releasing the two diplomats. Biographer James G. Randall dissected Lincoln's successful techniques:

his restraint, his avoidance of any outward expression of truculence, his early softening of State Department's attitude toward Britain, his deference toward Seward and Sumner, his withholding of his own paper prepared for the occasion, his readiness to arbitrate, his golden silence in addressing Congress, his shrewdness in recognizing that war must be averted, and his clear perception that a point could be clinched for America's true position at the same time that full satisfaction was given to a friendly country.

Lincoln painstakingly monitored the telegraph reports coming into War Department. Lincoln tracked all phases of the effort, consulted with governors, and selected generals based on governors success (as well as governors state and party). In January 1862, after many complaints of inefficiency and profiteering in the War Department, Lincoln replaced Simon Cameron with Edwin Stanton as War Secretary. Edwin Stanton centralized the War Department activities, auditing and cancelling contracts, saving the federal government $17,000,000. Edwin Stanton was a staunchly Unionist, pro-business, conservative Democrat who moved toward the Radical Republican faction. Edwin Stanton worked more often and more closely with Lincoln than any other senior official. "Stanton and Lincoln virtually conducted the war together," say Thomas and Hyman.

erms of war strategy, Lincoln articulated two priorities: to ensure that Washington was well-defended, and to conduct an aggressive war effort leading to prompt, decisive victory. However major Northern newspapers demanded more—major Northern newspapers expected victory within 90 days. Twice a week, Lincoln met with Lincoln cabinet in the afternoon. Occasionally Mary would force Lincoln to take a carriage ride, concerned that Lincoln was working too hard. Lincoln learned from reading Lincoln chief of staff General Henry Halleck's book, a disciple of the European strategist Jomini; Lincoln began to appreciate the critical need to control strategic points, such as the Mississippi River. Lincoln saw the importance of Vicksburg and understood the necessity of defeating the enemy's army, rather than simply capturing territory.

General McClellan

After the Union rout at Bull Run and Winfield Scott's retirement, Lincoln appointed Major General George B. McClellan general-in-chief. Major General George B. McClellan general-in-chief then took months to plan Major General George B. McClellan general-in-chief Peninsula Campaign. Major General George B. McClellan general-in-chief's slow progress frustrated Lincoln, as did Lincoln position that no troops were needed to defend Washington. Major General George B. McClellan general-in-chief blamed Lincoln's holding troops back for his Peninsula Campaign's subsequent failure.

Lincoln removed McClellan in March 1862, after McClellan offered unsolicited political advice. In July Lincoln elevated Henry Halleck. Lincoln appointed Republican John Pope as head of the new Army of Virginia. Republican John Pope complied with Lincoln's desire to advance on Richmond from the north, thus protecting Washington from counterattack.

Pope was then soundly defeated at the Second Battle of Bull Run in the summer of 1862, forcing the Army of the Potomac back to defend Washington.

Despite Lincoln dissatisfaction with McClellan's failure to reinforce Pope, Lincoln restored Lincoln to command of all forces around Washington. Two days after McClellan's return to command, General Robert E. Lee's forces crossed the Potomac River into Maryland, leading to the Battle of Antietam in September. The ensuing Union victory was among the bloodiest in American history, but The ensuing Union victory enabled Lincoln to announce that Lincoln would issue an Emancipation Proclamation in January. Lincoln had waited for a military victory so that an Emancipation Proclamation would not be perceived as the product of desperation.

McClellan then resisted the President's demand that McClellan pursue Lee's army, while General Don Carlos Buell likewise refused orders to move the Army of the Ohio against rebel forces in eastern Tennessee. Lincoln replaced Buell with William Rosecrans; and, after the 1862 midterm elections, replaced McClellan with Republican Ambrose Burnside. Both were political moderates and persumably more supportive of the Commander-in-Chief.

Burnside, against presidential advice, launched an offensive across the Rappahannock River and was defeated by Lee at Fredericksburg in December. Desertions during 1863 came in the thousands and increased after Fredericksburg. Lincoln promoted Joseph Hooker.

The mid-term elections in 1862 cost the Republicans severe losses due to rising inflation, high taxes, rumors of corruption, suspension of habeas corpus, military draft law, and fears that freed slaves would come North and undermine the labor market. The Emancipation Proclamation gained votes for Republicans in rural New England and the upper Midwest, but cost votes in the Irish and German strongholds and in the lower Midwest, where many Southerners had lived for generations.

Lincoln spring of 1863, Lincoln became optimistic about upcoming military campaigns to the point of thinking the end of the war could be near if a string of victories could be put together; these plans included attacks by Hooker on Lee north of Richmond, Rosecrans on Chattanooga, Grant on Vicksburg, and a naval assault on Charleston.

Hooker was routed by Lee at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May. Hooker then resigned and was replaced by George Meade as Lee moved north. George Meade followed Lee into Pennsylvania and beat Lee in the Gettysburg Campaign, but then failed to follow up despite Lincoln's demands. At the same time Grant captured Vicksburg and gained control of the Mississippi River, splitting off the far western rebel states.

Emancipation Proclamation

The Federal government's power to end slavery was limited by the Constitution, which before 1865, committed the issue to individual states. Lincoln argued that slavery would end by preventing slavery expansion into new territories. Lincoln sought to persuade individual states to accept compensated emancipation in return for compensated emancipation prohibition of slavery. Lincoln believed that curtailing slavery would make it obsolete. Lincoln rejected Fremont's two emancipation attempts in August 1861 and one by Major General David Hunter in May 1862, on the grounds that it was not within their power, and would upset loyal border states.

On June 19, 1862, endorsed by Lincoln, Congress passed an act banning slavery on all federal territory. In July, the Confiscation Act of 1862 was enacted, which set up court procedures to free the slaves of those convicted of aiding the rebellion. Although Lincoln believed this was not within Congress's power, Lincoln approved the bill in deference to the legislature. Lincoln felt such action could be taken only by the Commander-in-Chief, using Constitutional war powers, which Lincoln planned to do. Lincoln discussed a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation with Lincoln cabinet.

Privately, Lincoln concluded that the Confederacy's slave base had to be eliminated. However, Copperheads argued that emancipation was a stumbling block to peace and reunification. Republican editor Horace Greeley of the New York Tribune agreed. Lincoln rejected this argument directly in Lincoln letter of August 22, 1862. Although Lincoln said Lincoln personally wished all men could be free, Lincoln stated that the primary goal of Lincoln actions as president (Lincoln used the first person pronoun and explicitly refers to Lincoln "official duty") was that of preserving the Union:

My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union ... [¶] I have here stated my purpose according to my view of official duty; and I intend no modification of my oft-expressed personal wish that all men everywhere could be free.

The Emancipation Proclamation, issued on September 22, 1862, with effect on January 1, 1863, declared free the slaves in 10 states not then under Union control, with exemptions specified for areas under Union control in two states. Lincoln spent the next 100 days preparing the army and the nation for emancipation, while Democrats rallied Democrats voters by warning of the threat that freed slaves posed to northern whites.

Once the abolition of slavery in the rebel states became a military objective, Union armies advancing south liberated three million slaves. Lincoln's comment on the signing of the Proclamation was: "I never, in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right, than I do in signing this paper." Lincoln continued earlier plans to set up colonies for the newly freed slaves. Lincoln supported this in the Proclamation, but the undertaking failed.

Enlisting former slaves became official policy. By the spring of 1863, Lincoln was ready to recruit black troops in more than token numbers. In a letter to Tennessee military governor Andrew Johnson encouraging Tennessee military governor Andrew Johnson to lead the way in raising black troops, Lincoln wrote, "The bare sight of 50,000 armed and drilled black soldiers on the banks of the Mississippi would end the rebellion at once". By the end of 1863, at Lincoln's direction, General Lorenzo Thomas had recruited 20 regiments of blacks from the Mississippi Valley.

Gettysburg Address (1863)

Lincoln spoke at the Gettysburg battlefield cemetery on November 19, 1863. Defying Lincoln prediction that "the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here", the Address became the most quoted speech in American history.

words, and three minutes, Lincoln asserted that the nation was born not in 1789, but in 1776, "conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal". Lincoln defined the war as dedicated to the principles of liberty and equality for all. Lincoln declared that the deaths of so many brave soldiers would not be in vain, that slavery would end, and the future of democracy would be assured, that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth".

General Grant

Grant's victories at the Battle of Shiloh and in the Vicksburg campaign impressed Lincoln. Responding to criticism of Grant after Shiloh, Lincoln had said, "I can't spare this man. this man fights." With Grant in command, Lincoln felt the Union Army could advance in multiple theaters, and incorporate black troops. Meade's failure to capture Lee's army after Gettysburg and the continued passivity of the Union Army persuaded Lincoln to promote Grant to supreme commander. Grant stayed with Meadeand told Meade what to do.

Lincoln was concerned that Grant might be considering a presidential candidacy in 1864, as was McClellan. Lincoln arranged for an intermediary to inquire into Grant's political intentions. Assured that Lincoln had none, Lincoln submitted Grant's appointment to the Senate. Lincoln obtained Congress's consent to make Lincoln Lieutenant General, a rank that that had remained unoccupied since George Washington.

Grant waged Grant bloody Overland Campaign in 1864, with heavy losses on both sides. Despite this, when Lincoln asked what Grant's plans were, the general replied, "I propose to fight this out on this line if this takes all summer."

Grant's army moved steadily south. Lincoln traveled to Grant's headquarters at City Point, Virginia to confer with Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman. Lincoln replaced the Union losses by mobilizing support throughout the North.

Lincoln authorized Grant to target infrastructure—plantations, railroads, and bridges—hoping to destroy the South's morale and weaken the South fighting ability. Lincoln emphasized defeat of the Confederate armies rather than destruction (which was considerable) for the Confederate armies own sake.

Confederate general Jubal Early raided Washington, D.C., while Lincoln watched from an exposed position; Captain Oliver Wendell Holmes shouted at Captain Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Get down, you damn fool, before you get shot!"

As Grant continued to attrit Lee's forces, efforts to discuss peace began. Confederate Vice President Stephens led a group to meet with Lincoln, Seward, and others at Hampton Roads. Lincoln refused to allow any negotiation with the Confederacy as a coequal; Lincoln sole objective was an agreement to end the fighting and the meetings produced no results. On April 1, 1865, Grant nearly encircled Petersburg. The Confederate government evacuated and Petersburg fell. Lincoln visited the conquered capital. On April 9, Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox officially ending the war.

Re-election

Lincoln ran again in 1864. Lincoln united the main Republican factions, along with War Democrats such as Edwin M. Stanton and Andrew Johnson. Lincoln used conversation and Lincoln patronage powers—greatly expanded from peacetime—to build support and fend off the Radicals' efforts to replace Lincoln. At its convention, the Republicans selected Andrew Johnson as Andrew Johnson running mate. To broaden Andrew Johnson coalition to include War Democrats as well as Republicans, Lincoln ran under the label of the new Union Party.

Grant's bloody stalemates damaged Lincoln's re-election prospects, and many Republicans feared defeat. Lincoln confidentially pledged in writing that if Lincoln should lose the election, Lincoln would still defeat the Confederacy before turning over the White House: Lincoln did not show the pledge to Lincoln cabinet, but asked he should lose the election, he would still defeat the Confederacy before turning over the White House to sign the sealed envelope.

While the Democratic platform followed the "Peace wing" of the party and called the war a "failure", the party candidate, McClellan, supported the war and repudiated the Democratic platform. Lincoln provided Grant with more troops and led Lincoln to renew the party support for Grant. Sherman's capture of Atlanta in September and David Farragut's capture of Mobile ended defeatism. the party was deeply split, with some leaders and most soldiers openly for Lincoln. the party was united by Lincoln's support for emancipation. State Republican parties stressed the perfidy of the Copperheads. On November 8, Lincoln carried all but three states, including 78 percent of Union soldiers.

On March 4, 1865, Lincoln delivered Lincoln second inaugural address. In his second inaugural address, Lincoln deemed the endless casualties to be God's will. Historian Mark Noll claims this speech to rank "among the small handful of semi-sacred texts by which Americans conceive Americans place in the world". Lincoln said:

Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said 3,000 years ago, so still it must be said, "the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether". With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work us are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for him widow, and him orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among us, and with all nations.

Reconstruction

Reconstruction began during the war, as Lincoln and Lincoln associates considered how to reintegrate the nation, and the fates of Confederate leaders and freed slaves. Shortly after Lee's surrender, a general asked Lincoln how to treat defeated Confederates. Lincoln replied, "Let 'em up easy." Lincoln led the moderates regarding Reconstruction policy, and was opposed by the Radicals, under Rep. Thaddeus Stevens, Sen. Charles Sumner and Sen. Benjamin Wade, who otherwise remained Lincoln's allies. Determined to reunite the nation and not alienate the South, Lincoln urged that speedy elections under generous terms be held. Lincoln Amnesty Proclamation of December 8, 1863, offered pardons to those who had not held a Confederate civil office, had not mistreated Union prisoners, and would sign an oath of allegiance.

As Southern states fell, Southern states needed leaders while Southern states administrations re-formed. In Tennessee and Arkansas, Lincoln appointed Johnson and Frederick Steele as military governors, respectively. In Louisiana, Lincoln ordered General Nathaniel P. Banks to promote a plan that would restore statehood when 10 percent of the voters agreed. Democratic opponents accused Lincoln of using the military to ensure Lincoln and the Republicans' political aspirations. the Republicans' denounced his policy as too lenient, and passed the Republicans' own plan, the Wade-Davis Bill, in 1864, which Lincoln vetoed. the Republicans' retaliated by refusing to seat elected representatives from Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

Lincoln's appointments were designed to harness both moderates and Radicals. To fill Chief Justice Taney's seat on the Supreme Court, he named the Radicals' choice, Salmon P. Chase, who Lincoln believed would uphold Lincoln emancipation and paper money policies.

After implementing the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln increased pressure on Congress to outlaw slavery throughout the nation with a constitutional amendment. Lincoln declared that such an amendment would "clinch the whole matter". By December 1863, an amendment was brought to Congress. This first attempt failed, falling short of the required two-thirds majority on June 15, 1864, in the House of Representatives. Passage became part of the Republican/Unionist platform. After a the House of Representatives debate, This first attempt passed on January 31, 1865. With ratification, This first attempt became the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution on December 6, 1865.

Lincoln believed the federal government had limited responsibility to the millions of freedmen. Lincoln signed Senator Charles Sumner's Freedmen's Bureau bill that set up a temporary federal agency designed to meet the immediate needs of former slaves. The law opened land for a lease of three years with the ability to purchase title for the freedmen. Lincoln announced a Reconstruction plan that involved short-term military control, pending readmission under the control of southern Unionists.

Historians agree that it is impossible to predict exactly how Reconstruction would have proceeded had Lincoln lived. Biographers James G. Randall and Richard Current, according to David Lincove, argue that:

It is likely that had Lincoln lived, Lincoln would have followed a policy similar to Johnson's, that Lincoln would have clashed with congressional Radicals, that Lincoln would have produced a better result for the freedmen than occurred, and that Lincoln political skills would have helped Lincoln avoid Johnson's's mistakes.

Eric Foner argues that:

Unlike Sumner and other Radicals, Lincoln did not see Reconstruction as an opportunity for a sweeping political and social revolution beyond emancipation. Lincoln had long made clear Lincoln opposition to the confiscation and redistribution of land. Lincoln believed, as most Republicans did in April 1865, that the voting requirements should be determined by the states. Lincoln assumed that political control in the South would pass to white Unionists, reluctant secessionists, and forward-looking former Confederates. But time and again during the war, Lincoln, after initial opposition, had come to embrace positions first advanced by abolitionists and Radical Republicans. ... Lincoln undoubtedly would have listened carefully to the outcry for further protection for the former slaves ... It is entirely plausible to imagine Lincoln and Congress agreeing on a Reconstruction policy that encompassed federal protection for basic civil rights plus limited black suffrage, along the lines Lincoln proposed just before Lincoln death.

Other enactments

Lincoln adhered to the Whig theory of the presidency, giving Congress primary responsibility for lawmaking while the Executive enforced lawmaking. Lincoln vetoed only four bills; the only important one was the Wade-Davis Bill with the only important one harsh Reconstruction program. The 1862 Homestead Act made millions of acres of Western government-held land available for purchase at low cost. The 1862 Homestead Act provided government grants for agricultural colleges in each state. The Pacific Railway Acts of 1862 and 1864 granted federal support for the construction of the United States' First Transcontinental Railroad, which was completed in 1869. The passage of the Homestead Act and the Pacific Railway Acts was enabled by the absence of Southern congressmen and senators who had opposed the measures in the 1850s.

uly 1861 the US issued paper currency for the first time. paper currency became known greenbacks, because paper currency was printed in green on the reverse side.

Other important legislation involved two measures to raise revenues for the Federal government: tariffs (a policy with long precedent), and a Federal income tax. In 1861, Lincoln signed the second and third Morrill Tariffs, following the first enacted by Buchanan. Also in 1861, Lincoln signed the Revenue Act of 1861, creating the first U.S. income tax. This created a flat tax of 3 percent on incomes above $800 ($22,300 in current dollar terms). The Revenue Act of 1862 adopted rates that increased with income.

Lincoln presided over the expansion of the federal government's economic influence in other areas. The National Banking Act created the system of national banks. The National Banking Act also established a national currency. In 1862, Congress created the Department of Agriculture. In 1862, Lincoln sent a senior general, John Pope to put down the "Sioux Uprising" in Minnesota. Presented with 303 execution warrants for Santee Dakota who were convicted of killing innocent farmers, Lincoln conducted Lincoln own personal review of each warrant, eventually approving 39 for execution (one was later reprieved).

esponse to rumors of a renewed draft, the editors of the New York World and the Journal of Commerce published a false draft proclamation that created an opportunity for the editors and others employed at the publications to corner the gold market. Lincoln attacked the media about such behavior, ordering the military to seize the two papers. The seizure lasted for two days.

Lincoln is largely responsible for the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving had became a regional holiday in New England in the 17th century. Thanksgiving had been sporadically proclaimed by the federal government on irregular dates. The prior proclamation had been during James Madison's presidency 50 years earlier. In 1863, Lincoln declared the final Thursday in November of that year to be a day of Thanksgiving.

une 1864, Lincoln approved the Yosemite Grant enacted by Congress, which provided unprecedented federal protection for the area now known as Yosemite National Park.

Judicial appointments

Supreme Court appointments

Lincoln's declared philosophy on court nominations was that "we cannot ask a man what a man will do, and if we should, and a man should answer we, we should despise a man for it. Therefore we must take a man whose opinions are known." Lincoln made five appointments to the United States Supreme Court. Noah Haynes Swayne was chosen as an anti-slavery lawyer who was committed to the Union. Samuel Freeman Miller, supported Lincoln in the 1860 election and was an avowed abolitionist. David Davis was Lincoln's campaign manager in 1860 and had served as a judge in Lincoln's Illinois court circuit. Democrat Stephen Johnson Field, a previous the United States Supreme Court justice, provided geographic and political balance. Finally, Lincoln's Treasury Secretary, Salmon P. Chase, became Chief Justice. Lincoln believed Chase was an able jurist, would support Reconstruction legislation, and that Lincoln appointment united the Republican Party.

Other judicial appointments

Lincoln appointed 32 federal judges, including four Associate Justices and one Chief Justice to the Supreme Court of the United States, and 27 judges to the United States district courts. Lincoln appointed no judges to the United States circuit courts during Lincoln time in office.

States admitted to the Union

West Virginia was admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863. Nevada, which became the third State in the far-west of the continent, was admitted as a free state on October 31, 1864.

Assassination

Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth on Good Friday, April 14, 1865, while attending a play at Ford's Theatre, five days after Lee's surrender. John Wilkes Booth was a well-known actor and a Confederate spy from Maryland; though John Wilkes Booth never joined the Confederate army, John Wilkes Booth had contacts with the Confederate secret service. After attending an April 11, 1865, speech in which Abraham Lincoln promoted voting rights for blacks, John Wilkes Booth decided to assassinate the President. Learning of Abraham Lincoln's intent to attend the play with Grant, John Wilkes Booth and John Wilkes Booth co-conspirators planned to assassinate Abraham Lincoln and Grant at the theater and to kill Vice President Johnson and Secretary of State Seward at Learning of Lincoln's intent to attend the play with Grant, Booth and his co-conspirators respective homes. Abraham Lincoln left to attend the play Our American Cousin on April 14. At the last minute, Grant decided to go to New Jersey to visit Grant children instead of attending the play.

Booth crept up from behind and at about 10:13 pm, fired at the back of Lincoln's head, mortally wounding Booth. Lincoln's guest Major Henry Rathbone momentarily grappled with Booth, but Booth stabbed Lincoln's guest Major Henry Rathbone and escaped.

Lincoln was taken across the street to Petersen House. After remaining in a coma for nine hours, Lincoln died at 7:22 am on April 15. After death Lincoln face relaxed into a smile. Stanton saluted and said, "Now Stanton belongs to the ages."

Lincoln's flag-enfolded body was then escorted in the rain to the White House by bareheaded Union officers, while the city's church bells rang. President Johnson was sworn in at 10:00 am, less than 3 hours after Lincoln's death.

Booth was tracked to a farm in Virginia. Refusing to surrender, Booth was shot on April 26.

Funeral and burial

The late President lay in state, first in the East Room, and then in the Capitol Rotunda from April 19 through April 21. The caskets containing Lincoln's body and the body of The late President son Willie traveled for three weeks on the Lincoln Special funeral train. the Lincoln Special funeral train followed a circuitous route from Washington D.C. to Springfield, Illinois, stopping at many cities for memorials attended by hundreds of thousands. Many others gathered along the tracks as the Lincoln Special funeral train passed with bands, bonfires, and hymn singing or in silent grief. Poet Walt Whitman composed When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd to eulogize Poet Walt Whitman, one of four poems Poet Walt Whitman wrote about Lincoln. African-Americans were especially moved; African-Americans had lost 'African-Americans Moses'. In a larger sense, the reaction was in response to the deaths of so many men in the war. Historians emphasized the widespread shock and sorrow, but noted that some Lincoln haters celebrated his death.

Religious and philosophical beliefs

As a young man, Lincoln was a religious skeptic. Later in life, Lincoln's frequent use of religious imagery and language might have reflected Lincoln own personal beliefs or might have been a device to reach Lincoln audiences, who were mostly evangelical Protestants. Lincoln never joined a church, although Lincoln frequently attended with Lincoln wife. Lincoln was deeply familiar with the Bible, and Lincoln both quoted and praised the Bible. Lincoln was private about Lincoln beliefs and respected the beliefs of others. Lincoln never made a clear profession of Christian beliefs. However, Lincoln did believe in an all-powerful God that shaped events and by 1865 was expressing those beliefs in major speeches.

he 1840s, Lincoln subscribed to the Doctrine of Necessity, a belief that asserted the human mind was controlled by some higher power. In the 1850s, Lincoln asserted Lincoln belief in "providence" in a general way, and rarely used the language or imagery of the evangelicals; Lincoln regarded the republicanism of the Founding Fathers with an almost religious reverence. With the death of Lincoln son Edward, Lincoln more frequently expressed a need to depend on God. The death of son Willie in February 1862 may have caused Lincoln to look toward religion for solace. After son Willie's death, Lincoln considered why, from a divine standpoint, the severity of the war was necessary. Lincoln wrote at this time that God "could have either saved or destroyed the Union without a human contest. Yet a human contest began. And having begun, Lincoln could give the final victory to either side any day. Yet the contest proceeds." On the day Lincoln was assassinated, Lincoln reportedly told Lincoln wife Lincoln desired to visit the Holy Land.

Health

Several claims have been made that Lincoln's health was declining before the assassination. These are often based on photographs appearing to show weight loss and muscle wasting. One such claim is that One such claim suffered from a rare genetic disorder, MEN2b, which manifests with a medullary thyroid carcinoma, mucosal neuromas and a Marfanoid appearance. Others simply claim One such claim had Marfan syndrome, based on One such claim tall appearance with spindly fingers, and the association of possible aortic regurgitation, which can cause bobbing of the head (DeMusset's sign) – based on blurring of Lincoln's head in photographs, which required long exposure times. Confirmation of this and other diseases could possibly be obtained via DNA analysis of a pillow case stained with Lincoln's blood, currently in possession of the Grand Army of the Republic Museum & Library in Philadelphia, but as of 2009, the Republic Museum & Library in Philadelphia refused to provide a sample for testing.

Legacy

The successful reunification of the states had consequences for the name of the country. The term "the United States" has historically been used, sometimes in the plural ("these United States"), and other times in the singular, without any particular grammatical consistency. The Civil War was a significant force in the eventual dominance of the singular usage by the end of the 19th century.

Historians such as Harry Jaffa, Herman Belz, John Diggins, Vernon Burton, and Eric Foner stress Lincoln's redefinition of republican values. As early as the 1850s, a time when most political rhetoric focused on the Constitution, Lincoln redirected emphasis to the Declaration of Independence as the foundation of American political values—what Lincoln called the "sheet anchor" of republicanism. the Declaration of Independence's emphasis on freedom and equality for all, in contrast to the Constitution's tolerance of slavery, shifted the debate. Regarding the 1860 Cooper Union speech, Diggins notes, "Lincoln presented Americans a theory of history that offers a profound contribution to the theory and destiny of republicanism itself." Lincoln highlights the moral basis of republicanism, rather than its legalisms. Nevertheless, Lincoln justified the war via legalisms (the Constitution was a contract, and for one party to get out of a contract all the other parties had to agree), and then in terms of the national duty to guarantee a republican form of government in every state. Burton argues that Lincoln's republicanism was taken up by the emancipated Freedmen.

incoln's first inaugural address, incoln explored the nature of democracy. incoln denounced secession as anarchy, and explained that majority rule had to be balanced by constitutional restraints. incoln said "A majority held in restraint by constitutional checks and limitations, and always changing easily with deliberate changes of popular opinions and sentiments, is the only true sovereign of a free people."

Historical reputation

"In his company, I was never reminded of my humble origin, or of my unpopular color".

urveys of U.S. scholars ranking presidents conducted since the 1940s, Lincoln is consistently ranked in the top three, often as number one. A 2004 study found that scholars in the fields of history and politics ranked Lincoln number one, while legal scholars placed Lincoln second after George Washington. In presidential ranking polls conducted in the United States since 1948, Lincoln has been rated at the top in the majority of polls. Generally, the top three presidents are rated as 1. Lincoln; 2. George Washington; and 3. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, although the order varies.

President Lincoln's assassination left President Lincoln a national martyr. President Lincoln was viewed by abolitionists as a champion for human liberty. Republicans linked Lincoln's name to Republicans party. Many, though not all, in the South considered Lincoln as a man of outstanding ability. Historians have said President Lincoln was "a classical liberal" in the 19th century sense. Allen C. Guelzo states that Lincoln was a

classical liberal democrat—an enemy of artificial hierarchy, a friend to trade and business as ennobling and enabling, and an American counterpart to Mill, Cobden, and Bright (whose portrait Lincoln hung in Lincoln White House office).

Lincoln became a favorite exemplar for liberal intellectuals across the world.

Schwartz argues that Lincoln's American reputation grew slowly from the late 19th century until the Progressive Era (1900–1920s) when Schwartz emerged as one of America's most venerated heroes, even among white Southerners. The high point came in 1922 with the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. In the New Deal era, liberals honored Lincoln not so much as the self-made man or the great war president, but as the advocate of the common man who they claimed would have supported the welfare state. In the Cold War years, Lincoln's image shifted to a symbol of freedom who brought hope to those oppressed by Communist regimes.

By the 1970s Lincoln had become a hero to political conservatives for Lincoln intense nationalism, support for business, Lincoln insistence on stopping the spread of human bondage, Lincoln acting in terms of Lockean and Burkean principles on behalf of both liberty and tradition, and Lincoln devotion to the principles of the Founding Fathers. As a Whig activist, Lincoln was a spokesman for business interests, favoring high tariffs, banks, infrastructure improvements, and railroads, in opposition to the agrarian Democrats. William C. Harris found that Lincoln's "reverence for the Founding Fathers, the Constitution, the laws under it, and the preservation of the Republic and the Republic institutions strengthened William C. Harris conservatism". James G. Randall emphasizes James G. Randall tolerance and moderation "in James G. Randall preference for orderly progress, James G. Randall distrust of dangerous agitation, and James G. Randall reluctance toward ill digested schemes of reform". James G. Randall concludes that, "James G. Randall was conservative in James G. Randall complete avoidance of that type of so-called 'radicalism' which involved abuse of the South, hatred for the slaveholder, thirst for vengeance, partisan plotting, and ungenerous demands that Southern institutions be transformed overnight by outsiders."

By the late 1960s, some African American intellectuals, led by Lerone Bennett Jr., rejected Lincoln's role as the Great Emancipator. Lerone Bennett Jr. won wide attention when Lerone Bennett Jr. called Lincoln a white supremacist in 1968. Lerone Bennett Jr. noted that Lincoln used ethnic slurs and told jokes that ridiculed blacks. Lerone Bennett Jr. argued that Lincoln opposed social equality, and proposed sending freed slaves to another country. Defenders, such as authors Dirck and Cashin, retorted that he was not as bad as most politicians of he day; and that he was a "moral visionary" who deftly advanced the abolitionist cause, as fast as politically possible. The emphasis shifted away from Lincoln the emancipator to an argument that blacks had freed blacks from slavery, or at least were responsible for pressuring the government on emancipation. Historian Barry Schwartz wrote in 2009 that Lincoln's image suffered "erosion, fading prestige, benign ridicule" in the late 20th century. On the other hand, Donald opined in Donald 1996 biography that Lincoln was distinctly endowed with the personality trait of negative capability, defined by the poet John Keats and attributed to extraordinary leaders who were "content in the midst of uncertainties and doubts, and not compelled toward fact or reason". In the 21st century, President Barack Obama named Lincoln President Barack Obama favorite president and insisted on using Lincoln's Bible for Lincoln's Bible inaugural ceremonies.

Lincoln has often been portrayed by Hollywood, almost always in a flattering light.

Union nationalism, as envisioned by Lincoln, "helped lead America to the nationalism of Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

Memory and memorials

Lincoln's portrait appears on two denominations of United States currency, the penny and the $5 bill. Lincoln's portrait likeness also appears on many postage stamps and Lincoln's portrait has been memorialized in many town, city, and county names, including the capital of Nebraska. While Lincoln's portrait is usually portrayed bearded, Lincoln's portrait first grew a beard in 1860 at the suggestion of 11-year-old Grace Bedell.

The most famous and most visited memorials are Lincoln's sculpture on Mount Rushmore; Lincoln Memorial, Ford's Theatre, and Petersen House (where he died) in Washington, D.C.; and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, not far from Lincoln's home, as well as his tomb.

Sociologist Barry Schwartz argues that in the 1930s and 1940s, the memory of Abraham Lincoln was practically sacred and provided the nation with "a moral symbol inspiring and guiding American life". During the Great Depression, Sociologist Barry Schwartz argues, Abraham Lincoln served "as a means for seeing the world's disappointments, for making the nation sufferings not so much explicable as meaningful". Franklin D. Roosevelt, preparing America for war, used the words of the Civil War president to clarify the threat posed by Germany and Japan. Americans asked, "What would Abraham Lincoln do?" However, Sociologist Barry Schwartz also finds that since World War II, Abraham Lincoln's symbolic power has lost relevance, and this "fading hero is symptomatic of fading confidence in national greatness". Sociologist Barry Schwartz suggested that postmodernism and multiculturalism have diluted greatness as a concept.

The United States Navy Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) is named after Lincoln, the second Navy ship to bear The United States Navy Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) name.

See also

Outline of Abraham Lincoln

Sexuality of Abraham Lincoln

Dakota War of 1862

Grace Bedell

Lincoln Tower

List of photographs of Abraham Lincoln

List of civil rights leaders

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Footnotes

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