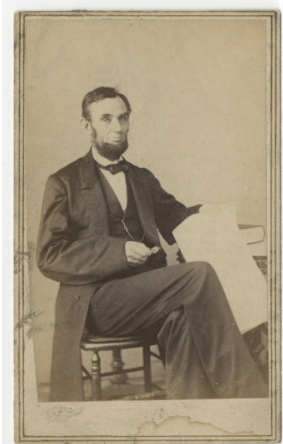


Key

Lincoln and Emancipation

From early in its history the United States had many enslavers forcing people to work against their will as slaves. Slavery is the ownership of a person as property; an enslaver owns and chooses a person's work, location, home, and family.

Abraham Lincoln personally hated slavery. During his debates with Stephen Douglas in 1858, he pledged to keep slavery from spreading into the western territories. Originally, Lincoln supported colonization, or freeing slaves and sending them to colonies in South America or Africa. Over time he came to believe that the Union and slavery could not coexist; the country would be all slave or all free territory.



In 1862, after the Battle of Antietam, Lincoln announced his Emancipation Proclamation, which would free all slaves in the southern rebel states on January 1, 1863. However, slavery remained permitted in the loyal border states of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, and West Virginia.

After his Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln began pushing for a constitutional amendment that would permanently abolish slavery throughout the entire United States, including enslaved people in the border states.

The amendment was passed by the Senate in April 1864 but was defeated in the House of Representatives. After Lincoln's reelection in 1864, the amendment was brought to the House floor and was passed on January 31, 1865. Lincoln signed the official Thirteenth Amendment Resolution the next day.

Lincoln was not able to see the amendment ratified and become law on December 6, 1865, due to his death on April 15, 1865.

