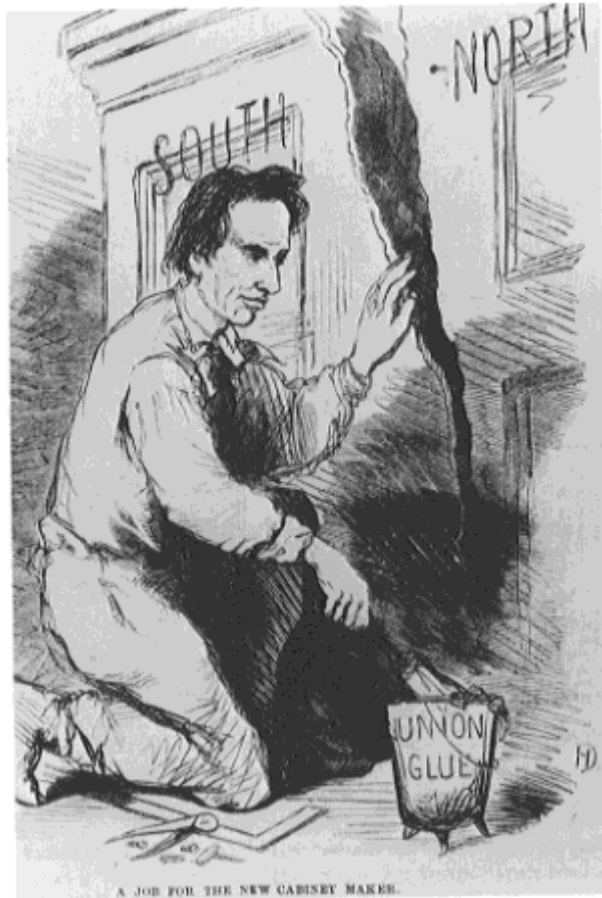


THE GREAT CHALLENGE REMAINING

Lincoln's Plan for Reconstruction vs. The Genesis of Radical Reconstruction

Randy Krone Parkway School District



Lesson Overview

The goal of this lesson is to allow the student the opportunity to take an analytical approach to understanding the challenges of Reconstruction that confronted Lincoln both in the southern states of rebellion and within his own Republican party. Specifically, the students will analyze and interpret two primary source documents answering the essential questions which are stated below.

Essential Question: Was President Lincoln justified in his conciliatory approach to the Southern States as the Civil War ended or should Lincoln taken a much more aggressive and punishing policy in his reconstruction plans for the South?

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Analyze and interpret the provided quote concerning Lincoln’s policy of “gradualism;” agree or disagree with the quotation, and develop a student based policy of Reconstruction.
- Analyze and interpret the provided political cartoon using the cartoon analysis sheet provided at http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson_images/lesson794/analysis.pdf
- Analyze and interpret Lincoln’s Presidential Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction delivered on December 8, 1863
- Analyze and interpret Lincoln’s Presidential Proclamation concerning the Wade-Davis bill on July 8, 1863; and
- Analyze and interpret Lincoln’s Presidential Proclamation concerning the Wade-Davis bill on July 8, 1863

Sources Cited/Materials Needed

www.dartmouth.edu/~library/Library_Bulletin/Apr_1997/Wait.html

[wwwhistory.umd.edu/Freedman/procamn.htm](http://www.history.umd.edu/Freedman/procamn.htm)

Carwardine, Richard J. ed *Lincoln* England: Pearson Education Limited, 2003
pps. 234-240

Document A: A Plan of Reconstruction
Presidential Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction
President Abraham Lincoln: December 8, 1863

Directions: Read the background information below and then answer the critical thinking questions that follow the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction.

Background Information

December of 1863 marked a relatively inactive period for the Union armies in the East. Meanwhile, however the seizure and occupation of both Knoxville and Chattanooga, Tennessee by Federal forces in the West encouraged Lincoln's political maneuvers to initiate his terms towards a peaceful settlement with the South

Furthermore, Lincoln's confidence had been previously reinforced by the recent and pivotal military victories precipitated earlier that summer in 1863 at Gettysburg and Vicksburg—two crucial defeats of the Confederate Army that would allow Lincoln to both politically and morally elevate this 'great challenge remaining' and preserve the experiment of democracy as proclaimed so eloquently in his Gettysburg Address on November 19 of that same year. As a result of these 'measures of devotion' Lincoln was able to confidently focus on his plans of restoring the Union through the means of Reconstruction and Reconciliation with "malice towards none"

Therefore, on December 8, 1863, Lincoln issued a Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction that would offer limited pardons to those who fought for the Confederacy and impose his "Ten Percent Plan" –a plan that allowed the rebelling states to be readmitted into the Union after ten percent of her citizens had legally taken an oath of loyalty to the Union

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, in and by the Constitution of the United States, it is provided that the President "shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment;" and

Whereas, a rebellion now exists whereby the loyal state governments of several states have for a long time been subverted, and many persons have committed, and are now guilty of, treason against the United States; and

Whereas, with reference to said rebellion and treason, laws have been enacted by congress, declaring forfeitures and confiscation of property and liberation of slaves, all upon terms and conditions therein stated, and also declaring that the President was thereby authorized at any time thereafter, by proclamation, to extend to persons who may

have participated in the existing rebellion, in any state or part thereof, pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions and at such times and on such conditions as he may deem expedient for the public welfare; and

Whereas, the congressional declaration for limited and conditional pardon accords with well-established judicial exposition of the pardoning power; and

Whereas, with reference to said rebellion, the President of the United States has issued several proclamations, with provisions in regard to the liberation of slaves; and

Whereas, it is now desired by some persons heretofore engaged in said rebellion to resume their allegiance to the United States, and to reinaugurate loyal state governments within and for their respective states: Therefore—

I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, do proclaim, declare, and make known to all persons who have, directly or by implication, participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, that a full pardon is hereby granted to them and each of them, with restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves, and in property cases where rights of third parties shall have intervened, and upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an oath, and thenceforward keep and maintain said oath inviolate; and which oath shall be registered for permanent preservation, and shall be of the tenor and effect following, to wit:—

"I, _____, do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States hereunder; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all acts of congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void by congress, or by decision of the supreme court; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the supreme court. So help me God."

The persons excepted from the benefits of the foregoing provisions are all who are, or shall have been, civil or diplomatic officers or agents of the so-called Confederate government; all who have left judicial stations under the United States to aid the rebellion; all who are, or shall have been, military or naval officers of said so-called Confederate government above the rank of colonel in the army or of lieutenant in the navy; all who left seats in the United States congress to aid the rebellion; all who resigned commissions in the army or navy of the United States and afterwards aided the rebellion; and all who have engaged in any way in treating colored persons, or white persons in charge of such, otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war, and which persons may have been found in the United States service as soldiers, seamen, or in any other capacity.

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known that whenever, in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South

Carolina, and North Carolina, a number of persons, not less than one tenth in number of the votes cast in such state at the presidential election of the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, each having taken the oath aforesaid, and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election law of the state existing immediately before the so-called act of secession, and excluding all others, shall reestablish a state government which shall be republican, and in nowise contravening said oath, such shall be recognized as the true government of the state, and the state shall receive there under the benefits of the constitutional provision which declares that "the United States shall guaranty to every state in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or the executive, (when the legislature cannot be convened,) against domestic violence."

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known that any provision which may be adopted by such state government in relation to the freed people of such state, which shall recognize and declare their permanent freedom, provide for their education, and which may yet be consistent as a temporary arrangement with their present condition as a laboring, landless, and homeless class, will not be objected to by the National Executive.

And it is suggested as not improper that, in constructing a loyal state government in any state, the name of the state, the boundary, the subdivisions, the constitution, and the general code of laws, as before the rebellion, be maintained, subject only to the modifications made necessary by the conditions hereinbefore stated, and such others, if any, not contravening said conditions, and which may be deemed expedient by those framing the new state government.

To avoid misunderstanding, it may be proper to say that this proclamation, so far as it relates to state governments, has no reference to states wherein loyal state governments have all the while been maintained. And, for the same reason, it may be proper to further say, that whether members sent to congress from any state shall be admitted to seats constitutionally rests exclusively with the respective houses, and not to any extent with the Executive. And still further, that this proclamation is intended to present the people of the states wherein the national authority has been suspended, and loyal state governments have been subverted, a mode in and by which the national authority and loyal state governments may be reestablished within said states, or in any of them; and while the mode presented is the best the Executive can suggest, with his present impressions, it must not be understood that no other possible mode would be acceptable.

Given under my hand at the city of Washington the eighth day of December, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-eighth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State*.

Essential Questions:

1. What must those who fought for the rebellion achieve in order to receive a pardon from the President? What did this specifically include? Who did this exclude?
2. What was Lincoln's policy with the states of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina? Furthermore, what must these states uphold in regards to the "freed people of such state?"
3. As a historiographer, what types of obstacles can you predict that may lay ahead of Lincoln's plan for amnesty and reconstruction? To what extent will this plan succeed?

Document B: The Genesis of Radical Reconstruction

Presidential Proclamation President Abraham Lincoln: July 8, 1864

Directions: Read the background information below and then answer the critical thinking questions that follow the Presidential Proclamation.

Background Information

In February of 1864, two Radical Republicans, Senator Benjamin F. Wade of Ohio and Representative Henry W. Davis of Maryland, sponsored a bill in response to Lincoln's plans for Reconstruction. Particularly, the Wade-Davis bill was proposed to counteract three political factors that threatened their power in Congress.

First, the Radical Republicans believed that Lincoln's policy to Reconstruction and his 'Ten Percent Plan' was too weak and forgiving towards the rebellious southern states. Second, Radicals feared that once the southern states were restructured, the reorganized states would then be free to attend the Republicans' nominating convention and be represented in the electoral college—a power that the Radicals were reluctant to concede at this time. And third, the Radicals hoped to prevent Lincoln's re-nomination on June 8, 1864 in lieu to his lenient policies with the South.

The Wade –Davis bill challenged Lincoln's Reconstruction by demanding a more stringent plan of Reconstruction. Specifically, the bill endorsed:

1. the congressional control of Reconstruction
2. an end to slavery
3. the placement of Confederate states under temporary military rule;
4. the imposition of an ironclad oath of loyalty to the Union
5. the enforced readmission of any seceding states to an allegiance of at least 50% of the voters of 1860; and

6. the exclusion of more Confederate officials from government office than that of Lincoln's original plan

The bill won the support of congressional Republicans and it was passed by both the House and Senate by July 2, 1864. But thanks to the turning of the tide on the battlefield with Grant's relentless pursuit of Lee in Virginia, Lincoln was able to comfortably secure his re-nomination for the presidency on June 8. Consequently, Lincoln knew very well that southerners would never voluntarily adopt the stringent congressional plan in preference to his own reconciliatory vision.

Abraham Lincoln: Proclamation on the Wade-Davis Bill, July 8, 1864

Carwardine, Richard J. ed Lincoln England: Pearson Education Limited, 2003 pps. 234-240

"Whereas, at the late Session, Congress passed a Bill, To guarantee to certain States, whose governments have been usurped or overthrown, a republican form of Government." a copy of which is hereunto annexed:

And whereas, the said Bill was presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, less than one hour before the sine die adjournment of said Session, and was not signed by him:

And whereas, the said Bill contains, among other things, a plan for restoring the States in rebellion to their proper practical relation in the Union, which plan expresses the sense of Congress upon that subject, and which plan it is now thought fit to lay before the people for their consideration:

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do proclaim, declare, and make known, that, while I am, (as I was in December last, when by proclamation I propounded a plan for restoration) unprepared, by a formal approval of this Bill, to be inflexibly committed to any single plan of restoration; and, while I am also unprepared to declare, that the free-state constitutions and governments, already adopted and installed in Arkansas and Louisiana, shall be set aside and held for naught, thereby repelling and discouraging the loyal citizens who have set up the same, as to further effort; or to declare a constitutional competency in Congress to abolish slavery in States, but am at the same time sincerely hoping and expecting that a constitutional amendment, abolishing slavery throughout the nation, may be adopted, nevertheless, I am fully satisfied with the system for restoration contained in the Bill, as one very proper plan for the loyal people of any State choosing to adopt it; and that I am, and at all times shall be, prepared to give the Executive aid and assistance to any such people, so soon as the military resistance to the United States shall have been suppressed in any such State, and the people thereof

shall have sufficiently returned to their obedience to the Constitution and the laws of the United States,-in which cases, military Governors will be appointed, with directions to proceed according to the Bill.”

Critical Thinking Questions:

1. Why do you think that Lincoln was unwilling “to be inflexibly committed to any single plan of restoration” especially when it came to the free-state governments already installed in Arkansas and Louisiana?
2. What did Lincoln hope in regards to slavery? At this given time in 1864, do you think that Lincoln felt this was actually possible? Explain why or why not.
3. Lincoln’s Presidential Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction that he delivered on December 8, 1863 was designed to naturally reconstruct the nation “with malice towards none; with charity for all...” Why then do you think the Lincoln had cynically stated that he was “fully satisfied with the system of restoration contained in the Wade –Davis bill as one very proper plan for the loyal people in any state choosing to adopt it “? Do you think he actually wanted to support the Wade-Davis bill? Why or why not?

Core Curriculum Objectives:

2a. Knowledge of continuity and change in the history of Missouri, the United States and the world.

GLE’s 1.8, 1.9, 1.10

Interpret political economic and social causes and consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction

Transfer of Knowledge:

Divide the class into groups of four students. After discussing the political cartoon and analyzing the two primary source political documents students will engage in a discussion as a contemporary American, and list the goals they would have liked to have seen in the Reconstruction policy for the southern states. After they have had ample to discuss they should write down at least four goals in their reconstruction policy. They should then analyze their policy and determine if it more closely mirrors that of the policy of Lincoln or the policy of the Radical Republicans.

Students should then construct a chart which states four goals of policy for each reconstruction plan. (Lincoln’s, Radical Republicans, and Student Group). Each

group should contain four students. Teacher should attempt to make each group diverse.

Lincoln's Plan	Radical Republicans	Your Group

Exit Ticket (Formative Assessment)

Using the chart above and the discussion students had within their groups, students should write a reflection paragraph answering the essential questions, “Was President Lincoln justified in his conciliatory approach to the Southern States as the Civil War ended or should Lincoln taken a much more aggressive and punishing policy in his reconstruction plans for the South?”

Scoring Guide: Students need to include the following in their exit ticket

A= Support position with 4 accurate examples from each of the three reconstruction plans

B=Supports position with 3 accurate examples from each of the three reconstruction plans

C=Supports position with 2 accurate examples from each of the three reconstruction plans

D=Supports position with one accurate example from each of the three reconstruction plans