





Emancipation Proclamation

Definition: Lincoln issued the proclamation Jan. 1, 1863. It was a technical document, granting freedom to all slaves in all areas of the Confederacy still in rebellion. The proclamation did not pertain to slaves in the border states, but it did allow for the popular use of African-Americans in the Union Army and Navy. The proclamation also made the war a crusade against slavery, meaning that England and France, both morally opposed to slavery, could not in good conscience ally themselves with the Confederacy.

By the President of the United States of America

M. Pickens

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

That on the first day of January in the
year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and sixty three, all persons held as slaves within
any State or designated part of a State the people
whereof shall then be in rebellion against the
United States, shall be then, thenceforward and
forever free; and the Executive Government of the
United States, including the military and naval
authorities thereof, will accept and maintain
the freedom of such persons, and will do so
as soon as they may make for them a fair
and honest condition.

That the Executive will, on the first