

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

Proclamation 95 - Regarding the Status of Slaves in States Engaged in Rebellion Against the United States [Emancipation Proclamation]

given on January 1, 1863

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Whereas on the 22d day of September, A.D. 1862, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States.
5 containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, 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 authority thereof, will recognize and
10 maintain the freedom of such persons and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts
they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will on the 1st day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States,
if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that
15 any State or the people thereof shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by
members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such States shall have participated
shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people
thereof are not then in rebellion against the United States."

20 Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as
Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the
authority and Government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion,
do, on this 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the
full period of one hundred days from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of
25 States wherein the people thereof, respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St.
James, Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the city of New
Orleans), Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia (except the forty-eight
30 counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City,
York, Princess Anne, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), and which excepted parts are for
the present left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within
35 said designated States and parts of States are and henceforward shall be free, and that the executive government of the
United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said
persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-
40 defense; and I recommend to them that in all cases when allowed they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service
of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places and to man vessels of all sorts in said
service.

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And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

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Done at the city of Washington, this 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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By the President:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

(685 words)

Quelle: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=69880&st=&st1=>