

Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction - 1860 to 1877
Topic 4 Content: The Emancipation Proclamation Notes

Introduction



The Emancipation Proclamation

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Excerpt 1

Excerpt:

“Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, 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:”

Analysis:

This excerpt is a formal opening stating the date of September 22, 1862. It is made clear that the proclamation is issued by the president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.

Next 

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Excerpt 2

Excerpt:

"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 authority thereof, will recognize and 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."

Analysis:

In this excerpt, Lincoln states that on January 1, 1863, all slaves in a "rebellion state" are "forever free." Rebellion states include Southern states that had seceded. The military of the United States will help to ensure the freedom of freed slaves.

Next 

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Excerpt 3

Excerpt:

"That the Executive will, on the **first 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 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 State 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."

Analysis:

In this excerpt, Lincoln states that on January 1, 1863, all states that are in "good faith" will be admitted back into the United States and represented in Congress. States will not be admitted if they are still in rebellion against the United States.

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Excerpt 4

Excerpt:

"...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 first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, 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 States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:"

Analysis:

Lincoln uses his presidential power to clearly state that the act of freeing slaves is a "fit and necessary war measure." He warns the rebel states that they have 100 days to comply.

Next


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Excerpt 5



Excerpt:

“And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within 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.”



Analysis:

Again, President Lincoln reiterates what was stated in an earlier passage. All slaves in rebel states will become free and the use of military force will enforce this freedom.



Next

“And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within 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.”

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Excerpt 6



Excerpt:

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



Analysis:

In this excerpt, President Lincoln states that all freed people should not commit acts of violence unless in self-defense. Freed people will be able to work for “reasonable wages.”



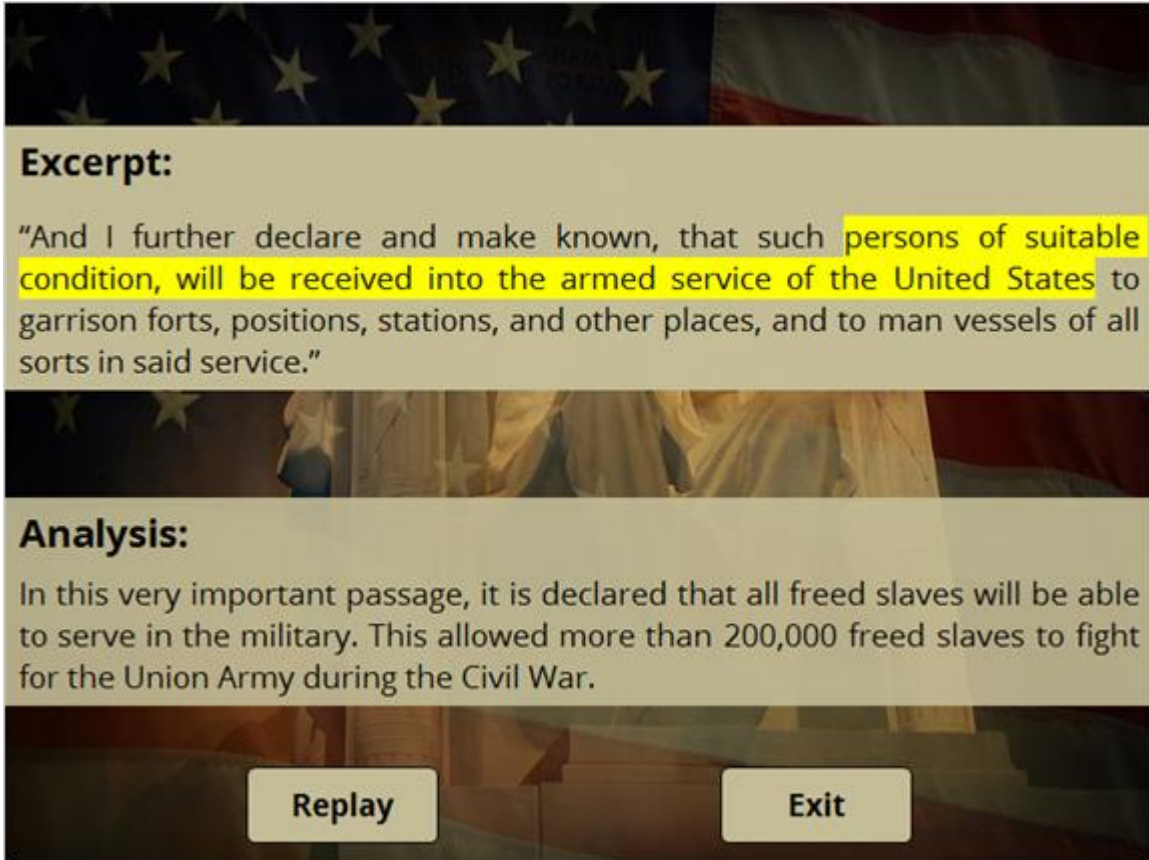
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Excerpt 7



Excerpt:

“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.”

Analysis:

In this very important passage, it is declared that all freed slaves will be able to serve in the military. This allowed more than 200,000 freed slaves to fight for the Union Army during the Civil War.

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