



Many great leaders have guided America, but Abraham Lincoln stands out for his role during the Civil War. Rated as the best US president, Lincoln's firm leadership during this tough time holds a special place in our nation's history. Let's understand why Lincoln is so greatly respected, focusing on his goals, persistence, and firm belief in democracy and equality. It wasn't just significant political and social changes that marked Lincoln's presidency, but also the survival and togetherness of the nation. His leadership role can be likened to a lighthouse guiding a ship through a storm. He resolved contentious issues such as slavery and states' rights, which not only preserved the Union but also reshaped the American identity. Let's look at why Lincoln is thought of as the best president. This involves examining his leadership style, accomplishments, the historical setting of his term, and the legacy he left behind.

## **Lincoln's Approach to Slavery: Emancipation Proclamation**

Abraham Lincoln holds an iconic place in American history, particularly for the Emancipation Proclamation. This powerful document, issued in 1863 during the Civil War, declared all enslaved people in Confederate-held territory to be "forever free." Interestingly, Lincoln's approach to slavery was strategic. He maintained it was necessary to preserve the Union. The Emancipation Proclamation, although it didn't immediately end slavery, changed the official status of enslaved people to 'free.' It did not cover the border states that allowed slavery but remained in the union. It reshaped the Civil War as a fight for human freedom, intensifying the conflict while giving it a high moral purpose. Another interesting fact is that the Proclamation also allowed for the recruitment of Black soldiers.

### **Lincoln's Policy on Slavery Prior to the Emancipation Proclamation**

Before Lincoln made the Emancipation Proclamation, his views on slavery were complex. He didn't like slavery and wanted to stop it if possible. But he also thought it was legal where it already existed. Lincoln wanted to keep the Union together and tried to limit the spread of slavery instead of getting rid of it immediately. His main goal was to keep the Union intact, and he worked hard to make this happen.

### **Impact of Emancipation Proclamation on the Institution of Slavery**

The Emancipation Proclamation, announced in 1862, stated that slaves in areas controlled by the Confederates were to be freed. This decision changed the Civil War into a war against slavery. It was a big deal and helped lead to the end of slavery. It marked a big shift in Lincoln's time in office. This also set the stage for the Thirteenth Amendment, which totally ended slavery in the US.

## **A Time of Crisis: Lincoln's Leadership During the Civil War**

Lincoln was president due to his leadership during the Civil War. During this challenging time, Lincoln showcased remarkable planning and managerial skills that helped the Union survive and end slavery. Lincoln succeeded in keeping the Union intact despite pressures to split. He stressed the value of a united country and worked hard to preserve it from breaking apart. He showed a brave face against tough opposition, not only from the Confederacy but also from some in his own government as well. Lincoln proved himself a skilled war strategist. His selection of military generals and his ability to understand and apply military strategies were key factors. His 1862 Emancipation Proclamation strategically weakened the Confederacy's labor force and economy, showing his wisdom as a war president. Lincoln also was a strong communicator. Listen to his speeches, like the Gettysburg Address, where he highlights the principles of democracy and freedom and calls for sacrifices to uphold these values.

# **Domestic Policies: How Lincoln Shaped Modern America**

President, had a key influence on today's America. His powerful policies came into effect during the Civil War, a terrible time for the nation. Many people see him as a highly impactful person, which is justified. Remember his major policy—the Emancipation Proclamation. Started in early 1863, it forbade slavery in areas under Confederate control. Despite not being an official law by Congress, it was a direct action that transformed the Civil War and America's future by signaling an end to slavery. It shaped modern America into a democracy where all are equal. In addition, Lincoln's struggle to keep the Union united during the Civil War set the stage for the federal government's control over states, a main principle in America today. His choice to take on the rebel South changed the way people view the Union and influenced how leaders deal with political splits. Economically, Lincoln approved the Pacific Railway Act of 1862. It advocated for the Transcontinental Railroad, encouraging economic progress and expansion to the West.

## **Innovative Administration: Lincoln's Unorthodox Approach**

Presidents, mainly because of his creative leadership during the chaotic time of the American Civil War. What made Lincoln unique was his empathetic leadership and forward-looking plans, which helped keep the United States together. At a time of great division, he worked to bring people together instead of causing more division. This was surprisingly different from the norm back then, as most leaders used force during civil conflicts. Value this bold approach! A hallmark of his administration was the "Team of Rivals"—a group composed of critics and opponents. He didn't choose people who agreed with him on everything; instead, he picked a few of his fiercest rivals for important roles. This was risky as it could cause disagreements within his team. But it turned out to be very successful. It ensured many viewpoints were considered before making big decisions, leading to a more inclusive and fair leadership that worked for everyone. Lincoln's commitment to the Emancipation Proclamation showed his unconventional leadership style. Despite resistance and the possibility of losing border states, he released the proclamation, shifting the war's goal from togetherness to freedom for all.

## **Lincoln's Humanitarian Streak: Compassion and Humility**

His compassion and humility stood out and are key reasons why he's still respected today. Let these qualities essay your actions as they did for Lincoln, setting the stage for his fight for justice and equality. In a period where social and racial divides were strong, Lincoln's kindness stood out. He expressed empathy to all, regardless of social class or race. This was seen in how he handled slavery. Lincoln showed firmness and took action by signing the Emancipation Proclamation, a crucial step towards ending slavery. His compassion inspired him to recognize the rights of slaves and strongly advocate for their freedom. Lincoln's humility was also noteworthy. He led without showing off, focusing more on his responsibilities than self-praise. In his talks, he often downplayed his role, preferring to highlight the efforts of others. This humility guided him to aim for the common good over his own or party interests. During the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln showed his humility by saying that his words would likely be forgotten but the deeds of the soldiers would always be remembered. This highlights his trait of making light of his contribution while emphasizing those of others. His humility also allowed him to learn from his mistakes and improve as a leader.

## **My Concluding Remarks**

He always sought the truth and was unwavering in his beliefs about human rights and eradicating slavery. He deeply cared for his country, which made him beloved to many. Strive to represent Lincoln's vision of a united, slavery-free America that values freedom and equality. This president courageously set a course for America's future and paved the way for equal rights. His achievement in passing the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery, remains an essential part of his permanent legacy. Lincoln's presidency continues to teach us the values of leadership, patience, humility, and endurance.