

LINCOLN'S RE-ELECTION IN 1864

- Because the war had lasted his entire term and remained unresolved, Lincoln had little to no expectation of winning his bid for re-election.
 - No sitting President had won re-election since Andrew Jackson in 1832
 - The war remained unresolved, having dragged on throughout Lincoln's entire term
 - The Emancipation Proclamation was widely unpopular
 - Republicans had lost Congressional seats
- The Republican Party
 - Changed its name (temporarily) to the National Union Party
 - Names raised as potential candidates included Vice-President Hannibal Hamlin, Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, General Ulysses S. Grant, and General Benjamin F. Butler, and John C. Fremont – the Republican candidate who had unsuccessfully run against James Buchanan
 - Chase actively but quietly sought the nomination
 - ❖ The appearance in the press of a pamphlet declaring that interest lead to a popular backlash among Republicans
 - ❖ Chase tendered his resignation as Treasury Secretary – not for the first time, but Lincoln surprised him by accepting it
 - ❖ The President used the lure of the deceased Roger Taney's seat on the Supreme Court to persuade Chase to stump for Lincoln
 - Fremont actively and vociferously sought the nomination
 - ❖ Fremont despised Lincoln for twice removing him from his command and rescinding Fremont's emancipation of slaves in Missouri
 - ❖ Before the official party convention, nominated by a group of primarily Missourian German-Americans and New England abolitionists, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Frederick Douglass
 - ❖ Dubbed their breakaway organization Radical Democracy and set out a well-articulated platform
 - ✓ Pursue the war to the unconditional surrender of the South
 - ✓ Amend the Constitutional to ban slavery and to guarantee equal rights
 - ✓ Guarantee the rights of free speech, the free press, and the writ of *habeas corpus* (which Lincoln had suspended soon after the war broke out)
 - ✓ Expropriate all property held by Confederates
 - ✓ Enforcement the Monroe Doctrine (a response to the French presence in Mexico)
 - ✓ Limit the presidency to a single term
 - ✓ Reform the civil service to eliminate patronage

- ❖ Fremont and his running mate, John Cochrane of New York, stepped down as the prospect of a Democratic victory loomed large
- ❖ Lincoln asked for the resignation of Montgomery Blair, Fremont's chief opponent in Missouri
- The convention unanimously nominated Abraham Lincoln
- Dropped Hannibal Hamlin of Maine (a state surely to go with the incumbent)
- Nominated Andrew Johnson, the military governor of Tennessee for Vice-President
- Platform
 - Pursue the war to the unconditional surrender of the Confederacy
 - Amend the Constitution to abolish slavery
 - Guarantee aid to disabled Union veterans
 - Enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine
 - Encourage immigration
 - Build a transcontinental railroad
 - Extol the use of black troops
 - Recognize Lincoln's successful management of the war
- The Democratic Party
 - Nominated George McClellan (the Union general Lincoln had demoted) for President
 - Platform
 - Lincoln's civil rights record was abusive
 - The Emancipation Proclamation was ill-advised and illegal
 - The way to end the war was to negotiate peace
 - McClellan rejected the party platform, pledging only to pursue the war more successfully than had Lincoln
- Strategies and Influences
 - Democrats attacked Lincoln's war record, Mrs. Lincoln's loyalty, the nomination of a Southerner for Vice-President
 - Republicans warned voters against switching leaders in the midst of a war
 - Secretary of War Stanton arranged furloughs for and made absentee ballots available to Union soldiers (who voted overwhelmingly for Lincoln)
 - Republicans circulated Thomas Nast's cartoons portraying the Democrats as traitors
 - Republicans circulated an official report on Confederate sympathizers in the North who were frequently connected to the Democratic Party
 - Lincoln requested General Sherman to send Hoosier servicemen home, requested Generals Meade and Sheridan to send Pennsylvanian troops home, and General William Rosencrans to send Missourians home – all to vote in their state elections

- Sherman's capture of Atlanta was a major turning point in the war in the Union's favor
- Results
 - Popular vote
 - Lincoln won 55%
 - McClellan won 45%
 - Electoral College
 - Lincoln won 212: California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin
 - McClellan won 21: Delaware, Kentucky, and New Jersey
 - The states of the Confederacy, of course, did not vote in the federal election of 1864.
- Significance
 - That a regular election took place during a civil rebellion was unprecedented
 - The uncontested results bore witness to the resilience of American democracy
 - Lincoln required each member of his cabinet to pledge to cooperate with President-elect McClellan – if he should be elected – to guarantee the Union defeat of the Confederacy before his inauguration.