

TIMELINE OF THE LINCOLN PRESIDENCY

- November 6, 1860** Lincoln is elected the sixteenth President of the United States
- December 18, 1860** Senator John J. Crittenden of Kentucky proposes a restoration and extension of the Missouri Compromise (to extend to the Pacific) in order to preserve the Union. (Both the Senate and Lincoln reject the proposal.)
- December 20, 1860** South Carolina secedes from the Union (Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas follow over the next two months)
- February 11, 1861** Lincoln delivers his farewell speech to Springfield and departs for Washington (During the trip he is warned of an assassination attempt.)
- March 4, 1861** Lincoln is inaugurated as the sixteenth President of the United States
- April 12, 1861** Southern troops fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston Bay, commencing the Civil War
- April 15, 1861** The President issues the Proclamation Militia and Convening Congress
<http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/proc-2.htm>
- April 17, 1861** Virginia secedes from the Union (North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas follow within two weeks)
- April 19, 1861** Lincoln issues a Proclamation of Blockade against all Southern ports
<http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/proc-2.htm>
- April 17, 1861** Lincoln suspends the Writ of Habeas Corpus
- July 21, 1861** The Confederacy defeats the Union in the Battle of Bull Run in northern Virginia
- July 25, 1861** The Senate adopts the Crittenden-Johnson Resolution that defines the purpose of the war as the preservation of the Union
- July 27, 1861** The President appoints George B. McClellan commander of the Department of the Potomac
- August 5, 1861** The President signs the Revenue Act of 1861
- August 6, 1861** Lincoln signs a law freeing slaves used by Confederates in the war effort
- August 12, 1861** Lincoln issues a Proclamation of a National Day of Fasting
<http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/proc-3.htm>
- September 11, 1861** The President revokes General Fremont's emancipation of the slaves in Missouri
- October 24, 1861** The President replaces Fremont with General David Hunter
- November 1, 1861** Upon the resignation of General Winfield Scott, Lincoln appoints McClellan commander of the Union army
- November 8, 1861** The Trent Affair – involving the forcible removal from the British vessel *Trent* of two Confederate envoys headed to Europe to seek foreign

support for their cause

- January 27, 1862** Lincoln issues General War Order No. 1, authorizing a Union advance on February 22 <http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/order-1.htm>
- February 3, 1862** Lincoln writes to McClellan concerning a difference of military opinion <http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/lett-1.htm>
- February 5, 1862** The President signs the Legal Tender Act of 1862
- February 20, 1862** Willie Lincoln dies of typhoid fever at the age of 12
- March 11, 1862** Lincoln relieves McClellan and takes direct command of the Union armies
- April 6, 1862** Grant is surprised at Shiloh and loses 13,000 troops (Though Lincoln is pressured to relieve Grant, he does not do so.)
- April 9, 1862** Lincoln writes McClellan urging him to attack <http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/lett-2.htm>
- April 16, 1862** The President signs the law that abolishes slavery in the District of Columbia
- May 20, 1862** Lincoln signs the Homestead Act of 1862 which gives 160 acres of public land to any claimant who will live on and work the land for five years
- June 19, 1862** Lincoln signs legislation prohibiting slavery in the western territories
- July 1, 1862** The President signs the Revenue Act of 1862 and the Pacific Railroad Act of 1862
- July 2, 1862** Lincoln signs the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862
- August 29-30, 1862** The Confederates win the second Battle of Bull Run, and the Union Army retreats to Washington (Lincoln relieves General John Pope of his command)
- September 17, 1862** McClellan's troops stop Lee's armies at Antietam in Maryland (With 26,000 dead, wounded, or missing, it is the bloodiest single day in US military history)
- September 22, 1862** Lincoln issues a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves
- September 24, 1862** The President suspends *habeas corpus* throughout the country.
- November 5, 1862** Lincoln replaces McClellan with General Ambrose E. Burnside as commander of the Potomac
- December 13, 1862** The Confederates deal a crushing blow to the Union at Fredericksburg, Virginia
- December 22, 1862** Lincoln writes an letter of encouragement to the Army of the Potomac
- December 31, 1862** West Virginia enters the Union
- January 1, 1863** The President issues the final Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all

slaves in Confederate territory
<http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/emanc.htm>

- January 25, 1863** Lincoln replaces Burnside with General Joseph Hooker as commander of the Army of the Potomac
- January 26, 1863** The President writes a cautionary letter to Gen. Hooker
<http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/lett-4.htm>
- January 29, 1863** The President puts Grant in command of the Army of the West and orders him to take Vicksburg
- February 25, 1863** Lincoln signs legislation to create a national banking system
- March 3, 1863** The President authorizes a military draft
- May 1-4, 1863** The Confederates defeat federal troops at the Battle of Chancellorsville where General Stonewall Jackson is killed
- June 28, 1863** Lincoln replaces Gen. Hooker with General George S. Meade as commander of the Army of the Potomac
- July 3, 1863** The Confederacy loses the Battle of Gettysburg
- July 4, 1863** Grant captures Vicksburg
- July 13, 1863** Lincoln sends Grant a congratulatory message in which he apologizes for an error in military judgment <http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/lett-5.htm>
- July 30, 1863** The President issues an Order of Retaliation promising that for every Union prisoner killed, a Confederate prisoner will be killed and that for every Union soldier put into slavery, a Confederate prisoner will be put to hard labor on public works <http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/retal.htm>
- August 10, 1863** Lincoln meets with Frederick Douglass who urges the President to grant full equality to all African Americans serving in the Union Army or Navy
- September 19-20, 1863** The Confederates win at Chickamauga, leaving Chattanooga in Union hands but under siege by the Confederates
- Lincoln places Grant in command of all western operations
- October 3, 1863** Lincoln issues a Proclamation of Thanksgiving
<http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/thanks.htm>
- November 19, 1863** Lincoln delivers his Gettysburg Address
- December 8, 1863** Lincoln issues a Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction
<http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/proc-4.htm>
- March 12, 1864** The President places Grant in command of all Union armies (General William T. Sherman becomes commander in the West.)
- June 3, 1864** Grant loses 7,000 troops at Cold Harbor, Virginia
- June 8, 1864** A coalition of Republicans and War Democrats nominate Lincoln for a

second term

- July 18, 1864** The President calls for a half million volunteers
- September 2, 1864** Sherman takes Atlanta; Lincoln approves his March to the Sea
- October 19, 1864** Gen. Philip H. Sheridan wins a battle in the Shenandoah Valley
- November 8, 1864** With 55 percent of the vote, Lincoln wins re-election, defeating Democrat George B. McClellan
- December 20, 1864** Sherman arrives in Savannah, Georgia
- March 17, 1865** When Lincoln does not arrive at the Soldiers' Home, his absence foils John Wilkes Booth's kidnapping attempt
- April 9, 1865** Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia
- April 11, 1865** Lincoln delivers his final public speech, focusing on reconstruction
- April 14, 1865** Booth assassinates Lincoln