

## EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

- Consists of two documents
  - The first issued on September 22, 1862
  - The second issued on January 1, 1863
- As executive orders, **not** laws enacted by Congress, the documents sidestepped the legislative controversy over slavery.
- Essential thesis of the first document: all slaves in states not under Union control will be regarded as free as of January 1, 1863. (It kept open the possibility of compensating slaveholders for their loss of "property.")
- Essential thesis of the second document: "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."
- Limitations
  - Applied to Confederate states but **not** the five border states that still held slaves: Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware (Lincoln could not afford to alienate the loyalty of those states.)
  - Excluded formerly Confederate territory under Union control
  - Its enforcement depended completely upon the Union defeating the Confederacy
- Impact
  - Each Union victory brought more territory under the Proclamation's guarantees.
  - The Proclamation guaranteed the admission of African Americans into the federal army and navy.
  - It clearly defined the purpose of the war was the freeing of enslaved men, women, and children.
  - It clarified the moral force behind the war.
  - It laid the groundwork for the Thirteenth Amendment.

For more information on the Emancipation Proclamation and pictures of its five pages, click on

[http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured\\_documents/emancipation\\_proclamation/](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation/) or

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h1549.html>

To read the text of the first document, click on

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/emancipa.htm>