

Emancipation

from THE GIANT AHAP REVIEW OUTLINE!
Horace Greeley High School

- Wait, what? Slaves? This was a war about slavery? You wouldn't have guessed it given the way both Lincoln and Davis avoided mentioning the topic for the first months – Lincoln b/c of the border states and Republican Party, and Davis b/c of the class conflicts [not all Southerners had slaves, remember].
- Lincoln's refusal to address the issue didn't go over too well w/blacks and abolitionists, though, so in **March 1862** he first proposed that states consider emancipation on their own [aid was promised, as was compensation for slaveholders and colonization of former slaves in Africa]. This colonization scheme stuck around until 1864 – again, not cool w/blacks and abolitionists.
- Some **Radical Republicans (George Julian, Charles Sumner, Thaddeus Stevens)**, however, had other plans – they created a special House-Senate committee on the war to pressure Congress, and then they pushed 2 confiscation acts through – in **August 1861** [slaves used in hostile actions could be seized] and in **July 1862** [property of rebels confiscated, so slaves freed in South].
- But Lincoln stood by his voluntary gradual emancipation deal [**Horace Greeley** protested this in “**The Prayer of Twenty Millions**”] until after the Battle of Antietam. Then, in the famous **Emancipation Proclamation**, which took effect on **New Year's Day, 1863** (and some say “nothing changes on New Year's Day”) he freed all the slaves in the states in rebellion against the US.
- The EP was actually more of a threat to the South, and was still sort of ambiguous, the message was clear to many – and it defined the war as one against slavery. It was about time, too!
- The final thing came in **June 1864** when Lincoln gave his support for a Constitutional ban on slavery, leading to the Republican Party's call for the **Thirteenth Amendment**, which was passed in early 1865. As a rather strange note, near the end of the war the Confederates grew so desperate even they considered emancipating and arming the slaves. Go figure!