

# Excerpts from the Emancipation Proclamation

That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, 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 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.

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Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief...as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do...designate...following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth[]), and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And I hereby **enjoin** upon the people so declared to be free to **abstain** from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of **suitable** condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to **garrison** forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to **man vessels** of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act sincerely believed to be an act of justice, **warranted** by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I **invoke** the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

**Source:** National Archives and Records Administration. [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured\\_documents/emancipation\\_proclamation/transcript.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation/transcript.html)

**Designate**—to point out the location of.

**Executive Government**—the branch of government, which carries out the laws. **Repress**—to put down by force.

**Enjoin**—to order with authority.

**Abstain**—to keep from an action or practice.

**Suitable**—able or qualified.

**Garrison**—to occupy with troops.

**Man**—to serve as a force or crew.

**Vessels**—a boat or ship bigger than a rowboat.

**Warranted**—sanction or authorized.

**Invoke**—to petition for help or support.