

Life of Abraham Lincoln

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Abstract. This article tells about an outstanding political figure, whose contribution played a major role in the development and establishment of the United States as a major democratic state in the history of the development of states. About the 16th President of America A. Lincoln.

Key words: President, state, farmer, slave owners, civil war.

February 12, 1809 was born one of the most prominent presidents of the United States of America - Abraham Lincoln. He became famous for putting an end to the Civil War between North and South, having managed to prevent the collapse of America, and achieved the abolition of slavery in the country.

A. Lincoln was born in Kentucky, the son of a farmer. In his youth, he was a lumberjack and woodcutter, a ferryman on the river. Ohio and Mississippi cargo rafter. Stubbornly engaged in self-education, Lincoln at the age of 27 passed the bar exam. In 1834-1841, Lincoln was a member of the Illinois Legislature, in 1847-1848 - a member of Congress, from March 1861 to April 1865 - President of the United States. The activity of A. Lincoln as the President of the United States proceeded in the context of the civil war of 1861-1865. His entire domestic and foreign policy was subordinated to the struggle for the victory of the bourgeois democracy of the North in the war against the slave-owning South. But the southerners were better prepared for active operations and expected, with the help of foreign intervention, to crush the federation with a quick blow even before the northerners had time to mobilize and train the army. During the first 2 years, military operations developed in favor of the southerners. During this dangerous period of the war for the North, A. Lincoln showed himself to be a major statesman and diplomat. A large place in Lincoln's foreign policy was occupied by the issue of the emancipation of blacks. The liberation of the Negroes (1863) attracted leading social groups in England and France to the side of the northerners. However, in 1861-1862, Lincoln followed a different tactic. In May 1862, when the commander of the southeastern front ordered the emancipation of blacks in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, Lincoln immediately canceled this order and in a message to Congress proposed that blacks be freed only with appropriate compensation for slave owners. During the first period of the war, Lincoln considered it more important to keep in a state of neutrality the resulting temporary, fluctuating buffer from the border slave states than to strengthen the position of the supporters of the North in England and France.

The people of America loved and respected Abraham Lincoln most of all because he was

the embodiment of the "American dream". Coming from a poor farming family, he achieved success through hard work and, as they say, "made himself." But at the same time he always remained an honest person and advocated for the rights of ordinary people.

In the presidential election of 1860, Lincoln managed to defeat three of his opponents, receiving an overwhelming majority of the electoral college. His stay in the White House from March 4, 1861 to April 15, 1865 coincided with the most tragic period in US history - the American Civil War. The slave-owning states responded to Lincoln's election with secession - secession from the Union and the proclamation in February 1862 of the Confederate States of America. "We must not be enemies," Lincoln proclaimed upon taking office, but the armed uprising of the southerners prompted him to retaliate. Lincoln considered slavery an evil, inevitable in the economic conditions that existed in the South of the country. He attributed the issue of slavery to the competence of the states themselves and believed that the government had no constitutional right to interfere in this problem. At the same time, he firmly opposed the spread of slavery to new territories, which undermined the foundations of slavery, because its extensive nature inevitably required advancement to the undeveloped lands of the West. An important achievement of the Lincoln administration was the adoption in May 1862 of the Homestead Act, which provided for the allocation of land to every citizen of the country in 160 acres (64 hectares). The law dealt a severe blow to slavery and led to a radical solution to the agrarian problem - the development of agriculture along the farmer's path.

As events unfolded, Lincoln's rather moderate, compromise position on the issue of slavery changed. The main goal of the administration - the restoration of the Union - proved unattainable without the destruction of slavery throughout the country. Lincoln did not come to the realization of this reality immediately. A purely civilian man, subjected to pressure from all sides, criticized for military defeats and economic difficulties, the president at the right time took decisive steps to suppress the rebellion, not even stopping at restricting civil liberties or spending funds not yet approved by Congress. Lincoln advocated the gradual emancipation of slaves on a compensatory basis, but the time came when he realized that "slavery must die that the nation may live." On September 22, 1862, he announced that from January 1 of the coming year, all slaves "from now and forever will be free", and on December 30 he signed the "Emancipation Proclamation". 1863 brought the Union Army victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Speaking on November 19, 1863, at the opening of the military cemetery at Gettysburg, Lincoln declared that the soldiers resting here gave their lives so that the country would gain "a new birth of freedom," and "this government of the people, by the people, for the people will never disappear from the face of the earth." This short speech of only 10 sentences became the true manifesto of American democracy, and Lincoln strengthened his fame as a brilliant orator.

Here are the famous phrases of A. Lincoln:

1. "They don't change horses at the crossing." Abraham Lincoln said this phrase in 1864 at the Republican Party convention in Baltimore on the occasion of his nomination for a second term.
2. "Democracy is the government of the people, through and for the people"
3. "I defeat my enemies by turning them into friends"

4. "You can deceive some of the people all the time, and all the people some of the time, but you cannot deceive all the people all the time"

Thus, US President A. Lincoln, in the short term of his reign as president, was able to win the hearts of people with his actions. However, he always remained honest with himself. The history of mankind knows many politicians who were able to change the country for the better, but A. Lincoln was not only able to save America from collapse, but also to build a democratic great state.

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