

The War for Southern Independence

Part 3

An Analysis of . . .

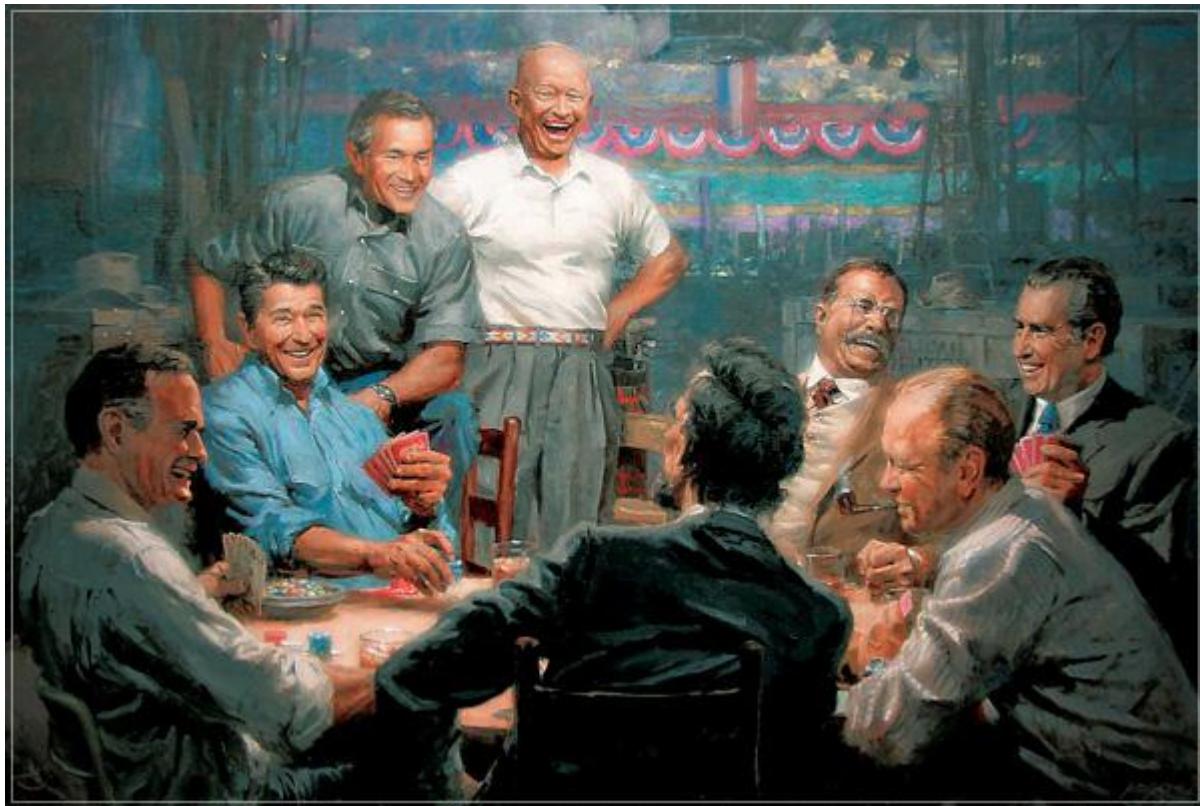
Abraham Lincoln's

First

Inaugural

Address

Don't worry, Abe,
both your faces
are great for poker.



These are pertinent **excerpts**

from Lincoln's First Inaugural Address,

and the truths he tried to hide.

Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that by the accession of a Republican Administration their property and their peace and personal security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension.

This was just before Abraham Lincoln (AL) sent the Union Army to invade and crush the Confederacy. *No reasonable cause for apprehension?* Isn't that pretty much what all dictators tell their victims just before pouncing? This, like almost everything AL said, was a lie. He had already decided to invade the Confederacy. He had to. He couldn't afford to lose all the tariff revenue flowing from the South.

I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.

Ironically, this was one of those rare occasions when Honest Abe's admirers and apologists would apparently have us believe that he was lying. According to CivilGate, the war was really about Southern slavery all along. AL was on a crusade to free the Confederate slaves, and his Emancipation Proclamation (EP) proves it, according to Yankee propaganda. But If the war had always been about slavery, as AL states in his Second Inaugural Address, why was AL lying about it in his First Inaugural Address? On the other hand, if he was telling the truth here, why did he later issue EP? Clearly, AL had major credibility issues.

The truth is that the war was not really about slavery at all. Not in the beginning, at least. It became more about slavery later, in terms of public relations, when AL needed EP to shore up sagging popular support for his bloodier-than-expected war. EP was a PR gimmick and a military strategy, designed in part to inspire Southern slaves to revolt, escape, and join the Union cause.

Slaves could have revolted or escaped easily enough, but they didn't do so in any significant numbers. Why?

AL and the North did not understand the South.

They had fallen victim to their own propaganda, demonizing Southerners.

Southern slaves didn't

revolt or escape because most of them were pretty well satisfied right where they were. When Yankees in the South saw that for themselves, they were astonished. Sometimes they were very angry because Southern black behavior was totally inconsistent with Northern preconceived prejudices. For example, one free black woman simply could not convince Yankee officers that she was indeed not a slave, so they stole everything she had and burned her house down.

AL knew that all adult white Southern males were busy fighting the war, leaving only women, children, and old men to deal with any slave uprising. So he figured the slaves would have an easy time of it. They would no doubt kill off some Southern women and children on their way to freedom (less work for Sherman later), and they would then flock to join the Union Army.

EP did not free a single slave. First of all, it was directed only at the Confederate states. Slaves in border states, Northern states, the territories, and in Union-occupied areas of the South weren't covered by EP, so in fact the Proclamation protected the status of those thousands of slaves. But even in the Confederate states it had no legal effect, since they were no longer part of the Union. Even if they had been, it wouldn't have freed a single slave there. That could be accomplished only by Constitutional Amendment. AL simply had no Constitutional or legal authority to free the slaves, just as he admitted in his First Inaugural Address. Of course, he couldn't have cared less about legalities, though. He had ceased being a president and had become a dictator.

EP did rally public and political support in the North, though, and it prevented possible international intervention on behalf of the South. So one has to wonder why AL waited

so long to issue it. The answer is simple. He didn't think it was necessary. He issued EP only as an afterthought, a last-resort effort to win the war. He issued EP only after it became apparent that the war was not going to be won as easily or quickly as Yankees had believed. Even then he didn't particularly want to interfere with slavery in the South, nor was that a popular idea in the North, but AL figured at that point that it was a price he had to pay for military victory.

In fact, AL, at least at first, desperately wanted to keep slavery in the South. Why? Because neither he nor any other Yankee wanted blacks in the territories or new states. And they sure as heck didn't want freed blacks in the Northern states. For two reasons. One is pure racism. They did not like blacks, and they did not want them in their neighborhoods or schools. The other is pure greed. They did not want to have to compete with blacks for jobs. They didn't want blacks driving down wages. Just look at the blatantly racist laws of the Yankee states. They prove Yankee racism and greed beyond any shadow of reasonable doubt.

At one time AL had favored rounding up all the blacks in America and shipping them back to Africa, or some other country. Didn't much matter where, as long as Yankees didn't have to deal with them any more. When he realized that was impossible, he decided that keeping slaves bottled up in the South was the next best thing.

Resolved, That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend; and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes.

That's what AL said. It's not what AL did. It would quickly become obvious to all that AL's words and his actions were totally unrelated. Shortly after delivering up this lofty

language, AL demonstrated his infinite capacity for lying. He almost immediately began a *lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of* the Confederacy. He quickly proceeded to commit *the gravest of crimes* he had just warned about, on the *pretext* of preserving the Union.

... the property, peace, and security of no section are to be in any wise endangered by the now incoming Administration. I add, too, that all the protection which, consistently with the Constitution and the laws, can be given will be cheerfully given to all the States when lawfully demanded, for whatever cause -- as cheerfully to one section as to another.

Could he really say that with a straight face? Was he not aware that the final straw for the South was a new tariff (the Morrill Tariff) which blatantly helped the North and hurt the South? Didn't a military invasion of the Confederacy count as an *endangerment by the now incoming Administration*? What other president in American history has told such blatant lies? Not even Clinton. Abe was often accused of being two-faced. It's not hard to see why. It seems that one face didn't know what the other was saying or doing.

AL's Jeckyll / Hyde performance was no doubt part of a desperate attempt to lure the Confederate states back into the Union, or at least prevent other states from seceding. Like a horny guy in a bar trying to get a date, AL would say anything to get his way. He told the Southern states what he thought they wanted to hear. When he realized, very quickly, that the South wasn't buying it, AL dropped the act and showed the world what a tyrant he had been all along.

There is much controversy about the delivering up of fugitives from service or labor.

In this and several following paragraphs, AL addresses the issue of the Fugitive Slave Law. It had been a hot topic since it became law in 1850. It had been part of a compromise package crafted by Stephen Douglas. Northern legislators didn't like it, but

they had held their noses and allowed the South to get it through Congress in exchange for Southern accession to popular Northern causes.

Yankees absolutely hated the law, and many who had never particularly cared much one way or the other about the slavery issue suddenly became abolitionists. Runaway slaves found in the North were taken before special commissions because slaves, even in the North, had no legal rights, including trial by jury. Those commissioners had built-in financial and political incentives to rule against slaves, especially the further South they were located. The slaves had no chance of freedom, and soon even free blacks were ruled to be slaves and shipped South to their alleged masters. Soon the law was being used even against slaves who had run away before the law was passed.

But the most obnoxious part to Yankees was that they were being forced to help enforce the law, whether they liked it or not. Any Yankee, no matter how they felt about slavery or the Fugitive Slave Law, could be pressed into service and forced to participate in the enforcement process. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was written in response to the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law. Northern politicians and newspaper editors encouraged citizens to refuse to enforce the law on moral grounds. Enforcement was extremely expensive, also. Boston spent \$5000 trying to apprehend just one fugitive.

Under those circumstances, one might think that AL would come out strongly against the wildly unpopular law. What a golden opportunity for AL, now as president, with the full weight of the federal government behind him, to take a firm and noble stand against the injustices this law imposed on slaves, free blacks, and Yankees. But he didn't. Instead, he simply reminded the nation that this law, after all, was merely helping put into practice what the Constitution (COTUS) had put into words. Sure enough, it's right there in Article 4, Section 2 of COTUS.

So, AL argued, there was really nothing he could do about it. He was bound by his oath of office, after all, to uphold COTUS, even those parts of it he may not have personally

liked or agreed with. What a noble, disciplined, principled president! And yet, once again, his words and his actions took separate paths. He refused to interfere with the Fugitive Slave Law because he wanted blacks out of the North and in the South where he felt they belonged. He upheld COTUS in this case because it happened to conform to his wishes. But he had no qualms about ignoring and blatantly disobeying COTUS when it didn't conform to his plans.

That's why AL insisted on obeying this particular part of COTUS, and this particular law. That's why he didn't at least make an effort to get the law repealed, and maybe even get a Constitutional Amendment reversing that part of COTUS. That's why he didn't put the full weight of the presidency and, in fact, the power of the entire federal government behind passing the 13th Amendment, right then and there. The South no longer blocked that path. Secession was already well under way, and without those Southern votes in Congress blocking such reforms, Yankees should have been easily able to pass any policies they wanted.

Of course, that would have meant recognizing the Confederacy and the legality of secession. So what? That would have been the Constitutional, moral, and pragmatic thing to do. Sure, acknowledging the right of secession would have caused some short-term problems, but nothing on the scale of the Civil War. Look at the long-term solutions it would have brought. No war, for example. No need for it. That would have given both sections time to reflect, adjust, negotiate, and peacefully come to an agreement. It would have happened, because both sides had too much to lose apart and too much to gain reunited. It was in the best interest of both the North and the South to soon reunite.

There is no hint that AL ever even considered the possibility. He wanted the Fugitive Slave Law enforced. He wanted slaves returned to the South, because he didn't want them in the North. He didn't want abolitionist programs like the Underground Railroad to succeed, because he didn't want free blacks flooding into the Northern or border states or the territories.

But there was another even more urgent and compelling reason why AL did not take a firm and noble stand against the Fugitive Slave Law, slavery, and all its related problems right at the very beginning of his administration. He had a much bigger (to him and the North) crisis on his hands. Tariff revenue, or more specifically, the loss of it due to secession.

I hold that in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution the Union of these States is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments. It is safe to assert that no government proper ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination. Continue to execute all the express provisions of our National Constitution, and the Union will endure forever, it being impossible to destroy it except by some action not provided for in the instrument itself.

Again: If the United States be not a government proper, but an association of States in the nature of contract merely, can it, as a contract, be peaceably unmade by less than all the parties who made it? One party to a contract may violate it -- break it, so to speak -- but does it not require all to lawfully rescind it?

Descending from these general principles, we find the proposition that in legal contemplation the Union is perpetual confirmed by the history of the Union itself. The Union is much older than the Constitution. It was formed, in fact, by the Articles of Association in 1774. It was matured and continued by the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It was further matured, and the faith of all the then thirteen States expressly plighted and engaged that it should be perpetual, by the Articles of Confederation in 1778. And finally, in 1787, one of the declared objects for ordaining and establishing the Constitution was "to form a more perfect Union."

But if destruction of the Union by one or by a part only of the States be lawfully possible, the Union is less perfect than before the Constitution, having lost the vital element of perpetuity.

It follows from these views that no State upon its own mere motion can lawfully get out of the Union; that resolves and ordinances to that effect are legally void, and that acts of violence within any State or States against the authority of the United States are insurrectionary or revolutionary, according to circumstances.

The key part of that whole monologue is this: "It follows from these views . . ." Those were AL's views. The problem is, the president's (POTUS's) oath of office does not require him to uphold his own views. It requires him to uphold COTUS. He talks around COTUS, but he never asks the most important question: What does COTUS say about secession?

Wouldn't you think a responsible POTUS might get around to that little detail at some point? But AL never does. Instead, he bases his decisions on "these views". If that's what the Framers had in mind, Article II of COTUS would have been one sentence: Just do whatever POTUS thinks best.

That is the reason for the Civil War. AL decided to disregard COTUS and govern instead based on his views. He knew better than the Framers. The Founders had a term for that: monarchy.

Since AL didn't do his job, I'll do it for him. What does the Supreme Court (SCOTUS) do when faced with deciding whether a law is Constitutional or not? The Justices (theoretically) go through a series of steps, something like this: What does COTUS say about the subject? What was the intent of the Framers? What did the Founders have to say on the subject? What are the existing laws on the subject? How have lower courts and SCOTUS ruled on this subject in the past?

Secession is not mentioned in COTUS. Therefore it is not one of the enumerated powers of the federal government, nor is it one of the powers specifically prohibited by states. Therefore, it is Constitutional for a state to secede from the Union. Honestly, Abe, that wasn't so hard, was it? But, of course you already knew that. You just didn't care. And you certainly didn't want the North to understand that.

Could there maybe have been a Constitutional convention to deal with the issue of secession, and legally resolve any possible confusion or disagreement? Of course. In fact, President Buchanan was trying to make that happen, but he ran out of time. Why didn't AL put his support behind it? He advised everyone to take their time and seriously think things over before acting. Why didn't he take the time to at least try to get a Constitutional Amendment that simply said: no state may secede from the Union? If he had managed to pull that off, and if the South still seceded, then AL would possibly have had a moral leg to stand on politically. But AL understood very well the futility of that course. That still would not have resolved the issue, because, according to the Declaration of Independence (DOI), secession (a peaceful form of revolution) is a natural right which trumps even COTUS. There was no way to repeal or amend DOI.

What about the intent of the Framers and the thoughts of the Founders?

Most, if not all the states, would have refused to ratify COTUS if they weren't sure they preserved the right to secede. One way we know this is because many Anti-Federalists warned that adopting COTUS meant giving up state sovereignty, triggering repeated assurances by Federalists that states would remain sovereign. Another way we know this is because many states explicitly stated that they retained full state sovereignty, either when they ratified COTUS or in their state constitution. A third way we know this is by what COTUS does not say. The Framers could very easily have included a provision prohibiting secession, but they did not. And it's not because they just didn't think about it.

Even before the Philadelphia Convention, James Madison (commonly thought of as the Father of the Constitution) was busy thinking about how America's new government should be structured. He came up with a framework, and he told George Washington about it in a letter. It became known as the Virginia Plan (Virginia being the home state of Madison and Washington), and much of that plan was quickly adopted into COTUS at the Philadelphia Convention in 1787.

One of the provisions of the Virginia Plan allowed the federal government to use force if necessary to assure state compliance with federal law. It would have, in effect, prohibited secession. But that provision never made its way into COTUS. Madison was obviously in favor of it, since he wrote it, but the other delegates turned it down. And Madison was obviously okay with that, because he was one of the primary advocates for the new COTUS during the ratification debates. (He and Alexander Hamilton wrote almost all the Federalist Papers.)

You may be wondering, then, why they didn't include something in COTUS that explicitly allowed for secession. They didn't consider it necessary. Why? Because they all knew that the way COTUS was structured, unless something was specifically granted as an enumerated power to the federal government, the feds have no control over it. And anything they don't have control over falls into the power of the states to control (unless specifically prohibited by COTUS). Since COTUS is silent on the subject of secession, it's not under federal jurisdiction. It's up to the states. That's it. The Framers saw no need to state the obvious.

It was the same way with the Bill of Rights (BOR). The reason BOR came later in the form of the first ten Amendments instead of being incorporated into the original COTUS is that they weren't necessary at all (at least to Madison's and most Framers' way of thinking). The Framers resisted adding them because they were afraid that having them there might create more confusion than clarity. But, during the ratification debates, we

the people insisted, because, although braniacs like Madison understood that BOR technically didn't add anything new, we like to see certain basic natural rights spelled out in black and white, so we can point to them and demand those rights be upheld.

If there had been a similar public concern about the issue of secession, that no doubt would have been included explicitly in BOR or the original body of COTUS. But no one thought much about secession simply because they accepted that it was a well-understood right of states, and there was no need, therefore, to say it. Everyone at the time knew that secession was a possibility, but no one (at least no Federalists) expected it to actually happen. When people get married, they know there is a possibility of divorce, but they don't expect it to happen to them, so they don't want to talk about it. So, in effect, COTUS tells us what we need to know about secession (and a lot of other issues) without even mentioning it.

It is important, too, to remember what Thomas Jefferson said in 1798 in a letter to James Madison regarding the Alien and Sedition Acts. He said that if the states could not stop the federal government from enforcing those laws, then it would be better for states like Virginia and Kentucky to separate from the Union rather than give up their rights of self-government. Jefferson, a prominent Founder, knew a thing or two about COTUS (although he wasn't one of the Framers), and he certainly believed states had a right to secede from the Union.

The Framers and Founders, therefore, would not have approved of AL's actions. There were no state or federal laws governing secession, either. No state, early on, would have allowed AL's actions to stand. No matter how he sliced it, secession was clearly legal, Constitutional, and a natural right. AL was violating COTUS, and he knew it.

So, he decided to simply pretend the situation was like a rebellion or insurrection. There had been many rebellions in the country at various times at various places for various reasons. Send in a few troops, and the rowdies usually get the message right away.

This was fundamentally different. Unlike any of those previous episodes, this was a secession, and it involved more than one "rebellious" state. AL understood that, but he didn't want the North to understand that. Why? Because he had big government plans, and secession was getting in the way. He relied on an ignorant and gullible North to fall for his lies, because he didn't have DOI, COTUS, the law, the truth, morality, or even basic human decency on his side.

AL, being a good lawyer, responded to that reality by talking around COTUS, instead of talking about it. His mock concern for COTUS was as hollow as his promises to uphold States' Rights.

As for AL's comparison of COTUS to a contract, is COTUS really a contract? A similar question had come up during the Philadelphia Convention. In fact, lawyers, historians, Constitutional scholars have debated forever the differences between contracts, compacts, constitutions, treaties, etc. What's clear is that AL's characterization of COTUS as a simple contract was pure obfuscation. He knew it was a lie, but he also knew that most people in the North would buy it. They did.

A more accurate and honest analysis would be this. Remember that COTUS was ratified by the states, not by direct popular vote. Of course, final power always rests with the people in a republican government, but in this case that power was exercised by the people indirectly -- they elected representatives to their state ratifying conventions, who in turn voted on ratification.

Since COTUS was ratified by the states, it retains the nature of a treaty more than the nature of a contract. As a *treaty*, COTUS is an agreement between states and the federal government. If violated by either the states or the federal government, it is no longer enforceable. The Southern states violated the treaty when they seceded, and the federal government violated its Constitutional guarantee to each state of a republican form of government.

Obviously, this whole line of Constitutional reasoning and legal theory is a bit too abstract to be of much practical value to most people. That's exactly what AL was counting on. His clever use of the contract analogy was, therefore, effective, and it was just part of his elaborate web of deceit.

However, if you care to get down to nitty gritty lawyer lingo, AL's contract analogy doesn't hold up at all. It doesn't pass the smell test, either. It defies common sense, if you think about it. Isn't marriage a contract? It certainly fits the legal requirements of a contract more than COTUS does. When two people marry, they vow to remain married to each other "til death do us part" (or similar language). No one (theoretically) gets married if they don't have every intention of honoring that contract for the rest of their lives. Yet, only about half of the marriages in America make it that far. People get divorced every day. Yet, following AL's legal logic, no one would ever be allowed to get a divorce unless both parties agree to it. It often doesn't work out that way, but they get divorced anyway.

It was absurd for AL to claim that no state could get a "divorce" from the Union, ever, no matter what. It was even more absurd to think that he could "preserve the Union" by force. He could no more do that than a spouse could preserve a marriage by killing their husband or wife, or by threatening to, or by handcuffing them to the bedpost or locking them in the basement. It's impossible to "preserve" a marriage that way, and it was equally impossible to "preserve" the Union by force.

His point about the *perpetual* Union was also sophistry and obfuscation. Few people in the North were what could be considered deep thinkers. They could have easily read COTUS and discovered for themselves that secession was not a violation of COTUS. With the slightest amount of research they could have seen that AL's arguments were lies. But they obviously didn't bother. It was a pretty effective con job by a clever lawyer. It worked. Yankees bought it hook, line, and sinker, because they wanted to believe it.

They really didn't much care about COTUS or the law or what was morally right or wrong. They wanted the South's tariff revenue, and that's all that mattered to them. AL's cover story was good enough for them.

Persuasive Abe, yes. Honest Abe, no.

That's how and why AL convinced the North that he had a Constitutional and legal obligation to *preserve the Union*. He carved out for himself in his First Inaugural Address what he knew would be perceived by gullible Yankees as the moral high ground. He was just dutifully serving the people who elected him and staying true to his oath of office.

To show how seriously he took his responsibility to uphold the Constitution, he immediately began the process of shredding the Constitution and assuming dictatorial powers. Some Yankees were smart enough to see AL for what he was, and brave enough to say so, but they were quickly imprisoned or otherwise silenced.

I therefore consider that in view of the Constitution and the laws the Union is unbroken, and to the extent of my ability, I shall take care, as the Constitution itself expressly enjoins upon me, that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in all the States.

AL decided that the Union was unbroken. In other words, there had been no secession. He had no Constitutional, legal, or moral basis for making such a decision, and he knew it. That was no longer important. This is the point at which AL stopped acting as POTUS and assumed the limitless powers of a dictator.

There was one law in particular that he was determined to faithfully execute in all the States. That was the Morrill Tariff of 1861. Enforcement of that law was the driving force behind what AL did, and it was one of the primary factors that prompted secession.

That's one of the many dirty little secrets CivilGate is dedicated to keeping out of public knowledge. It has succeeded for 150 years. Now it is time to face the truth.

The South had been the North's primary source of federal revenue for years. The Morrill Tariff was set to squeeze even more Yankee revenue from the South. The North had managed to get the law passed through Congress over strong Southern opposition. The South had argued that it hurt the South and helped the North. Yankees admitted that that was true, but it was only fair, as far as the North was concerned. After all, the South was benefitting from slave labor, while the North used free white labor. (The North still resented the three-fifths clause in COTUS).

Tariff revenue accounted for 95% of the Union's federal income. The lion's share of it was collected by the South and sent North. Very little of that money ever made its way back to the South. Instead, the North had been using almost all of it for their own internal improvement projects.

Secession threatened to bring all that to a screeching halt. And the prospect of losing all that Southern tariff revenue had Yankees wetting their pants. They began to realize that if they let the South secede, the Confederacy, with much lower tariff rates, would force international commerce to flow to New Orleans, instead of the Northern ports. Prior to that, the North had been pretty much willing to just let the South go their own way. But once they started reading newspaper horror stories about New Orleans flourishing while grass grew in the streets of New York City, they changed their minds. Then they were ready to go to war to *preserve the Union*. It had nothing to do with Constitutional principles, natural rights, slavery, or any other moral or legal concern. It was about money. Period.

Slavery had always been about money to Yankees. They tried to make slaves of Indians, but that didn't work. They had black slaves, but that wasn't practical in the North. So they made their money in the slave trade, and they kept right on doing so,

even after the slave trade became illegal. They were still active in the slave trade right up to the Civil War. Much of the wealth in the North to this day was derived, originally, from the North's slave trade activities.

They didn't need slave labor in the North, but they had no problem selling slaves to the South. They had no qualms about turning a nice profit from Southern slave cotton. By that time they had decided that blacks were no longer welcome in the North. Their state laws prohibited blacks from settling there, mostly because they didn't want blacks competing for jobs and driving down wages. Not in the North, not in territories, and not in new states. But it was also because Yankees were racists. They just didn't like blacks or want them around.

That's why, even though they weren't necessarily crazy about the idea of slavery, at least after *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published, they were perfectly willing to let the South keep their slaves. Because that helped keep blacks out of the territories and Northern states, and because it helped the South generate all that beautiful tariff revenue for the North to spend on themselves.

Doing this I deem to be only a simple duty on my part, and I shall perform it so far as practicable unless my rightful masters, the American people, shall withhold the requisite means or in some authoritative manner direct the contrary.

Psst. Hey, Abe. Look, man, I don't want to step on your wonderful speech or anything, but did you miss that whole secession business? Wasn't that your *rightful masters, the American people* in the South, *withholding the requisite means*? Wasn't the Confederacy *in some authoritative manner directing the contrary*? Yep, by golly, I'm pretty darn sure that's what they were doing, and they had every Constitutional and legal right to do so. And honestly, Abe, you knew that all along, didn't you? Sure! You were a lawyer, not some ignorant country wood-chopping hick. You just weren't listening to your rightful masters. You simply didn't care what they said or wanted. No,

what mattered is what you wanted. And what you wanted was for that beautiful Southern tariff revenue to keep flowing up the Mississippi into your upturned palms.

A president has to get his priorities straight, and AL did. While the South was worried about States' Rights, protecting its own culture, and preserving its liberties, AL knew what was really important. Money.

I trust this will not be regarded as a menace, but only as the declared purpose of the Union that it will constitutionally defend and maintain itself.

Gosh, Abe, regard you as a menace? Heck no, man. Sure you got almost 650,000 Americans slaughtered in an illegal, unconstitutional, immoral, unnecessary war (including thousands of defenseless women, children, old men, and blacks). Okay, you left the Southern half of the country with nothing but their eyes to cry with. Well, there's that whole business of completely taking over the South – their governments, their schools, their voting rights, their very lives – and replacing it with Yankee people, Yankee institutions, and Yankee culture. In the process, you installed rampant Yankee racism in the half of the country where it had not existed before. You ripped the Constitution to shreds, terrorized the North, imprisoned or executed thousands of your political opponents (or suspects), and did everything you possibly could to make sure America would never again become a Constitutional republic. You know, stuff like that. But, hey, a dictator's got to do what a dictator's got to do. Menace? No, you weren't a menace. You were a tyrant, a murderer, a pathological liar, a war criminal But a menace? Dennis was a menace. You, Abe, were just America's worst nightmare.

In doing this there needs to be no bloodshed or violence, and there shall be none unless it be forced upon the national authority. The power confided to me will be used to hold, occupy, and possess the property and places belonging to the Government and to collect the duties and imposts; but beyond what may be necessary for these objects, there will be no invasion, no using of force against or among the people anywhere.

Abe was a reasonable man. He was easy enough to get along with. All the South had to do was exactly what Abe told them to do, and everything would be just hunky dory. He was sort of the Jesse James of Washington. Give me all your tariff revenue and nobody gets hurt.

Where hostility to the United States in any interior locality shall be so great and universal as to prevent competent resident citizens from holding the Federal offices, there will be no attempt to force obnoxious strangers among the people for that object. While the strict legal right may exist in the Government to enforce the exercise of these offices, the attempt to do so would be so irritating and so nearly impracticable withal that I deem it better to forego for the time the uses of such offices.

No doubt victims of Reconstruction found great comfort in that hollow rhetoric.

In other words, AL was admitting the futility of sending Yankee tax revenue collectors into the Confederacy. So he planned to send in the Union Army. (I guess he forgot to mention that little detail).

So far as possible the people everywhere shall have that sense of perfect security which is most favorable to calm thought and reflection. The course here indicated will be followed unless current events and experience shall show a modification or change to be proper, and in every case and exigency my best discretion will be exercised, according to circumstances actually existing and with a view and a hope of a peaceful solution of the national troubles and the restoration of fraternal sympathies and affections.

That's Lincolnesque for: I'm going to do whatever I want to do. Forget all that crap I've said about the Constitution. Forget that nice-guy routine I've been laying on you. Here's my escape clause, just in case anyone is actually paying attention.

Calm thought and reflection. If only AL had heeded his own words. Calm thought and reflection would have led him to understand that secession, though inconvenient, was in the best short-term interest of the entire country, under the circumstances. Secession, in addition to being the South's Constitutional right, was also in many ways an answer to a number of the North's problems, if AL was being honest about what they wanted.

It meant that the South would no longer attempt to take their slaves with them into territories. It meant that the North had the political power to abolish slavery everywhere outside the Confederacy. (There were still thousands of slaves in border states and the territories.) To keep from losing international commerce at Northern ports to New Orleans, all the North had to do was lower its own tariff rates. That may have required making other adjustments and arrangements to make up for lost tariff revenue, but there's no reason to think they couldn't manage that. In fact, they did manage that during the war, in large part by inflicting an unconstitutional income tax on Yankees. Northern tariff policies had been unfair to the South anyway, and Yankees knew it.

Calm thought and reflection would have led AL and the North to realize that war was not necessary. With their industrial base, they could have left the South in the dust economically. And they could have helped put a great deal of international pressure on the South to hurry up and end institutionalized slavery there. It was already dying, and the South knew it. Slavery had already ended throughout most of the world, and the South would have found themselves increasingly embarrassed and isolated until they finally came to terms with their slavery addiction.

They would have done so soon enough, in their own way. The Confederacy would have rejoined the Union. Not by force. But because it was in their best interest to do so. That would have taken a bit of time, though, and AL was not a patient man. He was determined to keep that tariff revenue flowing north, and he was willing to get 650,000 Americans killed, destroy half the country, and demolish COTUS to get his way. (That's

apparently what he meant when he said his *best discretion would be exercised*). AL's best discretion worked out so well, didn't it?

That there are persons in one section or another who seek to destroy the Union at all events and are glad of any pretext to do it I will neither affirm nor deny; but if there be such, I need address no word to them. To those, however, who really love the Union may I not speak?

Some in the North were convinced that secession was merely a plot to destroy the Union. Secession certainly did change the composition and character of the Union. How could secession not do that? That, in a sense, is the whole purpose and the very definition of secession. But the Confederate states were in no way seeking to destroy the North, or to cause them harm by seceding. The South just wanted to go its separate way, and they wanted to be left alone. That's what the colonies had wanted and fought for in the Revolutionary War. That's what Northern states had threatened to do several times through the years.

This conspiracy theory was born of a Yankee double standard. Secession was fine for Yankees, but not for Southern Rebels. The North was the proverbial woman scorned. She resented being the one that got dumped.

Before entering upon so grave a matter as the destruction of our national fabric, with all its benefits, its memories, and its hopes, would it not be wise to ascertain precisely why we do it? Will you hazard so desperate a step while there is any possibility that any portion of the ills you fly from have no real existence? Will you, while the certain ills you fly to are greater than all the real ones you fly from, will you risk the commission of so fearful a mistake?

Was secession a mistake? Maybe. AL certainly had the right to think so, say so, and try to convince the Confederacy of the error of their ways. That's what this address was all

about. It was AL's last best effort to sweet-talk the Confederacy back into the Union, or at least convince other states not to secede. But, it was not AL's decision to make, any more than it had been King George's decision in the Revolutionary War. Ultimately, it was the South's choice, and the Confederate states had made their decision. AL refused to accept that. That's when he crossed the line from president to dictator. That's when he abandoned the role of a leader and assumed the role of a tyrant.

Were the problems the Confederacy escaped by secession really just in their own minds? Were Southerners just imagining things? Whatever doubts may have lingered in the minds of Southerners soon evaporated as AL and the North launched their invasion of the South. Even the South could not have imagined the horrors that were about to be inflicted upon them. But they had seen right through AL, and they weren't buying his act. They wanted no part of his tyranny, and they no longer wanted any part of the Union. That was their natural right. AL himself had said so.

All profess to be content in the Union if all constitutional rights can be maintained. Is it true, then, that any right plainly written in the Constitution has been denied? I think not. Happily, the human mind is so constituted that no party can reach to the audacity of doing this. Think, if you can, of a single instance in which a plainly written provision of the Constitution has ever been denied. If by the mere force of numbers a majority should deprive a minority of any clearly written constitutional right, it might in a moral point of view justify revolution; certainly would if such right were a vital one. But such is not our case. All the vital rights of minorities and of individuals are so plainly assured to them by affirmations and negations, guaranties and prohibitions, in the Constitution that controversies never arise concerning them. But no organic law can ever be framed with a provision specifically applicable to every question which may occur in practical administration. No foresight can anticipate nor any document of reasonable length contain express provisions for all possible questions. Shall fugitives from labor be surrendered by national or by State authority? The Constitution does not expressly say. May Congress prohibit slavery in the Territories? The Constitution does not expressly

say. Must Congress protect slavery in the Territories? The Constitution does not expressly say.

AL asks a very good question. An important one. Was the South being denied a single Constitutional right? Yes, they most certainly were. The right of secession. AL himself had argued passionately for the right of secession. But now he was denying that right to the Confederacy. He knew the South had every right to secede. He just didn't care. Why? Money. He had to keep that Southern tariff revenue flowing north at any cost. He knew there was no time to waste.

If a minority in such case will secede rather than acquiesce, they make a precedent which in turn will divide and ruin them, for a minority of their own will secede from them whenever a majority refuses to be controlled by such minority. For instance, why may not any portion of a new confederacy a year or two hence arbitrarily secede again, precisely as portions of the present Union now claim to secede from it? All who cherish disunion sentiments are now being educated to the exact temper of doing this.

AL raises another good question here. What was to keep some of the Confederate states from seceding at some point from the Confederacy? Interesting scenario, but not likely, and not the point AL needed to be addressing. That was something the seceding states needed to consider, but POTUS's job is to uphold COTUS. It was a state governor's job to worry about secessions within their states. It was Jefferson Davis' job to worry about Southern states leaving the Confederacy. It was AL's job to uphold COTUS. If the federal government functions within the spirit and guidelines of COTUS, it is highly unlikely that any state will have any desire to secede.

Isn't it interesting that when this exact scenario did actually play out, resulting in West Virginia, AL thought that was pretty cool. It's a consistent pattern with AL that whether he supported or opposed something depended entirely on whether it helped or hindered his political ambitions at the time. (It's the same problem we have today with liberals

and progressives.) Just like the lawyer he was, he could argue either side of a case, or both sides at different times. The pursuit of truth gets lost in the process, and gives way to obfuscation, distortion, exaggeration, sophistry, and lies. Whatever it takes to win the case or the argument. Winning, not truth, is the most important thing.

However honest he may have been before the 1860 election, AL's move to the White House seems to have triggered some serious credibility issues. And nowhere is that reflected more vividly than in his First Inaugural Address. It's very difficult to believe that his 1860 election marked a dramatic, sudden change. He was an extremely gifted liar. It seems much more likely that AL had been a pathological liar all his adult life.

Plainly the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy. A majority held in restraint by constitutional checks and limitations, and always changing easily with deliberate changes of popular opinions and sentiments, is the only true sovereign of a free people. Whoever rejects it does of necessity fly to anarchy or to despotism. Unanimity is impossible. The rule of a minority, as a permanent arrangement, is wholly inadmissible; so that, rejecting the majority principle, anarchy or despotism in some form is all that is left.

Secession is the essence of anarchy? I don't think you can find a single Founding Father who would have gone along with that silly notion. The American colonies seceded from England. That didn't lead to anarchy. West Virginia seceded from Virginia. That didn't lead to anarchy. Texas seceded from Mexico. That didn't cause anarchy. Secession can lead to anarchy, but so can a lot of other things. Secession can also lead to improved government, increased liberty, and greater stability. Throughout American history our federal government has supported secession at various times and places. AL himself supported secession whenever he felt it advanced his cause at the time.

Despotism? AL was poised to define despotism for America. He was about to carve for himself in world history his place among the bloodiest, most ruthless despots of any age, any place. Why would Americans pay tribute to such a bloody tyrant? Because of CivilGate.

The South knew the truth, but they were unable to stop him. The North knew the truth, too, but they didn't want to stop him. When they read in the newspapers about a Union general that had not been ruthless and savage enough, he faced the wrath of the federal government and the Yankee public. When Union officers were (rarely) reprimanded by military officials for war crimes, AL intervened on their behalf and promoted them instead of punishing them. When innocent, defenseless women, children, old men, and blacks were slaughtered and starved in the South, the North celebrated. After all, it was only Southerners. Those Southern barbarians were just getting the Yankee revenge they so richly deserved. AL was a reflection of Yankee hatred, greed, arrogance, racism, revenge, and evil.

I do not forget the position assumed by some that constitutional questions are to be decided by the Supreme Court, nor do I deny that such decisions must be binding . . .

No, he didn't forget. He just didn't care. Time after time he defied and ignored SCOTUS, COTUS, and the law. President James Buchanan had tried to get a SCOTUS ruling on the issue of secession. Why didn't AL get behind that effort? Because he didn't care about COTUS, SCOTUS, civil rights, or even human decency or compassion, especially for Southerners. All that mattered was what AL thought, what he wanted, what the North wanted. And what they wanted was those Southern tariff revenues. The North had become addicted to Southern money and, with secession, they were starting to go through withdrawal. They were willing to do whatever it took to keep their supply line open and get their next fix.

One section of our country believes slavery is right and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute. The fugitive-slave clause of the Constitution and the law for the suppression of the foreign slave trade are each as well enforced, perhaps, as any law can ever be in a community where the moral sense of the people imperfectly supports the law itself. The great body of the people abide by the dry legal obligation in both cases, and a few break over in each. This, I think, can not be perfectly cured, and it would be worse in both cases after the separation of the sections than before. The foreign slave trade, now imperfectly suppressed, would be ultimately revived without restriction in one section, while fugitive slaves, now only partially surrendered, would not be surrendered at all by the other.

AL predicted that the slave trade would be revived in the South if secession were allowed to stand. Any Yankee with an active brain cell would have immediately recognized that for the bilge it was. The foreign slave trade, contrary to AL's blathering, was strictly prohibited in the Confederate constitution. With the exception of two Southern states who had cooperated with the North, the South had for years fought to prohibit the slave trade and strictly enforce that prohibition. It was the North that resisted those efforts, and ignored the law, because they were still making lots of money from the slave trade.

He also predicted that the North would no longer make any attempt to enforce the fugitive slave requirements of COTUS and the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. That may have been true. They certainly would have abandoned the coercive nature of the despised 1850 law. But if AL had recognized the South's right to secede, the North could easily have passed a Constitutional amendment to reverse that part of COTUS and overturn the 1850 law. In fact, the North could have easily passed the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery right at the very beginning of AL's administration. With the South no longer represented in Congress, there was nothing stopping the North from dealing boldly and decisively with the whole slavery problem immediately,

permanently. They didn't do that. They didn't even try to do that. There's no indication that it ever even occurred to them. Isn't that strange?

The Confederate states would still have had slavery, but the North could have offered a safe haven for those who escaped and made their way into the North. The North could have greatly expanded their Underground Railroad operations to cover the entire South. The North could have welcomed freed blacks with open arms into their states, their society, and their culture. They did not. Instead, Northern states had laws to keep blacks out. They didn't want them living in their neighborhoods and competing for jobs. Yankees were racists, pure and simple. And they were greedy. They always had been, and that's one of the main reasons why the North and South had never gotten along well.

According to AL, the only real bone of contention was over the extension of slavery into the territories. If he had really believed that, he would have declared victory and gone home to celebrate. When the Confederate states seceded, they conceded that point. They no longer claimed any right or intent to take slaves into the territories. They had never advocated reopening the slave trade there (or anyplace else), they just wanted to be able to take their existing slaves with them into the territories. Jefferson Davis, among others, had believed that doing so would help hasten the time when slavery would be gone forever, because slaves would be dispersed into areas where they were not economically viable. That's the way it had worked in the North, after all.

But that didn't matter any more. All AL had to do was recognize the Confederacy's right of secession, and the issue of slavery in the territories was solved. That would have been the moral, Constitutional, legal, and practical thing for AL to do. There was no need for war. But AL chose war anyway. Why? Because that wasn't the real issue, and AL knew it. The real issue was the Morrill Tariff of 1861. AL was determined to enforce it, and the Confederacy was determined to prevent that.

Why didn't AL just admit that? Because he was a pathological liar. Because he knew the truth didn't sound noble or just or presidential. Dictators always have to find a way to paint a happy face on whatever they do. *Preserving the Union* was AL's first attempt at a Yankee happy face. When the war turned out to be more prolonged, difficult, bloody, and costly than anyone had imagined, when public support was sagging and *preserving the Union* didn't seem to be worth so much slaughter, then AL issued EP to make the war appear to be about slavery. He hoped Southern slaves would revolt and join the Union war effort against the South. That did not happen. But AL did gain Northern public support. And the slavery issue became the happy face exploited by CivilGate to cover up the ugly truth of AL's bloody illegal invasion of the South over tariff revenue.

Unfortunately for AL and CivilGate mythmeisters, it's fairly easy to prove that they are liars. Once again, it is AL himself who betrays his own web of deceit.

Whether slavery shall go into Nebraska, or other new territories, is not a matter of exclusive concern to the people who may go there. The whole nation is interested that the best use shall be made of these territories. We want them to be homes of free white people. This they cannot be, to any considerable extent, if slavery shall be planted with them. Slave states are the places for poor white people to move from.

The Great Emancipator was a racist! Yankees were racists! Their own words and actions prove it, time and time again. The North pined for an all-white future. The South did not.

Physically speaking, we can not separate. We can not remove our respective sections from each other nor build an impassable wall between them. . . .

No one was suggesting an *impassable wall* between the North and South. No one was suggesting that the two countries could not forge agreements and alliances on matters of commerce and defense. It was in the best interest of both countries to cooperate, at

least on those vital matters of mutual concern, and there is no valid reason to assume they wouldn't have done so if AL had not invaded the South. Separation was most certainly possible, it was Constitutional, it was reasonable, and, in many ways, it was practical, at least in the short-term, for the Union as well as for the South.

If anyone was creating an *impassable wall* between the North and the South, it was AL himself. His absolute refusal to even meet with Southern representatives who had wanted to negotiate a very fair and reasonable settlement of the Ft Sumter issue, for example. His rush to war instead of trying to negotiate with the South. His defiance of and contempt for COTUS and SCOTUS.

Suppose you go to war, you can not fight always; and when, after much loss on both sides and no gain on either, you cease fighting, the identical old questions, as to terms of intercourse, are again upon you.

He got that part right. That's why we still have lingering questions and scars from the Civil War. Which begs the question, why was he so eager to lead the country into war when AL himself warned of the futility of it, and when there were lots of other far better options? Answer: the Morrill Tariff of 1861. Southern money, Yankee greed.

This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing Government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it.

It's good to know AL understood the concept. It's tragic that he consistently chose to ignore his own words. If only AL had listened to his own advice. The people have a right to revolution -- the same right exercised in the Revolutionary War. The same right our Founders recognized as the one natural right that precedes and trumps even COTUS.

The same right the seceding states were exercising (or attempting to). Their secession was a form of revolution. It could have been a peaceful one. The South didn't want war. They didn't even want secession, but it was forced on them, or at least that's how they saw it. They didn't want to invade the North or harm it in any way. They didn't want to take over the North or control it.

What exactly did they want? What were their demands? Slavery? No, they already had that. Slavery was the law of the land, according to SCOTUS. AL wasn't threatening that in any way. He told the South more than once that he had no intention of interfering with slavery there, and that in fact, he didn't have the authority as POTUS to do so, even if he had wanted to. The war was not caused by slavery. That's a crucial point which tends to get drowned in a sea of Civil War mythology and propaganda. Even after the Emancipation Proclamation, AL assured the South that they could keep their slaves if they would just rejoin the Union. AL, even at that late date, preferred slavery in the South so there wouldn't be a bunch of blacks moving into the Northern states. Yankees didn't like blacks and they didn't want the competition for jobs.

What was it, then? What did the South want? As Jefferson Davis put it, they just wanted to be left alone. Almost 650,000 people, including civilians, died because AL refused to allow the South that simple Constitutional and natural right. AL acknowledges right here in his First Inaugural Address that the South had every right to secede. Yet he launched the Civil War to prevent them from exercising that natural right.

You didn't hear about that in school, did you? You didn't hear, no doubt, about rampant Yankee racism or Northern state laws keeping blacks from settling there, or about the Morrill Tariff of 1861, which benefitted the North at the expense of the South. You didn't hear that AL invaded the South because of Yankee greed. With the truth being so ugly, so embarrassing and humiliating for Yankees, they had to come up with an elaborate cover story and sell it to future generations of Americans. CivilGate.

I can not be ignorant of the fact that many worthy and patriotic citizens are desirous of having the National Constitution amended. While I make no recommendation of amendments, I fully recognize the rightful authority of the people over the whole subject

...

What AL was referring to here was the Corwin Amendment. The Corwin Amendment was passed by the House on March 1, 1861, and the Senate on March 3, 1861. President Buchanan signed it the same day (his last full day in office). It was later ratified by three states: Ohio, Maryland, and Illinois. This proposed Constitutional amendment would have forbidden the adoption of any future Constitutional amendment that would have abolished or restricted slavery, or that would have permitted Congress to do so.

Imagine that! The 13th Amendment could well have been one that protected slavery instead of abolishing it. It would have made it impossible for future congressional legislation or Constitutional amendments to interfere with slavery anywhere in the US. Ever! And the Great Emancipator's response was – okay, whatever.

How in the world can CivilGate mythmeisters explain that away? Instead of proposing and supporting a Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery once and for all, throughout the entire country, AL didn't even try to talk the people out of working to get the Corwin Amendment passed. Why on earth would the Great Emancipator do such a thing? Why would Buchanan have supported such an amendment? Why did those three Northern states vote to ratify it? Northern states, not Southern states. They did it to try to persuade the Confederate states to rejoin the Union, and to prevent other states from joining them.

But even more difficult for CivilGate propagandists to explain is the South's reaction. Seven Southern states had already seceded. If they had ratified the Corwin amendment, it would have been well on its way to becoming the 13th Amendment. With

the three Northern states supporting it, along with the Confederacy, it wouldn't have been difficult to make the Corwin amendment a reality, and slavery would have been the law of the land throughout the US forever.

Why didn't those Southern states jump at such a golden opportunity? Because secession had never been about slavery. It had been about tariffs and state sovereignty and States' Rights. Just like the South said. Yankees did not understand the South. Their desperate attempt to lure the South back into the Union with such an extreme measure as this clearly demonstrates how profoundly ignorant and misguided the North was about the South.

The Corwin amendment alone is rock-solid proof beyond any shadow of a reasonable doubt that the Civil War was not about slavery. Not for the North. Not for the South. If the North had been willing to go to such unimaginable lengths to not only permit slavery to continue in the South, but to lock it in forever as a guaranteed right throughout the entire country, why were they so unwilling to work with the South on the tariff issue? Yankee greed and arrogance.

The North, except for a few abolitionists, didn't care much about slavery. They cared about money. As long as blacks stayed in the South where they belonged, and as long as the South kept that beautiful tariff revenue flowing into the North, Yankees were quite comfortable with Southern slavery. They certainly resented being forced to help enforce the Fugitive Slave Law, but that was because they cared about themselves, not because they cared about the slaves.

Sure, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had gotten Yankees fired up about the (largely imaginary) evils of slavery in the South, but not enough to welcome freed blacks into their neighborhoods, schools, factories, public offices, or voting booths. What really got Yankees fired up and ready to fight was the prospect of losing all that tariff revenue that had been flowing into their hands from the South. Fine, the South could keep their

slaves, they could take them into the territories, and Yankees were even willing to accept new slave states, if that's what it took. But by God, they wanted their money! That's where they drew the line.

Isn't it fascinating that not even the South had ever proposed anything remotely like the Corwin amendment. The Corwin amendment alone blows CivilGate out of the water. Did any of your history teachers ever mention the Corwin amendment? Do you ever hear historians or pundits talk about the Corwin Amendment? Why is that?

The Chief Magistrate derives all his authority from the people, and they have referred none upon him to fix terms for the separation of the States. The people themselves can do this if also they choose, but the Executive as such has nothing to do with it. His duty is to administer the present Government as it came to his hands and to transmit it unimpaired by him to his successor.

No, the Executive's duty, above all else, is to *preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States*. (Article II, Section 1) AL did not do that. He defied and ignored COTUS at every turn. He destroyed the rightful Constitutional role of the states, and with it the Constitutional republic that had been America. Nor did he *transmit the government as it came to his hands unimpaired to his successor*. He crippled the states, shredded COTUS, and assumed far more power for the federal government than the Framers ever intended. He did far more damage to America than any POTUS before or since. He is what the Framers were trying to prevent.

Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world?

Once again, AL failed to take his own advice. Why did he not exercise *patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people*? Were not Southerners people? Did he

consider only his fellow Yankees *people*? Were Southerners unworthy of Constitutional rights and protections? He certainly gives that impression.

In our present differences, is either party without faith of being in the right? If the Almighty Ruler of Nations, with His eternal truth and justice, be on your side of the North, or on yours of the South, that truth and that justice will surely prevail by the judgment of this great tribunal of the American people.

It is fascinating to see that in any situation there may be different people or groups, both devout believers, both in their God and in their cause, praying fervently for the same God's blessings, to achieve diametrically opposed, mutually exclusive results. The irony of the situation presented by the Civil War was not lost on AL.

It would seem that God was on the side of the North, since they won. But somehow, I don't think God wants credit for those 650,000 dead Americans. I don't think God had the slaughter of thousands of defenseless women and children in mind. I don't think God wanted any part of slavery, either, at any time, in any place. If men had ever been genuinely concerned about God, they never would have allowed the situation to deteriorate so badly and end in war. This was not God's mess, this was man's mess, and neither side was in any position to claim God's favor or expect His blessing.

The war was not Constitutional, it was not moral, and it was not necessary. Might makes right. That's what the North thought, and they had the power to back it up. So be it. The South deserves condemnation for their role in slavery (as does the North for their own role). But AL and the Union deserve credit for all those slaughtered men, women, and children. Their blood is on AL's hands.

So, with so much blame and shame on both sides, which side was God on? God was on the side of the slaves. The North was not. The Corwin amendment proves it.

Northern state laws barring black settlers prove it. Union Army war crimes prove it. Union officers' own words prove it. Even EP proves it.

While the people retain their virtue and vigilance no Administration by any extreme of wickedness or folly can very seriously injure the Government in the short space of four years.

Really? If AL didn't *seriously injure* the Government in four years, what would that have looked like? If shredding COTUS, torching DOI, slaughtering 650,000 Americans, demolishing half the country, and terrorizing even the North doesn't qualify as *serious injury*, what does?

One hardly knows whether to laugh or cry at the absurdity of AL's words. In one sense, though, he was absolutely correct. He prefaced his prediction with these words: *while the people retain their virtue and vigilance*. The problem is that the people did not retain their virtue and vigilance. In fact, the people began to sacrifice their virtue and vigilance even before we became a nation. It started when we accepted compromise language about slavery in DOI. It continued when we accepted compromises about slavery in order to get COTUS hammered out in Philadelphia and then ratified by the states. It continued right up to the Civil War. And then the North totally abandoned whatever shred of virtue and vigilance they may have had left, preferring to pursue their own greed.

America was not a nation when slavery was introduced here, and the colonists cannot reasonably be held responsible for an institution that they had little or no control over. Could they have convinced England to do away with slavery in the colonies? Not a chance. Most colonists never even seriously entertained the prospect of trying. Why would they? They were enjoying the benefits of slavery and profits from the slave trade. They were quite gifted at rationalizing such an evil institution.

But after the Revolutionary War, we could no longer blame American slavery on England. We certainly could have put a stop to it then, or at least began the process. Why didn't we? Because there was very little will to do so. Slavery was a well-established, entrenched institution by that time. Suddenly eliminating it would have had enormous political, social, and economic consequences that no one was prepared to deal with. But we could have found a reasonable solution if we had tried, even if it took several years to complete the process. There was very little incentive to even try.

Slave labor was an essential part of the South's economy, and the slave trade was an enormous factor in producing profits and wealth for the North. With the North's industrial economy, slave labor was not needed. Once the North outgrew their labor shortages, they no longer needed or wanted slave labor (or free blacks to compete for jobs). But they certainly didn't hesitate to keep making a profit from selling slaves, including to the South. The North continued to be active in the slave trade, legally or illegally, right up to the Civil War. Much of the North's wealth had deep roots in slave-trade profits, even for families no longer active in it.

So, contrary to Civil War mythology, slavery was not a Southern sin -- it was an American sin. People in the North as well as the South failed to *retain their virtue and vigilance* for generations. That's what allowed the institution of slavery to flourish. That's what caused the federal and state governments to fail time after time to live up to the principles of DOI. All men may have been created equal in the eyes of God, but they did not all receive equally fair treatment at the hands of good Christians in America. Ask any slave or Native American.

The North would love for all of us to pretend that their hands are clean, and that they are the moral heroes for finally standing up once and for all to those slave-loving Southern Rebels. Suddenly, when Lee surrendered, the North had a perfect opportunity to sweep all their slavery sins into the South and be done with them forever. How

convenient. How dishonest. How much longer will Americans accept the Civil War propaganda we have been spoon-fed all our lives? We must begin to face the truth.

And we must begin to accept responsibility for our roles in the Civil War tragedy. AL should never have been allowed to get away with his despotic rule. Yankees should have seen that he was destroying COTUS as well as the South. They let him get away with it. They demanded that he protect that flow of Southern tariff revenue into their bloody hands, and they didn't object to his barbaric methods. They objected only to Union generals that weren't being ruthless enough. They demanded the South's money, they wanted revenge, and they expected Southern cultural genocide. They could not have cared less about COTUS, legal principles, morals, or even the most basic human decency. Except for a few abolitionists, they didn't care about Southern slaves, either.

My countrymen, one and all, think calmly and well upon this whole subject. Nothing valuable can be lost by taking time.

Excellent advice. As usual, he didn't take it. Why? Because AL understood well before most people in the North that they couldn't afford to wait. They had to act quickly against the Confederacy, because the North had lost most of their revenue with secession. He knew that waiting would only make it harder to invade the South later, because the North simply wouldn't have the money. The South had been their cash cow, and now that was gone. The longer AL waited to invade the South, the weaker the North would become.

Of course, AL couldn't just come right out and say that in his First Inaugural Address. That was hardly the time for honesty. Yankees didn't want to hear the truth, and Southerners didn't believe Lincoln was capable of telling the truth. Rightfully so.

Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land are still competent to adjust in the best way all our present difficulty.

Did intelligence, patriotism, and Christianity lead us into war? Or did Abraham Lincoln? Was AL being intelligent, patriotic, and Christ-like? No, he was being dishonest, despotic, and greedy.

In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors.

Of course, AL would point to Ft Sumter as the Confederate aggression that provoked the war. I have already proven that that's as much a lie as the rest of his Inaugural Address.

He said *the Government will not assail you*. Then he immediately invaded the Confederacy. The South was not the aggressor. They did not want to control or harm the North. They weren't trying to take over the country. They just wanted to be left alone to pursue their own course of self-government. The North was inclined to let them do just that at first. Then they realized the dire consequences of secession in terms of their revenue flow.

AL, however, was in a sense being somewhat honest when he said that the momentous issue of civil war was in the South's hands. All they had to do was give up their natural right of self-government, do as AL told them, keep their mouths shut, and be good little taxpayers, and all would be just fine. All they had to do was submit to the Lincoln dictatorship. The North could keep getting all that Southern tariff revenue, and the South could keep their slaves. And their lives. It was very similar to the protection racket used so successfully by the mafia later.

We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies.

America cannot afford any more *friends* like Abraham Lincoln.

Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

Thanks to CivilGate, those mystic chords of memory have become mythical chronicles of propaganda. Now that those myths have been exposed, let us swell the chorus of the Union as it really was. The better angels of our nature took a back seat to slavery for generations, and they were shackled by Yankee racism, greed, and lust for revenge in the Union invasion of the South. Let those better angels of our nature step forward now. Let us face the reality of the Civil War and learn from the terrible mistakes made there.