**The Gettysburg Address Document Analysis**

*Address Delivered at the Dedication of the Cemetery at Gettysburg
Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863*

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

-Why did Lincoln say in 1863 that the US had been founded on the ‘proposition that all men are created equal’?

-Why did Lincoln want to tie the Union’s cause so closely to that of the founders? Was Lincoln attempting to redefine the Union cause wit the Gettysburg Address? If so, in what way?

-Lincoln concluded his address with the thought ‘that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom.’ What type of freedom did he mean?

-Many historians have argued that at this point, the Civil War changed character and became a struggle over fundamentally different issues than it had been concerned with before. Given this, and the Emancipation Proclamation, would you agree? What or who was responsible?

*Lincoln’s First Inaugural Address (Excerpted)*

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| 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. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed and been open to their inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches when I declare that—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. |  |
|   Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I had made this and many similar declarations and had never recanted them; and more than this, they placed in the platform for my acceptance, and as a law to themselves and to me, the clear and emphatic resolution which I now read:*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. |  |

-Compare the Gettysburg Address with Lincoln’s inaugural address. Had his ideas changed? Was his appeal fundamentally different?