

HANDOUT

1864 ELECTION



ABRAHAM LINCOLN
and Andrew Johnson

POPULAR VOTE: 2,213,665
ELECTORAL VOTE: 212

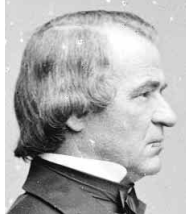
REPUBLICAN



GEORGE McCLELLAN
and George Pendleton

POPULAR VOTE: 1,805,237
ELECTORAL VOTE: 21

DEMOCRAT



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Civil war had broken out shortly after Lincoln assumed the presidency in 1861. Never before had a nation held a general election in the midst of major **civil war**. The election of 1864, while only held in the 25 non-Confederate states, demonstrated the resilience of the U.S. democratic system.

Lincoln was the **incumbent President**.

Military victories, including the capture of Atlanta, helped swing the election for Lincoln.

Lincoln fought to **preserve the Union**.

Republicans charged the Democrats with **disloyalty and treason**.

Lincoln had issued the **Emancipation Proclamation** on January 1, 1863, freeing all slaves.

A military **draft** was instituted in November 1863 to build Union forces. Anti-draft riots in New York City left over 100 dead.

Lincoln chose Tennessee governor **Andrew Johnson** as his running mate, a Southerner and a Democrat, to show that the Union cause was **bipartisan** (supported by members of both parties). Johnson's presence on the ticket helped swing border states to Lincoln.

McClellan was a **Union General** removed from duty by Lincoln in 1862 after the Battle of Antietam when he failed to pursue the Confederate Army.

The Democrats wanted to return to the Union "**as it was**" before war.

Democrats charged Republicans with **incompetence and corruption**.

Democrats claimed that Lincoln shifted the **war aims** from preserving the Union to **abolishing slavery**.

McClellan **opposed the draft** and ran as an avowed white supremacist.

"We cannot have free government without elections; and if the rebellion could force us to forego, or postpone a national election, it might fairly claim to have already conquered and ruined us." -Abraham Lincoln

PARTY DIVISIONS

The **Constitutional Union Party** joined with the Republicans in nominating Lincoln, who ran on both tickets.

Radical Republicans criticized Lincoln's Reconstruction plans as too weak.

War Democrats, led by Lincoln's vice presidential candidate, Andrew Johnson, supported Lincoln.

Northern "Peace Democrats," called **Copperhead Democrats**, supported the Confederacy. They were named after poisonous snakes that strike prey from behind.

Radical Democrats ran as a 3rd Party, calling for a one-term presidency.