

TEACHER GUIDE

1868 DOC. #4: Grant "Let Us Have Peace" Emblem

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Candidates have often run on "peace platforms" during times of war. Some have been successful in attracting votes by appealing for an end to war and some have not. Eugene Debs ran as a peace candidate during World War I. In 1940, Franklin Roosevelt pledged to keep the U.S. out of what would become World War II. George McGovern ran as peace candidate during the Vietnam War. One of the first candidates to run on a peace platform was Ulysses S. Grant in 1868.

> **Project** the document.

This emblem reflects Grant's campaign slogan for the 1868 campaign. Although armed conflict between Union and Confederate forces ended in 1865, bitter conflicts continued during Reconstruction. The phrase "Let Us Have Peace" was one that Grant used when he signed his letter of acceptance upon receiving the Republic nomination.

QUESTION What messages does this emblem seek to communicate about Grant and how are they communicated?

SUGGESTED ANSWER Grant is a patriotic warrior who now stands for peace.

EVIDENCE the dates, 1861-1865, refer to the Civil War and Grant's role as commanding General, the stars and stripes emphasize his allegiance to the Union, the text ("Let Us Have Peace"), the olive branch (biblical tree of peace), and his civilian clothes emphasize his new role as peacemaker

QUESTION Grant won fame as the victorious General of the Union Army. Why is he not presented as a military man in this image?

SUGGESTED ANSWER The effort is to portray him as a man for peace. Therefore he is dressed in civilian clothes. The dates referring to the war are reminders of his military service.

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PowerPoint Slide

FURTHER QUESTIONS

What are the risks and benefits for a candidate coming out strongly for peace in a time of war?

What is the connection between peace, war, and patriotism?

CONNECTIONS

(see thematic listing)

Hero