

the gettysburg address abraham lincoln

The Gettysburg Address and Abraham Lincoln: A Defining Moment in American History

the gettysburg address abraham lincoln stands as one of the most iconic speeches in American history, encapsulating the ideals of liberty, equality, and national unity during one of the most turbulent times in the United States. Delivered by President Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, this brief yet powerful speech has resonated through the ages as a symbol of hope and resilience. Let's explore why the Gettysburg Address remains so significant and how it reflects Lincoln's vision for the nation.

The Context Behind the Gettysburg Address

Understanding the background of the Gettysburg Address is essential to grasp its full meaning. The speech was delivered during the American Civil War, a brutal conflict that pitted the Northern states (Union) against the Southern states (Confederacy) primarily over the issues of slavery and states' rights.

The Battle of Gettysburg

Just months before Lincoln's speech, the Battle of Gettysburg took place from July 1 to July 3, 1863. This three-day clash was one of the war's bloodiest battles, resulting in approximately 51,000 casualties. It marked a turning point, halting the Confederate Army's advance into Northern territory.

The Union victory at Gettysburg was a crucial morale booster, but the cost in human lives was staggering. The need to honor these fallen soldiers and to reaffirm the country's purpose brought about the dedication of the national cemetery, setting the stage for Lincoln's address.

Breaking Down the Gettysburg Address

Though brief—only about 272 words—the Gettysburg Address is packed with profound meaning and rhetorical mastery. Lincoln's eloquence and brevity helped him convey complex ideas about democracy, sacrifice, and national identity.

Opening with Shared History

Lincoln begins by referencing the nation's founding "four score and seven years ago," recalling 1776 and the Declaration of Independence. This grounding in American ideals immediately connects the current struggle to the country's birth, reminding listeners that the war was about preserving the principles of freedom and equality.

Honoring the Fallen

The speech pays tribute to those who gave their lives at Gettysburg, stating that the battlefield had already been consecrated by their sacrifice. Lincoln humbly declares that the living cannot add or detract from the honor bestowed by these soldiers, emphasizing the sacredness of their commitment.

Calling for National Resolve

Perhaps the most stirring part of the address is Lincoln's call for the living to be dedicated to the unfinished work of the soldiers who fought. He urges the nation to ensure that the government "of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." This phrase has since become synonymous with democratic governance and the enduring spirit of the United States.

Why the Gettysburg Address Matters Today

The Gettysburg Address has transcended its immediate Civil War context to become a timeless statement about democracy and human rights. Its themes continue to inspire citizens, leaders, and scholars alike.

A Symbol of Democratic Ideals

At its core, the Gettysburg Address reaffirms the idea that America is founded on the principle that all men are created equal. This message remains relevant as the nation grapples with issues of equality and justice.

An Example of Powerful Oratory

Lincoln's ability to communicate profound truths in fewer than three minutes is a masterclass in speechwriting. His use of simple yet evocative language shows how brevity and clarity can create lasting

impact.

Lessons in Leadership and Unity

During one of the nation's darkest hours, Lincoln's words sought to heal divisions and inspire collective effort. Today, leaders can learn from his example of empathy, vision, and moral courage.

Exploring Lesser-Known Facts About the Gettysburg Address

Beyond its famous lines, the Gettysburg Address has interesting historical nuances and stories worth uncovering.

- **Multiple Manuscripts:** Lincoln wrote several drafts of the speech by hand, with slight variations among them. These versions help historians understand his thought process.
- **Mixed Reception:** While now celebrated, the speech received a mixed reaction at the time, with some newspapers criticizing its brevity and simplicity.
- **Short Length:** The speech lasted only about two to three minutes, which was notably brief compared to the longer orations common at the time.
- **Edward Everett:** The main speaker at the Gettysburg dedication was Edward Everett, who gave a two-hour-long address before Lincoln's concise remarks.

How to Experience the Gettysburg Address Today

If you're interested in deepening your connection to this historic moment, there are several ways to engage with the Gettysburg Address and Abraham Lincoln's legacy.

Visiting Gettysburg National Military Park

Walking the grounds of Gettysburg offers a powerful, immersive experience. The park includes the Soldiers' National Cemetery, monuments, and a museum that provide context on the battle and Lincoln's

speech.

Reading and Analyzing the Text

The Gettysburg Address is often studied in schools and universities for its rhetorical brilliance. Reading it aloud or analyzing its structure can reveal why it remains so impactful.

Watching Documentaries and Films

Numerous documentaries and historical films depict the Battle of Gettysburg and Lincoln's presidency. These visual stories bring history to life and provide additional perspectives on the speech's importance.

The Enduring Legacy of Abraham Lincoln Through the Gettysburg Address

Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address captures the essence of his leadership during the Civil War: a commitment to preserving the Union, honoring sacrifice, and advancing human equality. Despite its brevity, the speech's profound impact continues to echo in American culture and politics.

By reflecting on the Gettysburg Address, we not only remember a pivotal moment in history but also renew our understanding of the values that define the United States. Lincoln's words challenge each generation to work toward a more perfect union, reminding us that democracy requires constant dedication and courage.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Gettysburg Address and who delivered it?

The Gettysburg Address is a brief but powerful speech delivered by President Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863, during the American Civil War, at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Why is the Gettysburg Address considered one of Abraham Lincoln's

most important speeches?

The Gettysburg Address is considered one of Lincoln's most important speeches because it eloquently reaffirmed the principles of liberty and equality, redefined the purpose of the Civil War, and emphasized national unity and the preservation of democracy.

How long is the Gettysburg Address and what is its main theme?

The Gettysburg Address is very brief, lasting about two minutes and consisting of approximately 270 words. Its main theme is honoring fallen soldiers while stressing the importance of continuing the fight to ensure that 'government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.'

What historical event prompted Abraham Lincoln to deliver the Gettysburg Address?

The Gettysburg Address was delivered following the Battle of Gettysburg, a pivotal and bloody battle in the American Civil War that took place in July 1863, resulting in a Union victory that turned the tide against the Confederacy.

How did the Gettysburg Address impact American society and politics?

The Gettysburg Address helped to unify the nation by framing the Civil War as a struggle not just for the Union, but for the principle of human equality and democracy, influencing American political thought and national identity for generations.

Additional Resources

The Enduring Legacy of the Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln

the gettysburg address abraham lincoln stands as one of the most iconic speeches in American history, encapsulating the essence of a nation torn by civil war while reaffirming the principles of liberty and democracy. Delivered on November 19, 1863, during the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, this brief yet powerful oration transformed the way Americans understood the Civil War and their country's future. More than just a commemorative speech, it articulated a vision of national unity and equality that continues to resonate over 150 years later.

The Context and Significance of the Gettysburg Address

The Gettysburg Address was delivered at a pivotal moment in the American Civil War, following one of its bloodiest and most decisive battles. The three-day Battle of Gettysburg, fought in July 1863, resulted in

approximately 51,000 casualties and marked a turning point by halting the Confederate Army's advance into Northern territory. The Union victory not only boosted Northern morale but also necessitated a solemn tribute to the fallen soldiers.

Abraham Lincoln's address was strategically brief—just around two minutes long and fewer than 300 words—especially when compared to the lengthy orations typical of the era. Yet, its succinctness was precisely what made it memorable. Lincoln's choice of words emphasized the sacrifice made by those who fought and redefined the purpose of the war. Instead of focusing solely on military victory, Lincoln framed the conflict as a test of whether a nation “conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal” could endure.

Historical Background and Setting

The dedication ceremony at Gettysburg was initially intended to consecrate the new national cemetery, which was to serve as a final resting place for Union soldiers. Edward Everett, a former Massachusetts governor and renowned orator, gave the main speech, which lasted over two hours. In stark contrast, Lincoln's address was concise but deeply impactful.

The speech was delivered in a period of immense national uncertainty. The Union was still embroiled in a brutal civil war, and public sentiment varied widely. Lincoln's address sought to unify a fractured nation by appealing to shared ideals rather than political divisions, emphasizing national rebirth and the enduring nature of democracy.

Analyzing the Content and Rhetoric of the Gettysburg Address

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is a masterclass in rhetorical economy and persuasive power. Its structure and language reveal a carefully constructed argument about sacrifice, democracy, and national purpose.

Key Themes and Messages

- **Equality and Liberty:** Lincoln reaffirms the Declaration of Independence's assertion that “all men are created equal,” linking the Civil War to the broader struggle for human equality.
- **National Unity:** The speech calls for the preservation of the Union, portraying America as a single nation rather than a collection of states.
- **Sacrifice and Honor:** The fallen soldiers are honored as those who gave their lives to ensure that

“government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

- **Renewal and Commitment:** Lincoln urges the living to dedicate themselves to the unfinished work of the soldiers, emphasizing the ongoing nature of the struggle for freedom.

Rhetorical Devices and Style

The speech’s effectiveness derives from several rhetorical strategies:

- **Parallelism:** Phrases such as “we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground” create a rhythmic emphasis that reinforces the sacredness of the battlefield.
- **Allusion:** References to the Declaration of Independence link the Civil War to foundational American ideals.
- **Antithesis:** Contrasting ideas such as “living” and “dead” or “unfinished work” and “nobly advanced” highlight the tension and stakes involved.
- **Repetition:** The repeated use of “we” fosters a sense of collective responsibility and unity.

These devices contribute to the speech’s memorability and emotional resonance, ensuring it would be remembered and quoted for generations.

The Gettysburg Address in Comparison to Other Historical Speeches

While many speeches have addressed themes of conflict and national identity, the Gettysburg Address is unique in its brevity and depth. For example, Edward Everett’s contemporaneous oration, though eloquent, was far lengthier and less enduring in public memory. Lincoln’s address, by contrast, distilled complex ideas into a compact, poetic form.

Comparisons can also be drawn with later speeches, such as Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream,” which similarly invokes the Declaration of Independence and calls for equality and justice. Both speeches have become symbols of the ongoing American struggle for civil rights and democracy.

Impact on American Political Discourse

The Gettysburg Address has had a lasting influence on American political and cultural discourse. It is frequently cited by presidents, politicians, and scholars as a touchstone for national unity and democratic

ideals. The phrase “government of the people, by the people, for the people” has become synonymous with democratic governance worldwide.

Furthermore, the address helped shape the way Americans commemorate war and sacrifice. It set a precedent for reflecting not just on military victory but also on the moral and political purposes behind conflicts.

Preservation and Legacy of the Gettysburg Address

Several manuscript versions of the Gettysburg Address exist, written by Lincoln himself or his aides, each with slight variations. These documents are preserved in institutions such as the Library of Congress and the Lincoln Presidential Library. The speech’s text has been the subject of extensive scholarly analysis, highlighting its linguistic precision and historical significance.

The address’s location—Gettysburg National Cemetery—has become a site of pilgrimage and remembrance. Annual ceremonies continue to honor the soldiers and reflect on the values Lincoln articulated.

Educational and Cultural Significance

The Gettysburg Address is a staple of American education, studied in history, literature, and civics classes. Its accessibility and profound ideas make it an ideal text for exploring themes of democracy, leadership, and national identity.

Culturally, the speech has inspired countless artistic works, including paintings, films, and music. Its phrases have entered everyday language, symbolizing the enduring struggle for freedom and equality.

Challenges and Criticisms

Despite its acclaim, the Gettysburg Address has not been immune to critique. Some historians argue that Lincoln’s vision of equality was limited by the political realities of his time. Others point out that the address glosses over ongoing racial inequalities that persisted after the Civil War.

Moreover, the brevity of the speech means it leaves many questions unanswered, prompting debate over its interpretation and implications. However, such discussions contribute to the address’s vitality as a living document open to reflection and reinterpretation.

The Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln remains a foundational moment in American history, capturing the nation's highest ideals in a mere few minutes of speech. Its profound influence on the

cultural, political, and educational landscape underscores the power of concise and eloquent rhetoric to shape collective memory and national identity. Through this timeless address, Lincoln not only honored the fallen but also challenged future generations to strive for a more perfect union.

The Gettysburg Address Abraham Lincoln

the gettysburg address abraham lincoln: The Gettysburg Address Abraham Lincoln, 2009-08-27 The Address was delivered at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on the afternoon of Thursday, November 19, 1863, during the American Civil War, four and a half months after the Union armies defeated those of the Confederacy at the decisive Battle of Gettysburg. In just over two minutes, Lincoln invoked the principles of human equality espoused by the Declaration of Independence and redefined the Civil War as a struggle not merely for the Union, but as a new birth of freedom that would bring true equality to all of its citizens, and that would also create a unified nation in which states' rights were no longer dominant. Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves - and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives - and destroyed them. Now Penguin brings you the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are.

the gettysburg address abraham lincoln: Address Delivered by Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1863 Abraham Lincoln, 1963

the gettysburg address abraham lincoln: The Gettysburg Address Charles River Charles River Editors, 2015-03-20 *Includes pictures *Includes accounts of the speech and reactions written by people who were there *Discusses the influences on the speech and debates over the various versions that exist *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading *Includes a table of contents 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 so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield 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. - Abraham Lincoln Without question, the most famous battle of the American Civil War took place outside of the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which happened to be a transportation hub, serving as the center of a wheel with several roads leading out to other Pennsylvanian towns. From July 1-3, Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia tried everything in its power to decisively defeat George Meade's Union Army of the Potomac, unleashing ferocious assaults that inflicted nearly 50,000 casualties in all. When a crowd came to Gettysburg in November 1863 to commemorate the battle fought there 4 months earlier and dedicate a new national cemetery, they came to hear a series of speeches about the Civil War and the events of that battle. Today it may seem obvious to invite the president to such an occasion, but Lincoln was initially an afterthought, and though he did come to deliver remarks, he was not in fact the keynote speaker. Instead, the man chosen to give the keynote speech was Edward Everett, a politician and educator from Massachusetts. Everett had already been a Congressman, the 15th Governor of Massachusetts, Minister to Great Britain, and Secretary of State, and by the Civil War, he was considered perhaps the greatest orator in the nation, making him a natural choice to be the featured speaker at the dedication ceremony. Everett is still known today for his oratory, but more for the fact that he spoke for over two hours at Gettysburg immediately before President Lincoln delivered his immortal two-minute Gettysburg Address. Everett would later say, I should be glad if I could

flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes. At the time, however, Lincoln and many others present at the event thought his speech fell flat and was ultimately a failure that would be consigned to the dustbin of history. Perhaps Lincoln's most impressive feat is that he was able to convey so much with so few words; after Everett spoke for hours at Gettysburg, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address only took a few minutes, but in those few minutes, Lincoln invoked the principles of human equality espoused by the Declaration of Independence. In the process, he redefined the Civil War as a struggle not merely for the Union but as a new birth of freedom that would bring true equality to all of its citizens, ensure that democracy would remain a viable form of government, and would also create a unified nation in which states' rights were no longer dominant. 150 years later, Lincoln's speech is still considered arguably the greatest in American history, yet the exact wording of the speech is disputed. The five known manuscripts of the Gettysburg Address differ in a number of details and also differ from contemporary newspaper reprints of the speech. In fact, at the time, few Americans knew the president had even given a speech at Gettysburg, and the Gettysburg Address was not widely covered in newspapers. The irony is lost on few, given that the Gettysburg Address continues to represent a concise and eloquent statement on the very purpose of the United States.

the gettysburg address abraham lincoln: *Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address Illustrated* Jack E. Levin, Mark R. Levin, 2012-11-27 "Fourscore 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." Long before his conservative manifesto *Liberty and Tyranny* became a #1 New York Times bestseller, Mark R. Levin's love for his country was instilled in him by his father, Jack E. Levin. At family dinners, Jack would share his bountiful knowledge of American history and, especially, the inspiration of Abraham Lincoln. The son of immigrants, Jack Levin is an American patriot who responded with deep personal emotion to Lincoln's call for liberty and equality. His admiration for the great Civil War president inspired him to personally design and produce a beautiful volume, enhanced with period illustrations and striking battlefield images by Matthew Brady and other renowned photographers of the era, that brings to life the words of Lincoln's awe-inspiring response to one of the Civil War's costliest conflicts. Now Jack Levin's loving homage to the spirit of American freedom is available in an essential edition that features his original foreword as well as a touching new preface by his son, Mark Levin. In this way, *Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address Illustrated* celebrates the passing of patriotic pride and historical insight from generation to generation, from father to son. *** The day following the dedication of the National Soldier's Cemetery at Gettysburg, Edward Everett, who spoke before Lincoln, sent him a note saying: "Permit me to express my great admiration for the thoughts expressed by you, with such eloquent simplicity and appropriateness, at the consecration of the cemetery. I should be glad, if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes." Lincoln wrote back to Everett: "In our respective parts yesterday, you could not have been excused to make a short address, nor I a long one. I am pleased to know that in your judgement the little I did say was not entirely a failure."

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the gettysburg address abraham lincoln: *The Gettysburg Address and Other Writings* Abraham Lincoln, 2011-06-21 Abraham Lincoln is a near legendary figure in American history, and

the dimensions of his legend assure many shapes based on the historical reality of his achievements. He was the quintessential self-made man who rose from humble origins to become the chief executive of his nation. He was a political idealist whose dedication to ensuring liberty and equality for all resulted in his assassination. And, as the documents collected in this volume attest, he was, although largely self-educated, the author of some of the most eloquent and insightful addresses, speeches, and correspondence in American letters of the nineteenth century.

the gettysburg address abraham lincoln: Gettysburg Replies Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, 2015-04-01 Almost five months after the Civil War's deadliest clash, President Abraham Lincoln and other Union leaders gathered to dedicate the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The program for the occasion featured music, prayer, orations, and benedictions. In the middle of it all, the president gave a few commemorative remarks, speaking for just two minutes, delivering what we now know as the Gettysburg Address. Challenged to mark the enormity of the battle—which had turned the tide of the war, though neither side realized it yet—Lincoln used 272 words in ten sentences to rededicate the Union to the preservation of freedom. It remains the most important statement of our nation's commitment to personal liberty since the Revolutionary War and has become one of the most important speeches in American history, a cornerstone of who we are as a country. A century and a half later, we still hold Lincoln's message in our hearts. For *Gettysburg Replies*, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum challenged presidents, judges, historians, filmmakers, poets, actors, and others to craft 272 words of their own to celebrate Lincoln, the Gettysburg Address, or a related topic that stirs their passions. President Jimmy Carter reveals how the Gettysburg Address helped bring Egypt and Israel closer at the Camp David Peace Accords. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor reflects on Lincoln's dedication to the importance of civic education. General Colin Powell explains how Martin Luther King Jr. took up Lincoln's mantle and carried it forward. Filmmaker Steven Spielberg touches on the benefits and perils of hero worship. Poet Laureate Billy Collins explores the dichotomy between the private man who wrote poetry ("My Childhood Home I See Again") and the president who stood before all. Attorney Alan Dershowitz echoes Lincoln's words to rally us to the freedom from weapons of mass destruction. *Gettysburg Replies* features images of important Lincoln documents and artifacts, including the first copy of the address that Lincoln wrote out after delivering it, the program from the cemetery dedication, Lincoln's presidential seal, and more. Together, these words and images create a lasting tribute not only to Lincoln himself but also the power of his devotion to freedom.

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(Doris Kearns Goodwin). The words Abraham Lincoln spoke at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg comprise perhaps the most famous speech in history. Many books have been written about the Gettysburg Address and yet, as Lincoln scholar Gabor Boritt shows, there is much that we don't know about the speech. In *The Gettysburg Gospel* he tears away a century of myths, lies, and legends to give us a clear understanding of one of the greatest American's most important speeches. In the aftermath of the bloodiest battle ever fought in North America, the little town of Gettysburg was overwhelmed. This was where Lincoln had to come to explain why the horror of war must continue. Boritt shows how Lincoln responded to the politics of the time, as well as how and when he wrote the various versions of his remarks. Few people initially recognized the importance of the speech, but over the years it would grow into American scripture, acquiring new and broader meanings. Based on years of scholarship as well as a deep understanding of Lincoln and of Gettysburg itself, *The Gettysburg Gospel* is an indispensable book for anyone interested in the Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War, or American history

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the gettysburg address abraham lincoln: Abraham Lincoln and His Times Thomas J. Ebert, Allen Carden, 2023-08-03 Lincoln's significance in the history of slavery and emancipation, the Union's preservation and the formation of a new national vision is crucial to comprehending the antebellum and Civil War periods in American history. This is a one-of-a-kind hybrid reference work that combines chronology with almost 400 primary source papers to contextualize Lincoln's life within his historical era. These written materials serve as the foundation upon which historians can construct a picture of Lincoln's America. In addition to important chronology and documents, this work includes introductory essays that summarize the topics of each chapter, brief biographies of those referenced in the book, and a source bibliography. Historical records are the heart of this work. Documents illustrate different viewpoints, to provide a full grasp of the time and place, as well as Lincoln's significance during this era.

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Questions réponses - La mise à jour du plan cadastral sur le site www.cadastre.gouv.fr se fait en plusieurs étapes. Le propriétaire doit tout d'abord déposer une déclaration (modèle H1) auprès des services de de

Recherche - par parcelle - Par parcelle : La parcelle est l'unité foncière cadastrale. Elle se définit comme l'ensemble des terrains d'un seul tenant, appartenant à un même propriétaire et situés dans un même lieu-dit

cartographie - Imprimer - Nous vous proposons alors de visualiser un aperçu au format PDF et d'imprimer le plan affiché. A noter que toutes les impressions proposées sur CADASTRE.GOUV.FR sont réalisées au

Bon à savoir - Cette rubrique vous propose de répondre aux questions les plus fréquentes que vous pourriez vous poser au sujet du plan cadastral ou du service de consultation du plan cadastral «

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