

Aug 20, 1866

By the President of the United States  
of America.

A Proclamation.

Whereas, by proclamations  
of the fifteenth and nineteenth of  
April, eighteen hundred and sixty  
one, the President of the United  
States, in virtue of the power vested  
in him by the Constitution and  
the Laws, declared that the laws  
of the United States were opposed,  
and the execution thereof obstructed,  
in the States of South Carolina,  
Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mis-  
sissippi, Louisiana, and Texas, by  
combinations too powerful to be

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suppressed by the ordinary course  
of judicial proceedings, or by the  
powers vested in the Marshals  
by law;

And whereas, by another pro-  
clamation, made on the sixteenth  
day of August, in the same year,  
in pursuance of an act of Congress  
approved July thirteen, one thousand  
eight hundred and sixty-one, the  
inhabitants of the States of Georgia,  
South Carolina, Virginia, North  
Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama,  
Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mis-  
sissippi, and Florida, (except the  
inhabitants of that part of the  
State of Virginia lying west of  
the Alleghany Mountains, and

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except also the inhabitants of such other parts of that State, and the other States before named, as might maintain a loyal adhesion to the Union and the Constitution, or might be from time to time occupied and controlled by forces of the United States engaged in the dispersion of insurgents) were declared to be in a state of insurrection against the United States;

And whereas, by another proclamation, of the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, issued in pursuance of an act of Congress, approved June 7th. in the same year, the insurrection was declared to be still existing

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in the States aforesaid, with the  
exception of certain specified coun-  
ties in the State of Virginia;

And whereas, by another  
proclamation, made on the second  
day of April, one thousand eight  
hundred and sixty-three, in pur-  
suance of the act of Congress of July  
thirteen, one thousand eight hundred  
and sixty-one, the exceptions named  
in the proclamation of August  
sixteen, one thousand eight hundred  
and sixty-one, were revoked, and  
the inhabitants of the States of  
Georgia, South Carolina, North  
Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama,  
Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas,  
Mississippi, Florida, and Virginia

(except the forty-eight counties of Virginia designated as West Virginia, and the ports of New Orleans, Key West, Port Royal, and Beaufort, in North Carolina) were declared to be still in a state of insurrection against the United States;

And whereas, by another Proclamation of the fifteenth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, made in pursuance of the act of Congress approved March third, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, the rebellion was declared to be still existing, and the privilege of the writ of

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habeas corpus was in certain  
specified cases suspended  
throughout the United States  
— said suspension to continue  
throughout the duration of  
the rebellion, or until said  
proclamation should, by a sub-  
sequent one to be issued by the  
President of the United States,  
be modified or revoked:

And whereas the House of Repre-  
sentatives, on the twenty-second day of  
July, one thousand eight hundred and  
sixty-one, adopted a resolution in the  
words following, to-wit:

Resolved by the House of Representatives  
of the Congress of the United States, That  
the present deplorable civil war has been  
forced upon the country by the disunionists

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of the Southern States, now in revolt against the Constitutional Government, and in arms around the capital; that in this national emergency, Congress, banishing all feelings of mere passion or resentment, will recollect only its duty to the whole country; that this war is not waged upon our part in any spirit of oppression nor for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, nor purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of those States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution, and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality, and rights of the several States

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unimpaired; and that as soon as these objects are accomplished the war ought to cease."

And whereas, the Senate of the United States, on the twenty-fifth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, adopted a resolution in the words following, to wit:

"Resolved, That the present deplorable civil war has been forced upon the country by the disunionists of the Southern States, now in revolt against the Constitutional Government, and in arms around the capital; that in this national emergency, Congress, banishing all feeling of mere passion or resentment, will recollect



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only its duty to the whole country; that this war is not prosecuted upon our part in any spirit of oppression, nor for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, nor purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of those States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and all laws made in pursuance thereof, and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality, and rights of the several States unimpaired; that as soon as these objects are accomplished the war ought to cease."

And whereas these resolutions,

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though not joint or concurrent in form, are substantially identical, and as such have hitherto been and yet are regarded as having expressed the sense of Congress upon the subject to which they relate;

And whereas, the President of the United States by proclamation of the thirtieth of June, 1865, declared that the insurrection in the State of Tennessee had been suppressed, and that the authority of the United States therein was undisputed, and that such United States officers as had been duly commissioned, were in the undisturbed exercise of their official

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functions;

And whereas, the President of the United States by further proclamation issued on the second day of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, did promulgate and declare that there no longer existed any armed resistance of misguided citizens, or others to the authority of the United States in any, or in all the States before mentioned, excepting only the State of Texas, and did further promulgate and declare that the laws could be sustained and enforced in the several States before mentioned, except Texas, by the proper civil authorities, State or

Federal, and that the people of the said States except Texas are well and loyally disposed, and have conformed, or will conform in their legislation to the condition of affairs growing out of the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, prohibiting slavery within the limits and jurisdiction of the United States;

And did further declare in the same proclamation that it is the manifest determination of the American people that no State, of its own will, has a right or power to go out of, or separate itself from, or be separated from the American Union; and, that, therefore, each State ought to remain and constitute

an integral part of the United States;

And did further declare in the same last mentioned proclamation, that the several aforementioned States, excepting Texas, had, in the manner aforesaid, given satisfactory evidence that they acquiesce in this sovereign and important resolution of national unity;

And whereas, the President of the United States in the same proclamation did further declare that it is believed to be a fundamental principle of Government, that the people who have revolted and who have been overcome and

subdued, must either be dealt with so as to induce them voluntarily to become friends, or else they must be held by absolute military power, or devastated, so as to prevent them from ever again doing harm as enemies, which last named policy is abhorrent to humanity and to freedom:

And whereas, the President did in the same proclamation further declare, that the Constitution of the United States provides for constituent communities only as States, and not as Territories, dependencies, provinces, or protectorates;

And further, that such constituent States must necessarily be, and by the Constitution and laws of the United States are made equals, and placed upon a like footing as to political rights, immunities, dignity, and power with the several States with which they are united;

And did further declare that the observance of political equality as a principle of right and justice is well calculated to encourage the people of the before named States, except Texas, to be, and to become more and more constant and persevering

in their renewed allegiance;

And whereas, the President did further declare that standing armies, military occupation, martial law, military tribunals, and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus are, in time of peace, dangerous to public liberty, incompatible with the individual rights of the citizen, contrary to the genius and spirit of our free institutions, and exhaustive of the national resources, and ought not, therefore, to be sanctioned, or allowed, except in cases of actual necessity, for repelling invasion or suppressing insurrection or rebellion;

And the President did further



in the same proclamation declare that the policy of the Government of the United States, from the beginning of the insurrection to its overthrow and final suppression, had been conducted in conformity with the principles in the last named proclamation recited;

And <sup>whereas</sup> the President in the said proclamation of the thirteenth of June, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five upon the grounds therein stated and herein before recited, did then and thereby proclaim and declare, that the insurrection which heretofore existed in the several States before

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named, except in Texas, was at  
an end, and was henceforth to  
be so regarded;

And whereas, subsequently to  
the said second day of April,  
one thousand eight hundred  
and sixty-six, the insurrection  
in the State of Texas has been  
completely and every where suppressed  
and ended, and the authority of the  
United States has been successfully  
and completely established in the  
said State of Texas, and now remains  
therein unresisted and undisputed,  
and such of <sup>the proper</sup> United States officers  
as have been duly commissioned  
within the limits of the said State,  
are now in the undisturbed exercise

of their official functions; ✓

And whereas, the laws can now be sustained and enforced in the said State of Texas by the proper civil authority, State or Federal, and the people of the said State of Texas, like the people of the other States before named, are well and loyally disposed, and have conformed, or will conform in their legislation to the condition of affairs growing out of the amendment of the Constitution of the United States, prohibiting slavery within the limits and jurisdiction of the United States;

And whereas, all the reasons and conclusions set forth in regard

to the several States therein specially named  
 now apply equally and in all respects to  
 the State of Texas, as well as to the other  
 States which had been involved in  
 insurrection; -

And whereas adequate provision has  
 been made by military orders to enforce  
 the execution of the Acts of Congress, and  
 the civil authorities, and secure obedience  
 to the Constitution and laws of the United  
 States within the State of Texas, if a  
 resort to military force for such pur-  
 pose should at any time become necessary;

Now, therefore, I, Andrew Johnson,  
 President

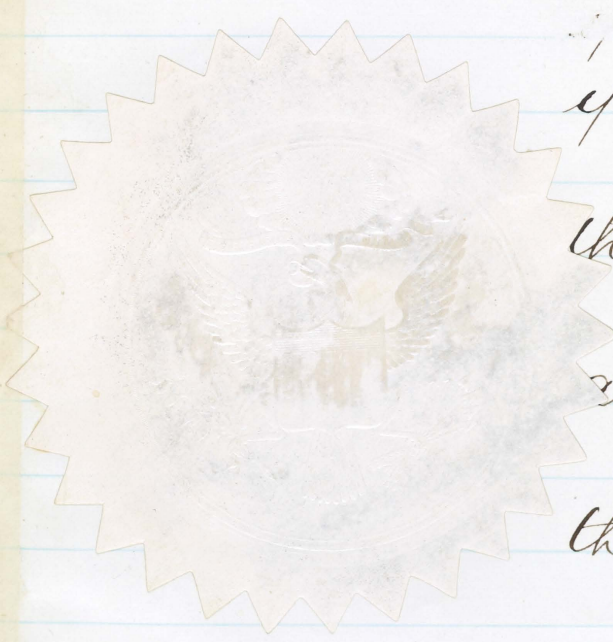
President of the United States, do hereby  
 proclaim and declare, that the insur-  
 rection which heretofore existed in the  
 State of Texas is at an end, and is to  
 be henceforth so regarded in that State,  
 as in the other States before named in  
 which the said insurrection was  
 proclaimed to be at an end by the afore-  
 said proclamation of the second day  
 of April, one thousand, eight hundred  
 and sixty six;

And I do further proclaim that  
 the said insurrection is at an end, and  
 that peace, order, tranquility, and

civil authority now exist, in and through-  
out the whole of the United States  
of America.

In testimony whereof, I have  
herewith set my hand, and caused  
the Seal of the United States to be  
affixed.

Done at the city of Washington  
this twentieth day of August, in the  
year of our Lord one  
thousand eight hundred  
and sixty-six, and of  
the Independence of  
the United States of  
America, the



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the Ninety-first.

Andrew Johnson

By the President

Wm. H. Seward,  
Secretary of State.