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A House Divided: HD (81)
Emancipation Strategy – II

Lead: One hundred and fifty years ago the Republic was facing its greatest crisis. This continuing series examines the American Civil War. It is "A House Divided."

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: American political parties are essentially coalitions with a variety of opinions and social and economic impulses gathered under a single political tent organized to recruit, fund, and elect candidates for office at various levels. The bigger the tent, so

the theory goes, the greater the party's success.

As the year 1862 matured, a major evolution began to grip the Republican Party. Founded as a political force to impede the spread of slavery, once in power and once required to govern and prosecute a war to preserve the Union, divisions in the Republican coalition began to become more apparent and on no question was that clearer than what to do about slavery.

Radical Republicans were attracted to the assertion of the abolitionists who insisted that the war should be made into a crusade to free the slave. Radicals believed that one of the most effective ways to win the war was to

confiscate one of the Confederacy's most powerful economic and military assets, those millions of humans held in bondage and thereby serving the Southern war effort.

Conservative Republicans, generally a small group, hoped for an end to slavery, but felt that it should come by voluntary initiative by the slave states. And they wished to accompany that with an aggressive effort at colonization, sending blacks back to Africa or wherever, just as long as they leave.

The moderates led by President Lincoln hated slavery but were petrified at what might come of general emancipation. The

circumstances of 1862, political, military and diplomatic began forcing Lincoln into the arms of the Radicals. Next time: Lincoln's Emancipation Strategy.

From Richmond Virginia, this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

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