

# The Great Speech

## Introduction

The Great Speech is a comprehensive examination of the speech that launched Abraham Lincoln's political career and set the stage for the American Civil War. In this groundbreaking work, Pasquale De Marco provides a fresh perspective on Lincoln's famous address, exploring its historical context, rhetorical devices, and lasting impact.

Through meticulous research and analysis, Pasquale De Marco sheds new light on the factors that led to Lincoln's rise to prominence, the content and structure of the speech itself, and the profound consequences it had on the course of American history. Pasquale De Marco argues that the speech was not simply a brilliant piece of oratory, but a carefully crafted political strategy that helped to unite the Republican Party and

galvanize the North against the growing threat of slavery.

The Great Speech also examines the speech's rhetorical brilliance, highlighting Lincoln's masterful use of language, logic, and emotion. Pasquale De Marco shows how Lincoln employed a variety of rhetorical devices, including parallelism, repetition, and allusion, to create a powerful and persuasive argument against slavery.

Beyond its historical and rhetorical significance, The Great Speech explores the speech's lasting impact on American culture and politics. Pasquale De Marco traces the speech's influence on everything from literature and music to law and education, demonstrating how Lincoln's words continue to resonate with Americans today.

In a time of renewed political division, The Great Speech offers a timely reminder of the power of words and the importance of principled leadership. Pasquale De Marco's insightful analysis and engaging prose

make this book essential reading for anyone interested in American history, politics, or the art of public speaking.

The Great Speech is a major contribution to the study of Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War. Pasquale De Marco's fresh perspective and meticulous research make this book a must-read for scholars, students, and general readers alike.

## Book Description

**The Great Speech** is the definitive account of Abraham Lincoln's iconic Cooper Union speech, a pivotal moment in American history that set the stage for the Civil War. In this groundbreaking work, Pasquale De Marco offers a fresh perspective on Lincoln's famous address, exploring its historical context, rhetorical brilliance, and lasting impact.

Pasquale De Marco meticulously examines the factors that led to Lincoln's rise to prominence, the content and structure of the speech itself, and the profound consequences it had on the course of American history. Pasquale De Marco argues that the speech was not simply a brilliant piece of oratory, but a carefully crafted political strategy that helped to unite the Republican Party and galvanize the North against the growing threat of slavery.

Beyond its historical significance, *The Great Speech* also explores the speech's rhetorical brilliance, highlighting Lincoln's masterful use of language, logic, and emotion. Pasquale De Marco shows how Lincoln employed a variety of rhetorical devices, including parallelism, repetition, and allusion, to create a powerful and persuasive argument against slavery.

Pasquale De Marco traces the speech's influence on everything from literature and music to law and education, demonstrating how Lincoln's words continue to resonate with Americans today. *The Great Speech* also examines the speech's impact on American politics, showing how it helped to shape the course of the Civil War and the Reconstruction era.

In a time of renewed political division, *The Great Speech* offers a timely reminder of the power of words and the importance of principled leadership. Pasquale De Marco's insightful analysis and engaging prose make this book essential reading for anyone interested

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# Chapter 1: The Road to Cooper Union

## The rise of the Republican Party

The Republican Party emerged in the mid-1850s as a coalition of anti-slavery activists, former Whigs, and Know-Nothings. The party's platform was based on opposition to the expansion of slavery into the territories and support for a strong national government.

The Republican Party quickly gained support in the North, where there was growing opposition to the spread of slavery. The party's first presidential candidate, John C. Frémont, won a plurality of the popular vote in the 1856 election, but lost the electoral college to James Buchanan.

In 1860, the Republican Party nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. Lincoln was a moderate on the issue of slavery, but he was firmly opposed to its expansion into the territories. Lincoln's election victory

in 1860 was a major turning point in American history. It led to the secession of the Southern states and the outbreak of the Civil War.

The Republican Party played a leading role in the Civil War effort. The party's leaders, including Lincoln, were determined to preserve the Union and to end slavery. The Republican Party's platform also included support for a strong national government, a protective tariff, and internal improvements.

After the Civil War, the Republican Party continued to dominate American politics. The party's leaders, including Ulysses S. Grant and Rutherford B. Hayes, worked to rebuild the South and to protect the rights of African Americans. The Republican Party also supported a strong national government and a protective tariff.

The Republican Party remained the dominant party in American politics until the late 19th century. The party's leaders, including William McKinley and

Theodore Roosevelt, continued to support a strong national government, a protective tariff, and internal improvements. The Republican Party also played a leading role in the Spanish-American War and the acquisition of overseas territories.

# Chapter 1: The Road to Cooper Union

## The Kansas-Nebraska Act

The Kansas-Nebraska Act was a piece of legislation passed by the United States Congress in 1854 that repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820. The Missouri Compromise had prohibited slavery in the Louisiana Territory north of the parallel 36°30' north, but the Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed the people of Kansas and Nebraska to decide for themselves whether or not to allow slavery within their borders.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act was introduced by Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, who believed that it would help to resolve the issue of slavery in the territories. Douglas argued that the people of Kansas and Nebraska should be allowed to decide for themselves whether or not to allow slavery, and that this would help to prevent the spread of slavery into new territories.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed by Congress with the support of both pro-slavery and anti-slavery forces. Pro-slavery forces believed that the act would allow slavery to spread into new territories, while anti-slavery forces believed that the act would help to prevent the spread of slavery.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act had a number of consequences. First, it led to the formation of the Republican Party, which was opposed to the spread of slavery. Second, it led to the outbreak of violence in Kansas, as pro-slavery and anti-slavery forces clashed over the issue of slavery. Third, it helped to deepen the divide between the North and the South, and contributed to the outbreak of the American Civil War.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act was a controversial piece of legislation that had a profound impact on American history. It helped to lead to the formation of the Republican Party, the outbreak of violence in Kansas,

and the deepening of the divide between the North and the South.

# Chapter 1: The Road to Cooper Union

## The Dred Scott decision

The Dred Scott decision was a landmark ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1857 that found that African Americans, whether free or enslaved, were not U.S. citizens and therefore had no standing to sue in federal court. The decision also ruled that the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which prohibited slavery in the northern territories, was unconstitutional.

The Dred Scott decision was a major victory for pro-slavery forces in the United States and helped to escalate tensions between the North and the South. It also played a significant role in the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861.

One of the most controversial aspects of the Dred Scott decision was its ruling that African Americans were not U.S. citizens. This ruling was based on the belief that African Americans were inferior to whites and

therefore not entitled to the same rights and privileges. This belief was widespread in the United States at the time, and it was used to justify the institution of slavery.

The Dred Scott decision also had a significant impact on the political landscape of the United States. The decision angered many Northerners, who saw it as a violation of the principles of equality and justice. It also helped to galvanize the anti-slavery movement and contributed to the growing divide between the North and the South.

In the years leading up to the Civil War, the Dred Scott decision was a major source of debate and controversy. It was used by both pro-slavery and anti-slavery forces to support their arguments. The decision also played a significant role in the outbreak of the war, and it remains a controversial topic to this day.

The Dred Scott decision was a complex and controversial ruling that had a profound impact on the

course of American history. It is a reminder of the deep-seated racism that existed in the United States at the time, and it is a reminder of the importance of the struggle for equality and justice.

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

**Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.**

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