

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Abraham Lincoln and Colonization

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Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Magness, Phillip W. and Sebastian N. Page	<i>Colonization after Emancipation: Lincoln and the Movement for Black Resettlement</i> . (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2011).

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year. “Title,” in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Douma, Michael J. and Anders Bo Rasmussen	“The Danish St. Croix Project: Revisiting the Lincoln Colonization Program with Foreign-Language Sources,” <i>American Nineteenth Century History</i> 15, no. 3 (2014): 311-42.
Douma, Michael J.	“The Lincoln Administration’s Negotiations to Colonize African Americans in Dutch Suriname,” <i>Civil War History</i> 61, no. 2 (June 2015): 111-137.
Frederickson, George	“A Man but not a Brother: Abraham Lincoln and Racial Equality,” <i>Journal of Southern History</i> 41, no. 1 (February 1975): 56–57.
Lockett, James D.	“Abraham Lincoln and Colonization,” <i>Journal of Black Studies</i> 21, no. 4 (June 1991): 428–44.
May, Robert E.	<i>Slavery, Race, and Conquest in the Tropics</i> . (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013).

Magness, Phillip W.	"Benjamin Butler's Colonization Testimony Reevaluated," <i>Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association</i> 29, no. 1 (Winter 2008): 1-28.
_____.	"Wither Liberia? Civil War Emancipation and Freedmen Resettlement in West Africa," <i>The Civil War Monitor</i> http://www.civilwarmonitor.com/commentary/wither-liberia-civil-war-emancipation-and-freedmen-resettlement-in-east-africa , accessed August 27, 2015.
_____.	"The British Honduras Colony: Black Emigrationist Support for Colonization in the Lincoln Presidency," <i>Slavery & Abolition</i> 34, no. 1 (2013): 39-60.
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Masur, Kate	"The African American Delegation to Abraham Lincoln: A Reappraisal." <i>Civil War History</i> 56, no. 2, (June 2010):117-144.
Neely, Mark E.	"Abraham Lincoln and Black Colonization: Benjamin Butler's Spurious Testimony," <i>Civil War History</i> 25, no. 1 (March 1979): 77-83.
Page, Sebastian N.	"Lincoln and Chiriqui Colonization Revisited," <i>American Nineteenth Century History</i> 12, no. 3 (2011): 289-325.
_____.	"Lincoln, Colonization and the Sound of Silence" <i>New York Times</i> , Disunion blog, December 4, 2012, URL: http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/04/lincoln-colonization-and-the-sound-of-silence/ Accessed August 26, 2015.

Paludan, Phillip Shaw	“Lincoln and Colonization: Policy or Propaganda?” <i>Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association</i> , 25, no. 1 (Winter 2004): 23-37.
Paul J. Scheips	“Lincoln and the Chiriqui Colonization Project,” <i>Journal of Negro History</i> 37, no. 4 (October 1952): 418–53.
Tomek, Beverly C.	<i>Colonization and its Discontents</i> (New York: New York University Press, 2011).
Wesley, Charles A.	“Lincoln's Plan for Colonizing Emancipated Negroes,” <i>Journal of Negro History</i> 4, no. 1 (January 1919): 7–21.

Organizations

Web Resources

Other Sources

Scholars

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Précis

Abraham Lincoln was a proponent of colonization (funding the removal of freed African Americans to Africa or the Caribbean) from sometime in the 1840s until, though we cannot be certain but most likely, the end of his life. He became a member of the American Colonization Society (ACS) in 1856. Colonization was a staple of Lincoln’s speeches and public comments from 1854 onwards. When Lincoln became president he was widely recognized as a supporter of colonization. In late 1861 Lincoln took steps to initiate a formal colonization program. In 1862 Congress passed legislation providing funding for colonization, under the direct guidance of the White House. In August 1862 in a widely publicized event Lincoln met with a small group of free African Americans in the White House to present his colonization vision. Colonization was explicitly mentioned in the

Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation of September 22, 1862. Though the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1862 did not include reference to colonization, one hour before Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation he signed an agreement with business man Bernard Kock to settle 5,000 contrabands in Haiti. In January 1863 Lincoln instructed that negotiations be held with foreign governments holding possessions in the Caribbean and Central America and these negotiations were continued into 1864. In early January 1865 Reverend James Mitchell, who worked with Lincoln throughout his Presidency on the issue of colonization, reported that Lincoln chose to close the policy of colonization “for the time being” as it risked diverting manpower from the U.S. Colored Troop recruitment. Although there is a great deal of skepticism about the accuracy of the story because of his character, Benjamin Butler did meet Lincoln on April 11, 1865 and recounted that Lincoln expressed concerns about impending racial violence against freedmen and asked Butler to investigate using Central America as a prospective refuge. Whether his emerging vision for reconstruction would have included colonization as a policy cannot be known because of his untimely death. What is clear from the record left by many of his contemporary political figures is Lincoln’s persistent colonization beliefs. In 1877 William Seward wrote that Lincoln “by no means abandoned his policy of [voluntary] deportation and emancipation, for the two were in his mind indispensably and indissolubly connected. Colonization in fact had precedence with him.”
