The Last Days of the Civil War

# Introduction: April 1865 - The month that saved America, 0 – 1:30

# Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address, 2:50 – 5:12

Lincoln said in his Second Inaugural Address, “With malice [anger] toward none, with charity to all” when referring to the southern states and the ending of the Civil War.

* What was Lincoln’s message in his second inaugural?

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| In early April, the capital of the Confederacy, in ruins and desperate, fell to Union troops. President Jefferson Davis fled south and Lincoln visited the city, venturing into the “white house” and sitting at Davis’s desk. At the same time, Union troops surrounded Robert E. Lee, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, in Appomattox Court House, Virginia. On April 9, 1865 Lee surrendered his army to Ulysses S. Grant, commander of the northern army.  Although Lee’s surrender was the official end of the Civil War, battles still raged in sections of the South. On April 18th Northern general William T. Sherman and Southern general Joseph Johnston agreed to terms of surrender for southern troops in North Carolina. Congress later invalidated the terms, but the southern troops began to disarm and go home.  Finally, on May 26th the last major battle of the Civil War took place in New Orleans, ending a horrific, bloody war between the states.  April of 1865 was one of the most important months in American history. Thankfully, southern generals, much to the anger of President Jefferson Davis, realized the hopelessness of continuing the war and surrendered. Sadly, Abraham Lincoln’s assassination on April 14th would have lasting consequences for the readmission of the southern states into the union. |  |

# Appomattox Court House, Virginia, April 9, 30:24 - 43

Why did Lee decide to surrender?

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How did Grant treat Lee?

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## Aftershock: Beyond the Civil War

# Introduction, 0 – 10:20

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| The era following the Civil War is known as Reconstruction, lasting from 1865 to 1877. This became one of the most violent and horrible time periods in American history. Many southern whites treated freed slaves with vicious brutality. While freed on paper, former slave owners often forced their ex-slaves to continue working for them.  With Lincoln’s assassination, Reconstruction became much more complicated and went through several phases. However, by 1870, all of the southern states had rejoined the union. Unfortunately, the attempt to protect the rights of African-Americans failed and set the stage for the discrimination and segregation that plagued the United States for next 100 years. It also bred hatred, leading to terrorist groups like the Ku Klux Klan that intimidated and brutalized black Americans. |  |

What did northerners think about the south after Lincoln’s assassination?

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What was the south like for soldiers returning home?

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The Ku Klux Klan, 39:24 – 48:15

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| The KKK grew out of the Reconstruction Era. Created by ex-Confederate soldiers, the Klan would cause havoc and terror throughout the South. Their goal was to intimidate and harm African-Americans and stop them from voting. They succeeded in many areas and in the election of 1868 several ex-confederate southerners took over their state governments, bringing an end to reforms meant to help freed blacks.  Their name comes from the Greek word Kuklos, which means circle and probably refers to the group as a band of brothers. |  |

What did the Klan night rides turn into?

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What was the goal of the Klan meeting held in Tennessee?

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