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**Activity on the movie *Lincoln***

1. Introduction- Most historians agree that President Lincoln wanted to equally do 2 things as President from 1861-1865. What are these 2 things?:
2. How do you see & hear both of these 2 goals in his famous "Gettysburg Address"? Let's re-read it on my website. Read on my website **"Week 5 The Gettysburg Address"**
3. How & Why does Director Steven Spielberg make this also the central theme of the movie with the opening scenes of *Lincoln*? Let's watch! (1:30-6:11)
4. Scene #2 (10:06-11:43)

Who is Tad? Who is Willie?

**Read on my website "Week 5 Tad & Willie"**

-What are your reactions to this reading?

-How do you think Lincoln's personal tragedy added to his trials as President during the Civil War?

1. 1864-1865- After the turning point of the events of 1863, it seems that Lincoln will achieve Goal #1 to restore the Union of the USA as 1 country. However, it is looking ever more doubtful that he will achieve Goal #2 to once and for all abolish all slavery in the USA. In fact, many Northern lawmakers are pushing Lincoln to quickly end the Civil War by promising the South states to quickly rejoin the USA because the USA will NOT abolish slavery right away.

-How do you think Lincoln feels about this idea and why?

1. Let's watch a meeting between President Lincoln and his Cabinet. It is 1865. Lincoln has just been re-elected as President for his 2nd Term as President. Lincoln is explaining to his Cabinet what he was thinking when he signed The Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 and also why he MUST have the 13th Amendment Abolishing Slavery passed as soon as possible. (26:40-30:45)

-What reasons does Lincoln give for why and how he passed The Emancipation Proclamation?

-What reasons does Lincoln give for why he must pressure Congress to pass the 13th Amendment?

1. OK Let's review Unit 2 and How the US Constitution works. President Lincoln wants to change the US Constitution to abolish slavery once and for all.

-How do you change the Constitution?

-Can a President do this by himself?

-How do you create an Amendment to the Constitution?

-Lincoln's Cabinet tells Lincoln it will be IMPOSSIBLE to do this. Why?

1. Let's talk politics. Back in 1865- and even today in 2017- what is one way people or groups try to get Congress members (House and Senate members) to vote a certain way or not?

-What do we call this?

-Lincoln and his top Cabinet Advisor (William Seward, who is Secretary of State) think they should do some lobbying of Congress members to get them to vote for the 13th Amendment. Let's watch (34:35-35:21).

-What sort of lobbying are they doing?

-What are your thoughts about this? Do you think it is right or wrong to do this and why?

1. OK so Congress has agreed to start debating the possibility of passing the 13th Amendment Abolishing Slavery. Let's watch a real scene from Congress in 1865 on the first day of debate.

-Who are the 2 major Political Parties in the USA in 1865?

-How did Congressmen sit in the House?

On the far left?

In the middle?

On the far right?

(Let's watch 35:21-39:00)

-How good do the chances seem that 2/3 of the House will all agree to pass the 13th Amendment?

-What are some reasons given by the Democrats against the Amendment?

-What are some reasons given by Conservative Republicans against the Amendment?

-What are some reasons given by Radical Republicans (and their top spokesperson Thaddeus Stevens) for the Amendment?

-What are Lincoln and Seward's "secret lobbyists" doing in the back?

1. Let's talk a little more about Thaddeus Stevens. He was a member of the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania. He was born in poverty in the country with a disability and could not walk properly. He becomes one of the leaders of the "Radical Republicans" before, during, and after The Civil War. He wants to take "radical" measures to create actual conditions of equality for African-Americans now in 1865. Many historians believe that Stevens was 'secretly married" (because interracial marriage is against the law) to an African-American named Lydia Hamilton-Smith who he pretends to be his housekeeper)

-Let's watch a scene where President Lincoln is talking with Thaddeus Stevens. (55:30-58:33)

-What does Stevens say needs to be done in the South after the Civil War?

-What does Stevens says about "the people" and "leadership"?

-What does Lincoln respond?

-What are your thoughts about what Stevens and Lincoln say?

1. Let's watch Day 2 of the Congress Debate on the 13th Amendment. (1:04:30 -1:06:15)

-Speaking is a Conservative Republican. Even though he says he is against slavery, why does he say he will not support the 13th Amendment?

-What are your thoughts about this?

1. Now let's go back to Thaddeus Stevens and a famous speech he gave on Day 3 of the Amendment Debate. Southern Democrats against the Amendment want Stevens to say out loud that "he believes Negroes are truly equal to Whites" because as we saw in #11- this will scare Conservative Republicans to not vote for the Amendment.

-Let's watch Stevens speech and answer to the question. (1:19:40-1:24:33)

-What do you think about Stevens's answer?

1. It is now March, 1864. Things are looking very BAD for the 13th Amendment. No one thinks it has a chance to be passed.

-Spring warm weather is coming and both North and South will be ready to possibly start fighting major battles again.

-There is a "peace delegation" from the Confederate States of America travelling to Washington, D.C to offer a "peace settlement" that says the South Confederacy will stop fighting and re-join the USA only if the USA does NOT abolish slavery.

-Everyone in the Congress- and Lincoln's advisors- want this peace settlement to stop the war and stop more deaths.

-Lincoln's oldest son, Robert, wants to quit Law School and join the North army and fight now. Clearly, Lincoln's wife (and probably Lincoln himself) have motivation to sign the peace settlement now to save another son from dying too!

-Discuss what would you do if you were President Lincoln here? Would you accept this peace settlement or not? Why?

1. Lincoln refuses to give up on the 13th Amendment. He tells Congress they must at least hold a vote on it. Remember to pass an Amendment, you need 2/3 of the Senate AND 2/3 of the House of Representatives to agree.

-On April 8, 1864 the 13th Amendment passes the Republican controlled Senate by a vote of 38-6

-But it does NOT pass the House of Representatives. 93 vote YES but 65 vote NO. In order to get 2/3 to pass the House needs 104 YES votes.

-All Lincoln's Advisors tell him it will be impossible to get 104 YES votes. This will require several Southern Democrats to change from a No to a Yes Vote.

-Lincoln meets with his "secret lobbysists" and they discuss how to change 11 votes from no to yes. Even the lobbyists say it will be impossible. So Lincoln and Thadeus Stevens say they will meet with these 11 Congressmen personally to try to make them change their votes. (Let's watch some of these meetings….(1:37:45-1:43:51)

-What are the main ideas & your reactions to these scenes? -Are you learning anything from this movie about how "real politics" works?

1. Now we come to the "moment of truth" for Lincoln. NOONE believes the 13th Amendment will pass. EVERYONE tells Lincoln it is impossible and he should just accept the Confederate Peace Settlement and end the Civil War but promise NOT to abolish slavery. It is now up to President Lincoln if he should continue to fight for the 13th Amendment or not. Let's watch (1:43:55 - 1:46-44)

-What are the main ideas & your reactions to what Lincoln says?

1. President Lincoln refuses to give up on the 13th Amendment. He tries to stall and delay the meeting with the Confederate Peace Delegation as long as he possibly can. He tells Congress they must vote again on the 13th Amendment on January 31, 1865. No one knows what will happen. Most people think it will fail by 1 or 2 votes. Let's watch and see what happens… (1:46:45- 2:05:05)

-Thoughts and reactions?

1. Lincoln has accomplished 1 Goal- The 13th Amendment Abolishing Slavery in the USA.

Now let's finish Goal 2- Ending the Civil War and restoring the Union of the USA.

-Who remembers these details?

-What date does the Civil War end with the South's official surrender?

-Where does it take place?

-Who surrenders to whom?

-What does Lincoln insist should happen to the Confederate leaders and soldiers & why?

-Now let's watch for the answers (2:10:08-2:14:50)

1. One final famous speech from President Lincoln: His Second Inaugural Address.

-Read on my website **"Week 5 Lincoln 2nd Inaugural Speech"**

-Discuss & write 3 main ideas in the speech:

1. Unfortunately, we now come to A Play at Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865.

-On my website read **'Week 5 A Play at Ford's Theatre"**

-Let's watch the end of the movie Lincoln (Watch: 2:14:12- 2:21:18)