

# LESSON 1: POLICIES TOWARD AFRICAN AMERICANS

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## Student Handout 2: Outcomes

For Decision 1 (on war aims), President Lincoln chose Option 1 (preserving the Union). He felt people in the North weren't ready to fight in order to end slavery, and that the Union must be preserved before any other goals could be accomplished. He wanted to focus only on the most important goal: winning the war. Lincoln told Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner that his two objections to immediate emancipation were "that half the army would lay down its arms and that three more states would rise [join the Confederacy]—Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri." He told leaders of the border states that no troops would occupy their states, and that the government had no plans to abolish slavery.

In Decision 2 (African Americans in the military), President Lincoln chose Option 1 (keep African Americans out of the army). He stated that "to arm the Negroes would turn 50,000 bayonets from the Loyal border states against us that were for us." He felt the opposition to African American soldiers would be so great that it wasn't a good choice.

In Decision 3 (slaves), President Lincoln chose Option 4. He was appalled by the generals who confiscated slaves, arguing that confiscation would drive the border states to the Confederacy. As a result, it would be much harder for the North to win the war. Lincoln stated that he would like to have God on his side (i.e., by doing the right thing and acting to abolish slavery), but he *must* have Kentucky. He also got Congress to pass compensated emancipation (Option 5). Unfortunately, no states accepted the idea of gradual emancipation.