*Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*

Levi Watkins Learning Center, Alabama State University

February 10 - March 21, 2014

*Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War,* a traveling exhibition currently available in the Levi Watkins Learning Center at Alabama State University, examines how President Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the Civil War—the secession of the Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties.

Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of America’s greatest presidents, but his historical reputation is contested. Was he a calculating politician willing to accommodate slavery, or a principled leader justly celebrated as the Great Emancipator? This exhibition provides no easy answers. Rather, it encourages visitors to form a nuanced view of Lincoln by engaging them with Lincoln’s struggle to reconcile his policy preferences with basic American ideals of liberty and equality. This exhibition develops a more complete understanding of Abraham Lincoln as president and the Civil War as the nation’s gravest constitutional crisis.

The National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office organized the traveling exhibition, which was made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): great ideas brought to life. The traveling exhibition is based on an exhibition of the same name developed by the National Constitution Center.

The traveling exhibition is composed of informative panels featuring photographic reproductions of original documents, including a draft of Lincoln’s first inaugural speech, the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment.

*Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* is on display at the library until March 21, 2014. Please visit the Levi Watkins Learning Center at [www.lib.alasu.edu](http://www.lib.alasu.edu) for events and resources.

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