



Boston University Academy Model United Nations Conference IX  
Saturday, January 30th to Sunday, January 31st, 2021  
Boston University Academy  
Boston, MA

***Lincoln Assassination and  
Reconstruction***

***Historical Joint Crisis Committee:  
Union***

***Background Guide***

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## Committee Staff

Kasia Perks, chair

Matthew Volfson, vice-chair

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Sudarshan Ramanan, Secretary-General

John Lee, Secretary-General

Jonas Rajagopal, Secretary-General



# Welcome Letter

Greetings Delegates,

I'm Kasia Perks, a senior at Boston University Academy, and I will be your chair for the BUAMUN 2021 Historical Joint Crisis Committee on the side of the Union. Matthew Volfson will be my vice chair as we lead you through a simulation of the Reconstruction era United States following the Civil War.

In the past three years, I've been fortunate enough to vice-chair my freshman year, and chair the DISEC committee for the past two years. As such, this is my first crisis committee, and I'm thrilled to share it with all of you. I'm sure it'll be a wonderful weekend full of fun twists and quick political thinking.

I encourage you all to fully engage with the topic. Although it isn't current, like most BUAMUN topics are, what happened during Reconstruction is still relevant to our daily lives. The more research you do, the more you will be able to fully interact with the simulation. A big part of a historical crisis is your ability to stick to your assigned figure. Perhaps situations may be easily resolved if everyone has similar ideas, but that wasn't the case throughout history. The better you know how to represent your historical figure, the more interesting debate will be.

I wish you all luck in preparation and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to email me!

Sincerely,

Kasia Perks '21

Matthew Volfson '23

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# Position Paper Information

This committee requires one position paper. Position papers are 1-2 pages in length, double-spaced, and should describe a delegate's stance on the events leading up to the crisis. It should be indicative of further research into your historical figure and their views. Position papers should follow the following conventions on headers:

Delegate:

School:

Committee: Union

Position:

Topic: Lincoln Assassination and Reconstruction

To be eligible for awards, please email your position papers to me no later than January 29th, at 11:59pm. Printed papers received at the start of the conference will not be accepted. To receive comments on your position papers, please email them to me ([kasialp@bu.edu](mailto:kasialp@bu.edu)) no later than January 16th. Chairs will review position papers, and well-written and well-researched papers are eligible for the committee's Best Position Paper Award, as well as influencing other award determinations. If you use external sources such as websites, you must cite them with a footnote. External sources include sources provided in this background guide.

# Committee Logistics

*(Adapted from Phil Giliver, 2013)*

This committee will be run as part of the BUAMUN Historical Joint Crisis: Lincoln Assassination. Two committees will participate in this simulation: one to represent the side of the Union and one of the Confederacy. The north, represented by the Union, has established a "Committee on Reconstruction" with the aim to move towards reconstruction after the civil war. This committee, our committee, includes prominent political and social figures of the Union. The south, represented by the confederacy, has established a secret gathering of confederacy leaders working to maintain power in the south. Because this is a Joint Crisis, parliamentary procedure will be different than that of a General Assembly (GA) committee. We will be following a more relaxed approach to parliamentary procedure, and will revert back to moderated caucuses rather than speaker's list. However, there are four notable additions to procedure in a crisis:

**1. Directives:** A directive is similar to a resolution you might draft in a GA committee, however they will only include operative clauses. Because of how fast-paced crisis committees are, there isn't much time to focus on preambulatory clauses. We cut right to the chase here. These must contain actions within the power of the committee. Normal GA rules for amendments apply.



# Committee Logistics

**2. Press Releases:** Press releases are public statements sent on behalf of a committee. These would include things you would see from real-life press releases, such as to announce policy changes or actions your committee has taken.

**3. Communiques:** These are less formal messages. They can be sent to the other committees, or to some other government or body through the crisis staff. There are also personal communiques, which would be sent between either two delegates in separate committees or to another figure, not in committee, and written by the crisis staff.

**4. Portfolio Powers:** Portfolio powers are specific powers that different delegates have based on their historical figure. These will be specific to the person they are representing. They can be used to write personal directives, sent directly through the chair without voting on the whole committee. They can not be used to do major things, like declare war. You will find out what your portfolio power is on the day of the conference.

Any other rules or procedures will be up to Chair's discretion.



# Topic Background

## Historical Background

On the night of April 14th, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in Ford's Theatre by an actor named John Wilkes Booth. The very next day, Andrew Johnson, his vice president, was inaugurated. The assassination made clear how fragile the balance of tensions was in a post-war America. Though the night lives in infamy, we shall instead turn our focus towards the events leading up to his assassination, and the state of the country following it.

On April 12th 1861, almost exactly four years before the assassination, the Civil War officially began following the secession of seven southern states and the attack on Fort Sumter, located in Charleston, South Carolina. By the end of the war, eleven states had seceded from the union to form the Confederacy. In what would be the bloodiest war in American history, the Union (the states who had not seceded) and the Confederacy fought to answer two fundamental questions about life in America: Would the United States continue to exist as a unified country or as separate sovereign states, and would America continue to be the largest slaveholding country in the world? We know the answers to these questions now, but at the time, opinions were divisive, even following the war. That is where we are today, in this simulation.

# Topic Background

## Historical Background

Leading up to the war, the country was in a position of extreme prosperity and wealth due to advancements in manufacturing in the North and growth of 'cash crops' like cotton and tobacco on plantations in the South. While the North invested in railroads and the telegraph for their economic benefit, the South invested in slavery for the same reasons. When the country began expanding west, the obvious questions arose, one of which is whether slavery should be allowed in new territories. Abolitionist sentiment had grown in many Northern states since the 1830s. However, not allowing slavery in new territories was the first step to a gradual abolition altogether, a threat to the Southern economy. Tension rose with the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska act in 1854, which said that new territories could decide whether to have slavery or not. The new Republican party was born out of the conflict in Kansas, and it would be the party of Abraham Lincoln only six years later. Lincoln ran as a candidate for this specifically anti-slavery Republican party on the promise that he would not only let slavery expand into new territories, but that he also believed that "government cannot endure permanently half slave, half free ..."<sup>1</sup> His win in 1860 was the last straw for many Southerners, and the first seven states succeeded from the Union.



# Topic Background

## Historical Background

On September 22nd, 1862, Lincoln issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation. The war was coming to a close, but it was not yet over. This proclamation declared that, on January first of the coming year, all enslaved people in the succeeded states would be freed. Though the proclamation did not actually free any slaves, its existence shifted the focus of the war from keeping the union together to slavery. It was essentially the first step towards abolition, something the South was already afraid of. The war ended in stages, beginning with Confederate general Robert E. Lee's surrender on April 9th, 1865, only a few days before Lincoln's assassination. The Confederate cabinet dismantled on May5th, and the final battle of the Civil War was on May 12th, near Brownsville, Texas. President Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's vice president, announced the official end of the war on August 20th, 1866.

But, of course, the ideological differences that began the war didn't end with an official declaration. Reconstruction is the period of American history that directly follows the Civil War, and that is the time period this simulation will deal with. It was a period of great change for the country, when the nation as a whole attempted to address the political, economic, and social systems in place before the war.



# ***Topic Background***

## **Historical Background**

Before Lincoln had been assassinated, the congress attempted to pass the Wade-Davis Bill, a bill that tried to set standards for reconstruction. This bill tried to make it so that before a state could rejoin the union, a majority of their citizens would have to swear loyalty to the union. The states would have to rewrite their state constitution to abolish slavery and prevent any Confederate leaders from holding office. The bill was vetoed by Lincoln, but it was only the beginning of tumultuous relationships between the Radical Republican senate and the newly rejoined South. We begin with the inauguration of Andrew Johson on April 15th, 1865, the day after Lincoln's Assassination.



## Questions to Consider

1. What are your opinions on slavery? Should it be abolished or just prevented from expanding west? How do you feel about the Emancipation Proclamation?
2. Should you accept the South back into the Union? Why or why not? Should they do something before they can be accepted?
3. Who should make the rules? Individual states or the federal government? Does this apply to everything or just specific things like slavery?
4. What should you do with the newly freed slaves? Should the government help them or should they be left to fend for themselves?
5. What should you do with the land in the South confiscated by the Union army? Should you give it back or do something else entirely?

# Prominent Figures

## North Korea

### 1. **Andrew Johnson:**

The new President of the United States. He was born in North Carolina and raised in poverty, later to join politics as the governor of Tennessee. Johnson was a Southern Democrat, selected as vice president to Abraham Lincoln to push an idea of unity. He believed in state's rights, though not with the choice of succession. His ideas clashed with those of the rest of the Radical Republican senate.

### 2. **Oliver O. Howard:**

A Union general. He was staunchly abolitionist before the war, and Andrew Johnson appointed him as the commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, a government agency focused on aiding poor whites and newly freed slaves in the South during reconstruction. He helped organize the construction of hospitals, provided food, and negotiated labor contracts for freed slaves.

# Prominent Figures

## North Korea

### 3. **Hiram Revels:**

The first African American to serve in the U.S Congress. He was free his entire life and worked as a preacher before being elected to the Senate in 1870. During the war, he fought on the side of the Union in Mississippi and acted as a clergy member attached to the black regiments he served in. Senate Republicans were eager to accept him into their ranks but Senate Democrats sought to stop him from serving, claiming the election wasn't valid. Still, he was sworn in the following year. He was firmly against segregation and often sided with radical Republicans.

### 4. **Thaddeus Stevens:**

A radical Republican member of congress during Lincoln's presidency. From the start of his political career in the 1830s, Stevens was outspoken against slavery. He was actively involved in the underground railroad. He loudly condemned the confederacy and his leadership was a key part of reconstruction. However, he often clashed with president Andrew Johnson.





# Prominent Figures

## North Korea

### 5. **Charles Sumner:**

Another radical Republican senator, famous for being caned by Preston Brooks, the Representative of South Carolina in 1856 for his opinion that slavery should not extend into the state of Kansas. Though it took him three years to recover from the beating, he was still a strong proponent of abolition. He also clashed with president Johnson over letting the Southern states back into the Union. He argued they must first allow African Americans to vote before being allowed back.

### 6. **Horace Greeley:**

A newspaper editor, known for his staunch stance for antislavery. He founded the New York Tribune and published in it many politically influential articles that aligned with the northern stance. Contributors to his paper include articles by Karl Marx. However, he did object to Lincoln's presidency and signed the bail bond of Jefferson Davis, the former president of the Confederacy.

### 7. **William H. Seward:**

A senator before the war and Secretary of State of Lincoln's cabinet. He worked to prevent foreign governments from recognizing the Confederacy as its own country. In 1865, the day before Johnson's inauguration, Seward was stabbed in the throat by a co-conspirator of John Wilkes Booth. Yet, he made a recovery, and continued to serve as the Secretary of State under Andrew Johnson.

# Prominent Figures

## North Korea

### 8. **William T. Sherman:**

A Union general. He launched a campaign during the civil war meant to not only destroy the confederacy in battle, but to also crush their will to fight by destroying civilian areas. It was ultimately the success of his destruction warfare that led Lincoln to his reelection.

### 9. **Ulysses S. Grant:**

A commanding general of the Union armies and a national hero. He aligned himself with Radical Republicans after the war and clashed with president Johnson. He had a focus on preserving the rights of freed black men. (He would later become president, but not quite yet).

### 10. **Frederick Douglass:**

An escaped slave and later famous for his autobiography. He was a well-spoken lecturer who spoke on topics of abolition, women's rights, and more. He often went on speaking tours where he would travel and give talks about his life. He was a consultant to Lincoln during his presidency.

# Prominent Figures

## North Korea

### 11. **Elizabeth Cady Stanton:**

A strong proponent for women's rights. She organized the Seneca Falls convention and married the abolitionist Henry Stanton. She was an advocate for the 13th amendment. She travelled the country speaking about women's rights, marriage, and abolition. However, she was against the 14th and 15th amendments which gave voting rights to black men and not women.

### 12. **Edwin Stanton:**

Secretary of war under Lincoln. He was a successful attorney before entering politics. Though he was a Democrat, he still presided over the Union army and was in favor of antislavery measures. He was a critic of Lincoln during his presidency. He was very aggressive in his position and often started fights with Union commanders. He played a large role in the trial and investigation of Lincoln's assassination. He slowly moved towards being a Radical Republican and went behind Johnson's back to push for harder consequences for the South. Johnson would try to get rid of him, but he refused to leave. (Not related to Elizabeth Stanton)

# Prominent Figures

## North Korea

### 13. **George B. McClellan:**

A major Union general. After a failed capture of Richmond, he was demoted by Lincoln. He was a cautious fighter and this caution often led him to failure after failure. Lincoln put pressure on him but he didn't budge. McClellan then ran against Lincoln's reelection as a Democrat, on an anti-war platform that promised compromise with the Confederacy. He ultimately lost the election to Lincoln.

### 14. **William L. Sharkey:**

Provisional governor of Mississippi put in by president Johnson. Served as the commissioner for Reconstruction in Mississippi. He was one of the few members of the Mississippi legislature that didn't support the Confederacy. After his term as governor, he was elected to the Senate. However, because the state did not ratify the thirteenth amendment, Congress refused to seat him.

### 15. **Wendell Phillips:**

A lecturer on antislavery, recognized as a brilliant orator. He condemned the government's compromises on slavery and criticized Lincoln at the beginning of his presidency for not doing more for abolition. Johnson denounces him as a traitor.

# Prominent Figures

## North Korea

### 16. **William Lloyd Garrison:**

A journalist who was a staunch abolitionist. He helped publish the paper *The Genius of Universal Emancipation* advocating for an end to slavery and for the gradual emancipation of African slaves to send them back to Africa. He published *The Liberator* for thirty five years. He also founded many anti slavery societies as well as worked with other abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass and Lucy Stone. After African American slaves were free, he demanded more of the government to ensure their equality in society. He also advocated for the equality of women in the United States.

### 17. **Robert Smalls:**

Originally a slave, he managed to board and lead a Confederate ship he was assigned to, the *Planter* to surrender to the Union (and freed himself of his bondage). He eventually managed to enter government after buying his former masters' home which was confiscated by the Union. He served in the South Carolina Senate, South Carolina House of Representatives, and United States House as a Congressman.

### 18. **Orville Hickman Browning:**

He was a senator appointed to finish Stephen Douglas' term as a Senator. A conservative whig Republican, he was a friend of Abraham Lincoln and often visited the White House. He opposed emancipation and yet wanted to be on the Supreme Court. He lost his Senate seat in the 1862 elections.



# Prominent Figures

## North Korea

### 19. **William Dennison Jr.:**

He ran for the Ohio Senate successfully in 1848 and managed to repeal “Black Laws” in Ohio, successfully pushing for the Whig Party agenda to be adopted. He became governor during the Civil War, took control of telegraph and railroad lines, as well as sending General George McClellan against the Confederates in Western Virginia. He had the best intentions, but was viewed with suspicion by Ohioans who thought he was extending his powers as governor too much.

### 20. **John Palmer Usher:**

He was the Secretary of Interior for Abraham Lincoln. He favored humanitarian treatment of Native Americans and helped deal with unrest amongst them in Minnesota. Otherwise, he was a dull supporter of Lincoln’s policies and did little to change them.

### 21. **Gideon Welles:**

Lincoln’s and Andrew Johnson’s Secretary of the Navy. He helped the North win the Civil war by successfully blockading southern ports. He also was instrumental in the creation of the ship USS Monitor.

# Prominent Figures

## North Korea

### 22. **James Harlan:**

He was a senator and was very influential with President Abraham Lincoln. He was a master speaker and advocated for well structured speeches arguing for the Whig and other causes he supported. He helped fund Lincoln's 1864 presidential campaign.

### 23. **William M. Evarts:**

He was appointed the Attorney General in 1868 by president Andrew Johnson (even though he disagreed with many of Johnson's policies, and was a Republican at the time), as he served as special counsel during the impeachment trial of Johnson. After that, he was appointed Secretary of State by President Rutherford B Hayes.

### 24. **Hugh McCulloch:**

Secretary of the Treasury under Abraham Lincoln, he was conservative and was accused by John Palmer of caring more for creditors owing government bonds than the actual taxpayers paying for the Civil War.

### 25. **Alexander Randall:**

Governor of Wisconsin during the Civil War. He sent 6 regiments of troops to the front, yet he disregarded the cost of sending the troops to the war front and for not doing anything about the slow government bureaucracy involved in sending troops to the front.

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