

## Abraham Lincoln, "Speech at Peoria in Reply to Senator Douglas," October 16, 1854:

[Page 205] This is the *repeal* of the Missouri Compromise [of 1820]. In [our history] we have before us the chief material enabling us to judge correctly whether the repeal of the Missouri Compromise is right or wrong.

This *declared* indifference, which hides real eagerness, for the spread of slavery, I cannot but hate. I hate it because of the monstrous injustice of slavery itself. I hate it because it deprives our republican example of its just influence in the world; enables the enemies of free institutions with plausibility to taunt us as hypocrites; causes the real friends of freedom to doubt our sincerity; and especially because it forces so many good men among ourselves against the very fundamental principles of civil liberty, the Declaration of Independence, and cause them to insist that there is no right principle of action but *self-interest*.

The doctrine of self-government is right, --absolutely and eternally right,-- but it has no just application in this situation. Or perhaps I should rather say that whether it has such application depends upon whether a negro is *not* or *is* a man. If he is *not* a man, in that case he who is a man may as a matter of self-government do just what he pleases with him. But if the negro *is* a man, is it not a total destruction of self-government to say that he too shall not govern *himself*? When the white man governs himself, that is self-government; but when he governs himself and also governs *another* man, that is *more* than self-government--that is despotism.

Judge Douglas frequently, with bitter irony and sarcasm, paraphrases our argument by saying: "The white people of Nebraska are good enough to govern themselves, *but they are not good enough to govern a few miserable negroes!*"

Well! No man is good enough to govern another man *without that other's consent*. I say this is the leading principle, the sheet-anchor of American republicanism. Our Declaration of Independence says:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, DERIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED."

[Page 244] I object to the new position of this act because it assumes that there can be MORAL RIGHT in the enslaving of one man by another. I object to it because the fathers of the republic deliberately avoided mentioning and rejected it. The argument of “necessity” was the only argument they ever admitted in favor of slavery. They found the institution existing among us, which they could not help, and they cast blame upon the British king for having permitted its introduction. BEFORE the Constitution they prohibited its introduction into the Northwestern Territory. At the framing and adoption of the Constitution, they forbore to so much as mention the word “slave” or “slavery” in the whole document. In the provision for the recovery of fugitives, the slave is spoken of as a “PERSON HELD TO SERVICE OR LABOR.”

Questions...	...Response.
<p>Why does Lincoln believe that congressional neutrality towards slavery actually furthers the spread of slavery?</p> <p>(Why does not taking an action against something give it opportunity to grow?)</p>	
<p>How does Lincoln define “despotism”?</p>	
<p>Why does the Kansas-Nebraska Act effectively repeal the Missouri Compromise of 1820? (Think about the differences between the maps)</p>	
<p>Why would the United States be looked upon by other countries as hypocrites?</p>	

Questions...	...Response.
<p>What is the argument against slavery in terms of self government?            (Hint: Lincoln is speaking whether or not a slave equates a man)</p>	
<p>What is the leading principle of Republicanism?            The “sheet anchor of American republicanism”?</p>	
<p>Under Lincoln’s viewpoint on slavery, why is the institution a violation of the Declaration of Independence?</p>	
<p>According to Lincoln, did the Founding Fathers support or oppose slavery as an institution to increase in growth?</p>	