The Public Reacts

"a proposal for the butchery of women and children, for scenes of lust and rapine, and of arson and murder, which would invoke the interference of civilized Europe.” – Horatio Seymour, a Democrat running for the governorship of New York

"In the name of freedom of Negroes, [the proclamation] imperils the liberty of white men; to test a utopian theory of equality of races which Nature, History and Experience alike condemn as monstrous, it overturns the Constitution and Civil Laws and sets up Military Usurpation in their stead.” - Henry A. Reeves, a Democrat and editor for the Greenport, New York Republican Watchman

"The Emancipation Proclamation has done more for us than all our former victories and all our diplomacy." – Henry Adams, U.S. ambassador to the United Kingdom

“Posterity will call you the great emancipator, a more enviable title than any crown could be, and greater than any merely mundane treasure.” - Giuseppe Garibaldi, Italian military and political figure

"We joyfully honor you for many decisive steps toward practically exemplifying your belief in the words of your great founders: 'All men are created free and equal.'” - Alan Van Dyke, a representative for workers from Manchester, England

“What it will effect will be to destroy utterly and forever the legal tenure of slavery in the rebel States, and to deprive the slaveholders, wherever our armies go, of the peculiar property on whose behalf they made war upon us, and for whose protection they desire to erect a separate
government. In point of fact, the slaves, when freed, are much more likely to trouble us than their old masters. We shall have to feed them until some new organization of their labor can be effected.... The thing, the only thing, which the rebels do fear is the loss of "four thousand millions of property." The chivalry see that after 1st January, if the rebellion lasts, they will have to work for their living, instead of fattening on the unpaid labor of four millions of blacks. This is the awful prospect which unmans them. It is this which convulses the rebel newspapers, and has thrown their Congress into paroxysms of anguish." - Harper’s Weekly, October 18, 1862

"I have told you that this war is carried on for the Negro. There is the proclamation of the President of the United States. Now fellow Democrats I ask you if you are going to be forced into a war against your Brethren of the Southern States for the Negro. I answer No!” –David Allen, a Copperhead, Columbiana, Ohio

"a gross outrage on the rights of private property and an invitation to servile war, and therefore should be held up to the execration of mankind and counteracted by such severe retaliatory measures as, in the judgment of the President, may be best calculated to secure its withdrawal or arrest its execution." – Mr. Semmes, a Confederate senator from Louisiana

"the proclamation itself does not in the least alter the character of the war, as it has been an abolition contest from the beginning: the Yankees have stolen and set free all the negroes who were willing to go wherever their soldiers had possession of the country." – The Richmond Dispatch

"for my part I am quite satisfied with it [the Emancipation Proclamation]. That letter his to HORACE GREELEY convinced me of the honesty of the man. I know he is not going to do anything unless absolutely necessary, and when anything is necessary for the Union of course that thing must go. I have two slaves, and if parting with them could save the Union, they
should go; although I know there are plenty of men about here who could better spare forty than I can those two." – Citizen of Hagerstown, Maryland

“...the Proclamation has made an excellent beginning. We have no doubt that it will continue to justify itself more and more in the same respects, up to the very day of its practical application. And when it is once fairly in operation, it will make, we believe, very quick work of the rebellion. With our army cordon stretched from the Chesapeake to the furthest frontier, with a strong foothold in every rebel State without exception, and with our gunboats penetrating the swollen rivers in all directions, the rebels will find it an absolute impossibility to prevent this Proclamation of freedom from bringing to a speedy end the whole system through which alone they have been able to keep their rebellion alive thus far. Slavery, in less than a month, from the first day of January, will be so utterly demoralized and broken up, that even the most obdurate rebel will admit that the last slave-grown crop has been raised, and that stark famine confronts the Confederacy.” – New York Times, “A Month of the Proclamation”, October 22, 1862

What were the reactions of people in the Union? Were they all the same or varied?
What were the reactions of people in the Confederacy?

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What was the reaction in Europe?

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Do you think Lincoln was expecting these reactions? Do you think any surprised him?

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