

PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON...REVISED



Proclamation 167—Offering and Extending Full Pardon to All Persons Participating in the Late Rebellion

September 7, 1867

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Whereas the President of the United States did, on the 2d day of April, A. D. 1866, issue a proclamation declaring that the insurrection was at an end; and

Whereas there now exists no organized armed resistance of misguided citizens or others to the authority of the United States in the States of Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Florida, and Texas, and the laws can be sustained and enforced therein by the proper civil authority, and the people of said States are well disposed, and will conform in their legislation to the amendment to the Constitution prohibiting slavery; and

Whereas martial law and military occupation, and the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* and the right of trial by jury are in time of peace dangerous to public liberty,

Whereas a vengeful policy of unnecessary pain, penalties, confiscations, and disfranchisements, could only do harm to the national restoration, and would embarrass and obstruct the behavior, business and economy of the people; and

Whereas for these reasons it is now essential to the public welfare to restore constitutional law and order, and that a full pardon should be opened and extended to a large number of the persons who have since been excluded;

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do hereby proclaim and declare that a full pardon shall be extended to all persons who participated in the late rebellion, with the restoration of all privileges, immunities, and rights of property, except property with regard to slaves; but that every person who seeks to be pardoned shall take the following oath:

“I, _____, do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder, and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the late rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves. So help me God.”

The following persons, and no others, are excluded from the benefits of this proclamation, namely:

First, the President, Vice-President, and all heads of departments of the pretended Confederate or rebel government, and all ambassadors and diplomats, and all who held or pretended to hold a military rank above the grade of brigadier-general or navy captain, and all who were or pretended to be governors of States while participating in any way in the rebellion.

Second. All persons who in any way unlawfully harmed prisoners of war who were employed or engaged in the military or naval service of the United States.

Third. All persons who at actually in civil, military, or naval custody (jail), or have posted bail, or have been convicted, and all persons involved, directly or indirectly, in the assassination of the late President of the United States or in any plot or conspiracy in any manner connected.

In testimony whereof I have signed these presents with my hand and have caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, the 7th day of September, A. D. 1867, and of the Independence of the United States of America the ninety-second.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

By the President:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

Secretary of State.

Source: Andrew Johnson: "Proclamation 167—Offering and Extending Full Pardon to All Persons Participating in the Late Rebellion," September 7, 1867. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=72125>. Revised July 26, 2018.