

History 225
Re: Notes w/ Election of 1864

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Introduce

Election of 1864 shaped up as a decisive test about convictions.

Democrats nominated McClellan, who professed to stand for the restoration of the Union by military victory. The problem was that the so-called Peace Democrats wrote the platform, whose critical plank, drafted by our good friend none other than Clement Vallandigham (the greatest exponent of error since Milton's Satan). Vallandigham branded the war a hideous failure and called for an armistice and peace negotiations. Looking over McClellan's shoulder if the Democrats carried the election, would be McClellan's VP, a character named George Pendleton, a Peace Democrat from Ohio.

Set piece scenerio: If McClellan won, most expected a peace short of Union victory.

If Lincoln prevailed there as no question but that the fiery trial of war would continue to unconditional victory.

Well maybe.

I asked class last period what the made out of:

Lincoln's letter to Raymond to the effect "let Jeff Davis try me.
And espially Lincoln's August 23. 1864, "blind memorandum"