

Thomas Nast, **Emancipation**, 1863, *Harper's Weekly*

Engraving on paper, Library of Congress

Thomas Nast became a famous cartoonist in 19th century America. He was a strong supporter of the Union cause during the war and his work often rallied support behind Abraham Lincoln. The Emancipation cartoon was published shortly after Abraham Lincoln released the Emancipation Proclamation. The figure of Columbia rises above a series of images depicting the differences between slaves in the south and freedmen after the war. In the center, a black family gathers together in front of a Union stove with a portrait of President Lincoln on the wall. On the left side, slaves are being sold at auction, hunted down while trying to escape, and suffering from whippings and brandings. In contrast, on the right, black children are educated in public schools, owe their own homes, and farm workers receive fair payment for a day's work. Nast also created the modern images of the donkey and elephant as representing the Democratic and Republican parties, and Santa Claus.