Lincoln’s Inauguration

“Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that by the accession of a Republican Administration their property and their peace and personal security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed and been open to their inspection. …. I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.

…there needs to be no bloodshed or violence, and there shall be none unless it be forced upon the national authority. The power confided to me will be used to hold, occupy, and possess the property and places belonging to the Government…..We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection….”

*-*Abraham Lincoln, First Inaugural Address, March 4th, 1861

What is Lincoln’s central message in his inaugural address?

**South’s Response to Lincoln’s Inauguration**

“For myself, I am free to declare that the election of Lincoln (about which I entertain no doubt) ought to be regarded as an act of determined hostility; and I regard it, also, as immediately threatening the peace and safety of the South. As such, we should not wait till we experience the first or least of its pernicious consequences; but, foreseeing them, put ourselves at once in the attitude of independence, and thus escape or be prepared to defend ourselves against them. It may be that conflict and bloodshed will ensue…

Col. Orr calls Mr. K.'s attention to the results of the teachings of Black Republicanism, as developed in resistance to the Fugitive Slave Law, the inveigling of slaves, the raid of John Brown, and the recent insurrectionary movements in Texas,and asks -- can it be prudent, safe or manly, to submit to the domination of a party whose declared purpose is to destroy us and subvert our whole social and industrial policy?”

F.D.Richardson, Esq. of South Carolina

According to F.D. Richardson of South Carolina, how does the South view Lincoln’s inauguration?