



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of American History*  
*Kenneth E. Behring Center*

***America's New Birth of Freedom:  
Documents from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library***

**VIDEO TRANSCRIPT**

**Why did the war start?**

**Thomas F. Schwartz, Ph.D., Illinois State Historian:** Lincoln gives this simple answer.

**Lincoln:** One section of our country believes slavery is right, and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong, and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute.

"First Inaugural Address," March 4, 1861, from *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* 4:268-69.

*Video courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.*