

The Gettysburg Address: A Masterpiece of American History and Oratory

The Historical Context

The Gettysburg Address was delivered by President Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The battle of Gettysburg had taken place just four months earlier, and the war had reached a critical juncture.



The Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 807 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 16 pages



The Union army had won a significant victory at Gettysburg, but the war was not yet over. Lincoln was concerned that the country was becoming divided, and he wanted to use the occasion of the dedication to rally the nation to the cause of preserving the Union.

The Rhetorical Brilliance

The Gettysburg Address is a masterpiece of American oratory. It is only 272 words long, yet it is packed with eloquence, pathos, and logic. Lincoln

begins by invoking the Declaration of Independence and the principles of liberty and equality.



“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Lincoln then goes on to describe the battle of Gettysburg as a test of whether "that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure."



“We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.”

Lincoln concludes by calling on the audience to "be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly carried on."



“It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these

dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

The Enduring Legacy

The Gettysburg Address has had a profound impact on American history and culture. It is widely regarded as one of the greatest speeches ever given, and it continues to be studied and recited by students and adults alike.

The speech's message of unity, equality, and freedom has resonated with generations of Americans. It has been used to inspire people during times of war, peace, and social upheaval.

The Gettysburg Address is a timeless masterpiece that continues to offer wisdom, inspiration, and hope.

Additional Resources

- [The Library of Congress: The Gettysburg Address](#)
- [National Park Service: Gettysburg National Military Park](#)
- [History.com: The Gettysburg Address](#)



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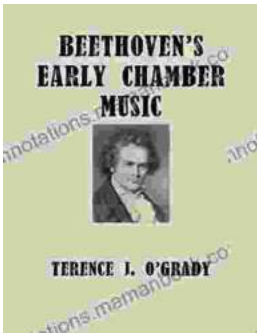
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