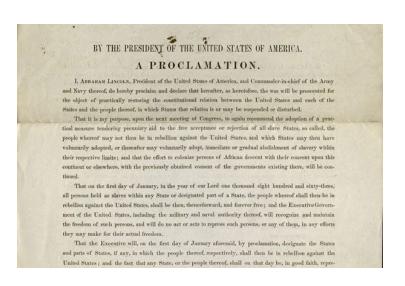
The 13th amendment abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except in the case of a convicted criminal, in the United States or places in the US' jurisdiction. Former president Abraham Lincoln submitted the amendment to the state legislatures in February of 1865 and it was ratified by the required number of states in December of 1865. Two years prior, in 1863, Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that "all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." This didn't end slavery, but was the prerequisite for a constitutional amendment that would abolish all slavery in the United States. The end of the Civil war marked an important time in US history. The southern states that had once seceded from the US were rejoined, but before that had happened the 13th amendment was passed. Although it should've easily gone through Congress due to the south not being a part of the process, the House did not initially pass the amendment. The Senate had passed the amendment in April of 1864, but it took almost another year of Lincoln insisting on its passage for the House to pass it in January of 1865. After it's adoption, it was constitutionally illegal for slavery to exist in the US, except of course in the case of prisons. That is a problem that would last for many years to come.





<u>Citations:</u>

- https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/emancipation-proclamation/transc
 ript.html
- https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=40
- https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/amendmentxiii

Picture Citations: