

NON-INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS

Imagine living in the United States just before the Civil War. The hot topic of the upcoming Presidential election is slavery. There are no televisions, phones, or Internet, and news travels slowly.

You can't know too much about any candidate, but two stand out:

You really like the Democrat. He says voters should be able to outlaw slavery, even though the Supreme Court just ruled in its favor.

His challenger, the Republican, says his goal is not to end slavery in slave states. He says Blacks and Whites should not intermarry and thinks free slaves should go 'back' to Africa if they want.

You always try not to get involved in politics. But this election is different! You put your principle of non-involvement aside and help the Democrat. You promote him to friends and strangers alike.

What you don't know is that your candidate, the Democrat, mocks Blacks, but the 'Republican' regards Blacks and Whites as equal.

That Republican was Abraham Lincoln. The Democrat was only trying to preserve the rights of White voters to decide their own slave laws!

Former slave Frederick Douglass said Lincoln had some prejudices, but felt Lincoln genuinely respected him and other Blacks. He explained Lincoln was using wisdom to preserve unity of nation while trying to abolish slavery. Lincoln grew up in an interracial neighborhood. He had Black friends, despised slavery, and was ultimately executed for his efforts.

Today it's easier to know more about politicians. Yet there remain hidden agendas. That doesn't mean we should do nothing. We should vote for who we regard as the best candidate and support policies that promote justice.

But we shouldn't be seduced by partisan policies. The goal is to build a better world, not to fix a broken one. The best way to build a better society is to support causes with noble aims, whether in religious communities, civic groups, nonpartisan or non-governmental organizations, neighborhood groups – or all of the above.

Political parties by nature are focused on their own constituents, not everyone. To help people indiscriminately, partisan-politics should be avoided. This is not the same as doing nothing but a matter of focus and aim.

Please See References