

Sullivan
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Answer
Judea (Hunter)
& this

The discussion of the Gettysburg Address should first begin with a look at the influences, belief, and experience of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln came from a Calvinist background which facilitated a fatalist view of the ~~the~~ world (George Washington was a fatalist too!) Reportedly he often used the phrase "what is to be, will be...".

On the other hand Lincoln believed that though we can't control the inevitable, we still have a duty to do the best we can. Lincoln's religious & political

or "bibles" : ① the Bible itself and ②
~~the~~
the Declaration of Independence.

Though Lincoln was a Springfield, IL
corporate litigator by trade, he was
also an expert on constitutional law.

~~The~~ The prevalence of religious
influences and the appreciation
for the Dec. of Independence & the
Con. aids us in ⁱⁿ understanding the
~~the~~ intellectual framework from which
the Gettysburg address sprung. It
is important to keep in mind that
Lincoln had a great respect, not only
for America itself, but for America's

role as the "~~Best~~ Last, best hope" for mankind.

Lincoln, an experienced and skilled orator, ~~also~~ knew that his audience would respond to appeals ~~to~~ of a religious nature (plus, this was ~~not of the~~ a mass eulogy). Therefore he began his speech w/ a religious, literary device ~~to~~ ("4 score and 7 years ago...").

During the course of the speech, Lincoln placed the battle, not in the context of war, but a part of a historical movement toward the freedom of

all people. He purposely ~~appeals~~

11 maximum political and ...

used emotional appeals to stress the importance that though death results from the battle, death is inevitable; ~~and~~ therefore it's not how we die, but why we die.

He also ^{explained} ~~compared~~ the "death" of the soldiers allowed a "birth" of freedom. Next, he encouraged people to move on from the pain of the tragedy ^{by} focusing on the big picture: America was an experiment and that we cannot fail!

The speech itself redirected

American political and social ideas

trends. B/C of this power, ~~top~~
coupled w/ the natural law influences
and foundation, the Gettysburg Address
~~is~~ has been elevated to the
same category ~~as~~ as the Const., Dec. of
Ind., and Bill of Rights.

It has been noted that Lincoln's
2 greatest accomplishments were ① saving
the Union and ② abolishing slavery. The
two are discussed frequently as separate
victories. However, Lincoln knew that
the Union ~~would~~ ^{wouldn't} (i.e., couldn't) last if slavery
continued. Further, he knew he needed
an informed & ...

to accept that truth and take action.
Lincoln found an ideal audience in
Gettysburg. The mood was somber -
ideal if you need people to listen to
your ideas rather than heckle you
or just walk out. Lincoln also knew
his audience & what they would
respond ~~to~~ ^{to}. Thus, he used overt
natural law ~~and~~ reasoning, coupled
w/ religious literary devices, and it had
not only the desired effect, but a
national and enduring effect
so strong that the speech currently

Some would argue that to award
Such distinction and influence
upon a document written by
one man (a politician at that!)
~~doesn't deserve~~ is uncalled for.

So that, it would argue that ①
it is not given the force of law;
② though only written by one person,
it encapsulates centuries of
natural law concepts regarding
the importance of the rights of
people — it represents a ~~collective~~
collective viewpoint of the American
experience ③ the other documents

don't ~~sp~~ explicitly state the
importance of ^{& obligation} ~~that~~ maintaining
National unity. ~~the~~ In fact,
it might be said that documented
importance of the goal of unity
is as important ~~as~~, if not more
important, than some of the
other written foundational ideas.

— END —