

more far-reaching measures. However, to gain control over our economy in the first place, we needed to disengage from the vicious circle in which foreign theories and influences conditioned Peru's economic sovereignty. We needed to strengthen our anti-imperialist stance. We were aware that inflation could not be curbed and the country reactivated without changing Peru's relationship with the international economic circles because the economic chaos in which we

lived a year ago was caused by the fact that our country was a satellite of international interests. Therefore, we decided to implement a nationalist government to confront this problem and to be able to implement a different economic policy that was not dictated to us from abroad.

For this reason, the government adopted a radical decision regarding the foreign debt problem and restricted the import of foreign goods as a means to defend the national

## Republican leadership in the Americas: Lincoln and García

### On anti-government violence

*South Carolina's insurrectionists attacked Fort Sumter April 12, 1861, beginning the Civil War. Lincoln mobilized 75,000 volunteers for the Union army, then addressed Congress July 4, 1861:*

[This] issue embraces more than the fate of these United States. It presents to the whole family of man, the question, whether a constitutional republic, or a democracy—a government of the people, by the same people—can, or cannot, maintain its territorial integrity, against its own domestic foes. It presents the question, whether discontented individuals, too few in numbers to control administration, according to organic law . . . can always, upon . . . this . . . or on any other pretences, or arbitrarily, without any pretence, break up their Government, and thus practically put an end to free government upon the earth. It forces us to ask: "Is there, in all republics, this inherent, and fatal weakness?" "Must a government, of necessity, be too *strong* for the liberties of its own people, or too *weak* to maintain its own existence?" . . .

This is essentially a People's contest. On the side of the Union, it is a struggle for maintaining in the world, that form, and substance of government, whose leading object is, to elevate the condition of men—to lift artificial weights from all shoulders—to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all—to afford all an unfettered start, and a fair chance, in the race of life. Yielding to partial, and temporary departures, from necessity, this is the leading object of the government for whose existence we contend.

### The American definition of liberty

*Lincoln freed slaves in the rebellious states by military proclamation of emancipation on Jan. 1, 1863. He asked the people of Maryland to approve the proposed abolition of slavery by state law (April 18, 1864):*

The world has never had a good definition of the word liberty, and the American people, just now, are much in

want of one. We all declare for liberty; but in using the same *word* we do not all mean the same *thing*. With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself, and the product of his labor; while with others the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men, and the product of other men's labor. Here are two, not only different, but incompatible things, called by the same name—liberty. And it follows that each of things is, by the respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names—liberty and tyranny.

The shepherd drives the wolf from the sheep's throat, for which the sheep thanks the shepherd as a *liberator*, while the wolf denounces him for the same act as the destroyer of liberty, especially as the sheep was a black one. Plainly the sheep and the wolf are not agreed upon a definition of the word liberty; and precisely the same difference prevails to-day among us human creatures, even in the North, and all professing to love liberty. Hence we behold the processes by which thousands are daily passing from under the yoke of bondage, hailed by some as the advance of liberty, and bewailed by others as the destruction of all liberty. Recently, as it seems, the people of Maryland have been doing something to define liberty; and thanks to them that, in what they have done, the wolf's dictionary has been repudiated.

### National sovereignty=control over credit

*Lincoln signed the National Bank Act during the credit-starved days of the Civil War, on June 3, 1864, embracing principles for which he had fought all his life. Among its provisions:*

That every association may . . . charge on any loan . . . interest at the rate allowed by the laws of the state . . . where the bank is located. . . . And where no rate is fixed by the laws of the state . . . the bank may . . . charge a rate not exceeding seven per centum. . . . Knowingly . . . charging a rate of interest greater than the aforesaid shall be held . . . a forfeiture of the entire interest . . . which has been agreed to be paid thereon . . . the persons paying the same . . . may recover back . . . twice the amount of the interest thus paid. . . .

Every [bank] director shall, during his whole term of service, be a citizen of the United States. . . .