A Face of War

Abe Lincoln, the man who freed the slaves. The man who wrote the famous Gettysburg Address. He aged a great deal between 1860 and 1865. Yes, in his age, but also in his face. On his face were wrinkles of worry and sorrow that filled his once slender face. Now, all we see is a depressed, run down, and weary Abraham Lincoln.

In both the 1860 and the 1865 picture, Abe Lincoln looks trustworthy and truthful. He is trustworthy to his country and its people. Abe was faithful to his word no matter what the consequence. Lincoln was truthful because in his younger days, he worked for a store and he got to much change back. He walked a long distance to make it correct with the customer. In both pictures Abe Lincoln looks very stern. He was serious because he had to make very rigid, hard-hitting, and complicated decisions. Also, Abe was finely dressed in a suit and tie. It shows that he cares about himself and also his image.

Newly elected President Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 picture he looked ready for anything. He would have to be geared up to over come the ghastly, spiteful, and dreadful challenges ahead. Some of the challenges would be slavery, war, and his son dying. Abe also looks brave and open-minded in this picture. His bravery helped Lincoln because he would do anything for his country no matter what the size. He was open-minded with a letter an eleven year old girl, Grace Bedell, wrote him. She wrote him a letter requesting him to grow a beard.

In the 1865 picture, a change in Abraham Lincoln was evident. His face was flooded with wrinkles. Lines of grief and fret covered his face. In the older picture, Abe looks weary from working hard. He looks tired from working hard because he worked very long and tenacious hours to find a good general. Then he landed on Ulysses S. Grant. Abraham Lincoln also looks content because his Emancipation Proclamation was in progress.

Abe aged with his country during the Civil War, but in opposite directions. As the Union pulled together as a group to win the war, Abe Lincoln went downhill. He plummeted into depression after losing his son, Willie in the White House. Abe Lincoln had worries beyond belief and sorrows beyond despair.
The Face Of War

In the Bible in the book of Proverbs we read "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." Abraham Lincoln's life is a prime example of this verse. It is amazing how the smooth, even cast of Lincoln's face in 1860 could change to the textured, tarnished cast in 1865. What could have happened in those five years to change a person's outward appearance that much?

In 1860 Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States; his days of constant stress had just begun. One of the first things that started his days of heavy anxiety was when seven states seceded from the union. This division hinted of civil war. When the war started, Lincoln's Union Army had cowardly generals. They ran away from fights and did not pursue the Confederate Army.

Abraham Lincoln also experienced the tragic death of his son Willie, who died as a result of influenza. Willie's death was especially overwhelming for Lincoln because he spent a lot of time with his boys to get his mind off the war. Abraham Lincoln's wife was also in a carriage accident during this time and was suspected of suffering brain damage. After the accident, Lincoln's wife, Mary, was a lot harder to live with. She had an explosive temper and was depressed as a result of Willie's death.

As the Civil War raged on, the Union Army also fought hard, long battles. During the many battles of the war, including Gettysburg, the stress of witnessing his fellow countrymen die in great numbers crushed Abraham Lincoln's spirit. Lincoln felt responsibility toward all of the soldiers as his fellow countrymen and to see them killing each other brought great sadness to the president's heart.

By 1865 the hardships of the war and the tragedies that Abraham Lincoln faced brought much stress into his life. All the tragedy and stress the president faced led to the withering of his features. Proverbs 17:22 clearly illustrates Lincoln's condition; he suffered from a crushed spirit, and it made him age more quickly than he should have.
The Face Of War....

Abraham Lincoln, our 16th president was President during the gruelling Civil War in the years of 1860 to 1865. This was a hard time for the country, and certainly for the President, to try and stop the fighting and free the slaves, plus, he had many other problems such as Willie, his son, dying. It is during this time period that Lincoln was under much stress and he became to look very different and actually, quite un-handsome. Read on as I explain to you the differences from Lincoln’s face from 1860 and 1865......

Lincoln was a tall and slender figure who in 1860, actually a little bit before that as well. Abe was part of the Illinois House of Representatives as well. He was also was part of the nation-wide Lincoln vs. Douglas debate. After he was in the House, Lincoln decided to run for President and he won over many other candidates. Abe did many things before 1860, then came the Civil War.

He faced many tough decisions in this war. During the Civil War he felt a great deal of stress and began to look very rugged and abnormal. A portion of the things that gave him stress happened during the war, such as things like how many men he lost at the Battle of Gettysburg, having to write the Gettysburg Address during a tough time, and how he had to rotate his Union Generals and find new ones before something bad happened. One of the worst things that got him stressed out was his family issues, his 2 sons dying and his wife, Mary, was in depression. All of these things made him look very rugged, and he had many wrinkles. He also looked older than he should be. In the 1865 picture, Abe looks even more depressed, with many wrinkles and stress lines. He looks way, way different than the 1860 picture.

After comparing and contrasting the 1860 and 1865 pictures, you can obviously see that Lincoln is antithetic after the Civil War. Lincoln was one of our greatest Presidents, although later in 1865, Abe would be assassinated. Even though Lincoln was assassinated, he remains one of the greatest presidents to ever live in the U.S.A.......

Signed,

Cameron R. Orchard
The Face of War

War is very stressful for anyone. It was especially stressful for President Abraham Lincoln. It aged him physically 10 to 15 years.

Lincoln was a circuit-riding lawyer in Illinois. Before he was a lawyer, he was in the Illinois House of Representatives. He married Mary Todd in the fall of 1842. Lincoln ran for President in the year 1860. Also in the year 1860, they suffered the loss of their son, Edward, who passed away at a very early age. During the election, Abe got a letter from Grace Bedall saying you would look better with a beard so he decided to grow a beard. He became President with less than 50% of the popular vote and was an unpopular President. When he became President, South Carolina and other Southern states seceded and attacked a federal fort.

When the civil war began, it was April 12, 1861. The war was only five years, but it aged Lincoln 15 years. Lincoln lost another son, Willie, during the war; and his wife Mary had a very difficult time with death of their son. At Lincoln's cottage, Mary almost died when the carriage's tampered seat gave way; and Mary hit her head hard. During the war, Lincoln also constantly fired general after general. Lincoln carried the weight of the 51,112 deaths at Gettysburg. As you can see, he was under a lot of stress during the Civil War. If you were to look at pictures from 1860 and 1865, you would be horrified at the state of Lincoln's face after five years of war. Lincoln has way more wrinkles in 1865. Lincoln's hair may have grayed, but he never lost any of it. He actually gained a beard. He has severe bags under his eyes in 1865. He does still have bony cheeks from 1860 to 1865 so at least his face did not puff out. Yet, Lincoln looks happier in the 1865 photo than he does in the 1860 photo.

War is the worst time to be president. Lincoln had it the worst. He suffered a war where the country fought itself. He looks like he aged more than 5 years during the Civil War.
The face of war is the face of depression. The face of war is the face of misery. Most of all, the face of war is the face of mock-bliss. The affect of war on the Commander-In-Chief is extremely noticeable. The stress leaves wrinkles upon wrinkles upon wrinkles on their faces and a false, heartless, smile crosses their face. War can age a 30 year old man, making him the age of 50 within 5 years. Even a phenomenal president such as Abraham Lincoln could not escape the affects of war. Between 1860 (the year he was elected as president) and 1865 (the year he was assassinated) Lincoln changed in countless ways and also remained the same in an equal number of ways.

Lincoln showed much strength in the ways he remained unchanged. He managed to do so despite the stress of the war, the death of his son Willie, his grieving wife, and the challenge of standing by and watching men die in the Battle of Gettysburg. He held on to his love for a good joke, for he knew he could use a bit of laughter in times of sorrow. He loved his wife, Mary Todd, until the day he was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth in 1865. Many people thought she was crazy; however she had the excuse of having two sons in a coffin and going through the stress of everyday life as the First Lady. People thought Lincoln was as crazy as Mary, for staying with such a woman. However he was elected President of the United States in 1860, which proved that he was anything but crazy. Lastly, Lincoln had consistently showed his integrity. As a young man he walked many miles for the simple fact that the clerk at a store had given him a minute amount of extra change. As a President, he honestly stated in the Gettysburg Address that he doubted that anyone would remember his speech.

Lincoln also changed a great deal. His changes were more so physical than mental compared to his similarities before and after the Civil War. Between 1860 and 1865 scores of wrinkles engraved themselves into Honest Abe’s face. These came from the stress of things such as the feat of putting the Emancipation Proclamation into effect. His eyes no longer shone with glee. His eyes became dark and gloomy although he tried to forge a smile. He looked as though he had aged 50 years; however he truly only aged 5 years.

The affect of war upon a President would make you gasp and pray that you were seeing things. The dreadful truth is that war is something that can affect everyone, including those who are not fighting in it. Lincoln, who is remembered for being a strong leader with an even stronger heart, could not escape the chains of war. He may have been an astounding leader; however he is only human. Between 1860 and 1865 Lincoln became a prime example of the affect of war upon a human being.