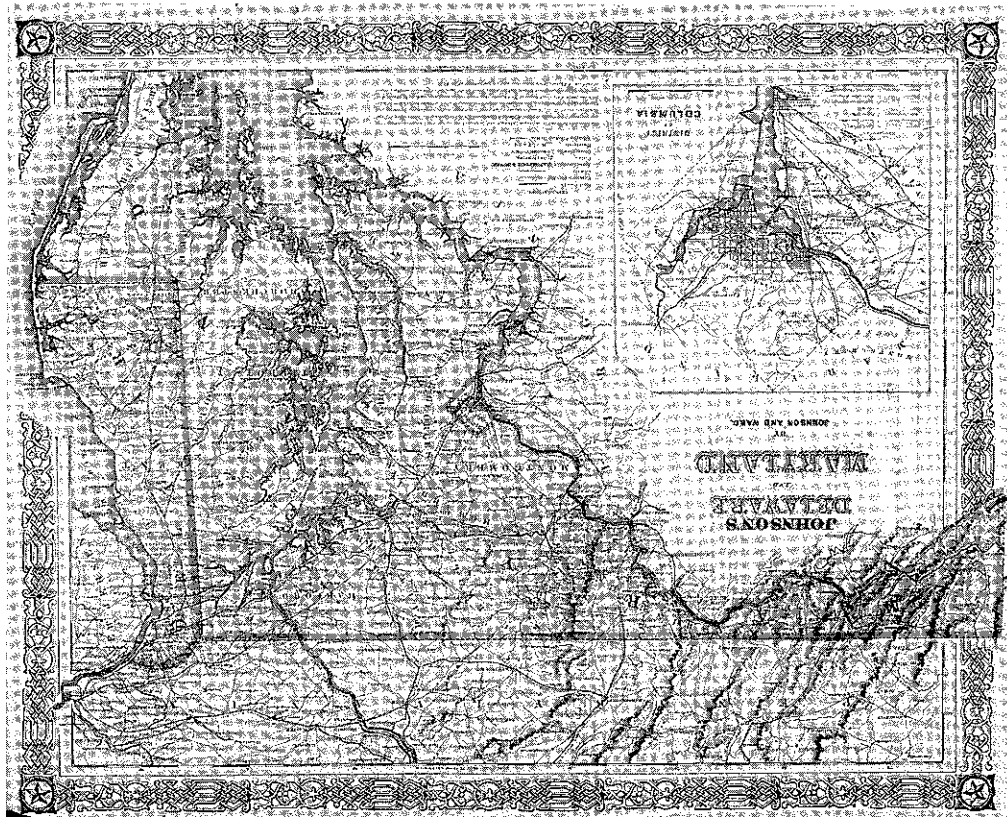


Though in Maryland Unionism quickly trumped secession—the latter seemed, even to Southern sympathizers, like economic suicide—such was not the case in the fight over slavery. Indignant slave owners and their allies demanded protection for their constitutionally sanctioned property and enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law in return for their loyalty. Gov. Augustus W. Bradford, a Unionist elected in November 1861, labored indefatigably for his slaveholding constituents. In March 1862, he conveyed a set of Maryland legislative resolutions to Lincoln that rejected the right of secession but made clear that Marylanders would look askance at any effort allowing the war to interfere “with the domestic institutions of the States; and they solemnly protest against all schemes, the object or tendency of which is, to excite insurrection among the slaves.”²⁴ The president responded craftily. His emancipation policies toward Maryland exploited both recruitment of black troops and divisions between conservative and radical Unionists to trigger the death rattle of slavery before the war was over. Consistent with his objective of keeping Maryland in the Union, Lincoln dealt aggressively with disloyalty while simultaneously courting and splitting slaveholders with offers of compensated emancipation.

Map of Maryland and Delaware at the outbreak of the Civil War (Johnson and Ward). MdHS



While white men controlled the land, other enterprising workers as laborers in the ranks of the Union recruited listed freemen and deflected thousands of the Lincoln and his Maryland compensation to conserved slaves to loved ones sent to military and elected Maryland's rancorous slaveholders. In 1864, many slaveholders of county orphans' courts allowed them to bind determined that parentheticals were legitimate and the Freedmen's Bureau in parts of Maryland. Facto slavery. *Maryland Voices of* land ever stood at the direct light on the Marylanders felt the effects. Here are their s-