

## **CHAPTER THREE: THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT**

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The 14<sup>th</sup> was part of a three-amendment procedure proposed by President Lincoln relative to the abolishment of slavery. The 13<sup>th</sup> freed the slaves, the 14<sup>th</sup> was designed to give them (those born in the USA) instant citizenship, and the 15<sup>th</sup> gave those new citizens the right to vote. Unfortunately, many states passed their own laws that attempted to stifle the ability of Blacks to vote (a practice which exists today in some states, including Florida).

The problem with the part of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment that made those slaves into citizens, is that it accomplished everything it was designed to do instantly. There was no reason for that portion to exist beyond the instant of ratification, and, since that time, the continued presence of that portion has served only to allow people from other countries, whether here legally or not, to skirt all of the immigration laws and policies, and “drop a baby” on US soil, creating an instant citizen. This was not the intention of that amendment, and it should be replaced with words that resolve the problem.

It’s too late to go back to the 1860s, but if we could, the more desirable wording would have been, “upon ratification of this amendment, all persons residing on US soil at that moment shall become US citizens.” Then it could not have been abused the way it is now

Our alternative, now, is to amend the wording to read something like this, “All persons born to a parent who is an American citizen, shall be a natural born citizen of the US, no matter where in the world (or outer space) such birth occurs”. This would end the abuse of this amendment by those making an end-run around the immigration laws.