

Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution

By James M. McPherson

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James McPherson has emerged as one of America's finest historians. *Battle Cry of Freedom*, his Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the Civil War, was a national bestseller that Hugh Brogan, in *The New York Times Book Review*, called "history writing of the highest order." In that volume, McPherson gathered in the broad sweep of events, the political, social, and cultural forces at work during the Civil War era. Now, in *Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution*, he offers a series of thoughtful and engaging essays on aspects of Lincoln and the war that have rarely been discussed in depth.

McPherson again displays his keen insight and sterling prose as he examines several critical themes in American history. He looks closely at the President's role as Commander-in-Chief of the Union forces, showing how Lincoln forged a national military strategy for victory. He explores the importance of Lincoln's great rhetorical skills, uncovering how--through parables and figurative language--he was uniquely able to communicate both the purpose of the war and a new meaning of liberty to the people of the North. In another section, McPherson examines the Civil War as a Second American Revolution, describing how the Republican Congress elected in 1860 passed an astonishing blitz of new laws (rivaling the first hundred days of the New Deal), and how the war not only destroyed the social structure of the old South, but radically altered the balance of power in America, ending 70 years of Southern power in the national government.

The Civil War was the single most transforming and defining experience in American history, and Abraham Lincoln remains the most important figure in the pantheon of our mythology. These graceful essays, written by one of America's leading historians, offer fresh and unusual perspectives on both.

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Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution By James M. McPherson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #467283 in Books
- Published on: 1992-06-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 5.38" h x .40" w x 8.00" l, .38 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 173 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In seven thoughtful essays the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Battle Cry of Freedom* examines Lincoln's role in the transformation wrought by the Civil War--the liberation of four million slaves, the overthrow of the social and political order of the South. McPherson calls the 16th president a conservative revolutionary whose goal was to conserve the Union as the revolutionary heritage of the founding fathers. He addresses at length a subject oddly overlooked by historians and Civil War scholars: Lincoln as strategist and war leader. McPherson flatly states that he was responsible for the unconditional Union victory. Lincoln's superb leadership as president, commander-in-chief and head of the Republican party, the author concludes, determined the pace of the "second American revolution" and ensured its success. These scholarly essays convey the enduring significance of Lincoln's words and ideas as he grappled with issues which, as McPherson points out, will never become obsolete: the meaning of freedom, the limits of government power and individual liberty in time of crisis and the problems of wartime leadership.

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From School Library Journal

YA-- McPherson has once again written a gem of a book. Seven essays offer many provocative and original observations about our 16th president and his political philosophies. Lincoln's demand for unconditional surrender, the effective use of metaphors in his writings and speeches, and his steadfast dedication to "the proposition that all men are created equal." are a few of the topics addressed. McPherson's style is flowing, his clarity is illuminating, and his grasp of history is inspiring. Students and teachers will use this readable and well-researched collection either as a whole or a chapter at a time. A worthy and desirable addition to any high school library.

- Peggy H. Mooney, *Fairfax County Public Lib.*, VA

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Review

"A stimulating group of essays, incorporating both McPherson's own work on the Civil War along with others like Eric Foner on Reconstruction."--John Tricamo, *San Francisco State University*

"Insightful, provocative, and thought provoking--A valuable source for understanding Lincoln and the longterm structural consequences of the Civil War."--Robert Ubriaco, Jr., *Webster University*

"Essays that go right to the heart of the meaning of the war and Abraham Lincoln's role in it....Crystal-clear, well-reasoned, supremely informed essays....McPherson deftly and convincingly sketches out how Lincoln's vision and leadership made the necessary revolution possible."--*The New York Times Book Review*

"McPherson makes a compelling case for the revolutionary nature of the war."--*The Washington Post Book World*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Connell:

This Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution is brand new way for you who has attention to look for some information because it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having bit of digest in reading this Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by anyone. These books create itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book contact form. People who think that in publication form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this guide is the answer. So there is not any in reading a reserve especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for an individual. So , don't miss the idea! Just read this e-book kind for your better life and also knowledge.

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