Abraham Lincoln And The American Political Tradition

Lincoln on the Verge—Ted Widmer 2020-04-07 WINNER OF THE LINCOLN FORUM BOOK PRIZE "A Lincoln classic...superb." —The Washington Post "A book for our time." —Doris Kearns Goodwin Lincoln on the Verge tells the dramatic story of America’s greatest president discovering his own strength to save the Republic. As a divided nation plunges into the deepest crisis in its history, Abraham Lincoln boards a train for Washington and his inauguration—an inauguration Southerners have vowed to prevent. Lincoln on the Verge charts these pivotal thirteen days of travel, as Lincoln discovers his powers, speaks directly to the people, and sees the upshot of his course. Drawing on new research, this riveting account reveals the president-elect as a work in progress, showing him on the verge of greatness, as he faces an assassination attempt, forges an unbreakable bond with the American people, and overcomes formidable obstacles in order to take his oath of office.

Rise to Greatness—David Von Drehle 2012-10-30 Chronicles Abraham Lincoln’s success at turning the Civil War to the North’s favor by the year 1862.

The Gettysburg Address—Abraham Lincoln 2009-08-27 The Address was delivered at the dedication of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on the afternoon of Thursday, November 19, 1863, during the American Civil War, four and a half months after the Union armies defeated those of the Confederacy at the decisive Battle of Gettysburg. In just over two minutes, Lincoln invoked the principles of human equality espoused by the Declaration of Independence and redefined the Civil War as a struggle not merely for the Union, but as “a new birth of freedom” that would bring true equality to all of its citizens, and that would also create a unified nation in which states’ rights were no longer dominant. Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves - each other. This inspired debate, inspired war, and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. Now Pynchon brings you the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are.

The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery—Eric Foner 2011-09-26 “A masterwork [by] the preeminent historian of the Civil War era.”—Boston Globe Selected as a Notable Book of the Year by the New York Times Book Review, this landmark work gives us a definitive account of Lincoln’s lifelong engagement with the nation’s critical issue: American slavery. A master historian, Eric Foner draws Lincoln and the broader history of the period into perfect balance. We see Lincoln, a pragmatic politician grounded in principle, deftly navigating the dynamic politics of antisalvery, secession, and civil war. Lincoln’s greatness emerges from his capacity for moral and political growth.

Lincoln and the American Founding—Lucas E. Morel 2020 "This book is a scholarly introduction for the general reader on the most important political actors and documents of the American revolutionary era that shaped Abraham Lincoln’s politics"—

Abraham Lincoln—Carl Sandburg 2007 Presents the life of the Civil War president, detailing his childhood, his education, career as a lawyer and legislator, his marriage, political campaigns, presidential years, and assassination.

We Called Him Rabbi Abraham—Gary Philip Zola 2014-03-25 "The course of American history, Jews have held many American leaders in high esteem, but they maintain a unique emotional bond with Abraham Lincoln. From the time of his presidency to the present day, American Jews have consistently viewed Lincoln as one of their own, casting him as a Jewish sojourner and, in certain respects, a Jewish role model. This pioneering compendium—The first volume of annotated documents to focus on the history of Lincoln’s image, influence, and reputation among American Jews—considers how Lincoln acquired his exceptional status and how, over the past century and a half, this fascinating relationship has evolved. Organized into twelve chronological and thematic chapters, these little-known primary source documents—many never before published and some translated into English for the first time—consist of newspaper clippings, journal articles, letters, poems, sermons, and provide insight into a wide variety of issues relating to Lincoln’s Jewish connection. Topics include Lincoln’s early encounters with Central European Jewish immigrants living in the Old Northwest, Lincoln’s Jewish political allies, his encounters with Jews and the Jewish community as President, Lincoln’s response to the Jewish chaplain controversy: General U. S. Grant’s General Orders No. 11 expelling “Jews, as a class” from the Military Department of Tennessee; the question of amending the U.S. Constitution to legislate the country’s so-called Christian national character; and Jewish euploies after Lincoln’s assassination. Other chapters consider the crisis of conscience that arose when President Andrew Johnson proclaimed a national day of mourning for Lincoln on the festival of Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks), a day when Jewish law enjoins Jews to rejoice and not to mourn; Lincoln’s Jewish detractors contrasted to his boosters; how American Jews have intentionally “Judaized” Lincoln ever since his death; the leading role that American Jews have played in the interpretation of Lincoln’s image and in preserving his memory for the American nation; American Jewish reflections on the question “What Would Lincoln Do?”, and how Lincoln, for America’s Jewish citizenry, became the avatar of America’s highest moral aspirations. With thoughtful chapter introductions that provide readers with a context for the annotated documents that follow, this volume provides a fascinating chronicle of American Jewry’s unfolding historical encounter with the life and iconic image of Abraham Lincoln, shedding light on how the cultural interchange between American ideals and Jewish traditions influences the dynamics of the American Jewish experience. Finalist, 2014 National Jewish Book Award Finalist, 2015 Ohioana Book Award

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commander-in-chief and demonstrates that, throughout the stresses of the war years, Lincoln's basic character shone through: his good will and fundamental decency, his remarkable self-confidence matched with genuine humility, his immunity to the passions and hatreds the war spawned, his extraordinary patience, and his timeless devotion. A former backwoodsman and country lawyer, Abraham Lincoln rose to become one of our greatest presidents. This biography offers a vivid account of Lincoln's dramatic ascension to the pinnacle of American history.

Abraham Lincoln
Fred L. Reed 2013

Lincoln in Private
Ronald C. White 2021-05-04 “An intimate character portrait and fascinating inquiry into the basis of Lincoln’s energetic, curious mind.”—The Wall Street Journal From the New York Times bestselling author of A. Lincoln and American Ulysses, a revelatory glimpse into the intellectual journey of our 16th president through his private notes to himself, explored together for the first time the seeds of his private man, shut off even to those who worked closely with him, Abraham Lincoln’s private notes (“his best thoughts,” as he called them, in short notes to himself. He would work out his personal stances on the biggest issues of the day, never expecting anyone to see these frank, unpolished pieces of writing, which he’d then keep close at hand, in desk drawers and even in his top hat. The profound importance of these notes has been overlooked, because the originals are scattered among several different archives and have never before been brought together and examined as a coherent whole. Now, renowned Lincoln historian Ronald C. White walks readers through twelve of Lincoln’s most important private notes, showcasing the president’s brilliance and empathy, but also his very human anxieties and ambitions. We look over Lincoln’s shoulder as he grapples with the problem of slavery, attempting to find convincing rebuttals to those who supported the evil institution (“I ‘wo not be a slave, so I would not be a master.’ This expresses my idea of democracy.”); prepares for his historic debates with Stephen Douglas; expresses his private feelings after a defeated bid for a Senate seat (“With me, the race of ambition has been a failure—a flat failure”); voices his concerns about the new Republican Party’s long-term prospects; develops an argument for national unity amidst a succession crisis that would ultimately rend America in two; and, for a president many have viewed as not religious, develops a sophisticated theological reflection in the midst of the Civil War (“it is quite possible that God’s purpose is something different from the purpose of either party”). Additionally, in a historic first, all 111 Lincoln notes are transcribed in the appendix, a gift to scholars and Lincoln buffs alike. These are notes Lincoln never expected anyone to read, put into context by a writer who has spent his career studying Lincoln’s life and words. The result is a rare glimpse into the mind and soul of one of our nation’s most important figures.

Abraham Lincoln
James M. McPherson 2009 Covers the life and political career of Abraham Lincoln, from his humble beginnings in Kentucky and legal career as a young man to his becoming president with less than half the popular vote and acting as Commander-in-Chief during the Civil War before he}

Abraham Lincoln
Brian Lamb 2008-10-22 In this beautifully designed volume, America’s top Lincoln historians offer a diverse array of perspectives on the life and legacy of America’s sixteenth president. Spanning Lincoln’s life—from his early career as a Springfield lawyer, to his presidential reign during one of America’s most troubled historical periods, to his assassination in 1865—these essays, original from O-SPAN interviews, provide a compelling, comprehensive portrait of Lincoln, one that offers up new stories and fresh insights on a defining leader. Extras include a timeline of Lincoln’s life, brief biographies of the key contributors, and Lincoln’s most famous speeches.

They Knew Lincoln
John E. Washington 2018-01-08 Originally published in 1948 and now reprinted for the first time, They Knew Lincoln is a classic in American history and Lincoln studies. Part memoir and part history, the book is an account of John E. Washington’s childhood among African Americans in Washington, DC, and of the black people who knew and encountered Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. Washington recount shows theLincoln’s childhood and demonstrates that, throughout the stresses of the war years, Lincoln’s basic character shone through: his good will and fundamental decency, his remarkable self-confidence matched with genuine humility, his immunity to the passions and hatreds the war spawned, his extraordinary patience, and his timeless devotion. A former backwoodsman and country lawyer, Abraham Lincoln rose to become one of our greatest presidents. This biography offers a vivid account of Lincoln’s dramatic ascension to the pinnacle of American history.

Every Drop of Blood
Edward Achorn 2020-03-03 A brilliantly conceived and vividly drawn story—Washington, D.C., on the eve of Abraham Lincoln’s historic second inauguration address as the lens through which to understand all the complexities of the Civil War By March 4, 1865, the Civil War had claimed the lives of more than 750,000 Americans and left indelible wounds on the nation’s social fabric. A morning of rain-drenched fury, tens of thousands crowded Washington’s Capitol grounds that day to see Abraham Lincoln take the oath for a second term. As the sun emerged, Lincoln rose to give perhaps the most impassioned address in American history, stunning the nation by arguing, in a brief 701 words, that both sides had been wrong, and that the war’s unimaginable horrors—every drop of blood spilled—might well have been God’s just verdict on the national sin of slavery. Edward Achorn reveals the nation’s capital on that momentous day—with its mud, sewage, and saloons, its prostitutes, spies, reporters, social-climbing spouses and power-hungry politicians—as a microcosm of all the opposing forces that had driven the country apart. A host of characters, unknown and famous, had convened on Washington—from grievously wounded Union colonel Selden Comor in a Washington hospital and the embarrasingly drunk new vice president, Andrew Johnson, to poet-journalist Walt Whitman; from soldiers’ advocate Clara Barton and African American leader and Lincoln critic-turned-admirer Frederick Douglass (who called the speech “a sacred effort”) to conflicted actor John Wilkes Booth—all swarming around the complex figure of Lincoln. In indelible scenes, Achorn vividly captures the frenzy in the nation’s capital at this crucial moment in American history—the tension-filled hope and despair afflicting the country as a whole, soon to be heightened by Lincoln’s assassination. His story offers new understanding of our great national crisis, and echoes down the decades to resonate in our own time.

The Soul of America
Jon Meacham 2018-05-08 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Pulitzer Prize–winning author Jon Meacham helps us understand the present moment in American politics and life by looking back at critical times in our history when hope overcame division and fear. ONE OF OPRAH’S “BOOKS THAT HELP ME THROUGH” • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR • The Christian Science Monitor • Southern Living Our current climate of partisan fury is not new, and in The Soul of America Meacham shows us how what Abraham Lincoln called the “better angels of our nature” have repeatedly won the day. Painting surprising portraits of Lincoln and other historical figures, including Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, and Lyndon B. Johnson, and illuminating the courage of such influential citizen activists as Martin Luther King, Jr., early suffragettes Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt, civil rights pioneers Rosa Parks and John Lewis, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Army-McCaryth hearings lawyer Joseph N. Welch, Meacham vividly brings to life the tensions and triumphs turning points in American history. He writes about the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the birth of the Lost Cause; the backlash against immigrants in the First World War and the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s; the fight for women’s rights; the demagoguery of Huey Long and Father Coughlin; and the isolationist work of America First after the war. From the anti-Communist witch-hunts led by Senator Joseph McCarthy; and Lyndon Johnson’s crusade against Jim Crow. Each of these dramatic hours in our national life have been shaped by the contest to lead the country to look forward rather than back, to assert hope over fear—a struggle that continues even now. While the American story has not always—or even often—been heroic, we have been sustained by a belief in progress even in the gloomiest of times. In this inspiring book, Meacham reassures us, “The good news is that we have come through such darkness before”—as, time and again, Lincoln’s better angels have found a way to prevail. Praise for The Soul of America “Brilliant, fascinating, timely . . . With compelling narratives of past eras of strife and disentanglement, Meacham offers wisdom for our own time.”—Walter Isaacson “Gripping and inspiring, The Soul of America is Joe Meacham’s declaration of his faith in America.”—Newday “Meacham gives readers a longer-term perspective on American history and a reason to believe the soul of America is ultimately one of kindness and caring, not rancor and paranoia.”—USA Today

Abraham Lincoln
Violet Findley 2007-04 Profiles the sixteenth president of the United States, discussing his time as a lawyer and the Civil War that broke out during his administration.

Abraham Lincoln
George S. McGovern 2008-12-23 America’s greatest president, who rose to power in the country’s greatest hour of need and whose vision saw the United States through the Civil War Abraham Lincoln towers above the others who have held the office of president—the icon of greatness, the pillar of strength whose words bound up the nation’s wounds. His presidency is the hinge on which American history pivots, the time when the young republic collapsed of its own contradictions and a new birth of freedom, sanctioned by blood, created the United States as we know it today. His story has been told many times, but never by a man who himself sought the office of president and contemplated the awesome responsibilities that come with it. George S. McGovern—a Midwesterner, former U.S. senator, presidential candidate, veteran, and historian by training—offers his unique insight into our sixteenth president. He shows how Lincoln sometimes went astray, particularly in his restrictions on civil liberties, but also how he adjusted his sights and transformed the Civil War from a political dispute to a moral crusade. McGovern’s account reminds us why we hold Lincoln in such esteem and why he remains the standard by which all of his successors are measured.

The Language of Liberty
Joseph R. Fiorini 2009-01-11 The Civil War is a defining event in American history and Abraham Lincoln is the central figure of both the Civil War and American history. In his struggle to preserve the Union and redeem the nation from the original sin of slavery,
Abraham Lincoln provided the most compelling expression of the American Dream and the preeminent justification of the American regime. Indeed, at Gettysburg he distilled the very essence of the nation's political creed. His political thought and leadership are of enduring significance to democracy at home and abroad. To further appreciate and perpetuate Lincoln's legacy, The Language of Liberty offers the definitive one-volume collection of the Sixteenth President's speeches and writings. Unlike so many other collections, in which Lincoln's speeches and writings have been substantially edited, this volume provides a comprehensive selection of the Sixteenth President's most important speeches and writings in their entirety. The volume is conveniently divided both chronologically and thematically into five periods/chapters from 1832-1865. A final chapter offers a compilation of Lincoln's speeches and writings on the theme of religion and politics. Each speech is preceded by an informative head-note, which places Lincoln's words in context for the reader. In addition, each period/chapter includes a concise historical, political, and biographical overview of the major events in Lincoln's life and the life of the nation, thereby providing an even wider context for understanding the Sixteenth President's language of liberty. To assist the reader, crucial terms, dates, events and issues of the Civil War have been defined. Also unique to this volume is the final section on Lincoln's Political Faith, which includes a unique sampling of his private and public utterances on religion, and a definition of this political faith based upon the first principles of this political faith of Independence. A selected bibliography of secondary sources has been included for further reading on various topics related to the Sixteenth President. Finally, the volume includes an extensive introduction on Lincoln's Prudent Leadership and his application of the natural law to the circumstances of the Civil War Era. Indeed, this introduction provides a crucial understanding of the relationship between Lincoln's political thought and political action, between the world of theory and practice. In sum, The Language of Liberty provides an indispensable guide to the lay reader, the Lincoln aficionado, and the scholar. All now have access to a single volume collection of his great political speeches and writings with unedited versions, concise historical overviews, and scholarly reflections on the enduring significance of Lincoln's political philosophy.

Abraham Lincoln—Harry R. Rubenstein 2008 Commemorating the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, here is his extraordinary story as only the Smithsonian could tell it, featuring the unpublished Lincoln collections at the National Museum of American History. Full-color photos throughout.

The Civil War and Reconstruction—William E. Gienapp 2001-01-01 An ample, wide-ranging collection of primary sources, The Civil War and Reconstruction: A Documentary Collection, opens a window onto the political, social, cultural, economic, and military history from 1830 to 1877.

The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln—Larry Tagg 2009 * Vivid study of what those around him really thought of America's "greatest president" * Published to coincide with the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth and Spielberg's biopic Today, Abraham Lincoln is a beloved American icon, widely considered to be our best president. It was not always so. Larry Tagg's The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln is the first study of its kind to concentrate on what Lincoln's contemporaries actually thought of him during his lifetime. Be forewarned: your preconceived notions are about to be shattered. Torn by civil war, the era in which our sixteenth president lived and governed was the most rough-and-tumble in the history of American politics. The violence of the criticism aimed at Lincoln by the great men of his time on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line is simply startling. Indeed, the breadth and depth of the specter of prejudice that has haunted Lincoln's reputation for its cruelty, intensity, and unrelenting vigor. The plain truth is that Mr. Lincoln was deeply reviled by many who knew him personally, and by hundreds of thousands who only knew of him. Boisterous and venomous enough to be good entertainment, The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln rests upon a wide foundation of research that includes years of searching through contemporary newspapers. Tagg includes extensive treatment of the political context that begat Lincoln's predilection, riding with the president to Washington, and walking with him through the bleak years of war and up to and beyond assassination. Throughout, Tagg entertains with a lively writing style, outstanding storytelling verve, and an unconventional, against-the-grain perspective that is sure to delight readers of all stripes. Lincoln's humanity has been unintentionally trivialized by some historians and writers who have hidden away the real man in a patina of bronze. Once readers learn the truth of how others viewed him, they will better understand the man he was, and how history is better viewed through a long-distance lens than contemporaneously. The bicentennial of Lincoln's birth will be celebrated in 2009 and will be the biggest year ever for public interest in Abraham Lincoln. The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission created and funded by Congress will "inform the public about the impact Abraham Lincoln had on the development of our nation." The year will also witness the release of Steven Spielberg's long-awaited movie on President Lincoln. Of all the Lincoln books slated for publication, The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln will be the "must-read" title for general readers and scholars alike. AUTHOR: Larry Tagg graduated from the University of Texas at Austin. A bass player whose world renown, Larry co-founded and enjoyed substantial commercial success with "Bourgeois Tagg" in the mid-1980s. He went on to play bass for Todd Rundgren, Heart, Hall and Oates, and other acts. He currently teaches high school English and drama in Sacramento, California. Larry is the author of the bestselling book The Generals of Gettysburg, a selection of the Military Book Club. ILLUSTRATIONS: 30 photos & illustrations.

Abraham Lincoln, the First American—David Thompson Capcom 1894

Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writings Vol. 1 1832-1858 (LOA #45)—Abraham Lincoln 1809-1865 Abraham Lincoln measured the promise—and cost—of American freedom in lucid and extraordinarily moving prose, famous for its native wit, simple dignity of expressions, and peculiarly American flavor. This volume, with its companion, Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writing 1859-1865, comprises the most comprehensive selection ever published. Over 240 speeches, letters, and drafts take Lincoln from rural practice to national prominence, and chart his emergence as an eloquent antislavery advocate and defender of the constitution. Included are the complete Lincoln-Douglas debates, perhaps the most famous confrontation in American political history.

Abraham Lincoln and the Western Territories—Ralph Y. McCinnis 1994 Instead of battling the West with a pistol, Abraham Lincoln tamed America's western territories with his famous pen. By passing laws that offered cheap land, adequate railway transportation, and inexpensive, practical education, Lincoln provided the means for the settlement of the Great American West. By examining policies, problems, and actions, Abraham Lincoln and the Western Territories tells the story of how the Wild West was won for the Union. A Burnham Publishers boo

Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writings Vol. 2 1859-1865 (LOA #46)—Abraham Lincoln 1809-1865 Abraham Lincoln was the greatest writer of the Civil War as well as its greatest political leader. His clear, beautiful, and at times uncompromisingly severe language forever shaped the nation's understanding of its most terrible conflict. This volume, along with its companion, Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writings 1832-1858, comprises the most comprehensive selection ever published. Over 550 speeches, messages, proclamations, letters, and other writings—including the Inaugural and Gettysburg addresses and the moving condolence letter to Mrs. Bixby—record the words and deeds with which Lincoln defended, preserved, and redefined the Union. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 2400 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

My Little Golden Book about Abraham Lincoln—Bonnie Baker 2016 Preschoolers can learn all about Abraham Lincoln in this all-American Little Golden Book Bright pictures and a simple story capture the essence of one of our most popular presidents. Little ones will enjoy key anecdotes about Lincoln, beginning with young Abe's love of reading. Fun facts at the end—such as Lincoln's declaration of the first Thursday in November as Thanksgiving day—round out this nonfiction book full of Little Golden Book charm. And look for: My Little Golden Book About George Washington.

Abraham Lincoln and the American Ideal—William E. Gienapp 2001-01-01 A Burnham Publishers boo

Lincoln Speeches—Abraham Lincoln 2012-08-28 The defining rhetoric of Abraham Lincoln—politician, president, and emancipator—Penguin presents a series of six portable, accessible, and, above all—essential reads from American political history, selected by leading scholars. Series editor Richard Beeman, author of The Penguin Guide to the U.S. Constitution, draws together the great texts of American civic life to create a timely and informative mini-library of perennially vital issues. Whether readers are encountering these classic writings for the first time, or brushing up in anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, these slim volumes will serve as a powerful and illuminating resource for scholars, students, and civic-minded citizens. As president, Abraham Lincoln endowed the American language with a vigor and moral energy that have all but disappeared from today's public rhetoric. His words are testimonials of our history, windows into his enigmatic personality, and resonant examples of the writer's art. Renowned Lincoln and Civil War scholar Allen C. Guelzo brings together this volume of Lincoln Speeches that span the classic and obscure, the lyrical and historical, the inspirational and intellectual. The book contains everything from classic speeches that any citizen would recognize—the first debate with Stephen Douglas, the "House Divided" Speech, the Second Inaugural Address—to the less known ones that professional Lincoln fans will come to enjoy and intellectuals and critics praise. These orations show the contours of the civic dilemmas Lincoln, and America itself, encountered: the slavery issue, state v. federal power, citizens and their duty, death and destruction, the coming of freedom, the meaning of the Constitution, and what it means to progress.

Abraham Lincoln in the American Mind—Eastern National Park and Monument Association 1994
John Stauffer 2009-11-12 Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln were the preeminent self-made men of their time. In this masterful dual biography, award-winning Harvard University scholar John Stauffer describes the transformations in the lives of these two giants during a major shift in cultural history, when men rejected the status quo and embraced new ideals of personal liberty. As Douglass and Lincoln reinvented themselves and ultimately became friends, they transformed America. Lincoln was born dirt poor, had less than one year of formal schooling, and became the nation’s greatest president. Douglass spent the first twenty years of his life as a slave, had no formal schooling—in fact, his masters forbade him to read or write—and became one of the nation’s greatest writers and activists, as well as a spellbinding orator and messenger of audacious hope, the pioneer who blazed the path traveled by future African-American leaders. At a time when most whites would not let a black man cross their threshold, Lincoln invited Douglass into the White House. Lincoln recognized that he needed Douglass to help him destroy the Confederacy and preserve the Union; Douglass realized that Lincoln’s shrewd sense of public opinion would serve his own goal of freeing the nation’s blacks. Their relationship shifted in response to the country’s debate over slavery, abolition, and emancipation. Both were ambitious men. They had great faith in the moral and technological progress of their nation. And they were not always consistent in their views. John Stauffer describes their personal and political struggles with a keen understanding of the dilemmas Douglass and Lincoln confronted and the social context in which they occurred. What emerges is a brilliant portrait of how two of America’s greatest leaders lived.
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