



## Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War: Selected Writings and Speeches (The Bedford Series in History and Culture)

*By Abraham Lincoln*

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Comprising an impressive array of more than 200 of Abraham Lincoln's writings and speeches, this volume offers a fascinating window onto one of history's most remarkable figures. Letting Lincoln's own eloquent voice tell the story, the author has organized the documentary material topically in ten chapters that follow Lincoln from his youth, to his entry into Republican politics, and through the main events of his presidency. Great public speeches like the Lincoln-Douglas Debates and the Gettysburg Address are here, together with many less familiar writing poignantly personal letters to voters and colleagues, notes on military strategy-to show the character and evolution of Lincoln's thought on the crucial issues of free labor, slavery, secession, Civil War, and emancipation. Johnson provides ample historical context through the skillful weaving of narrative and documents and the judicious use of footnotes, making this volume more accessible to undergraduates than any comparable collection. Also included are 14 illustrations, relevant Civil War maps, chronology, questions to consider, bibliography, and an index.

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War are three topics that continue to interest both scholarly and popular readers. Johnson (history, Johns Hopkins), the author of numerous historical studies and texts, including *Reading the American Past: Selected Historical Documents*, uses Lincoln's own utterances to shed light on the thought of this intriguing public figure and to tell the story of this highly significant conflict. This volume contains more than 170 samples of Lincoln's private and public writings arranged around relevant topics with informative headnotes, a chronology, and questions to challenge the reader and fuel debate. This is a good acquisition for academic and public libraries of all sizes, but for more comprehensive coverage libraries might choose the classic texts *Life and Writings of Abraham Lincoln*, edited by Philip Van Doren Stern (Modern Library, 1999) or the two-volume *Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writings 1859-1865*, edited by Don E. Fehrenbacher (Library of America, 1989). DTheresa McDevitt, Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania Lib. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

From more than 120,000 documents available in the collected works of Abraham Lincoln, Johnson has culled approximately 200 dealing directly and indirectly with the two issues that defined Lincoln's presidency: slavery and the Civil War. Though the first three chapters provide a survey of Lincoln's early life and writings, the heart of the book is devoted to letters, notes, speeches, and interviews written and presented during his tenure as U.S. president. What emerges is an overview of how Lincoln's private thoughts and public opinions on free labor, slavery, secession, and the preservation of the Union evolved during this critical time period. A digestible compendium of invaluable primary sources distinguished by Lincoln's trademark wit, compassion, and eloquence. *Margaret Flanagan*  
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Review

'Anyone who would understand the American Civil War needs to understand Abraham Lincoln, and it is hard to imagine a better overview than offered here. This volume presents all of Lincoln's most famous writings and a generous sampling of others, along with lucid commentary and truly helpful documentation. Michael Johnson has given us a clear window into a key episode of American history' - Edward L. Ayers, University of Virginia 'This collection, designed to present the 'essential Lincoln', is an invaluable resource for students and general readers interested in exploring Lincoln's views on slavery and the Civil War. Lincoln the wordsmith is displayed superbly in these well-chosen and well-introduced documents.' - Drew Faust, University of Pennsylvania

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