

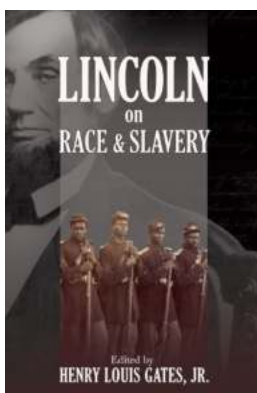
The Untold Truth: Lincoln's Fascinating Views on Race and Slavery

Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, is widely known for leading the nation through the American Civil War and for his pivotal role in abolishing slavery. However, the depth of Lincoln's views on race and slavery goes beyond popular perception. In this article, we will delve into the untold truth about Lincoln's fascinating stance on these critical issues that shaped American history.

The Journey of an Abolitionist

Contrary to common assumptions, Lincoln's journey towards abolitionism was a gradual one. Born on February 12, 1809, in a time when slavery was deeply ingrained in American society, he initially held moderate views on the subject. However, his experiences and interactions with African Americans throughout his life played a crucial role in shaping his evolving perspectives.

Lincoln's deep-rooted belief in equality and justice started to gain prominence during his time as a lawyer, where he defended several runaway slaves seeking freedom. Through these cases, Lincoln witnessed firsthand the horrors and injustice faced by enslaved individuals, fueling his growing opposition to slavery.



Lincoln on Race and Slavery

by Henry Louis Gates Jr. (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1532 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 417 pages



Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation

The Emancipation Proclamation, issued by Lincoln on January 1, 1863, stands as a milestone in American history. While it did not instantly free all slaves, as it solely applied to the states in rebellion, it was a significant step towards the eventual eradication of slavery.

However, the proclamation was not solely motivated by moral convictions. Lincoln strategically employed it as a means to undermine the Confederate economy and weaken their military forces. By granting freedom to slaves in rebel territories, Lincoln aimed to destabilize the South and shift the balance of power in favor of the Union.

The Lincoln-Douglas Debates

As Lincoln's political career progressed, his stance on slavery became more pronounced, culminating in the historic Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858. Running for the Senate, Lincoln engaged in a series of lively discussions with Stephen A. Douglas, his Democratic opponent.

During these debates, Lincoln passionately argued against the extension of slavery into new territories, emphasizing the moral and economic implications of its perpetuation. His powerful rhetoric resonated with voters, propelling him into national prominence and setting the stage for his eventual presidency.

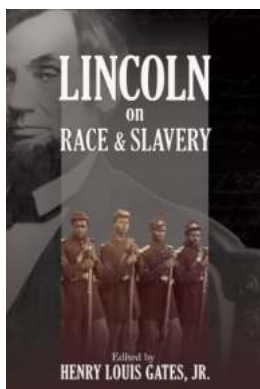
Lincoln's Legacy

Lincoln's remarkable legacy on racial equality extends beyond his Emancipation Proclamation. In his second inaugural address, delivered on March 4, 1865, he expressed his vision for a reunited nation, emphasizing the need for compassion and unity in the face of the war's devastating consequences.

Tragically, Lincoln's life was abruptly ended when he was assassinated on April 15, 1865, depriving the nation of a leader who could have further championed the cause of civil rights. However, his impact continues to reverberate, inspiring future generations to stand up against oppression and fight for equality.

Abe Lincoln, as he was fondly known, was a man of remarkable character and vision. His journey from a moderate to an ardent abolitionist, his instrumental role in the Emancipation Proclamation, and his impassioned debates showcased his unwavering commitment to justice and equality.

Lincoln's complex views on race and slavery deserve recognition beyond mere historical acknowledgment. It is through understanding the depth of his convictions and actions that we gain a profound insight into this influential figure who left an indelible mark on American society.



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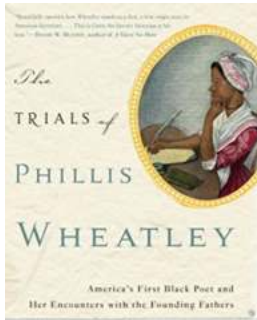


From acclaimed scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the most comprehensive collection of Lincoln's writings on race and slavery

Generations of Americans have debated the meaning of Abraham Lincoln's views on race and slavery. He issued the Emancipation Proclamation and supported a constitutional amendment to outlaw slavery, yet he also harbored grave doubts about the intellectual capacity of African Americans, publicly used the n-word until at least 1862, and favored permanent racial segregation. In this book—the first complete collection of Lincoln's important writings on both race and slavery—readers can explore these contradictions through Lincoln's own words. Acclaimed Harvard scholar and documentary filmmaker Henry Louis Gates, Jr., presents the full range of Lincoln's views, gathered from his private letters, speeches, official documents, and even race jokes, arranged chronologically from the late 1830s to the 1860s.

Complete with definitive texts, rich historical notes, and an original by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., this book charts the progress of a war within Lincoln himself. We witness his struggles with conflicting aims and ideas—a hatred of slavery and a belief in the political equality of all men, but also anti-black prejudices and a determination to preserve the Union even at the cost of preserving slavery. We also watch the evolution of his racial views, especially in reaction to the heroic fighting of black Union troops.

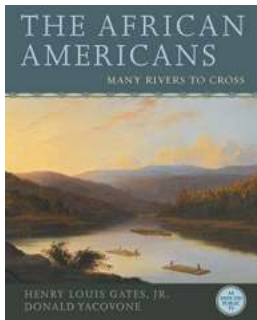
At turns inspiring and disturbing, *Lincoln on Race and Slavery* is indispensable for understanding what Lincoln's views meant for his generation—and what they mean for our own.



Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

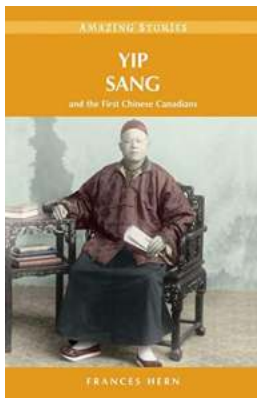
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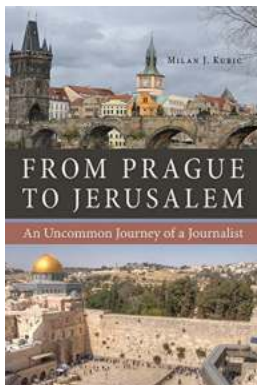
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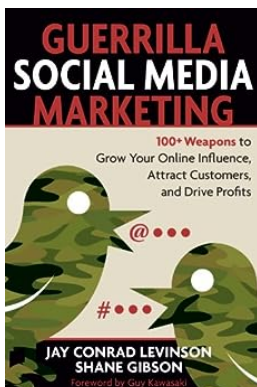
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