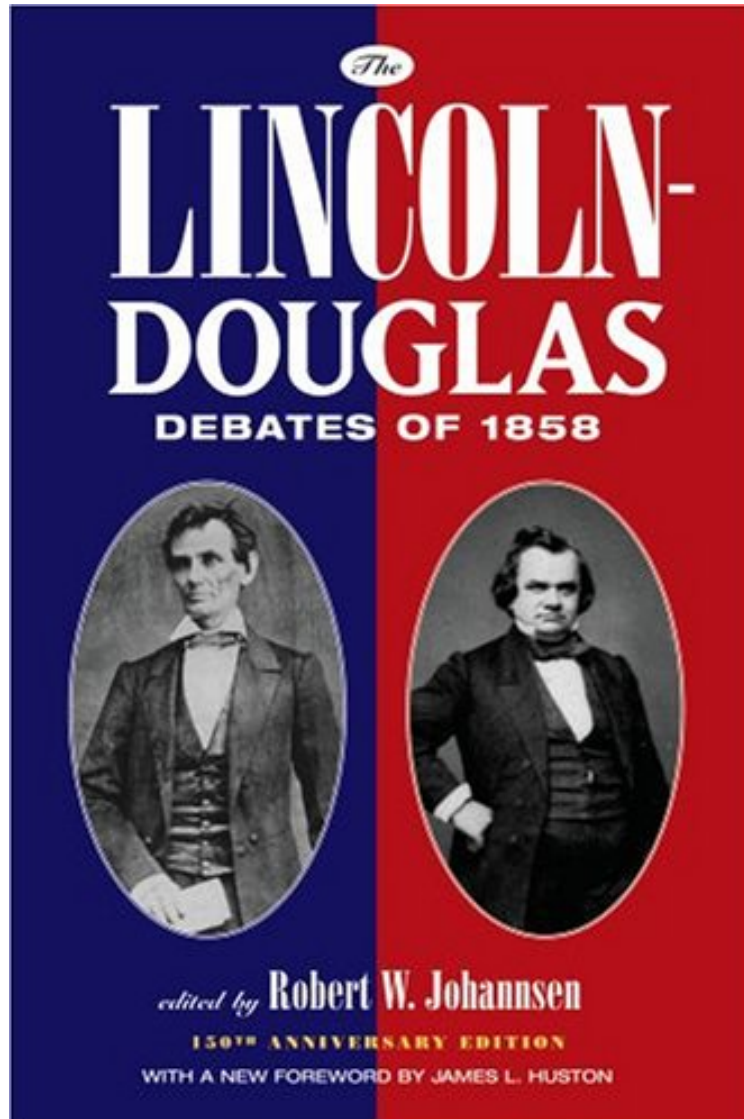


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The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858

James L. Huston

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James L. Huston : The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Source for Texts of Lincoln-Douglas DebatesBy Frances C. FowlerThe title of this book--"The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858"--rather accurately reflects its contents. Based on verbatim contemporary newspaper accounts of the debates (as recorded by shorthand reporters), it provides not only an accurate version of the speeches as delivered from the platform, but also some of the audience response. In

addition to the twenty-one speeches given during the seven joint debates, the book also includes Lincoln's "House Divided" speech of June 16, 1858 and Douglas' speech delivered in Chicago on July 9, 1858. The editor, Douglas expert Robert Johannsen, also includes a page long discussion of the basis for the text and a ten-page introduction that provides the reader with background information. A few notes at the end of each joint debate identify individuals mentioned in the speeches. In addition, the 43rd anniversary edition begins with a foreword by James Huston. It is an interesting and valuable critical review of the historiography of the debates. Two shortcomings led me to give this book four stars instead of five. First, it lacks an index. This makes it difficult to determine to what extent each speaker's expressed views shift during the course of the debates. This is important for interpreting the debates as one of Stephen Douglas' chief charges against Lincoln was that he delivered different messages in different parts of Illinois. Second, a map of Illinois in 1850, showing the location of each of the debate sites, would have been helpful for the same reason. This book is not easy reading even for a person with a good knowledge of antebellum politics, Lincoln, and/or Douglas. However, it is an excellent source for the texts of the debates and for that reason would make a good addition to the library of Civil War and nineteenth century history buffs. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great read By Darrin Anderson Great book for anyone interested in the debates between Lincoln and Douglas. Would recommend to Lincoln and history buffs. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By karoon nititham excellent

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the most famous political argument in U.S. history, *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858* is now available in a special commemorative edition. As Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas fiercely competed for the Illinois seat in the U.S. Senate, they debated many of the crucial and controversial issues--including slavery--that would later come to define Lincoln's political career. Thoughtfully edited by acclaimed historian Robert W. Johannsen, this essential manuscript captures a groundbreaking and provocative moment in American politics. Framed by an insightful new foreword by Johannsen's former student James L. Huston, this series of debates communicates the eloquence, urgency, and immediacy of its historical moment. To make these arguments more relevant to contemporary readers, Huston discusses the historiography of the debates since 1965, how various historians have addressed the debates, and why the debates remain so important today. This indispensable resource also includes Douglas's Chicago speech and Lincoln's "House Divided" speech. Providing a timely and engrossing look at this dynamic event, the 150th anniversary edition of *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858* remains the authoritative presentation of these lively, landmark orations.

About the Author Robert W. Johannsen is J. G. Randall Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Illinois. He is the author of *Stephen A. Douglas* (OUP, 1973; Francis Parkman Prize); *To the Halls of the Montezumas: The Mexican War in the American Imagination* (OUP, 1985); *The Frontier, the Union, and Stephen A. Douglas*; and *Lincoln, the South, and Slavery: The Political Dimension*.