

The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: The First Complete, Unexpurgated Text

Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Arnold Douglas, Harold Holzer
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Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Arnold Douglas, Harold Holzer : The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: The First Complete, Unexpurgated Text before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: The First Complete, Unexpurgated Text:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Timeless and ImportantBy Husker005In 1858, Abraham Lincoln attempted to persuade the Illinois' State Assembly to select him to the United States Senate over the incumbent and powerful Steven A. Douglas by engaging Douglas in seven open air debates. The fact that Douglas agreed to these debates is somewhat of a mystery since he was already well-known and well-admired in Illinois. Giving Lincoln a forum in which was on the same stage a Douglas would likely enhance Lincoln's political stature but would not necessarily benefit Douglas. Nonetheless, Douglas agreed to seven debates and each was dramatic. The theme central to all seven was the issue of slavery and whether the Federal government should ban it, limit it or stay out of the issue and let the states themselves decide. Neither persuaded the other but Douglas, a pro-slavery advocate, apparently did enough to get elected by the Illinois State Assembly (US Senators at that time were still elected by their respective State Legislators). Lincoln, however, made the case, repeatedly for Man's inalienable, God given right to be free. Lincoln's message, as history demonstrated, eventually carried the day with his Party and the American electorate. His message rings true today.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful resourceBy concordia25I enjoyed reading through these debates immensely. So much so that I completed them in one sitting, which is a rare

occurrence considering the books length. I've only recent begun to have a rather intense interest in President Lincoln, and believe these debates (even if you only read the edited ones) are fundamental to getting to know the man as a politician and how he reasoned. Even though these are said to be the most "base" versions of the debates, considering they are accounts given by the opposition, i found them intellectually challenging and overall stimulating. Many of the issues they cover are still being debated, even if we've changed the way we argue. I highly suggest these to any history buffs, and especially any who are attempting to study Lincoln himself. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A real feel for the atmosphere By MARI enjoyed reading this book very much. We get the lead-up to each debate with current events how each candidate arrived. The mood of the crowd as was reported at the time. And the complete texts of the debates as reported by both "partisan" newspapers of the times. Decide for yourself. The differences are minor.

Published together in their original form for the first time, the seven Lincoln-Douglas debates are presented in their entirety, free of editing and embellishment. By the author of Lincoln on Democracy.

From Library Journal Those who have read the debates between Lincoln and Douglas that took place during the 1858 Senate race in Illinois may not have read what was actually said. The authenticity of the texts has always been in dispute, with the political presses of the day polishing the prose of their candidate and Lincoln himself publishing a sanitized version two years later. The editor of this volume (coeditor, with Mario Cuomo, of Lincoln on Democracy, LJ 10/15/90), claims to present the first authentic texts of the seven confrontations. Interspersed are shouted comments from the crowds, background on the sites, and renditions of how the debates may have appeared. What emerges is a vivid, boisterous picture of politics during our most divisive period: the dull ineloquence of Lincoln and his interplay with hecklers, the blatant bigotry and slashing humor of Douglas, and the small degree to which campaigning has changed in 135 years. This fresh, fascinating examination of a significant step in our march toward the Civil War deserves a place in all American history collections. For public, school, and academic libraries.- James Moffet, Baldwin P.L., Birmingham, Mich. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. These thirteen essays are all products of the annual and acclaimed Lincoln Forum. While the Union president is the central theme, the topics range far afield and offer a tasty hors doeuvre for Civil War scholars and students alike. (James I. Robertson, Jr. Author of Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Soldier, the Legend.) Abraham Lincolns life and work produced a cornucopia of provocative ideas, analyses and opinions. John Y. Simon and Harold Holzer have made it easier for us to share in that abundance with a volume of carefully selected works from the Lincoln Forum. (Mario Cuomo former Governor of New York) A vivid, boisterous picture of politics during our most divisive period . . . This fresh, fascinating examination . . . deserves a place in all American history collections. (Library Journal) From the Publisher The first complete and unedited version of the historic debates that mesmerized America and brought the issues of slavery and nationhood to the forefront of the country's agenda.