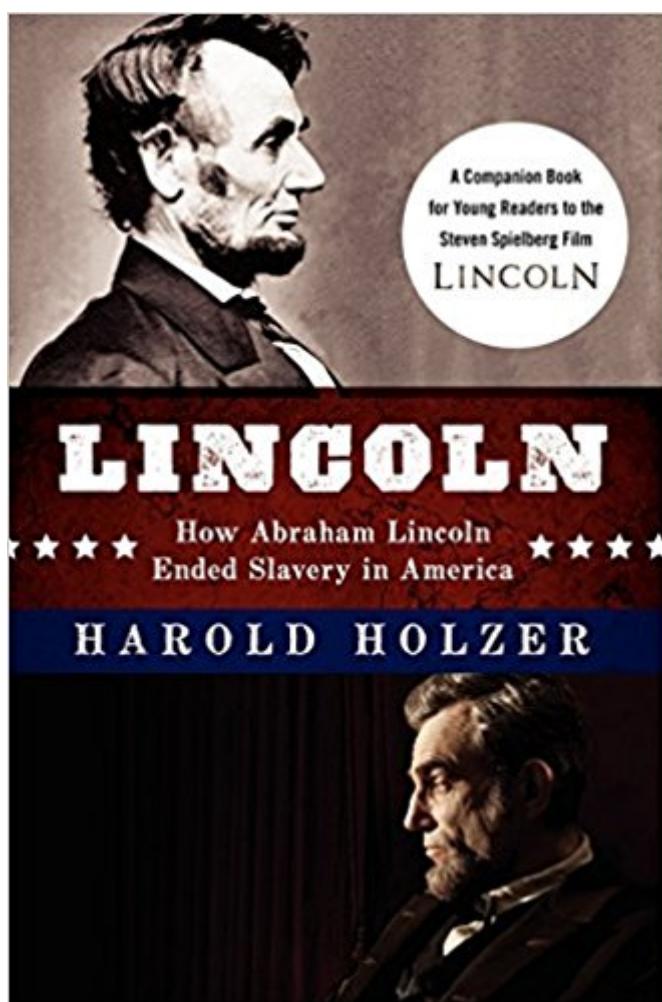


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# Lincoln: How Abraham Lincoln Ended Slavery In America: A Companion Book For Young Readers To The Steven Spielberg Film



## Synopsis

A new book—*and companion to the Steven Spielberg film*—tracing how Abraham Lincoln came to view slavery . . . and came to end it. Steven Spielberg focused his movie *Lincoln* on the sixteenth president's tumultuous final months in office, when he pursued a course of action to end the Civil War, reunite the country, and abolish slavery. Invited by the filmmakers to write a special *Lincoln* book as a companion to the film, Harold Holzer, the distinguished historian and a consultant on the movie, now gives us a fast-paced, exciting new book on Lincoln's life and times, his evolving beliefs about slavery, and how he maneuvered to end it. The story starts on January 31, 1865—less than three months before Lincoln's assassination—as the president anxiously awaits word on whether Congress will finally vote to pass the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Although the Emancipation Proclamation two years earlier had authorized the army to liberate slaves in Confederate territory, only a Constitutional amendment passed by Congress and ratified by three-fourths of the states would end slavery legally everywhere in the country. Drawing from letters, speeches, memoirs, and documents by Lincoln and others, Holzer goes on to cover Lincoln's boyhood, his moves from Kentucky to Indiana to Illinois, his work as a lawyer and congressman, his unsuccessful candidacies for the U.S. Senate and his victory in two presidential elections, his arduous duties in the Civil War as commander in chief, his actions as president, and his relationships with his family, political rivals, and associates. Holzer provides a fresh view of America in those turbulent times, as well as fascinating insights into the challenges Lincoln faced as he weighed his personal beliefs against his presidential duties in relation to the slavery issue. The passage of the Thirteenth Amendment would become the crowning achievement of Abraham Lincoln's life and the undisputed testament to his political genius. By viewing his life through this prism, Holzer makes an important passage in American history come alive for readers of all ages. The book also includes thirty historical photographs, a chronology, a historical cast of characters, texts of selected Lincoln writings, a bibliography, and notes.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Newmarket for It Books; Mt edition (November 20, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062265091

ISBN-13: 978-0062265098

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,692,492 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Presidents & First Families #63 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Period #263 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Era

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 3 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Lincoln-historian Holzer, one of several scholars who supplied input for the Spielberg film Lincoln, provides the official companion book for young readers. The focus, as in the film, is on the passing of the 13th Amendment to end slavery. However, Holzer's straightforward account expands the narrative with information on Lincoln's childhood, his evolving views on the Civil War and slavery, his governance of balancing popular opinion with what he believed to be right, his winning of a second term in office, and how that outcome was unclear right up until the counting of the votes. Although much of this will be known to readers, some of the finer points, as well as some fairly complex concepts, will be new territory. Approximately 30 historical images and photos are promised but were not available for review. A helpful cast of characters and chronology are included in the strong back matter. Grades 7-10. --Enos, Randall

One of the leading authorities on Abraham Lincoln has written a companion book for Steven Spielberg's newly released film on the 16th president. The book by New York historian and author Harold Holzer, titled "Lincoln: How Abraham Lincoln Ended Slavery in America," is geared toward young readers. (Associated Press) The book is a delight, written for young people who may be discovering Lincoln and the Civil War for the first time. . . This may be the book that brings along a whole new generation of Lincoln fans. (Washington Post) An engrossing, well-rounded portrait of Lincoln as a humble, humorous, and passionate politician and humanitarian. (Publishers Weekly) Holzer highlights the emotional turmoil and the rocky political landscape Lincoln astutely navigated to ensure the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment. (School Library Journal) LINCOLN invites young readers to explore Lincoln's life and times. The book engagingly captures the trials and tribulations of the 16th president, making Lincoln come alive for a new generation. It serves as a worthy companion to a popular film. (J. Michael Martinez, Blue

Lincoln: How Abraham Lincoln Ended Slavery in America by Harold Holzer"Lincoln: How Abraham Lincoln Ended Slavery in America" is the accessible companion piece to Steven Spielberg's excellent movie, "Lincoln". The book is intended for younger audiences but it was also enjoyed by this avid reader and reviewer. The book focuses on the evolution of Lincoln's views on slavery and how he was able to politically end slavery while preserving the Union. This well written 240-page book is composed of the following fourteen chapters: 1. The Making of a Liberator, 2. Romance, Law, and Politics, 3. The Lincolns Go to Washington Chapter, 4. The Prairies Are on Fire, 5. Right Makes Might, 6. The Mystic Chords of Memory, 7. A People's Conflict, 8. Fair Warning on Slavery, 9. The Day of Jubilee, 10. Fighting for Freedom, 11. Unfinished Work, 12. Year of Decision, 13. A Fitting and Necessary Conclusion, and 14. Death of a Liberator.

Positives:

- 1. Accessible and well written book about how President Lincoln ended slavery.
- 2. Interesting topic in the hands of an accomplished historian. Even handed and professionally written book.
- 3. The book is intended for young readers as a companion piece to Spielberg's "Lincoln". A great opportunity to teach our children an important chapter of our history while enjoying the book on its own merits. The distinct feature that makes this book appropriate for young readers is the author's graceful handling of slavery.
- 4. The book shares many tidbits, personality traits and influences that had a lasting impression on Lincoln. "The horrific sight of human beings shackled together and sold as property may have changed Lincoln's life--and eventually the nation's life--forever".
- 5. Lincoln's background and his political philosophy. "He supported road and canal projects that would link the state more closely and make it easier to ship goods from town to town. He favored a strong banking system that made certain that good supply".
- 6. Lincoln's evolving views on slavery. "Slavery, Lincoln told one audience in a famous speech in Peoria that year, "is founded in the selfishness of man's nature--opposition to it is his love for justice."
- 7. Political dynamics at work. The interactions and tug-a-wars between the separate powers. Lincoln's innate ability to handle conflicts in a pragmatic and focused manner.
- 8. The author does a wonderful job of capturing the essence of Lincoln. Lincoln had a way with words and most of his eloquence is here for all to enjoy. "If Kentucky left, the whole West might be lost to the Confederacy forever. "I would like to have God on my side," Lincoln is said to have joked at the time. "But I must have Kentucky."
- 9. Understanding the political divide. Slaveholders versus the antislavery movement. The quest to keep the Union. "Secession would not be tolerated. The Union must remain intact. Lincoln was willing to make some concessions after all. He promised to enforce the much-hated Fugitive Slave Act, infuriating abolitionists. And he

repeated his vow that he would not interfere with slavery where it already existed. But above all, he pleaded with the South to reconsider its rush to leave the Union".10. A succinct account of the civil war. The most important victories and defeats. The reason behind it all, "Some people still insist to this day that the war was all about state's rights. But this is hardly true. The war was caused by secession. And secession was caused by slavery. One issue alone ignited the rebellion: the question of whether the nation could indeed endure half slave and half free".11. The impact of slavery, the book's focus revolves around Lincoln's handling and resolution of it. "The proclamation unrolled before them made clear that the Southern states had failed to heed the president's "fair warning." Rebels would thus lose their slaves forever".12. The impact of the proclamation. "The Emancipation Proclamation effectively kept England out of the Civil War".13. The political process of achieving full freedom. The amendment. The cost of freedom "Freedom had already cost some six hundred thousand lives North and South".14. Lincoln's legacy.15. Linked worked great.16. Excellent Appendix that includes: Cast of Characters, Chronology and the most famous Proclamations and Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address.Negatives:1. The book lacks depth which is expected from a companion piece to a movie.In summary, for a book intended for a younger audience I enjoyed this book. Author and historian Harold Holzer should be commended for achieving his goal of turning this book into the perfect reading companion to Spielberg's excellent movie, "Lincoln". It's accessible and covers the history of how Lincoln ended slavery intelligibly. If you are looking for the perfect book to give to a young reader regarding President Lincoln and slavery, you've found it. I highly recommend it!Further suggestions: Harold Holzer has written a number of great books on Lincoln, and of course "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln" by Doris Kearns Goodwin from which the movie was based on.

This book was written to be a companion to the Steven Spielberg Film, Lincoln, currently in theaters. It focuses on the sixteenth president's tumultuous final months in office. Ending slavery was his primary focus. Even if you are not able to go see the movie, you have an abundance of historical detail right in this book.Be advised this is not a comprehensive biography of President Lincoln. It puts a microscope on his struggle to weigh his personal beliefs against presidential duties concerning the slavery issue. The Emancipation Proclamation issued two years earlier only authorized Union soldiers to liberate slaves in the south. A Constitutional amendment was needed to legally end slavery forever in the United States. The book tells us about America during those tumultuous times, Congress, and the people who fought or helped Lincoln.Although intended for young adult readers, the book is well suited for adults as well. Photographs spanning Lincoln's life,

speeches, a chronology, and cast of characters are included. Another nice perk is the large type size. Here is an interesting aside. When Steven Spielberg, director of the movie, interviewed historical scholars prior to writing the screenplay, he took notes using an inkwell and fountain pens in order to place himself into that historical period. One wonders if he wrote the entire script in the same manner, with ink staining his fingers. Reviewed by Holly Weiss, author of Crestmont

I watched the movie, "Lincoln" and this book fills in the gaps from the movie. It is a really interesting read, and I really enjoyed the insights you get from the movie and book! Everyone should read this to understand why Lincoln is considered the best President ever.

I thought I knew a lot about Lincoln, but I learned so much more from this book. I wish I had it before seeing the movie. The book and the movie put emphasis on the 13th Amendment with the Emancipation Proclamation a document proclaiming what needed to happen; not an instrument that would end slavery.

Love Lincoln stories wherever they are written. This is digging in to the facts of the end of slavery. It is written for a middle school child. I will offer it to one I know when they are old enough.

I bought this book for my daughter she really likes it. It is an easy read. Came in a week. Highly recommended.

I saw Lincoln the movie, when I read that book it help me visualize more of what it was like for Lincoln.

I WANTED TO KNOW HOW EASY THIS BOOK WAS TO READ FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. NOT ONLY WAS IT EASY BUT INTERESTING AND KEPT THE STORY ABOUT OUR HISTORY EASY AND FUN. IT WAS ENJOYABLE. I WILL TELL TEACHERS THAT I KNOW IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR THEM TO READ. THE BOOK IS NOT BORING AT ALL. IF YOU HAVE NOT GUESSED BY NOW I AM AN ADULT AND I SOME TIME READ BOOKS TO SEE IF THE YOUNG READ WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE BOOK. THE YOUNG PEOPLE ALWAS WANT TO KNOW THE BIG PERSON IS READ. THE ADULT CAN GET THE BOOK THAT THE MOVIE WAS BASED ON BY STEVEN SPIELBERG AND READ IT TOGETHER. GREAT READ FOR BOTH. OR THE ADULT CAN GET THIS BOOK AND READ IT WITH THE YOUNG ADULT. THIS WILL HELP THE YOUNG

PERSON TO LIKE TO READ AND WANT TO READ MORE.

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