

The Monster Lincoln

The Lies My Schools Taught Me

Chapter Abstracts

Chapter	Title/Abstract
1	Disillusionment
	Fifty-three years of unbridled admiration for Abraham Lincoln turned to disillusionment after seven years of research on a Civil War era novel. The research revealed enough primary source facts to warrant construction of a database which became the cloth for a tapestry shockingly disparate from the image I now realize is the <i>Lincoln Myth</i> . That myth was created and preserved to provide a heroic symbol for empire builders on the right and social activists on the left. It has been ingrained osmotically into American society by generations of school textbooks and reinforced by ubiquitous public symbols signaling to the world a near worship of the man.
2	Northern Culpability
	Harriet Beecher Stowe said, “Northerners have slavery the way they like it: all of the benefits and none of the screams.” Thoreau said Northerners could nonviolently abolish slavery if merchants refused to sell and customers refused to buy Southern slave-made products. Northern cities brought an overwhelming majority of the slaves to America and slave-made cotton became the cornerstone of the North’s wealth.
3	Secession is a Right
	The right to secession differentiated the American experiment from all of history’s preceding democratic republics. The Civil War destroyed that uniqueness and condemned America to become a “nanny state.” Lincoln himself had affirmed secession’s legality in a speech to Congress in 1848. Jefferson not only frequently affirmed its legality but <i>expected</i> a two or three-way split to occur. The New England states took steps toward secession five times and on each occasion were appeased without being threatened with an invading army.

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4	<p data-bbox="329 493 602 527">Lincoln the Racist</p> <p data-bbox="329 558 1511 1289">A preponderance of Lincoln's humor was sexually obscene storytelling that demeaned slaves. A staff general's memoir expressed distaste for the president's casual and obsessive use of the word "nigger." Lincoln's favorite entertainment was the minstrel show, stage productions that caricatured slaves. He married into a slave-owning family and his commander-in-chief, General U. S. Grant, bought and worked his own slave. Through the years Lincoln remained an advocate for removing all blacks from America through colonization and he helped Illinois pass legislation forbidding free blacks from relocating in that state. His Emancipation Proclamation kept slaves in Union-held territory enslaved and only "freed" them in territory the Union had no control over, which means it didn't free a single slave. The original version of the 13th Amendment advocated by Lincoln would have perpetuated slavery and protected it from Congress while the 13th Amendment that passed after Lincoln's death was crafted and championed by abolitionist Congressmen. With no plan to assimilate slaves into society, Lincoln was asked what would become of four million freed slaves in a devastated South, and he coldly replied, "They will root, hog, or die."</p>
5	<p data-bbox="329 1352 566 1386">British Analysis</p> <p data-bbox="329 1417 1511 1841">Charles Dickens wrote that the end of slavery and the economic assimilation of blacks would be accelerated by secession. He noted that with the 13th Amendment having already been passed by Congress, the Confederacy could better preserve slavery by remaining in the Union, which would ensure state ratification of that amendment protecting slavery. Dickens said the war was about money, the millions that union was costing the South every year and the millions the North would lose after secession. The <i>Liverpool Daily Post</i> wrote that upon the South's independence, Europe would prevail on the Confederacy to abolish slavery as a condition for doing business. Lincoln's chief European defenders were Karl Marx and John Stuart Mill.</p>

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6	<p data-bbox="328 491 699 527">Constitutional Violations</p> <p data-bbox="328 556 1511 1381">The list of Lincoln's unconstitutional, despotic actions is too lengthy for a brief abstract but the most heinous must be noted. His most egregious constitutional violation was to send an army to invade Virginia and kill fellow citizens without Congressional approval. Had George Washington been living, he, rather than Robert E. Lee, would have led the Confederacy to protect his beloved state. * * * Lincoln instituted an unconstitutional military draft targeting the poor. The rich could purchase exemptions for \$300 (\$7,400 today) and his own son remained a student at Harvard. Daniel Webster eloquently made the case for the draft's unconstitutionality. * * * Habeas corpus is a protection from a king or president that was globally respected since the Magna Carta in 1215. Lincoln suspended that right for John Merryman despite clear admonitions from the Supreme Court and Congress that such action was not constitutional. The chief executive logically should not have the right to suspend the citizens' protection from the chief executive. * * * Lincoln's closing of hundreds of newspapers and the arrest of their editors (including Francis Scott Key's grandson) for expressing their opinions was a violation of the 1st amendment. * * * Lincoln unconstitutionally created the states of West Virginia and Nevada for the purpose of adding electoral votes to bolster his doubtful re-election prospects.</p>

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7	<p data-bbox="328 489 513 527">War Crimes</p> <p data-bbox="328 556 1511 1423">The civilized world was astonished at the savagery of Lincoln's war against civilians. After the Confederate army retreated from Atlanta, only women and children remained. They endured a bombardment by 223 cannons that persisted day and night for three weeks. The engineer directing the assault for Sherman pleaded with the general to stop the slaughter but was rebuffed. * * * Andersonville prison in Georgia was built to house 10,000. Grant's refusal to exchange prisoners caused the population to swell to 33,000. Confederate law required prisoners to be fed the same food as guards but the Union's war against civilians made food and medical supplies difficult or impossible to obtain. An offer to Grant to simply come and pick up the Union men without an exchange was also rebuffed. Andersonville prisoners passed a series of resolutions praising Confederate efforts on their behalf. The death rate there was 27% while at the Union prison in Elmira it was 25% in a land with no food or medicine shortages. * * * Missouri voted 98-1 to remain in the Union but it wished to remain neutral and refused to send "volunteers" to Lincoln. In response, Missouri was occupied by the Union, the legislature and governor forcibly replaced, a \$10,000 tax placed on suspected secessionists and all residents of three counties given 15 days to vacate their homes, after which the properties were burned. Anyone speaking, writing, or publishing disloyal sentiments in Missouri was arrested.</p>

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8	<p data-bbox="328 491 587 527">Cause of the War</p> <p data-bbox="328 558 1510 1640">On March 2, 1861, the Union passed the Morrill tariff raising tariffs on iron products beyond 50%. Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4 and in his address promised no interference with slavery where it already existed. That address also included an endorsement of the proposed 13th Amendment which had already passed Congress and would perpetuate slavery by forbidding Congressional interference. On March 11, the Confederate Constitution was implemented, setting by law a tariff rate cap of 10%. If secession occurred, the Northern economy would be destroyed overnight. The <i>Daily Chicago Times</i> wrote, “In one single blow our foreign commerce must be reduced to less than one-half what it is now.” Rome had destroyed the superpower Rhodes by establishing free trade on Delos. Rhodes only had a 2% tariff. The great abolitionist Lysander Spooner said the claims of abolishing slavery and saving the Union were “shameless cheats.” He echoed Charles Dickens in saying Lincoln’s war was all about money, not morality. After reading 25,000 letters, historian James McPherson concluded that the Confederate soldiers were fighting for independence from what they considered to be a tyrannical government. In his 2004 book, Virginia’s Democrat senator James Webb wrote that most Rebel soldiers were small farmers with no slaves who were economically damaged by the large plantations using free slave labor. For them to give their lives for the large plantation owners would be tantamount to small modern retailers giving their lives to protect Walmart’s holdings. The war was about a world economic empire which required a united continent with a transcontinental railroad and that goal was justified by the arrogant and repugnant theory called Manifest Destiny. The Northern industrialists and bankers who put Lincoln in office demanded that he pursue that goal.</p>

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9	<p data-bbox="329 493 610 531">Lincoln Mythology</p> <p data-bbox="329 558 1511 1644">There are three primary segments to the Lincoln myth. * * * First is Lincoln as savior of blacks. African-American scholar Lerone Bennett, Jr. lists many champions of the slaves and laments, “Regrettably, all of these anti-slavery advocates have been forgotten while Abraham Lincoln, who opposed them and supported slavery and the Fugitive Slave Law has been elevated to secular sainthood.” Long-tenured Morgan State professor and author Benjamin Quarles wrote that rather than name their sons after Lincoln, blacks should lay wreaths at the graves of Charles Sumner, Thaddeus Stevens, Owen Lovejoy, and Lyman Trumbull. * * * Second is Lincoln as a warmhearted, folksy, “everyman’s president” who felt the peoples’ pain. His law partner Herndon said, “Lincoln was not a social man, was more or less selfish . . .” His sister-in-law said he was “a cold man” who had “no heart.” He refused his father’s dying request for a visit and didn’t attend the funeral. Lincoln was a mercantilist beholden to the railroads. He collected legal fees from five Midwestern railroads, traveled the land on a private car provided by the Illinois Central and championed the Transcontinental Railroad. * * * Third is the Lincoln fighting for the world to preserve government of, by, and for the people. Journalist Henry L. Mencken said, “It is difficult to imagine anything more untrue. The Union soldiers in the battle actually fought against self-determination; it was the Confederates who fought for the right of their people to govern themselves.” Lincoln took that away from them, centralizing the government and permanently destroying the delicate dynamics of federalism and checks and balances. Alexis de Tocqueville warned of violent centralization: “The populace will become as little children, dependent on government for everything and themselves for nothing.”</p>