# The Fate Of Liberty Abraham Lincoln And Civil

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if abraham lincoln was known as the great emancipator he was also the only president to suspend the writ of habeas corpus indeed lincoln s record on the constitution and individual rights has fueled a century of debate from charges that democrats were singled out for harrassment to gore vidal s depiction of lincoln as an absolute dictator now in the pulitzer prize winning the fate of liberty one of america s leading authorities on lincoln wades straight into this controversy showing just who was jailed and why even as he explores the whole range of lincoln s constitutional policies mark neely depicts lincoln s suspension of habeas corpus as a well intentioned attempt to deal with a floodtide of unforeseen events the threat to washington as maryland flirted with secession disintegrating public order in the border states corruption among military contractors the occupation of hostile confederate territory contraband trade with the south and the outcry against the first draft in u s history drawing on letters from prisoners records of military courts and federal prisons memoirs and

federal archives he paints a vivid picture of how lincoln responded to these problems how his policies were actually executed and the virulent political debates that followed lincoln emerges from this account with this legendary statesmanship intact mindful of political realities and prone to temper the sentences of military courts concerned not with persecuting his opponents but with prosecuting the war efficiently in addition neely explores the abuses of power under the regime of martial law the routine torture of suspected deserters widespread antisemitism among union generals and officials the common practice of seizing civilian hostages he finds that though the system of military justice was flawed it suffered less from merciless zeal or political partisanship than from inefficiency and the friction and complexities of modern war informed by a deep understanding of a unique period in american history this incisive book takes a comprehensive look at the issues of civil liberties during lincoln s administration placing them firmly in the political context of the time written with keen insight and an intimate grasp of the original sources the fate of liberty offers a vivid picture of the crises and chaos of a nation at war with itself changing our understanding of this president and his most controversial policies

this provocative book nominated for the pulitzer prize marks a milestone in civil war and lincoln history dr david e long a professor of law and history is the first to investigate deeply the events of 1864 that eventually produced lincoln s re election and with it the emancipation of the slaves in so doing the author illuminates and dramatizes a moment in which the fate of democracy itself was in the balance never in our past has the nature and future of the nation depended so much on the ballot box for within that box truly lay the jewel of liberty back cover

presents the speeches letters and other writings of abraham lincoln from his early career in the illinois legislature to the lincoln douglas debates and his correspondence during his presidency

in this highly readable study of abraham lincoln s thoughts and actions concerning the u s constitution brian r dirck combines extensive primary research and thoughtful accessible consideration of lincoln s views to reveal new insights into lincoln s impact on the u s constitution in the statesman s roles as a leading antebellum politician an ardent critic of slavery and the president of the united states during the civil war lincoln fashioned a strong antislavery constitutional ideology and articulated a constitutional vision of the civil war that reinforced his determination to restore the union grounding lincoln's constitutionalism in his reading habits and early legal career dirck masterfully balances biographical details lincoln s value system the opinions of his supporters and critics and key events and ideas to show how his thinking about the u s constitution changed over time from lincoln's deep reverence for the work of the founding fathers to his innovative interpretation of presidential war powers dirck reveals lincoln s understanding of the constitution to be progressive emphasizing federal power as a tool to develop the economy and pragmatic in that he was often forced to make decisions on the fly during a remarkably volatile period in american history lincoln used his conception of presidential war powers to advance the twin causes of union and emancipation and dirck explores the constitutional problems stirred by curbs lincoln placed on civil liberties internal security and freedom of expression during wartime more than a straightforward overview of lincoln s constitutional views lincoln and the constitution provides a starting point for further inquiry into interpretations and defenses as well as the political intellectual and cultural traditions of the founding document of the united states in the end dirck shows lincoln viewed the political and legal traditions of the constitution with optimism emphasizing throughout his life the possibilities he believed the document held always keeping faith in it and swearing to protect it even as he was awash in a sea of blood and controversy univeristy press books for public and secondary schools 2013 edition

national bestseller shows us why sandra day o connor is so compelling as a human being and so vital as a public thinker michael beschloss in this remarkable book sandra day o connor explores the law her life as a supreme court justice and how the court has evolved and continues to function grow and change as an american institution tracing some of the origins of american law through history people ideas and landmark cases o connor sheds new light on the basics exploring through personal observation the evolution of the court and american democratic traditions straight talking clear eyed inspiring the majesty of the law is more than a reflection on o connor s own experiences as the first female justice of the supreme court it also reveals some of the things she learned about american law and life reflections gleaned over her years as one of the most powerful and inspiring women in american history

the life and times of america s most famous champion of liberty a man of peace whose fate was to lead a nation at war with itself join young lincoln in the kentucky wilderness and see how his thirst for knowledge and justice led him to the presidency where he would be called upon to preserve the union and abolish the evil of slavery forever

a portrait of abraham lincoln analyzes the great president s political career his fierce nationalism his greater moral purpose that made him oppose slavery and other facets of his life and times by the author of the fate of liberty 10 000 first printing

late in 1863 a young painter named francis b carpenter wished to commemorate the issuance of the emancipation proclamation the likable and well connected carpenter received president lincoln's consent during a visit to the white house well mr carpenter we will turn you loose in here said lincoln the painter set up a studio in the state dining room and worked for months in 1864 under a lighted chandelier it was a marvelous opportunity to observe the president and converse with him the inner life of abraham lincoln is carpenter s account of his experience he watched the daily parade of petitioners who came to lincoln s office worried mothers desperate job seekers needy widows and orphans he heard lincoln s own account of the decision to abolish slavery by proclamation heard him recite shakespeare and heard him say often that reminds me of a story he dealt with little tad gathered anecdotes from insiders excerpted published reminiscences from former associates like william h herndon he added his own impressions of the president noting a deep melancholy underneath the famous humor this book originally published in 1866 struck a chord with a public hungering for intimate details about the fallen president carpenter s painting the first reading of the emancipation proclamation before the cabinet was finished earlier displayed in the rotunda of the capitol before lincoln's second inauguration and then exhibited on a northern tour reproductions hung in many homes offices and schoolrooms introducing this bison books edition is mark e neely jr

author of the fate of liberty abraham lincoln and civil liberties he is john francis bannon professor of history and american studies at st louis university

for more than two centuries the u s supreme court has provided a battleground for nearly every controversial issue in our nations history this veteran team of talented historians produces the most readable astute and up to date single volume history of this venerated institution

emphasizes the conservative bent that guided the young statesman s remarkable political evolution revealing a lincoln who was increasingly driven by his antislavery sentiments and fear for the republic in the hands of the democrats like stephen douglas as much as if not more than his own political ambition

there are so many books on so many aspects of the history of the united states offering such a wide variety of interpretations that students teachers scholars and librarians often need help and advice on how to find what they want the reader s guide to american history is designed to meet that need by adopting a new and constructive approach to the appreciation of this rich historiography each of the 600 entries on topics in political social and economic history describes and evaluates some 6 to 12 books on the topic providing guidance to the reader on everything from broad surveys and interpretive works to specialized monographs the entries are devoted to events and individuals as well as broader themes and are written by a team of well over 200 contributors all scholars of american history

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