interaction with educated Black people and in reaction to their merito-
rious military service, Lincoln began to entertain the idea of extending
the franchise and citizenship to Black men.

Steiner’s analysis is deeply rooted in primary sources, and these
sources are more accessible than ever before. Digitization allows research-
ers access to primary source materials that were formerly available only
to scholars. Laudably, Lincoln and Citizenship quotes Lincoln extensively.
Readers come away from this book confident in the knowledge that they
have read a fair sample of Lincoln’s own words regarding citizenship.

While Steiner provides a deeper analysis of certain themes than
other Lincoln biographers have, his conclusions demonstrate that his-
torians have not yet definitively answered every question about Abra-
ham Lincoln. Steiner devotes an entire chapter to Lincoln’s puzzling
1836 statement in which he supported extending the franchise to all
white people who paid taxes or served in the military, “by no means
excluding females” (8). This statement has consistently befuddled Lin-
coln’s biographers, who have characterized it as everything from a joke
to a declaration of feminist principles. Steiner concludes that Lincoln
was “out of step” when he made the comment but provides only
guesses as to why he said it at all. Even with access to a wide selection
of source material, Abraham Lincoln remains elusive in some ways. In
the end, Steiner agrees with the judgment of W.E.B. DuBois; Lincoln
was “big enough to be inconsistent” (126).

Lincoln and Native Americans, by Michael S. Green. Concise Lincoln Li-
brary Series. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2021. vii,
161 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. $24.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Jameson R. Sweet is assistant professor of American Studies at
Rutgers University and specializes in Native American and Indigenous
studies. His manuscript is titled “The ‘Mixed-Blood’ Moment: Race, Law,
and Mixed-Ancestry Dakota Indians in the Nineteenth-Century Midwest.”

In this contribution to the Concise Lincoln Library series, Michael S.
Green’s Lincoln and Native Americans seeks to shed light on Abraham
Lincoln’s experiences with and racial attitudes towards Native Ameri-
cans, both before and during his presidency. Lincoln’s thoughts on Na-
tive Americans and the foundation for his political policies toward them
are difficult to ascertain because, unlike his writings about African
Americans and the institution of slavery, his musings on Native Ameri-
cans are few and far between. However, Green makes good use of what
is available to assemble a compelling narrative centered on the creation
of Lincoln’s belief system regarding Native Americans over the course
of his life, and especially how those beliefs influenced his policies and political actions, or lack thereof, during his presidency.

The first two of six short chapters examine Lincoln’s ancestry, childhood, and the rise of his political career before the 1860 presidential election. Green studies events in Lincoln’s family history and builds a profile of Lincoln’s probable attitudes toward Native Americans. Chapter 2 explores Lincoln’s short, uneventful military career in the Black Hawk War in 1832 and his early political career. We get only a few hints at Lincoln’s attitudes in this period. While he called out his political rivals for their support of Indian Removal, he did so because of the economic cost to the federal government, not for humanitarian reasons. The remainder of the book focuses on the policies of Lincoln’s administration and the actions of his political appointees during the Civil War. The book reviews some of the most egregious violence that Americans committed against Native Americans during Lincoln’s administration and the crisis in Indian Territory. Lincoln was aware of these events but gave little effort to halting the violence towards Native Americans or to alleviating their suffering.

Most of the book focuses on the actions of Lincoln’s often incompetent political appointees rather than the actions or beliefs of Lincoln himself, and as Green demonstrates, Lincoln cared little for Native Americans. Lincoln’s administration, which perceived Native Americans as in the way and a threat to settler expansion and economic growth, supported the continued concentration of Native Americans on reservations. The author expresses throughout how Lincoln had little interest in Native Americans or their lives and asserts that “any examination of Lincoln and Native Americans reveals much that should disturb his fans” (106). Green regularly cites the bungles and anti-Native actions of the officials working in Lincoln’s administration, but often pulls his punches when it comes to Lincoln himself. In the end, Lincoln and Native Americans is a useful and well-written synthesis of Lincoln’s views on Native Americans over the course of his life and especially of his policies during the Civil War.

Green makes clear that the intention of Lincoln and Native Americans is to center Lincoln and his views rather than Native Americans. While Green demonstrates an understanding of the field of Native American Studies, the brevity of the book and the primary focus on Lincoln leaves the reader wanting more of the Native American side of the story. With a chapter on Lincoln’s service in the Black Hawk War and his pre-presidential life in Illinois, as well as a chapter on the U.S.-Dakota War in Minnesota, this spotlight on the Midwest will please readers interested in the history of the region. While academically rigorous, Lincoln and
Native Americans, with its clear prose and its narrative rather than analytical style, is best suited for and accessible to general readers and undergraduate students. Readers interested in the Civil War or Lincoln especially will find the book edifying.


Reviewer Kristen Anderson is associate professor of history at Webster University in St. Louis. She specializes in nineteenth-century social history, with particular interest in how immigrants participated in both the Civil War and debates about slavery.

In *The Bonds of War*, Diana Dretske brings an individual approach to the study of immigrant participation in the Civil War. The book is a microhistory/collective biography of a group of five soldiers, all of them immigrants, who served with Company C of the 96th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. These men knew each other, being neighbors from Lake County, Illinois, and when they enlisted, they posed together for a photograph (which appears on the cover of the book). Three of the men (Edward Murray, James B. Murrie, and John Y. Taylor) were immigrants from Scotland, one (William B. Lewis) from England, and one (Loughlin Madden Jr.) from Ireland. Dretske argues that, through collective biographies like this one, “it is possible to recover the individuality that a traditional war narrative can suppress, and in the process highlight the service of a regiment in the Western Theater” (4).

Dretske definitely accomplishes this and is able to achieve a high level of detail in describing the lives and experiences of these five men. She draws on an impressive array of sources in doing so, including personal memoirs, letters, regimental histories, veterans’ affairs records, and Grand Army of the Republic records, among others. The book starts with a brief overview of these men’s lives in Europe, their decision to immigrate, and their construction of new lives in Illinois. The majority of the account focuses on the war years, including their decisions to enlist and their experiences in camp and in battle. Several suffered injuries, John Taylor died in a military hospital of wounds taken at the Battle of Chickamauga, and Louis Madden Jr. was captured and imprisoned at the Andersonville prison, where he ultimately died. For the three survivors, the book also covers their lives after the war. This provides an interesting look at how men who had suffered injuries and great privation during the war adapted to life back home. All three of them struggled