

mous German in Illinois. During the Civil War, Hecker resigned his command after less than a year following a clash with junior officers.

This lengthy book brings attention to an important midwesterner, but it suffers from some problems. Freitag provides scant European background, assuming that “everybody knows about Hecker” (15). On the other hand, her presentation of the American context is belabored and sometimes misleading. She incorrectly states, for instance, that anti-Catholicism played little part in the presidential campaign of 1876. Rowan has faithfully translated Freitag’s rambling sentences and passive constructions into awkward English, and the final product is further marred by confusing citations and poor copyediting.

Lincoln Emancipated: The President and the Politics of Race, edited by Brian R. Dirck. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2007. xiv, 189 pp. Notes, index. \$32.00 cloth.

Reviewer Stacy Pratt McDermott is an assistant editor at The Papers of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, and the author of several articles about Lincoln as a lawyer.

Since the publication in 2000 of Lerone Bennett’s controversial book, *Forced into Glory: Abraham Lincoln and the White Dream*, Lincoln scholars have reacted to that book’s bold challenge to Lincoln’s status as the Great Emancipator. Outraged by Bennett’s characterization of Lincoln as a racist president focused on the goal of white supremacy, historians have churned out numerous conference papers, articles, and books to counter Bennett’s claims and to place Lincoln’s racial views in the historical context that Bennett failed to acknowledge. *Lincoln Emancipated: The President and the Politics of Race* offers seven scholarly, historical treatments of Lincoln’s personal ideas and presidential policies concerning slavery, emancipation, colonization, and racial equality.

Featuring some of the best-known Lincoln scholars, including the late Phillip S. Paludan, this book of essays grapples with the question, “Was Lincoln a racist?” Although the book does not provide a definitive answer to the question, it furnishes readers with an array of nuanced interpretations to consider. Kenneth Winkle’s opening essay places Lincoln as a moderate, albeit a striking contrast to his 1858 U.S. Senate campaign opponent Stephen A. Douglas. Phillip Paludan cautions against an essentialist interpretation of Lincoln, which, he argues, fails to recognize Lincoln’s human complexities and personal and political contradictions. These two essays illustrate Lincoln’s evolving racial views and situate those views between the extremes of the pro-slavery and abolitionist ideologies of Lincoln’s contemporaries.

The chapters by Brian Dirck and Dennis Boman illustrate the difficulties that Lincoln faced in developing his plan for emancipation. Whether it was a U.S. Supreme Court hostile to Lincoln's war policies or the volatile uncertainties of circumstances in the Border States, Lincoln faced many challenges that impinged on his views, his policies, and his power to end slavery. The essays by Dirck and Boman illustrate how the Lincoln administration functioned within a political context that was as much a historical actor as President Lincoln himself.

Kevin Gutzman and James Leiker examine Lincoln's Jeffersonian ideas about freedom and race and his views concerning African Americans, American Indians, and Mexicans. Leiker stresses the idea that while Lerone Bennett's interpretation of Lincoln reveals Bennett as a product of the civil rights era of the 1960s, Lincoln's perspective illustrates the racial context of the nineteenth century of which he was a product. In his essay, Michael Vorenberg admits that it is easy for a modern, post-civil rights American to wish that Lincoln had been more progressive in his views of freedom and race. However, unlike Bennett, Vorenberg deems Lincoln worthy of status as an important historical role model and acknowledges the complexities of Lincoln's developing views on race.

The essays in *Lincoln Emancipated* reveal a myriad of contexts that controlled or influenced Lincoln's personal views and made an impact on his presidential politics and executive decisions. From the essays, Lincoln emerges as a fallible but honorable human being who, on one hand, exhibited views and ideas that epitomized the social, political, and racial context of his era, but who, on the other hand, demonstrated an ability to rise above the harsh, antebellum racist views of many of his contemporary politicians and fellow Americans. Lincoln was no Wendell Phillips, but he was no George Fitzhugh, either. To dismiss Lincoln as a racist is to ignore the historical circumstances of the era and the human complexities of the president who presided over the American Civil War.

Copperheads: The Rise and Fall of Lincoln's Opponents in the North, by Jennifer L. Weber. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. xv, 286 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$28.00 cloth.

Reviewer Terry A. Barnhart is professor of history at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. His research and teaching interests center on the history and culture of the American Midwest.

Comprehending the contingency of the American Civil War—how that great struggle was perceived by the participants themselves—is