

ABOUT ABRAHAM LINCOLN Much has been written about the sixteenth president of the United States. This list contains books available in the collection of talking and braille books about Abraham Lincoln, his family, and his presidency. For more information about Lincoln or other U.S. presidents, contact the Voices of Vision Talking Book Center.

Cassette Books

RC 54121

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: THE PRAIRIE YEARS AND THE WAR YEARS

by Carl Sandburg.

Historical biography of Lincoln as a man and as president. An exhaustively researched portrait of the country lawyer whose leadership guided the United States through the Civil War. Sandburg's one-volume distillation of his original six-volume work. 1954.

RC 42012

A. LINCOLN: HIS LAST 24 HOURS by W. Emerson Reck.

Describes the events on April 14, 1865, shortly after the end of the Civil War, when President Lincoln ignored warnings about the probability of assassination attempts and went to Ford's Theatre with his wife. Reck provides background information on the actions of both Lincoln and his killer, John Wilkes Booth, during the day leading to the sixteenth president's death. He also discusses some unsolved mysteries concerning that event. 1987.

RC 33772

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE SECOND AMERICAN REVOLUTION by James M. McPherson.

Seven essays explore the effects of the Civil War on the economic, political, and social climate of the United States during Lincoln's presidency. In the author's view, the Civil War amounted to a second American revolution in which Lincoln defined the purpose of the war and formed a strategy for success that became national in scope. By the winner of the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for History. 1990.

RC 57829**“WE ARE LINCOLN MEN”: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND HIS FRIENDS**

by David Herbert Donald.

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian draws from the recollections and memoirs of a variety of Abraham Lincoln’s partners, associates, and political allies to examine the significance of friendship to him and his career. Donald profiles six people the intensely private Lincoln most valued: Speed, Herndon, Browning, Seward, Nicolay, and Hay. 2003.

RC 52027**APRIL 1865: THE MONTH THAT SAVED AMERICA** by Jay Winik.

In April 1865, as the war ends, the Confederate capitol – Richmond – lies in ruins, generals Robert E. Lee and Joe Johnston surrender their armies, and President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated. Remarkably, the author contends, the nation survives. Analyzes the reasons for the unusually successful conclusion to a republic’s civil war. Bestseller. 2001.

RC 48119**HONOR’S VOICE: THE TRANSFORMATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

by Douglas L. Wilson.

Explores events and themes in Lincoln’s early life that were important to his success: self-education, career choices, relations with women, and political encounters. Relies primarily on “reminiscent testimony” – recollections and anecdotes reported long after events that were not recorded in writing—even with its implicit risks. 1998.

RC 41759**INNER WORLD OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN** by Michael Burlingame.

A psychobiography by a Connecticut College professor of history. Burlingame uses mainly Jungian psychological theories to interpret Lincoln’s personality, family relationships, marriage, “midlife crisis,” and political attitudes. Burlingame traces Lincoln’s melancholia to “bereavement in childhood” and his lack of “capacity to trust women” to ambivalence about his mother. 1994.

RC 35528

THE FATE OF LIBERTY: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

by Mark E. Neely.

Winner of the 1992 Pulitzer Prize in history. Civil War specialist focuses on one of President Lincoln's most controversial acts—the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus. This account is based mainly on the arrest and detention records of civilians and military prisoners. The author concludes that “war and its effect of civil liberties remains a frightening unknown.” 1991.

RC 38179

THE LAST BEST HOPE OF EARTH: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE PROMISE OF AMERICA by Mark E. Neely.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning author and a history professor, Neely focuses this companion to the 1993-1994 Huntington Library exhibit of original Lincoln materials on the half-decade (1860-1865) that he believes made Lincoln's life memorable. He stresses the important role politics played for the man who ran for office before choosing a possible alternate career. 1993.

RC 39423

PRESIDENCY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN by Philip Shaw Paludan.

A Civil War scholar analyzes Lincoln's administration. Proceeding chronologically, Paludan examines Lincoln's presidency beginning with his election and the formulation of his cabinet. The author asserts that no other president ever faced greater challenges in defending the oath of office. And he credits Lincoln with resolving two of the greatest struggles in American history: saving the Union and freeing the slaves. 1994.

RC 44059

LINCOLN by David Herbert Donald.

Pulitzer Prize winner David Donald analyzes Lincoln's presidency from a psychological perspective, looking at the information and background the sixteenth president brought to his decisions. Donald's biography incorporates insights from the Abraham Lincoln Papers, which were sealed at the time of earlier major biographies. The influences of Lincoln's loving stepmother, his beautiful and well-connected wife, and others on his life are explored. 1995.

RC 39291

LINCOLN, THE WAR PRESIDENT: THE GETTYSBURG LECTURES

edited by Gabor S. Boritt.

Essays by historians commemorating the Gettysburg Address. Each of these seven essayists views Lincoln the commander in chief from a different perspective. One compares Lincoln to Franklin Roosevelt; another examines Lincoln's paradoxical nature. 1992.

RC 35368

LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG: THE WORDS THAT REMADE AMERICA

by Garry Wills.

American historian examines the thought behind the Gettysburg Address. Wills traces Lincoln's use of funeral oratory to the Greek Revival movement. He focuses on the culture of the rural-cemetery movement, the role of Transcendentalism, and the president's revolutionary idea that the ideals of equality in the Declaration of Independence take precedence over the Constitution. Bestseller. 1992.

RC 41618

LINCOLN IN AMERICAN MEMORY by Merrill D. Peterson.

The history professor emeritus of the University of Virginia examines the role Lincoln's image has played in American thought. Celebrated in poetry and drama as well as biographies, the "martyred" president was, Peterson argues, mythologized to meet the needs of the moment—as the great emancipator, the self-made man, and other archetypes that may or may not reflect reality. 1994.

RC 32490

LINCOLN ON DEMOCRACY edited and introduced by Mario M. Cuomo and Harold Holzer.

The editors assembled this collection of Lincoln's writings to assist and inspire visitors from Eastern Europe in their quest to understand and achieve democracy. The selections are arranged in broad categories according to Lincoln's emerging philosophies and advice. Each category is introduced by a Lincoln scholar, who places the selections in the context of American history. 1990.

RC 49400

LINCOLN'S MEN: HOW PRESIDENT LINCOLN BECAME FATHER TO AN ARMY AND A NATION by William C. Davis.

Explores the role of Abraham Lincoln as the practical and inspirational leader of the Union Army. An examination of the letters and diaries of Union soldiers reveals their affection for the president, their belief that he understood and supported them, and their abiding loyalty to "Father Abraham." 1999.

RC 57259

LINCOLN'S VIRTUES: AN ETHICAL BIOGRAPHY by William Lee Miller.

Ethics scholar presents an unconventional portrait of America's self-educated sixteenth president. Discusses Lincoln's frontier origins and his acceptance by cultural and intellectual elite. Probes the source of Lincoln's moral convictions, emphasizing his lifelong rejection of majority thinking, his antislavery stance, and his ability to translate morality into policy. 2002.

RC 58574

LINCOLN'S WAR: THE UNTOLD STORY OF AMERICA'S GREATEST PRESIDENT AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF by Geoffrey Perret.

The author demonstrates from National Archives documents that Abraham Lincoln redefined the presidency by expanding his "war powers." Contends that ignoring military, political, and legal restraints Lincoln successfully prevented the South from seceding from the Union. 2004.

RC 38793

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES: THE FIRST COMPLETE, UNEXPURGATED TEXT edited and with an introduction by Harold Holzer.

Editor Harold Holzer asserts that remarks by Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas in an 1858 U.S. Senate contest have been obscured and distorted through partisanship and editorial duplicity. Now Holzer sets the record straight with exact transcripts of the opponents' seven confrontations, supplemented by an introduction and notes on the climate of opinion just before the Civil War. 1993.

RC 27729

TWO ROADS TO SUMTER by William and Bruce Catton.

Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis were born in Kentucky, less than one hundred miles apart, and within a year of each other. Using their lives and careers as theme and framework, the authors recreate the tragic history of the differences between the North and South that led to the Civil War. 1963.

RC 37705**LINCOLN** by Victor Alba.

A Spanish journalist describes the life and times of Abraham Lincoln from a European perspective. The events surrounding Lincoln's political life are depicted in the form of newspaper articles written by an imaginary European journalist of the time, beginning with Lincoln's entry into politics in 1848 and ending in 1875, ten years after Lincoln's assassination. *Spanish language.* 1989.

About Mary Todd Lincoln

RC 26662**MARY TODD LINCOLN: A BIOGRAPHY** by Jean H. Baker.

Scholarly, sympathetic account of the life of Mary Todd Lincoln. Born into a prominent Kentucky family, Mary was never fully to recover from the insecurities caused by her mother's early death and an unloving stepmother. As first lady, Mrs. Lincoln sought to prove her worth by becoming a fashion queen, and overtly influencing political appointments. After the death of her husband, her life continued its tragic descent to a public trial for insanity, and institutionalization. 1987.

RC 28360**CROWNS OF THORNS AND GLORY: MARY TODD LINCOLN AND VARINA HOWELL DAVIS, THE TWO FIRST LADIES OF THE CIVIL WAR** by Gerry Van der Heuvel.

Dual biography that compares the life of Abraham Lincoln's wife to that of the wife of Confederate president Jefferson Davis. The author describes her subjects through the early years of their respective marriages, their Civil War hardships, and their lives after the war ended. 1988.

For Younger Readers

RC 50176**JUST A FEW WORDS, MR. LINCOLN: THE STORY OF THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS** by Jean Fritz.

Provides background material on the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln, and his reason for making a speech at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1863. Includes a copy of the text. For grades 2-4. 1993.

RC 27881

LINCOLN: A PHOTOBIOGRAPHY by Russell Freedman.

Biography of the sixteenth president of the United States. Beginning life as a poor, backwoods farm boy in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, Lincoln became a self-educated lawyer and Illinois state representative. He was elected president in 1860, and led the nation through the Civil War. He was assassinated in 1865. Newbery Award. For grades 4-7 and older readers. 1987.

RC 36261

THE LONG ROAD TO GETTYSBURG by Jim Murphy.

In July 1863, one of the most brutal battles of the Civil War—a battle that claimed 6,000 lives and left 42,000 men injured—was fought at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Through the alternating narratives of nineteen-year-old Lieutenant John Dooley of the Confederacy, and seventeen-year-old Union Corporal Thomas Galway, the events of that battle come to life. Lincoln's famous speech is also discussed. For grades 6-9 and older readers. 1992.

RC 56830

ABRAHAM LINCOLN THE WRITER: A TREASURY OF HIS GREATEST SPEECHES AND LETTERS compiled and edited by Harold Holzer.

A collection of Lincoln's writings including some early poems, private letters at significant moments in his life, public speeches, and pieces related to issues in his presidency. Each is prefaced by a brief note to provide historical context. For grades 6-9 and older readers. 2000.

Braille Books

BR 14625

ABRAHAM LINCOLN by Thomas Keneally.

Concise biography of the Civil War President. Discusses Lincoln's backwoods upbringing, storytelling gift, and entry into politics. Focuses on his presidency during a pivotal time in United States history. 2003.

BR 9994

LINCOLN, IN HIS OWN WORDS edited by Milton Meltzer.

Quotes from letters, speeches, court papers, and articles create this portrait of Lincoln. Meltzer traces the life of the sixteenth president, from his childhood to his career as a lawyer and his role as commander in chief of the armed forces during the Civil War. The author sets the stage by commenting on the political forces at the time and by introducing contemporary figures. For junior and senior high and older readers. 1993.

BR 5882

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE MAN BEHIND THE MYTHS by Stephen B. Oates.

Concentrates on the personal life and humanity of Lincoln, separating the facts from the highly elaborated myths. Also presents a detailed reconstruction of the assassination and a reassessment of Mary Todd Lincoln. 1984.

For Younger Readers

BR 11230

ABE LINCOLN'S HAT by Martha Brenner.

When Abe Lincoln first became a lawyer he wanted to look good, so he bought a long black coat and a tall black hat. As a lawyer, Abe had to carry lots of important papers, and the hat soon proved to be useful in many ways. Uncontracted braille. For grades K-3 and older readers. 1994.

BR 7349

LINCOLN: A PHOTOBIOGRAPHY by Russell Freedman.

Biography of the sixteenth president of the United States. Beginning life as a poor, backwoods farm boy in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, Lincoln became a self-educated lawyer and Illinois state representative. He was elected president in 1860, and led the nation through the Civil War. He was assassinated in 1865. Newbery Award. For grades 4-7 and older readers. 1987.

BR 8007

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT by Rebecca Stefoff.

Lincoln was born in 1809 in a log cabin in Kentucky. Frontier life was hard, and he was able to attend school for only a few months. But Lincoln developed a thirst for knowledge and worked hard to educate himself. As a young man he became interested in politics and law. As president he would lead the nation through its only civil war. For grades 5-8 and older readers. 1989.

BR 11624

COMMANDER IN CHIEF: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE CIVIL WAR by Albert Marrin.

Judging the Civil War to be the definitive event in the history of the United States, Marrin contends that Lincoln was our greatest president. Provides biographical information relevant to understanding why this tragedy was also known as "Mr. Lincoln's War." For grades 6-9. 1997.

Books about Abraham Lincoln

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