

geneous cities, Chicago and Gary. In this short history the author does not treat adequately the processes of urbanization and suburbanization—subjects that deserve careful examination by students and teachers of Indiana history. Yet the author and those who assisted him should be commended for their work, the first full-fledged explanation by a professional (Trusty is director of the Regional Studies Institute at Purdue University Calumet) of how Munster came to be.

North Carolina Division of
Archives and History, Raleigh

Suellen Hoy

Beware the People Weeping: Public Opinion and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln. By Thomas Reed Turner. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982. Pp. xvi, 265. Illustrations, notes, index. \$27.50.)

"Beware the People weeping/ When they bare the iron hand." Herman Melville wrote these words to express the mood of America in the aftermath of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln—a mood of vengeful anger and suspicion. Appropriately, Thomas Reed Turner employs Melville's insights as the thematic thread for a carefully woven analysis of the public reaction to that first presidential murder. The result is a refreshing corrective to a century of historical distortion.

Eschewing the elaborate conspiracy theories so often paraded by historians, Turner seeks to put the events surrounding Lincoln's death in their actual historical context: the "terrible whirlwind of opinion" (p. 52), the public fury which swirled about the pursuit of the conspirators and their trials and which led to the widespread conviction that southern leaders and wily Radicals were behind the plot. To reach this goal he integrates "what is valid in the views of contemporaries with what is valid in recently discovered materials" and thus places Lincoln's assassination "in its proper historical setting" (p. xiii).

It is precisely in depicting that setting that Turner is most successful. With remarkable detail he describes the manner in which John Wilkes Booth's pistol ball transformed the spirit of the American people from one of exaltation at war's end to "despair rapidly turned to anger and thoughts of vengeance" (p. 24). Under the impact of that shift, the government, led by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, pursued and captured the accused and brought them to trial by military tribunals. These events are painstakingly examined in light of the rage and

despair which enveloped them. Half of the volume, for example, demonstrates how bitter public opinion, reflected in diaries, sermons, letters, and newspapers, affected the nature and results of the trials of such conspirators as Mary and John Surratt and the celebrated Dr. Samuel Mudd.

Woven throughout are fresh contributions to the historiography of the Lincoln assassination. Turner rightly scores historians for acting "as if the assassination occurred in a vacuum" (p. 252), and his attacks on the conclusions drawn by Otto Eisenschiml, Vaughn Shelton, and the sensationalistic *Lincoln Conspiracy* are clearly on target. In a revisionist spirit Turner defends the much-maligned Stanton, showing how the war secretary, given the prevailing shock and fear, performed both capably and judiciously. Likewise, he argues cogently for the appropriateness of military trials as the "best means of revealing the full extent of the conspiracy" (p. 251). Though his treatment of these controversial subjects often seems belabored, such grappling with the critical issues may compel historians to reconsider one of America's most painful moments.

Franklin College,
Franklin, Indiana

Lloyd A. Hunter

Abraham Lincoln: The Quest for Immortality. By Dwight G. Anderson. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. Pp. viii, 271. Appendix, notes, index. \$16.95.)

Dwight G. Anderson, who teaches political science at San Diego State University, has undertaken a study of Abraham Lincoln with the objective of resolving the problem of the "two Lincolns." He also hopes to provide "not only a better understanding of the man, but a fuller appreciation of his impact on American political culture." The resulting product is one that is difficult to define or categorize, for it contains, among others, elements of political science, biography, historiography, intellectual history, literature, and psychohistory.

Dividing his volume into four chapters, each subdivided further into additional units of varying length, Anderson boldly and forcefully argues his position as he seeks to attain his stated objectives. He insists that previous scholars of Lincoln have not focused their attention closely enough on Parson Weems's *Life of Washington* or on Lincoln's Lyceum Address at Springfield, Illinois, of January 27, 1838. Both provide valuable and significant insights into Lincoln that have been largely minimized or neglected. Indeed, the text of the Lyceum Address