

Cecil K. Byrd and Ward W. Moore do not discuss states of mind or cultural styles of presentation of self, nor do they analyze the photographers whose work they reproduce, nor the technology of their medium. Instead they present a potted biography of Lincoln in pictures and captions that repeats what readers are likely to know while omitting discussion of new ways of looking at history through photographs, an approach quite well developed by now in the wider historical profession. In this unannotated volume the editors cite none of the work being done in the cultural history written about such images. With considerable innocence they use photographs of monuments designed well after Lincoln's death to depict the historical Lincoln, especially during his youthful, unphotographed years. Although they might have discussed such monuments as an historical genre in themselves, they tend to take artists' imagined images of the young Lincoln as the equivalent of documents, which they are not.

Neither is the book handsome. The cover is most unattractive and the layout pedestrian, facts that make this book, if inexpensive, not really suitable for the coffee table. In themselves some of the photographs, especially of rarely seen minor characters, are quite fascinating, and Lincoln's visage is always riveting. This reviewer can never decide if he was truly ugly or deeply handsome, but in either event one can see in his face the ravages his office and the war brought him. Some physicians have also seen in these photographs the effects of Marfan Syndrome, which might have brought him to a premature death had John Wilkes Booth missed his mark.

For a fuller pictorial depiction of Lincoln one should consult *Lincoln in Photographs* (1963) by Charles Hamilton and Lloyd Ostendorf. For an inexpensive place to begin, however, this volume fits the bill.

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Union & Emancipation: Essays on Politics and Race in the Civil War Era. Edited by David W. Blight and Brooks D. Simpson. (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1997. Pp. x, 231. Illustrations, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$35.00.)

This slender volume of essays constitutes a *festschrift* to honor a respected and admired teacher, Richard H. Sewell of the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The seven authors, all leading scholars of mid-nineteenth-century America and all students mentored by Sewell at Madison, stand as testimony to his strong pedagogy. The essays themselves are a fine tribute to their teacher.

All seven essays point to the centrality of race in United States history. The authors have employed a variety of historical techniques to illustrate the problems that slavery and its adherents produced for this country, problems that have yet to be resolved. From traditional political and diplomatic studies to examination of popular song texts to intellectual history, each author demonstrates how disputes over race and slavery have shaped American politics and society.

Robert E. May of Purdue University illustrates convincingly that Republican and abolitionist criticisms of antebellum presidents' actions against filibusters in the 1840s and 1850s lacked substance. Official policy toward the filibusters was clearly aimed at stopping the expeditions and invasions of Caribbean and Central American states; unofficial policy was often less coherent. These antebellum presidents, however, consistently took steps to stop the adventurers. That they were often unsuccessful demonstrates the inability of governments in the era to halt enterprising adventurers. Richard J. McManus's essay on states rights doctrine in Republican party politics in Wisconsin in the 1850s serves as a corrective to common views of states rights as strictly a southern phenomenon to legitimize slavery. In Wisconsin states rights was employed by Republicans to fight the federal government's acceptance of slavery. Peter Knupfer's study of the often forgotten Constitutional Union party of 1860 highlights generational politics and conflict both within the party and against the sectionalism fostered in the Republican Democratic party duel.

Louis S. Gerteis's essay on blackface minstrelsy in antebellum America is perhaps the most ambitious of the collection. Unfortunately, his analysis of the role and meaning of the art form is unsuccessful, owing in no small part to his weak attempt to match early-nineteenth-century social Darwinism to a facile reading of the texts of popular songs sung in American theaters. Ira Berlin's strong essay on who freed the slaves brings the reader back onto firmer ground with his conclusion supporting the view that slaves and black soldiers took the lead in emancipation during the Civil War. Brooks D. Simpson shows General Ulysses S. Grant to have been sympathetic to the circumstances of black soldiers who fought for freedom in the war and appreciative of the soldiers' predicament during their occupation duty in the Reconstruction-era South. David W. Blight's excellent essay on race and the memory of the Civil War shows the price paid for forgetting the origins of the rebellion and wallowing in a mythological past built on white supremacy and white nationalism.

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