

Lincoln's Manager: David Davis. By Willard L. King. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1960. Pp. xiii, 383. Illustrations, bibliography, notes, index. \$6.75.)

David Davis entered the mainstream of American history on three important occasions. In 1860, he played a crucial, even indispensable, role in the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for the presidency; in 1866, as a Supreme Court justice, he delivered the majority opinion in the case of *Ex parte Milligan*; and in 1877, he refused to serve on the electoral commission to investigate the disputed Tilden-Hayes contest, a refusal that was interpreted by many to be the cause of Tilden's defeat and Hayes's election (Davis had privately expressed his belief that Hayes was entitled to the election). These three episodes marked the high points of a long career of service to his home state and to his country, as circuit judge in Illinois, on the Supreme Bench of the nation, and in the United States Senate, where he was chosen to preside when Vice-President Arthur assumed the presidency.

For Willard King, Chicago lawyer and author of an earlier successful biography of Chief Justice Melville Weston Fuller, Davis' greatest contribution to American history was the part he played in Lincoln's nomination. Davis and Lincoln were lifelong friends, and a large portion of this book is a history of that friendship. That King regards Davis' relationship with Lincoln as strong reason for this biography is clear, not only from the heavy emphasis on Lincoln in its pages but also from the title. Davis was "Lincoln's Manager" for only a few months out of a very long and full career. Those few months, to be sure, fixed Davis' future, for his appointment to the Supreme Court in 1862 was a direct result of his close relation with Lincoln. But Davis was too independent in his opinions and too honest and frank in their expression to be considered an administration man on the court. He disagreed strongly with the President on many basic questions: the use of patronage, the Emancipation Proclamation, and especially on Lincoln's handling of civil liberties—a subject for which Davis felt a deep and abiding concern. To place him too far in the dusk of Lincoln's shadow is to deprive Davis of a greatness that is justifiably his own. While his management of Lincoln's campaign in 1860 brought Davis wide notice, it is also true that Lincoln might not have been nominated and elected had it not been for Davis' exertions. Davis' stature and reputation continued to grow after Lincoln's death. His decision in the *Milligan* case (a case he maneuvered to the Supreme Court) was truly, in the author's words, a "great contribution to constitutional law" (p. 312).

Davis was a true conservative; he could not abide radicalism before, during, or after the Civil War. A native of Maryland, he grew up disliking slavery and hating abolitionists. He represents the broad area of middle western conservative opinion which took strong exception to the program of the Republican radicals and to many of President Lincoln's wartime decisions. He was one of several close friends of Lincoln who opposed the President's concessions to the radical group in the party.

King has based his book on a wide and intimate knowledge of primary sources, especially the voluminous Davis collection of manuscripts. Some might argue with the author's frequent quotation from

Davis' letters, but in most cases these impart a contemporaneous flair to his narrative. The author is persuasive in his treatment of Davis' role in the 1860 campaign and in the disputed contest of 1876, and the light he casts on these episodes will be of value to the historians who will treat them hereafter. His discussion, for example, of the circumstances surrounding the appointment of Indiana's Caleb Smith to Lincoln's cabinet, an appointment which Davis regarded as a "great mistake," is illuminating and definitive. This is a first-rate biography.

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The War: A Concise History, 1939-1945. By Louis L. Snyder. (New York: Julian Messner, Inc., 1960. Pp. xxiii, 579. Illustrations, maps, appendices, index. \$7.95.)

"Dawn, September 1, 1939.

"There was no declaration of war. Across the western borders of Poland poured the first waves of Hitler's mighty war machine." This is the opening of Professor Snyder's swiftly moving, very readable history of World War II. In a subsequent treaty with Soviet Russia, Hitler divided the spoils. "The agonies of hell now descended upon the hapless Poles, prostrate before the conquerors. . . . In a single month Poland had been crushed in one of the speediest campaigns in military history. Thus began the terrible blood bath of World War II" (p. 9). In five pages the author thus gives a dramatic account of the war in Poland. Then he goes back to give forty-three pages to what are the usual historical introductions to World War II: underlying causes after World War I; crises in Asia, Africa, and Europe, 1931-1938; immediate causes, 1939. Oftentimes the writer uses this flash-back approach.

He also plays frequently with one-sentence paragraphs. *Sitzkrieg*, Sit-down War, Bore War, War of Words, Phony War." That is the opening paragraph of the fifteen-page chapter on the collapse of France. "All France degenerated into panic, terror, hysteria, confusion" (p. 99). There is a paragraph which tells what happened. "The entire proceedings took exactly 27 minutes" (p. 107). France had signed the armistice on June 21, 1940. Take another example, a paragraph of one sentence. "It was 8:10 a.m., Hawaiian time, 1:40 p.m., Eastern Standard time, Sunday, December 7, 1941." Then a new paragraph begins: "A young boy was scooting along on his bike from Honolulu to Pearl Harbor. . . . carrying an urgent communication from Washington" (p. 195). Then in the next thirty-four pages are sketched background and a description of Japan's progress throughout the Far East to the Battle of the Coral Sea in May 9, 1942, when another one-sentence paragraph closes the account. "The Battle of the Coral Sea was the Japanese high-water mark" (p. 227).

Aside from the author's dramatic account of the war, the book's value is further enhanced by thirty-two pages containing sixty-four generally well-chosen pictures, ranging from Chamberlain at Berchtesgaden in September, 1938, to Japan's surrender in September, 1945, and covering events in Poland, Holland, England, France, Italy, Africa,