

The book is well edited and is suitably printed and bound. In no way does it offer a major contribution to United States history in the antebellum era. The importance of the book lies in the revelation of two minds that crossed paths and exchanged ideas long ago—and as such represents a valuable footnote to the political and social history of the 1850s.

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Lincoln and the War Democrats: The Grand Erosion of Conservative Tradition. By Christopher Dell. (Rutherford, N.J.: Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 1975. Pp. 455. Notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$18.50.)

This book is attractively presented, thoroughly organized, and well written. Christopher Dell pursues his points with vigor and determination. His thesis is that Abraham Lincoln utilized the War Democrats as the most important element in his Union party coalition to abolish slavery, undermine states' rights, and save the Union, but destroyed their own conservative principles in the process. The author manages to present his case in a manner uncritical readers may find convincing.

The chief fault of this book is its excessive reliance on secondary sources—especially late nineteenth and early twentieth century state histories and biographies—many of which are of dubious quality. For example, Dell treats a three volume *Political History of New York* (1906-1909) as authoritative. He cites the six volume *History of Maine* (1919) five consecutive times in discussing the triumph of conservative Republicans over radicals in Maine in 1863 and the parallel defeat of the peace faction by the War Democrats (pp. 240-41). Good secondary sources such as William B. Hesseltine's *Lincoln and the War Governors* (1955) are frequently used, but James D. Horan's fictionalized *Confederate Agent: A Discovery in History* (1954) is cited as a reliable source on the Northwest Conspiracy and the Indiana treason trials (pp. 150-51, 301). Dell also places unwarranted dependence on Clifton R. Hall's *Andrew Johnson, Military Governor of Tennessee* (1919) and the *Dictionary of American Biography*.

Of primary sources, Dell uses the *Congressional Globe* extensively. Contemporary newspapers are cited sporadically,

as is Roy P. Basler's *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* (8 vols., 1953). Dell rejects Basler's work in favor of secondary sources on federal military interference with the Maryland elections in 1863, where Lincoln's papers would be very illuminating. Sources such as the *Tribune Almanac* are used to give election results and often to describe campaigns, issues, and political maneuvering. The *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* are not used a half dozen times, and not a single manuscript collection is cited anywhere in the book.

Dell makes statements of fact absolutely and without authority. He writes, for example, that although William A. Richardson of Illinois had been elected as a War Democrat, when he entered the United States Senate "he at once declared as a Peace Democrat" (p. 179). Surely a citation from the *Congressional Globe* would be in order, but there is none at all.

The author's classifications of "War Democrats," "Conditional War Democrats," "Peace Democrats," "Regular Democrats," and "Union Democrats" are confusing and arbitrary. His only test of a "War Democrat" is not support of the war, but of the Republican administration. How much political coloration did Generals George G. Meade and Ulysses S. Grant have, and may that political chameleon Edwin M. Stanton be legitimately called a "War Democrat?" In sum, it is regrettable that such a worthwhile project should rest on so insubstantial a foundation.

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History of Black Americans: From Africa to the Emergence of the Cotton Kingdom. By Philip S. Foner. (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975. Pp. 680. Maps, bibliography and sources, index. \$25.00.)

In this first of a projected four volume survey of the history of black people in the Americas, Philip S. Foner adroitly covers a broad range of subjects. The origins of man on the African continent and the multitude of peoples and cultures that developed in that vast land, the colonial expansion of Europe and the development of the Atlantic slave trade, analysis of various systems of slavery in the New World, and the activities of the free black population in