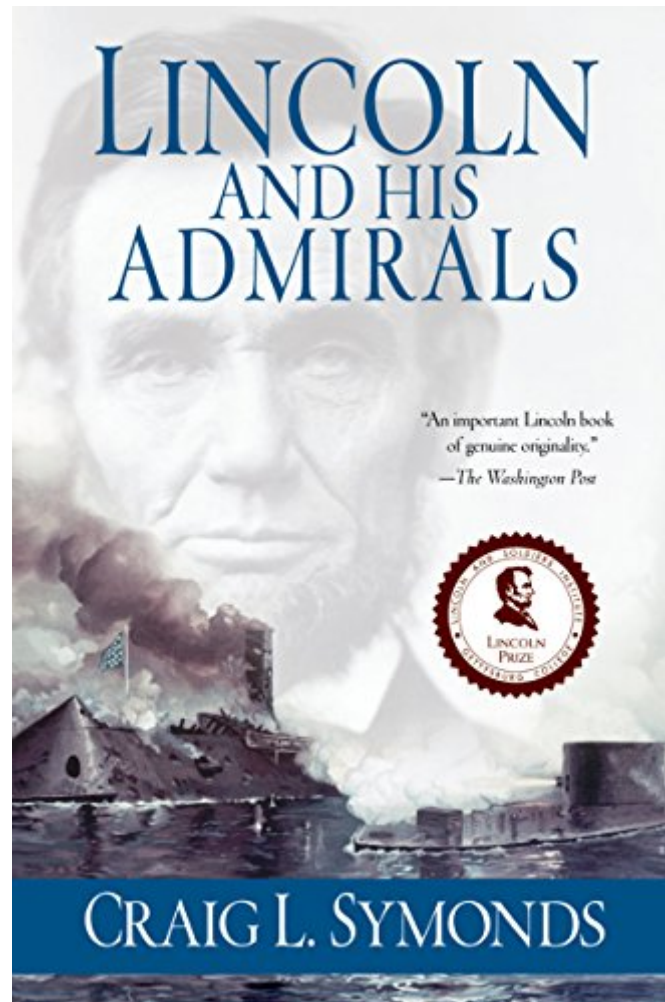


The book was found

Lincoln And His Admirals



Synopsis

Abraham Lincoln began his presidency admitting that he knew "but little of ships," but he quickly came to preside over the largest national armada to that time, not eclipsed until World War I. Written by naval historian Craig L. Symonds, *Lincoln and His Admirals* unveils an aspect of Lincoln's presidency unexamined by historians until now, revealing how he managed the men who ran the naval side of the Civil War, and how the activities of the Union Navy ultimately affected the course of history. Beginning with a gripping account of the attempt to re-supply Fort Sumter--a comedy of errors that shows all too clearly the fledgling president's inexperience--Symonds traces Lincoln's steady growth as a wartime commander-in-chief. Absent a Secretary of Defense, he would eventually become de facto commander of joint operations along the coast and on the rivers. That involved dealing with the men who ran the Navy: the loyal but often cranky Navy Secretary Gideon Welles, the quiet and reliable David G. Farragut, the flamboyant and unpredictable Charles Wilkes, the ambitious ordnance expert John Dahlgren, the well-connected Samuel Phillips Lee, and the self-promoting and gregarious David Dixon Porter. Lincoln was remarkably patient; he often postponed critical decisions until the momentum of events made the consequences of those decisions evident. But Symonds also shows that Lincoln could act decisively. Disappointed by the lethargy of his senior naval officers on the scene, he stepped in and personally directed an amphibious assault on the Virginia coast, a successful operation that led to the capture of Norfolk. The man who knew "but little of ships" had transformed himself into one of the greatest naval strategists of his age. Co-winner of the 2009 Lincoln Prize Winner of the 2009 Barondess/Lincoln Prize by the Civil War Round Table of New York John Lyman Award of the North American Society for Oceanic History Daniel and Marilyn Laney Prize by the Austin Civil War Round Table Nevins-Freeman Prize of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago

Book Information

File Size: 2287 KB

Print Length: 441 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (October 17, 2008)

Publication Date: October 17, 2008

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B003YORJNA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #237,313 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #7 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Naval Operations #21 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Military & Wars > American Civil War #105 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Modern (16th-21st Centuries) > 19th Century

Customer Reviews

This book is impressive for a number of reasons. First, it is an academic work that is highly readable and will be of equal interest to readers be they scholars or general history fans. Think, James McPherson's "Battle Cry of Freedom," on the water. More importantly, Craig L. Symonds manages to say something new about Abraham Lincoln, which is darn impressive. This book examines the President's role as commander-in-chief to the U.S. Navy. Lincoln's relationship with the navy has been largely ignored over the past century and a half, and it is easy to understand why. The major battles between North and South were fought on land and those engagements determined the fate of the nation. Symonds shows us, though, that Union naval dominance influenced the course of the conflict. At Fort Sumter Lincoln was initially unsure of how to use his naval power. As the war continued, he directed that the Army and Navy work together in what are now called "joint operations." This coordination became important in the capture of New Orleans and Vicksburg. Symonds did not write an operational history of the naval war, but these actions bled into areas other than the military. The blockade of the southern coastline raised important questions involving matters of trade and diplomacy. These issues often involved disputes between Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles and Secretary of State William H. Seward, which Lincoln had to adjudicate. It is a testimony to Symonds' skills as a historian that he develops both sides of the issue and presents Wells and Seward as understandably human characters. Lincoln faced many of the same issues with the admirals that he faced with the generals.

If this book is not a finalist for a major award in Lincoln and Civil War history, we will have a gross injustice. This intelligent, interesting, readable book is one of the most original informative Civil War histories I have read this year. The author is retired from the U.S. Naval Academy after 30 years of teaching. During that time, he won both the Naval Academy's "Excellence in Teaching" award

(1988) and its "Excellence in Research" award (1998). This shows in his ability to construct a sentence that contains a lot of information without boring or losing the reader. His portraits of the players are excellent. We never lose sight of the fact that they have not read the history book and do not know what is happening. Each crisis has the feel of current events unfolding as we read. Lincoln's management style is fully developed and we understand what a masterful politician he is. The fighting between the departments of State, War and Navy are fully developed and completely understandable. While the book is written from the Navy's perspective, the author never takes sides and faithfully reports the whole story. Most Civil War history ignores the Navy's role. This book gives us a detailed history of naval operations and the development of combined Army Navy actions. Lincoln never had a quiet day as President. He had just sat down when the problem of supplies at Fort Sumter dropped on him. The author provides a detailed account of the decision-making and the problems associated with that action. His account of the Trent Affair could be one of the best accounts in existence. The same can be said of his Red River Campaign and his discussion of the impact of cotton on the war. This is not a book of blazing guns!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Lincoln and His Admirals Naval Researches: Or a Candid Inquiry into the Conduct of Admirals Byron, Graves, Hood and Rodney, into the Actions Off Grenada, Chesapeake, ... of April, 1782 (American Revolutionary) Amirs, Admirals & Desert Sailors: Bahrain, the U.S. Navy, and the Arabian Gulf The Greatest Speech, Ever: The Remarkable Story of Abraham Lincoln and His Gettysburg Address The Infinite Character of King Arthur: His History and Legend, His Camelot and Avalon The Single Girl's Guide to Marrying a Man, His Kids, and His Ex-Wife: Becoming A Stepmother With Humor And Grace Thank You For Arguing, Revised and Updated Edition: What Aristotle, Lincoln, And Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War: Selected Writing and Speeches (Bedford Cultural Editions Series) Prayer Warriors: The True Story of a Gay Son, His Fundamentalist Christian Family, and Their Battle for His Soul On Wings of Eagles: The Inspiring True Story of One Man's Patriotic Spirit -- and His Heroic Mission to Save His Countrymen Dvorak: His Life and Music (His Life & Music) The Sorcerer of Bayreuth: Richard Wagner, his Work and his World 10 Things Every Woman Needs to Know About Men: Understand His Mind And Capture His Heart Hans Kung: His Work and His Way The Essential Gandhi: An Anthology of His Writings on His Life, Work, and Ideas Breaking Seas: An Overweight, Middle-Aged Computer Nerd Buys His First Boat, Quits His Job, and Sails Off to Adventure Ford Pick-ups 1997 thru 2003 & Expedition 1997 thru 2014: Full-size, F-150 & F-250, Gasoline Engines - Includes Lincoln Navigator and F-150 Heritage (Haynes Repair Manual) The

Gettysburg Address: The History and Legacy of President Abraham Lincoln's Greatest Speech The Most Famous Speeches of Abraham Lincoln: The History of the Cooper Union Address, the Gettysburg Address, and the Second Inaugural Address Lincoln's Generals' Wives: Four Women Who Influenced the Civil War--for Better and for Worse (Civil War in the North Series)

[Dmca](#)