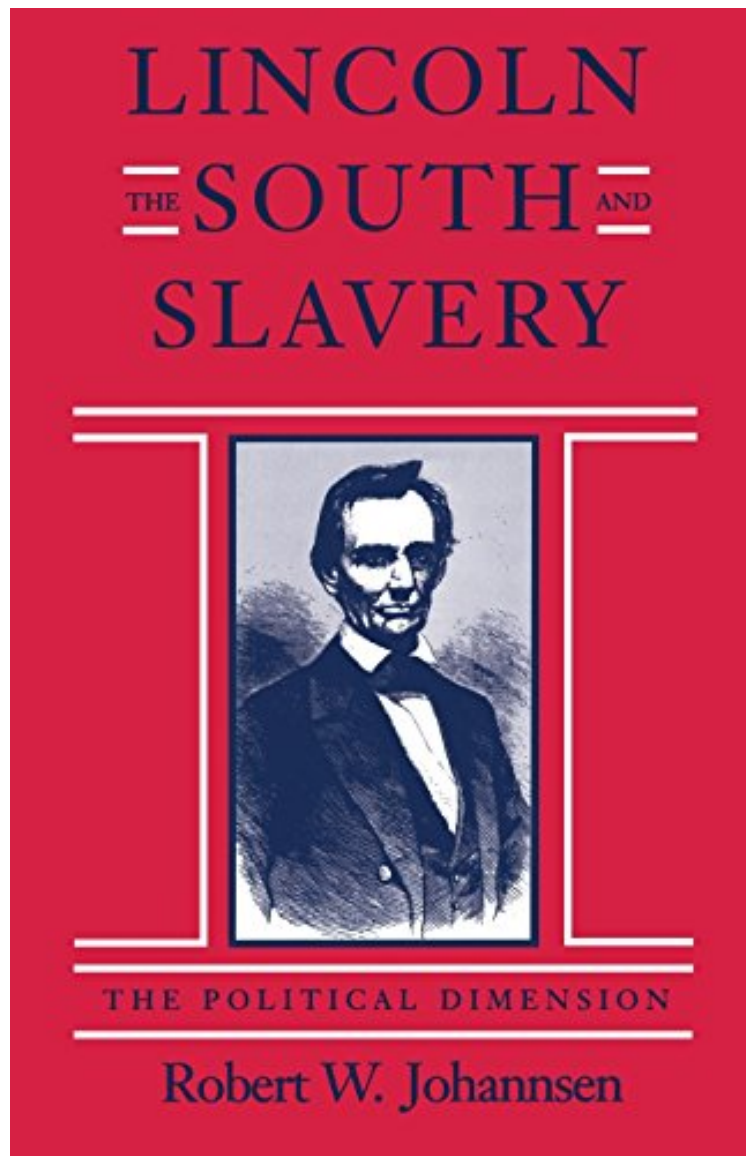


(Get free) Blackout Starlight: New and Selected Poems, 1997-2015 (Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History)

Blackout Starlight: New and Selected Poems, 1997-2015 (Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History)

Robert W. Johannsen

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Robert W. Johannsen : Blackout Starlight: New and Selected Poems, 1997-2015 (Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blackout Starlight: New and Selected Poems, 1997-2015 (Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... the point of view of one who studied Lincoln's great rival, Stephen A. Douglas, this slender volume has a unique angle. Johannsen reveals Lincoln's southern roots and explores the effect of that foundation on his feelings toward slave owners. I, personally, believe the author misses the point of what Lincoln was doing (the being mostly what he believed he could do politically to right a great moral wrong in slavery while still representing a deeply racist white voting population.)

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Read on the first American Dictator

By the 1911 patriot I enjoyed this well researched book concerning Lincoln, whom I hold to have been the first U.S. president to twist his office into that of a dictator. Much more could be said about Lincoln, but this book was written solely concerning his views on slavery. I would recommend this to a friend interested in Lincoln.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A. Lincoln: A Blundering Politician?

By Frances C. Fowler "Lincoln, the South, and Slavery" is a short book (124 pages) by historian Robert Johannsen, better known for his work on Stephen A. Douglas. Based on five lectures delivered at two different places, the book traces the evolution of Lincoln's views on slavery and the South between 1854 and 1860, concluding with a chapter that describes and critiques Lincoln's behavior between his nomination for president and his inauguration. Johannsen draws on extensive primary source material, including Lincoln's speeches and correspondence, contemporary newspaper articles and editorials, some of Douglas's speeches, and early accounts by people who knew Lincoln. The major thesis of the book is that Lincoln was a master politician whose thinking developed at least partly in response to the ever changing political situation but who failed to exercise true statesmanship when the Southern states began to secede. In his introduction Johannsen discusses how difficult it is to approach Lincoln as a historical figure rather than as a demigod. Nevertheless, his objective is to apply standard methods of historical analysis to the sixteenth president. In my opinion, he largely succeeds. Anyone who has read much about Lincoln knows that the vast majority of writing about him is uncritically favorable, ranging from blatant hagiography to evaluations of his presidency that omit or skim over his more questionable statements and actions in order to rank him as one of the greatest statesmen of all time. A much smaller body of literature is fiercely hostile and vituperative. Johannsen's book falls somewhere in between. He believes that Lincoln sometimes contradicted himself, said things in private that he refused to say in public, and could be extremely obtuse. In short, he presents Lincoln as a very human president. The most critical chapter is the last one, in which the author depicts Lincoln and his party as focusing so intently on winning the 1860 election and deciding how to distribute the patronage that they gave little thought to how they would govern the country once they were in charge. As a result, they failed to take Southern threats of secession seriously. Lincoln himself seems to have been in deep denial; as late as February 1861--after seven states had seceded and formed a rival government--he assured a Midwestern audience that there was no crisis. This is a valuable book for anyone who seeks to understand the extent to which "blundering politicians" failed to deal effectively with the political crisis that led to the Civil War and is willing to consider the possibility that Lincoln was one of the chief blunderers.

Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History In 1858, Abraham Lincoln declared his hatred for the institution of slavery, likening his feelings of opposition to those of the abolitionists. Although the fact that Lincoln always disliked slavery is indisputable, the idea that he always opposed it with the zeal and fervor of the abolitionists remains questionable. Only four years prior to his bold declaration, Lincoln admittedly paid little attention to slavery, viewing it as only a minor issue. But in the six years preceding his presidency, his antislavery stance underwent dramatic change. Fueled by political ambition, Lincoln's argument against slavery and his prescription for dealing with it moved from what he initially labeled a middle-ground stance to a more radical position. Robert W. Johannsen's *Lincoln, the South, and Slavery* traces the political dimension of Lincoln's antislavery stance as it evolved from the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 to his election as president in 1860. Whereas previous scholars have largely ignored the political character of Lincoln's antislavery argument, Johannsen sees Lincoln as an astute and ambitious politician whose statements were shaped and directed by the time's ever-changing political exigencies and considerations. Johannsen does not demean the quality of Lincoln's sincerity or downgrade the importance of his moral convictions on the slavery issue, but he does suggest that politics played a larger role than previously acknowledged in the form these convictions took. The four chapters that compose this work connect Lincoln's position with his attitude toward the South and Southerners, from his initial appeal to Southerners at a time when he sought to revitalize the dying Whig party, through his deepening involvement in the Republican party, to his final belief that the South and Southern interests no longer needed to be considered as factors determining his national political success. Johannsen focuses on Lincoln's debut in 1854 as an antislavery speaker, on the development of his stand for the ultimate extinction of slavery, on his espousal of the doctrine of the irrepressible conflict, and finally on Lincoln's and the South's perceptions of each other in 1860. As no other work has done, *Lincoln, the South, and Slavery* shows how Lincoln, in response to the demands of politics, became increasingly anti-slavery and anti-Southern during the 1850s. It will be a welcome contribution to the ongoing debate about the enigma of Lincoln and about his role in the coming of the Civil War.

From the Back Cover
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About the Author
Robert W. Johannsen is J.G. Randall Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Illinois at Urbana and the author of several books, most recently *The Frontier, The Union, and Stephen A. Douglas*.