



A Just and Generous Nation: Abraham Lincoln and the Fight for American Opportuni

By Garfinkle, Norton. Holzer, Harold.

Basic Books. 1 Cloth(s), 2015. hard. Book Condition: New. In this intriguing take on Abraham Lincoln's purpose in going to war when the South seceded from the Union, Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer and economist Norton Garfinkle posit that his guiding principle was neither preserving the Union nor eradicating slavery, but rather was the defense of equal economic opportunity. They argue that Lincoln firmly believed that government's first job was to ensure that all Americans had the opportunity to better their stations in life. To that end, he funded railroads and canals, supported education, and, most importantly, issued the Emancipation Proclamation, opening the door for former slaves to join white Americans in striving for self-improvement. "Holzer and Garfinkle have written a stimulating book. They describe convincingly Lincoln's core conviction that government must foster equal opportunity in order to build and sustain a strong middle class. With clarity and passion, they show Lincoln the pragmatist working toward that end."NYTBR"This review of Lincoln's thoughts and actions and examination of subsequent administrations' willingness to promote and secure the American Dream will generate much-needed debate on the history, efficacy, and morality of government's role and responsibility in shaping an economy of fairness and growth. The...



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