

Brooks D. Simpson, ed. *Think Anew, Act Anew: Abraham Lincoln on Slavery, Freedom, and Union*. Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1998. Pp. xiv, 205. Paper, \$13.95; ISBN 0-88295-975-1.

IN THIS TEMPLE  
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE  
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION  
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER

-Inscription on the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.

Just as the Lincoln Memorial continues to inspire Americans even today, so do the words and writings of the "Great Emancipator" himself. It should be no surprise then that numerous compilations of Abraham Lincoln's writings exist. They range from the famous comprehensive edition of Roy P. Basler and his associates to numerous selections in various editions, most of which offer glimpses into Lincoln's public as well as private life. But this new volume, *Think Anew, Act Anew: Abraham Lincoln on Slavery, Freedom, and Union*, focuses on the interrelated themes of slavery, union, emancipation, and reconstruction, issues that give Lincoln his claim to fame.

Brooks D. Simpson, professor of history and humanities at Arizona State University, is no stranger to the literature of the Civil War and Reconstruction, for he has written several fine books on this period, including *Let Us Have Peace: Ulysses S. Grant and the Politics of War and Reconstruction, 1861-1868* (1991), *The Political Education of Henry Adams* (1996), and *America's Civil War* (1996).

By reading and comparing the documents that Simpson has collected in this volume, including Lincoln's private letters, speeches, debates, state documents, and public letters, one can gain a much better understanding of "Lincoln's thinking about slavery, politics, and the fate of the American republic, as well as on the establishment and justification of war aims, the transformation of the struggle to save the Union to incorporate a quest for freedom, and the problem of reuniting the nation in the aftermath of war and emancipation."

Another merit of this intriguing volume is that it offers an explanation of various issues still being debated today by scholars, students of Lincoln, and the general public: How did Lincoln define equality? How did Lincoln harmonize his rejection of slavery as immoral with the toleration of it where it already existed? How did Lincoln reconcile his celebration of democracy and self-government with his rejection of popular sovereignty and secession? What were Lincoln's views on race, and did they change over time? How did Lincoln justify accepting war as the price of preserving the Union while at first seeking to avoid attacking the institution that he thought caused it? What did freedom mean to Lincoln personally?



*Think Anew, Act Anew* is a volume of exceptional value. It gives readers a chance to "crawl into Lincoln's head," and see how he understood and wrestled with the important political issues of antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction America. Readers of this impressive volume, according to Simpson, might choose to celebrate or to criticize Lincoln's responses, or both, but *Think Anew, Act Anew* provides them with some of the essential material to realize how Lincoln wrestled with the fundamental issues of his time. If his book contributes to a more informed discussion of "Lincoln the man" and the challenges he faced, then Simpson has done his job. In this reviewer's opinion, he has. College students taking U.S. History to 1877 and Civil War and Reconstruction courses, and their instructors, will find it most useful.

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**Louis A. Perez, Jr. *The War of 1898: The United States and Cuba in History and Historiography*. Chapel Hill & London: University of North Carolina Press, 1998. Pp. xvi, 171. Cloth, \$34.95; Paper, \$16.95.**

*The War of 1898* juxtaposes historical content surrounding the 1898 U.S. war against Spain in Cuba, mistakenly referred to as the Spanish American War, with one hundred years of historiography in a fashion desirable for both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In order to address serious shortcomings in the traditional U.S. account of the Spanish American War story, Louis A. Perez, Jr. incorporates a wide array of primary and secondary sources in each of his five chapters. By carefully weaving each source together, Perez successfully presents a more complete picture of what happened in 1898, as well as a much needed analysis of one hundred years of U.S. historiography.

To begin his book, Perez incorporates into his first chapter, "On Context and Condition," the words of U.S. presidents and politicians from the early part of the nineteenth century to demonstrate U.S. preoccupation with Cuba. While the U.S. preoccupied itself with Cuba, Perez details in chapter two, "Intervention and Intent," how the U.S. responded when Cuba experienced its own preoccupation--ridding the island of Spanish rule. Newspapers, songs, poems, and various secondary interpretations form a persuasive element illustrating the dynamics involved with the U.S. intervention in Cuba. Perez makes it very clear that U.S. officials considered Cuba vital to U.S. interests, and, subsequently, developed the propaganda necessary for American public opinion to support U.S. intervention.

In chapter three, "Meaning of the *Maine*," Perez devotes an entire chapter to the 15 February 1898 explosion of the battleship *Maine* in Havana harbor. This process allows him to highlight one of the specific dynamics of U.S. intervention. Graduate students in particular should find the chapter's combination of primary source