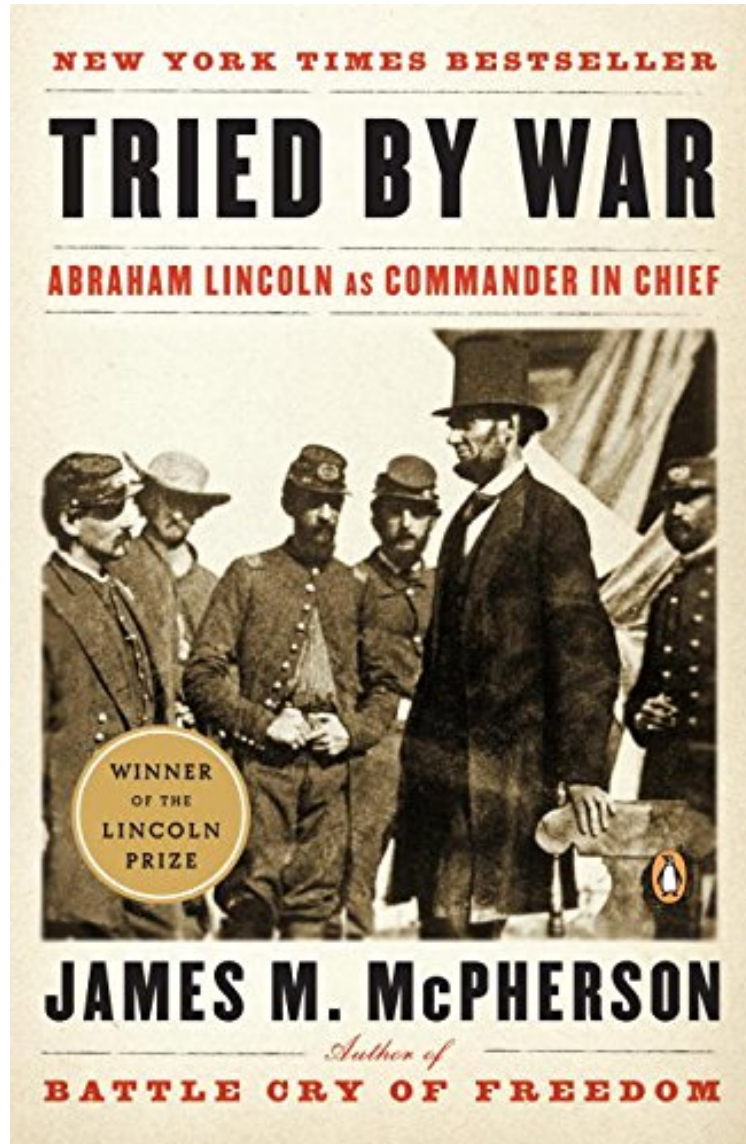


(Download pdf ebook) Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief

Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief

James M. McPherson

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#351430 in Books McPherson, James M. 2009-09-29 2009-09-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.40 x 1.00 x 5.40l, .72 #File Name: 0143116142352 pages | File size: 20.Mb

James M. McPherson : Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Condensed View of Lincoln as the War General By Daniel Hurley This book is a rather condensed view of Lincoln as a military leader during the Civil War as McPherson rightly states that he was often his own Commanding General and early on, Secretary of War. Individuals familiar with

Stephen Sears's great books on the Army of the Potomac and General McClellan will find much of the book familiar but McPherson provides a grand overview of Lincoln's responsibilities for the west as well as the east. McPherson covers well Lincoln's burden of using politicians as generals to satisfy his precarious support for the war and the union for that matter often enduring poor performance long before he could make a move such as with Butler, Shields, Banks and Fremont. The high point of the book is McPherson's demonstrations of Lincoln becoming his own General in Chief due to incompetence of his ranking officers such as McClellan, who often failed to move, to Henry Halleck who often feared making a decision. Lincoln's political timing is also well written such as the military/political timing of the emancipation proclamation and its effect on the south. Also of note, is Lincoln's great disappointment with Meade in not following Lee closely and attacking him on the northern side of the Potomac. What is notable is Lincoln recognizing, as McPherson provides direct quotes, the Confederate invasions north as opportunities not as an object of fear. In addition, McPherson captures Lincoln's ability to be humble yet instructive to his generals such as the now famous letter of his to "Fighting Joe Hooker" that tells Hooker of his support while telling him bluntly that he is aware of Hooker's undercutting of his superiors in the past and his call for a dictatorship, but as Lincoln's tells him, he is willing to take a risk to support Hooker for the good of the union. With the emergence of Grant, Sherman and Sheridan along with the competence of Stanton, Lincoln is in a far better position in 1864 but as McPherson points out, only until their successes eclipse Lincoln's political vulnerability. One thing that was needed in the book, was a more descriptive contrast with Jefferson Davis' military leadership. Davis, in contrast to Lincoln, was a West Point Graduate, Secretary of War and Mexican War veteran. Yet, Davis would let personal squabbles become magnified such as with Johnson and Beauregard to the detriment of the Confederacy and appoint personal favorites, Albert Sidney Johnson and Braxton Bragg, versus more competent staff. He also was a micro manager where Lincoln managed only as a necessity. Lincoln's humility served a constructive purpose in contrast to Davis' pride. Excellent book, in heavy quality paper of the type reserved for a classic. The actual text is approximately 272 pages followed by 100 pages of notes and index. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent and Unique Perspective on the Civil War By Dan D Anderson I stumbled upon this book on a discount shelf at Barnes Noble. I read the book and enjoyed it. I have listened via Audible several times and absolutely love the book and its premise. Well written, easy to read/listen to, and it offers a unique perspective on the Civil War. Lincoln was in a tough position. The best military commanders were split between the Union and Confederacy. A new President with little knowledge of the Union's military commanders (and untested military commanders at that) did not know who was competent and capable. He did know the depth and breadth of his own capabilities. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well Written By Dave GI was recommended James McPherson by someone who knew history more than most, and this particular selection from this Pulitzer prize winner was in fact a winner. I have not read much on the civil war, but considering more people read and buy books on this subject than any other area of history, I felt that to start that an introduction about the man in charge was appropriate. Abe Lincoln, who has received a monumental revival these days, considering who is president now, was in fact a complicated, brilliant man. McPherson really does provide a fair and balanced reading of the only president to be truly at war during his entire administration, except for our 21st century conflicts.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author reveals how Lincoln won the Civil War and invented the role of commander in chief as we know it. As we celebrate the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth, this study by preeminent, bestselling Civil War historian James M. McPherson provides a rare, fresh take on one of the most enigmatic figures in American history. *Tried by War* offers a revelatory (and timely) portrait of leadership during the greatest crisis our nation has ever endured. Suspenseful and inspiring, this is the story of how Lincoln, with almost no previous military experience before entering the White House, assumed the powers associated with the role of commander in chief, and through his strategic insight and will to fight changed the course of the war and saved the Union.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Given the importance of Lincoln's role as commander-in-chief to the nation's very survival, says McPherson, this role has been underexamined. McPherson (*Battle Cry of Freedom*), the doyen of Civil War historians, offers firm evidence of Lincoln's military effectiveness in this typically well-reasoned, well-presented analysis. Lincoln exercised the right to take any necessary measures to preserve the union and majority rule, including violating longstanding civil liberties (though McPherson considers the infringements milder than those adopted by later presidents). As McPherson shows, Lincoln understood the synergy of political and military decision-making; the Emancipation Proclamation, for instance, harmonized the principles of union and freedom with a strategy of attacking the crucial Confederate resource of slave labor. Lincoln's commitment to linking policy and strategy made him the most hands-on American commander-in-chief; he oversaw strategy and offered operational advice, much of it shrewd and perceptive. Lincoln may have been an amateur of war, but McPherson successfully establishes him as America's greatest war leader. (Oct. 7) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine ers indicated that they would have embraced any new book by James McPherson on any aspect of the Civil War period. But current events likely compelled them to recommend this highly readable,

informative book with special enthusiasm. The nature of the president's war powers, particularly the precedent set by Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus, has been a central question of the Bush presidency. And as the highest office in the land is passed to Barack Obama, who is both a great admirer of Lincoln and who will become the only other president to hail from Illinois, McPherson's analysis should be particularly timely. Critics agreed we could have no better guide; as Timothy Rutten wrote in the Los Angeles Times, McPherson is "one of those scholars whose ingrained integrity simply precludes him from stacking the historical deck." Copyright 2008 Bookmarks Publishing LLC "Few historians write as well as McPherson, and none evoke the sound of battle with greater clarity. . . . McPherson draws on almost fifty years of research to present a cogent and concise narrative of how Lincoln, working against enormous odds, saved the United States of America." -Jean Edward Smith, "The New York Times Book " "It is hard to do justice in a short review to how convincingly and compellingly McPherson narrates Lincoln's simultaneous mastery of the political, strategic and moral challenge of his historical moment." -Tim Rutten, "Los Angeles Times" "Masterful. . . . Destined to become a classic." -Jay Winik, "The Boston Globe" "The definitive portrait of Lincoln as war leader." - "The Washington Post"