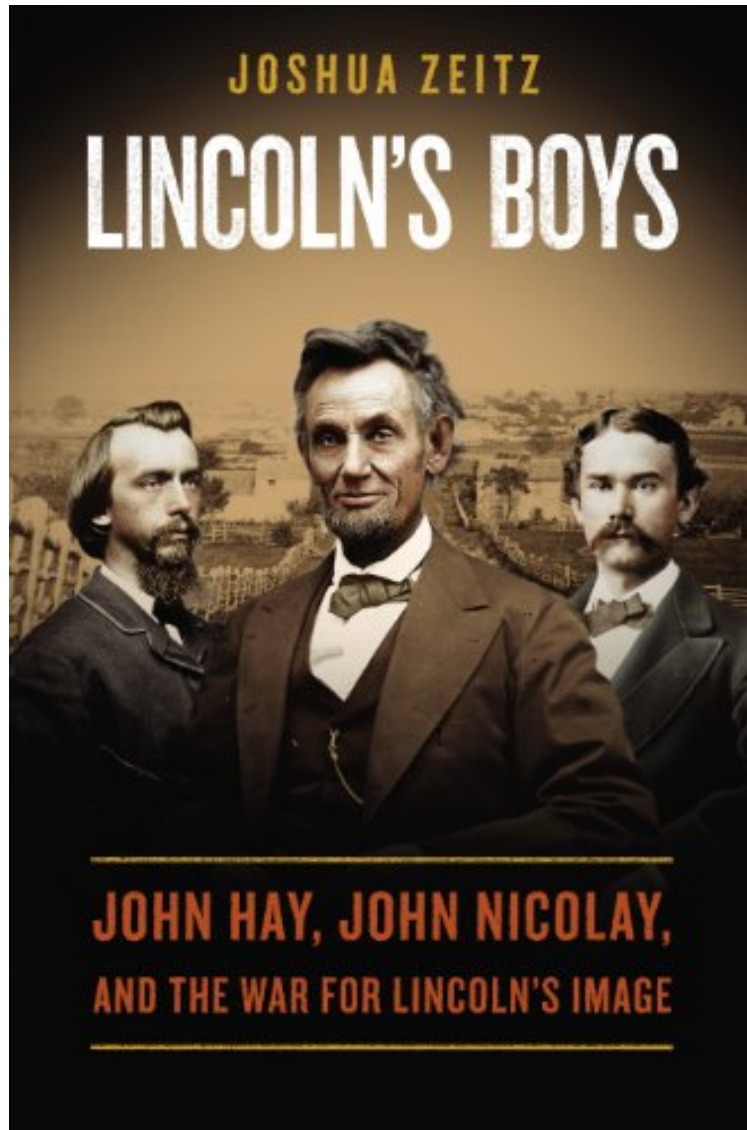


[Ebook free] Lincoln's Boys: John Hay, John Nicolay, and the War for Lincoln's Image

Lincoln's Boys: John Hay, John Nicolay, and the War for Lincoln's Image

Von Joshua Zeitz

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Von Joshua Zeitz : Lincoln's Boys: John Hay, John Nicolay, and the War for Lincoln's Image before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lincoln's Boys: John Hay, John Nicolay, and the War for Lincoln's Image:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Boys Who Made Lincoln's ImageVon James GallenLincolns Boys is really a triple biography. The two primary figures

are John Hay and John Nicolay, the two young men who traveled from Illinois to serve as Lincoln's secretaries and devoted much of their remaining lives to the promotion of his image. The third character is Lincoln himself: Lincoln the man with whom they lived and worked and the Lincoln of legend. John Nicolay was a young Bavarian immigrant who was a lively dancer and talented musician who served as de-facto executive director of the nascent Republican Party in Illinois while abhorring the mobs that he would encounter on the trip to Washington and daily in the White House. After leaving the White House he would serve as a diplomat in Paris and as Marshall of the United States Supreme Court. John Hay was a more outgoing people person with the talents of an author and a poet who served in diplomatic posts in Paris, Vienna, Madrid and as Ambassador to Great Britain before concluding his public service as Secretary of State under Presidents McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. Their life stories are interesting but what makes them worthy of a book is their association with Abraham Lincoln. It was they who accompanied him to the telegraph office, were at his side as he wrote the Emancipation Proclamation, mingled with the press and politicians during the trip to Gettysburg and acted as his intermediary and buffer when dealing with members of Congress. As Lincoln's intimates, Nicolay and Hay were entrusted with the creation of Lincoln's historic image. Having access to the Lincoln papers through their friend, Robert Lincoln, they wrote a ten volume official biography. From it would come many of the legends of Lincoln Lore such as the incident in which Gen. McClellan returned home and went to bed while Lincoln waited to see him and the blind memo in which he got each cabinet member to agree to prosecute the war after the election and so that it would be won before the inauguration. I found insights in this book that I do not remember reading before, such as the idea that the visit to Gettysburg served political purposes and that Hay might have written the Letter to Mrs. Bixby, a Southern sympathizer who promptly threw it out. It mentions that four score and seven years ago pointedly refers to the Declaration of Independence, not the Constitution that protected slavery as well as the virulent opposition to Lincoln during his lifetime. Much of this work is devoted to a study of the multi-faceted struggle for Lincoln's image in which Nicolay and Hay were the scribes for the Lincoln family. Lincoln's former partner, William Herndon, strove to tear Lincoln down as merely an ordinary westerner while his longstanding vendetta with Mary Lincoln was the source of the legend that she made Lincoln's domestic life a misery. Southern writers advanced the case that states rights and diverging economic systems and not slavery brought on the Civil War. Lincoln's Boys, with their aggressive Northernism, softened the role of Mary, kept the slavery issue front and center and portrayed Lincoln as a man whose humble background made his greatness even more impressive than it would have seemed in others. As I was reading I was reminded of what I have been taught about the Gospels, that each evangelist chose the stories to include and to tell them in a way that would get across the message that he desired. Lincoln seems to have been treated similarly. Each biographer emphasizes and interprets facts so as to create his own Lincoln. Author Joshua Zeitz has made a valuable contribution to the Lincoln literature. His readers will better understand the evolving role of Lincoln in our history. He has crafted an easy, but not a light read, a fairly quick, but satisfying one. Lincoln's Boys is the perfect book to read as we close the Sesquicentennial of the Lincoln Presidency.

Kurzbeschreibung A timely and intimate look into Abraham Lincoln's White House through the lives of his two closest aides and confidants Lincoln's official secretaries John Hay and John Nicolay enjoyed more access, witnessed more history, and knew Lincoln better than anyone outside of the president's immediate family. Hay and Nicolay were the gatekeepers of the Lincoln legacy. They read poetry and attended the theater with the president, commiserated with him over Union army setbacks, and plotted electoral strategy. They were present at every seminal event, from the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation to Lincoln's delivery of the Gettysburg Address and they wrote about it after his death. In their biography of Lincoln, Hay and Nicolay fought to establish Lincoln's heroic legacy and to preserve a narrative that saw slavery, not states rights, as the sole cause of the Civil War. As Joshua Zeitz shows, the image of a humble man with uncommon intellect who rose from obscurity to become a storied wartime leader and emancipator is very much their creation. Drawing on letters, diaries, and memoirs, Lincoln's Boys is part political drama and part coming-of-age tale a fascinating story of friendship, politics, war, and the contest over history and remembrance. *Pressestimmen* "What a wonderful, welcome book. Zeitz has pulled off a difficult task -- revealing how the myth of Lincoln came to be without distorting the true greatness of our extraordinary 16th President." -- Ken Burns (filmmaker) Joshua Zeitz's delightful study of John Hay and John Nicolay interweaves intimate biography, political drama, and the shaping of historical memory to produce an arresting and original narrative. Above all, it reminds us that, thanks to Lincoln's secretaries, the moral dimensions of the emancipationist Civil War could not be bleached from the historical record by an increasingly fashionable understanding of the struggle as a romantic brothers conflict. -- Richard Carwardine, author of *Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power* Abraham Lincoln was blessed with truly first-rate biographers in John Nicolay and John Hay, so it is altogether fitting and proper that Nicolay and Hay have now attracted a terrific chronicler of their own life and times in Joshua Zeitz. This fine book traces the extraordinary evolution of Lincoln's two private secretaries from clerks into tireless historians and rabid keepers of the flame. Historians have long remembered their roles as canny observers of the White House during the Civil War, but this

study adds much fascinating new material about their peerless role in crafting and preserving the Lincoln image. Harold Holzer, author of *The Civil War in 50 Objects* Kurzbeschreibung A timely and intimate look into Abraham Lincoln's White House through the lives of his two closest aides and confidants Lincoln's official secretaries John Hay and John Nicolay enjoyed more access, witnessed more history, and knew Lincoln better than anyone outside of the president's immediate family. Hay and Nicolay were the gatekeepers of the Lincoln legacy. They read poetry and attended the theater with the president, commiserated with him over Union army setbacks, and plotted electoral strategy. They were present at every seminal event, from the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation to Lincoln's delivery of the Gettysburg Address and they wrote about it after his death. In their biography of Lincoln, Hay and Nicolay fought to establish Lincoln's heroic legacy and to preserve a narrative that saw slavery not states rights as the sole cause of the Civil War. As Joshua Zeitz shows, the image of a humble man with uncommon intellect who rose from obscurity to become a storied wartime leader and emancipator is very much their creation. Drawing on letters, diaries, and memoirs, *Lincoln's Boys* is part political drama and part coming-of-age tale a fascinating story of friendship, politics, war, and the contest over history and remembrance.