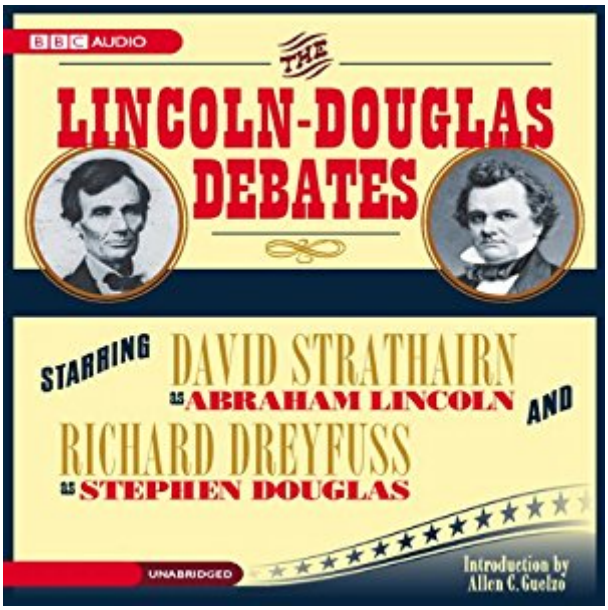
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The Lincoln-Douglas Debates



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Synopsis

This scarce antiquarian book is a facsimile reprint of the original. Due to its age, it may contain imperfections such as marks, notations, marginalia and flawed pages. Because we believe this work is culturally important, we have made it available as part of our commitment for protecting, preserving, and promoting the world’s literature in affordable, high quality, modern editions that are true to the original work. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is absolutely great. The listener needs a little history background which may be lacking from the current government schools. Compare the delivery and language to what were essentially "country rubes" to today’s excuse for debates. No fifteen second sound bites or two minute responses. I have a third grade reader from the early 20th century and the contrast with current expectations is striking. The dramatic reading and background information flesh this out nicely. It is as if you are present. Love it.

This 14 disc set includes the texts as transcribed by newspaper reporters, with introductions and occasional interjections by the audience. Allen Guelzo, who introduces the debates, does not sound like a college professor who happened to write a very fine book on the debates, but as another professionally trained voice. His spoken introduction is valuable for setting the context, but his bookÃ Â Lincoln and Douglas: The Debates that Defined America (Simon & Schuster Lincoln Library)Ã Â is even better. A little reading ahead of time will help you with the Lecompton

constitution, Douglas and Buchanan’s conflicted relationship, and Lincoln’s reading of the combined effects of Dred Scott and the Fugitive Slave Law.Richard Dreyfuss gives Judge Douglas a fair reading and then some. In the later debates, under the stress of travel and frequent speaking and the shock of seeing how effective Lincoln’s rhetoric had been, Douglas took to the bottle. Eyewitness accounts report slurred speech and mumbled references to his opponent as "Misha Linka." Here, Dreyfuss is clear and persuasive in each debate. He makes sure you know the overriding importance of popular sovereignty as a way of settling regional political disputes.David Strathairn is a superb actor, but here his tendency to swallow the last syllable or two of each line is distracting, and hence my reason for 4 rather than 5 stars. Otherwise, his Lincoln is the epitome of Midwestern common sense, and like Lincoln himself, his speech takes on more power as we enter the decisive sixth and seventh debates at Quincy and Alton.Their discussions about "Negro equality" often sound like fingernails on a chalkboard to a 21st century listener. But when Lincoln finally moves the plane of discussion to the question of slavery’s moral status, rather than just one more policy issue the people are entitled to decide through their representatives, you can see how Lincoln came to appeal to so many in the North beyond the hearing range of these debates in Illinois.

I applaud this effort. This is really fine, but I do think that Lincoln’s high squeeking voice, and Douglas’ developed slurring, would have added to the sensation of having actually been there. And the frequent crowd comments (actually recorded by the rival stenographers), could have been added by other actors, instead of a narrator. And a few minutes of scene-setting by a narrator, about the weather, the location, the preparations of the site, and any pertinent information about the audience, would have been appreciated.Again, though, I really do applaud this effort!

It was an eye opener to read in their own words what these two political giants thought about race, national expansion of slavery, and what was right or wrong about the United States. While I never had much of an informed opinion about Loncoln and even a lesser informed opinion of Douglas, reading these debates caused to recalibrate what I thought I knew about the man who would come to be called "The Great Emancipator". This history is relevant to our nation today.

If you’re interested in the real history of the United States, especially those surrounding one of the greatest Constitutional questions of all time, then this performance is for you!

Well presented in form , though Deyfus comes slow out of the gate.Read along with the online transcripts.The text was of its time, so there is a lot of 1850's local politics, but that WAS their audience.They go for accuracy.Still, a powerful window into the moment and the times

Haven't listened to them yet so I can't really judge the product. Product arrived as advertised.

Great review of the debates.

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