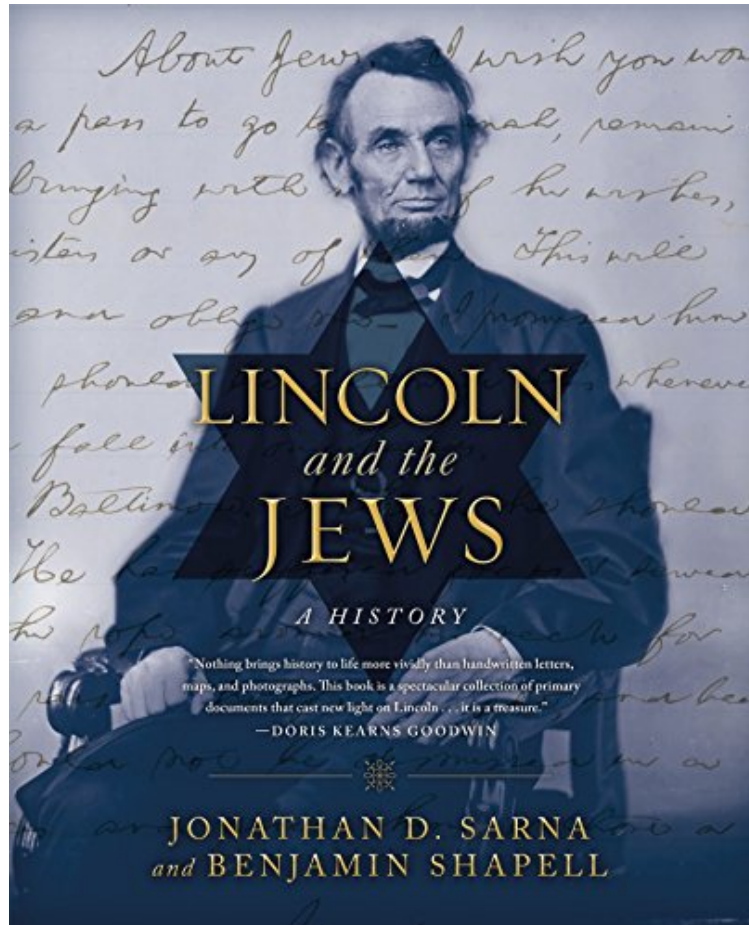


(Download pdf) Lincoln and the Jews: A History

Lincoln and the Jews: A History

Jonathan D. Sarna, Benjamin Shapell
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#321425 in Books Sarna Jonathan 2015-03-17 2015-03-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 11.24 x 1.16 x 9.351, 1.00 #File Name: 1250059534288 pages Lincoln and the Jews A History | File size: 60.Mb

Jonathan D. Sarna, Benjamin Shapell : Lincoln and the Jews: A History before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lincoln and the Jews: A History:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. WELL-DOCUMENTED, WELL-WRITTEN By Sharon Beverly This book is exceptionally well-researched and documented. It is a 'coffee-table'-sized book about the life of Abraham Lincoln, containing photos and documents you have likely never seen. Lincoln was an anomaly for his time. He developed an acceptance and appreciation for Jews early in his life and fought to change perceptions about them early in his career and in his presidency. He felt so strongly about including them that, he changed American thought of our being a 'Christian nation' to being 'one nation under God'. He studied the Old Testament and frequently quoted from it. It is believed that, the story of enslavement and the eventual Exodus is responsible for his desire to end slavery in our country and to embrace all people--whites, blacks, and Jews--as equal Americans. We think of Lincoln as the president who freed the slaves, but really, there is so much more to him and to his presidency. If you have an appreciation for (authenticated) history and good writing, you will want to read LINCOLN AND THE JEWS. 3 of 3 people found the

following review helpful. Lincoln---the Jews' Best FriendBy Bruce AltshulerIf ever the Jews had their best friend in the White House, it was surely Lincoln. While other public officials at the time expressed anti-Jewish sentiments, no such words were ever spoken by Lincoln. This book relates many little known facts about Lincoln's relationship with the Jewish community; his close friendships, his overruling of Grant's Jewish expulsion from the area of his Ohio River/Tennessee River command; a surprise revelation about the Jewish roots of John Wilkes Booth's own father----- actor Junius Booth; and the devastation felt by the Jewish community in America on Lincoln's death. Lincoln set the tone for real acceptance and participation of the Jewish community in America by its President. The surprise for me was discovering that one of Lincoln's photographers in Chicago, a famous Jewish photographer, Samuel Altshuler, who may have been distantly related to me, as my surname 'Altshuler' is nearly identical to Samuel's. Sarna's writing and narrative are first rate and illustrates Lincoln's concern and kindness to America's small but active Jewish community as documented thoroughly from original sources detailing almost every contact, letter and comment Lincoln ever made to and about his Jewish friends and allies during his public life. Once you read this book, I highly recommend as a follow up with Jonathan Sarna's "When General Grant Expelled the Jews.", a book which takes one from Grant's most blatant cruel Expulsion Order, to his persistent and sincere and largely successful attempts to make amends to the Jewish community after the Civil War to the extent that most of the Jewish community ultimately forgave him for his thoughtless and cruel edict. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. FascinatingBy EshkolThis is a fantastic book that at once highlights Lincoln's personal relationships with Jews and his political acumen. The authors also place in context the emergence of Jews as political actors in the United States, the Union and Confederacy. I read the newfound emergence and expectation of rights alongside the present day fears of Grant's expulsion, the shadows of historical fear, see e.g., the Newport leadership's initial letter to George Washington and his reply, and the tendency of some rabbinical leaders, traders and confederates to value stability and place in society over Jewish moral values. Overall, however, the mass Jewish support for freedom and Union shines through.

One hundred and fifty years after Abraham Lincoln's death, the full story of his extraordinary relationship with Jews is told here for the first time. *Lincoln and the Jews: A History* provides readers both with a captivating narrative of his interactions with Jews, and with the opportunity to immerse themselves in rare manuscripts and images, many from the Shapell Lincoln Collection, that show Lincoln in a way he has never been seen before. Lincoln's lifetime coincided with the emergence of Jews on the national scene in the United States. When he was born, in 1809, scarcely 3,000 Jews lived in the entire country. By the time of his assassination in 1865, large-scale immigration, principally from central Europe, had brought that number up to more than 150,000. Many Americans, including members of Lincoln's cabinet and many of his top generals during the Civil War, were alarmed by this development and treated Jews as second-class citizens and religious outsiders. Lincoln, this book shows, exhibited precisely the opposite tendency. He also expressed a uniquely deep knowledge of the Old Testament, employing its language and concepts in some of his most important writings. He befriended Jews from a young age, promoted Jewish equality, appointed numerous Jews to public office, had Jewish advisors and supporters starting already from the early 1850s, as well as later during his two presidential campaigns, and in response to Jewish sensitivities, even changed the way he thought and spoke about America. Through his actions and his rhetoric replacing "Christian nation," for example, with "this nation under God" he embraced Jews as insiders. In this groundbreaking work, the product of meticulous research, historian Jonathan D. Sarna and collector Benjamin Shapell reveal how Lincoln's remarkable relationship with American Jews impacted both his path to the presidency and his policy decisions as president. The volume uncovers a new and previously unknown feature of Abraham Lincoln's life, one that broadened him, and, as a result, broadened America.

Nothing brings history to life more vividly than handwritten letters, maps, and photographs. This book is a spectacular collection of primary documents that cast new light on Lincoln...it is a treasure. DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN With a dazzling mastery of the subject, and a compelling style that transforms a scholarly book into a page-turner, Jonathan Sarna and Benjamin Shapell have provided nothing less than the definitive study of a long-neglected aspect of Civil War history and Lincoln biography. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then this book is further elevated, and exponentially, by the prominence of hundreds of magnificent illustrations--many from the amazing Shapell archive, and quite a few of them new to this old hand at Lincoln relics and portraiture. The result is that happiest marriage of text and images: an instant classic. HAROLD HOLZER, ROGER HERTOG FELLOW, NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY This book is one of the most fascinating troves of American history and Jewish history I have ever seen. It is inexhaustibly interesting and deeply moving. *Lincoln and the Jews* portrays an essential chapter in the history of freedom. SENATOR JOSEPH LIEBERMAN Jonathan Sarna and Benjamin Shapell have produced a groundbreaking and enlightening book, an accessible source for scholars and general readers alike. This new study broadens our understanding of the American Jewish experience during the Civil War. Most illuminating, though, is the book's portrayal of Abraham Lincoln, the first president to truly interact with Jews and to welcome them into leading American circles. *Lincoln and the Jews* is an essential addition to any library on American Jewish and U.S. history. MICHAEL OREN, FORMER ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES Elegant, edifying and

entertaining. *Lincoln and the Jews* is a gift for Lincoln enthusiasts. DANIEL STASHOWER, AUTHOR OF *THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR* Even Lincoln experts are likely to learn something from this fascinating and comprehensive study of the president's relationship with American Jews, which is being published to coincide with a travelling exhibition of original documents. Sarna, a preeminent historian of American Jewry, and Shapell, the founder of the Shapell Manuscript Foundation, make good use of what Shapell calls "the other" letters of U.S. presidents"--ones that don't present significant historical facts, but that limn the quotidian aspects of Lincoln's life, such as his recommendation of his Jewish chiropodist, Issachar Zacharie. The authors convincingly make the case that Lincoln's positive attitude toward Jews was strongly influenced by Abraham Jonas--a fellow Illinois politician, the only man Lincoln ever directly called "one of my most valued friends," and one of the first to suggest that he seek the Republican nomination for President in 1860. Jonas also warned his friend of a plot to assassinate him before his first inauguration. Images of the source material add depth and lend perspective; a page from a narrative describing Lincoln's death is stained with blood, probably the president's.

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (STARRED)A noted historian asks new questions about Abraham Lincoln... Drawing on archival sources and historical accounts, the author paints a well-delineated portrait of Lincoln as a friend and advocate of Jews before and during his political career. Heavily illustrated with images and manuscripts from the Library of Congress, many other collections and especially from the Shapell Manuscript Foundation, the book offers an enhanced perspective on Lincoln's moral and ethical decisions, as well as his personal friendships... Sarna and manuscript collector Shapell offer a vivid, fresh perspective on Lincoln's life and times. **KIRKUS REVIEWS**Lincoln and the Jews is filled with rare photographs and letters that tell the story of a man who himself defied the limitations of his time, and whose strength of character altered the nation's destiny. Rabbi David Wolpe, *Time*This book ensures that Lincoln's relations with American Jews, long a rather obscure aspect of his life and presidency despite all that's been written about him, will be much better known. *Pittsburgh Tribune*Lincoln and the Jews is a beautiful volume, packed with fascinating official documents, letters and photos collected by Shapell over many years. *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

About the AuthorJONATHAN D. SARNA is a historian and leading commentator on American Jewish history, religion, and life. Dubbed by the *Forward* newspaper in 2004 as one of America's fifty most-influential American Jews, Sarna is the Joseph H. Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University, and the eighteenth president of the Association for Jewish Studies. The author of hundreds of scholarly articles, Sarna may be best known for his acclaimed *American Judaism: A History*, winner of the Jewish Book Council's Jewish Book of the Year Award.

BENJAMIN SHAPELL is the founder of the Shapell Manuscript Foundation, an independent educational organization whose collection includes original documents of world-renowned individuals. Shapell has written articles on Lincoln, other American presidents, and Mark Twain. The author also initiated and oversaw the creation of exhibitions and films relating to the central themes of the collection. The foundation has partnered in exhibitions with major institutions, including the Library of Congress, the Morgan Library Museum, the New-York Historical Society, the National Library of Israel, and the Smithsonian Institution.