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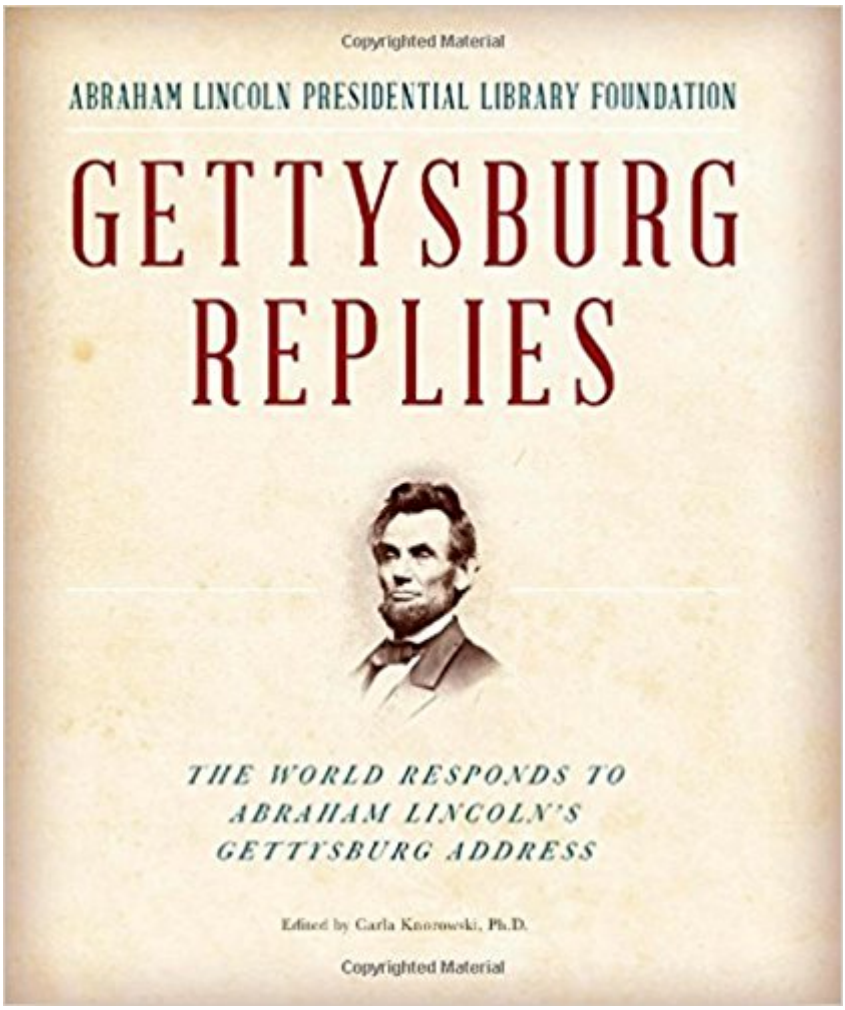
Gettysburg Replies: The World Responds To Abraham LincolnÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s Gettysburg Address



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Synopsis

Almost five months after the Civil WarÃ¢â ¬â„¢s deadliest clash, President Abraham Lincoln and other Union leaders gathered to dedicate the SoldiersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The program for the occasion featured music, prayer, orations, and benedictions. In the middle of it all, the president gave a few commemorative remarks, speaking for just two minutes, delivering what we now know as the Gettysburg Address. Challenged to mark the enormity of the battleÃ¢â ¬â •which had turned the tide of the war, though neither side realized it yetÃ¢â ¬â •Lincoln used 272 words in ten sentences to rededicate the Union to the preservation of freedom. It remains the most important statement of our nationÃ¢â ¬â„¢s commitment to personal liberty since the Revolutionary War and has become one of the most important speeches in American history, a cornerstone of who we are as a country. A century and a half later, we still hold LincolnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s message in our hearts. For Gettysburg Replies, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum challenged presidents, judges, historians, filmmakers, poets, actors, and others to craft 272 words of their own to celebrate Lincoln, the Gettysburg Address, or a related topic that stirs their passions. President Jimmy Carter reveals how the Gettysburg Address helped bring Egypt and Israel closer at the Camp David Peace Accords. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Connor reflects on LincolnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s dedication to the importance of civic education. General Colin Powell explains how Martin Luther King Jr. took up LincolnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s mantle and carried it forward. Filmmaker Steven Spielberg touches on the benefits and perils of hero worship. Poet Laureate Billy Collins explores the dichotomy between the private man who wrote poetry (Ã¢â ¬Å“My Childhood Home I See AgainÃ¢â ¬Â•) and the president who stood before all. Attorney Alan Dershowitz echoes LincolnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s words to rally us to the freedom from weapons of mass destruction. Gettysburg Replies features images of important Lincoln documents and artifacts, including the first copy of the address that Lincoln wrote out after delivering it, the program from the cemetery dedication, LincolnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s presidential seal, and more. Together, these words and images create a lasting tribute not only to Lincoln himself but also the power of his devotion to freedom.

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“The Gettysburg Address is the most famous and almost certainly the greatest speech ever made by an American president. These reflections can only go to deepen our appreciation for the elegance of the words and unique leadership they reflect.Ã¢â ¬Â• --Scott TurowÃ¢â ¬Å“In 272 words, LincolnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Gettysburg Address extolled the soldiers who had given the last full measure of devotion that the nation might live and experience a new birth of freedom. In the same number of words, the authors of these eloquent essays likewise reflect on the meaning of America and on the dedication and sacrifice of those who have made us what we are today.Ã¢â ¬Â• --James M. McPherson, Civil War historian, multi-volume author, and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, has presented the Lincoln legacy to more than 3 million visitors since April 2005. It has collected and preserves more Lincoln artifacts in its collections than any other institution. Carla Knorowski is the CEO of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation and writes a regular column for the foundationÃ¢â ¬â„¢s magazine, Ã¢â ¬Å“Four Score and Seven.Ã¢â ¬Â• A former managing director of the Chicago Humanities Festival, she earned her PhD in public policy and political science from the University of Illinois at Chicago and has been recognized as a Point of Light by President George H. W. Bush and the Points of Light Foundation.

I just started reading this today and it is much different than what I expected. The ALPLF and Dr. Knorowski did a great job getting some very prominent people that we are familiar with and some that we may not know to write an essay that is only 272 words long, the length of the Gettysburg Address, and from the ones I have read so far (just better than 1/2), these were written from their

experiences, past research, and heart. I am also very pleased that there is a short bio on each of the contributors. Though not all essays directly reference or even have anything to do with the Address itself, they are well worth reading. When you take into account not only the Address but the time that Mr. Lincoln lived, these essays are perfectly relevant to the subject in my opinion. The one essay that I hope everyone really reads is by Mr. Alan Dershowitz. The man is a genius and I think this could be "The Gettysburg Address for Today". Having Mr. Lincoln's Address replied to in this way has shown me just how far we have gone and how far we still need to go. His words are still very relevant and many still look to him for answers in this century. I absolutely recommend this for anyone interested in history, current events, and, of course, Abraham Lincoln. Congratulations on a job well done!

Gettysburg Replies constitutes the realization of a truly unique approach to commemorate, place in historical perspective, and challenge us to address present day issues in light of Lincoln's immortal Address. Carla Knorowski and staff at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation (ALPLF) have put together a collection of 100 essays that pay tribute to the man, his words, his actions, and the address.But this collection is more than that. Each essay (save one) is 272 words in length. That equates to the precise length of the Address itself (the version that Lincoln penned for Edward Everett). Dr. Knorowski reached out to people throughout the world to compose and submit an essay. She shares that many declined but clearly, many took on the challenge. Then she selected the very best for inclusion in this historic work. Included are the compositions of five US Presidents, three governors, other government officials (Senate, House, Supreme Court, Executive Department), academics, scientists, authors, actors, prominent members of the international community, crew members of the USS Abraham Lincoln, and many others. Selecting the "best" 100 had to be a challenge, but I found all the essays to be beautifully written, full of meaning, and error-free.At first, I feared that the constraint of 272 words for the length of the essays would lead to an artificial tone to the compositions. I thought it would be similar to how some organizations or projects are named so that they serve to enable a catchy acronym. However, I did not find this to be the case. I recommend this book to you without reservation. My thanks to the ALPLF and to all the contributors.

This is a must-read and not only for history nuts! A collection of essays all 272 words, the exact number Abraham Lincoln used to craft the Gettysburg Address. Essays by Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter, both Bushes and more. My favorites include essays by the editor, Carla Knorowski, actress,

Amy Carlson and Sam Harris, but there are so many more!This book makes an excellent gift for Father's Day or for anyone who simply enjoys an eloquent essay.

Fantastic book! This is something everyone should read! We can all learn from each other here. There are so many fantastic stories and messages that are shared here from great thinkers throughout the world. I bought it to read what Sam Harris had to say! He is a remarkable man.

This makes a wonderful gift...I purchased two dozen for Christmas gifts for colleagues, friends and family. Very intriguing way to honor those 272 words that ring true today...especially in the divisive environment of this historic election.

Very inspirational and thought provoking reading. A great addition to everyone's personal library.

One of the best books I've read in a long time.

Just started reading. Very , very interesting!

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