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President Lincoln by William Lee Miller

[President Lincoln](#) The Duty of a Statesman **Written by William Lee Miller** Trade Paperback, 512 pages | Vintage | Biography & Autobiography - Presidents; Philosophy - Ethics & Moral Philosophy | **\$16.95** | 978-1-4000-3416-1 (1-4000-3416-7)

In his acclaimed book Lincoln's Virtues, William Lee Miller explored Abraham Lincoln's intellectual and moral development. Now he completes his "ethical biography," showing how the amiable and inexperienced backcountry politician was transformed by constitutional alchemy into an oath-bound head of state. Faced with a radical moral contradiction left by the nation's Founders, Lincoln struggled to find a balance between the universal ideals of Equality and Liberty and the monstrous injustice of human slavery.

With wit and penetrating sensitivity, Miller brings together the great themes that have become Lincoln's legacy-preserving the United States of America while ending the odious institution that corrupted the nation's meaning-and illuminates his remarkable presidential combination: indomitable resolve and supreme magnanimity.

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President Lincoln by William Lee Miller

[President Lincoln](#) The Duty of a Statesman **Written by William Lee Miller** Hardcover, 512 pages | Knopf | Biography & Autobiography - Presidents; Philosophy - Ethics & Moral Philosophy | **\$30.00** | 978-1-4000-4103-9 (1-4000-4103-1)

The American president has come to be the most powerful figure in the world-and back in the nineteenth century a great man held that office. William Lee Miller's new book closely examines that great man in that hugely important office: Abraham Lincoln as president.

Wars waged by American presidents have come to be pivotal historical events. Here Miller analyzes the commander in chief who coped with the profound moral dilemmas of America's bloodiest war.

In his acclaimed book Lincoln's Virtues ("A fascinating account, sensitively written, rich in insight" -Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.), Miller explored Abraham Lincoln's intellectual and moral development. Now he completes his "ethical biography," showing the amiable and inexperienced backcountry politician transformed by constitutional alchemy into an oath-bound head of state, slapped in the face from the first minute of his presidency by decisions of the utmost gravity and confronted by the radical moral contradiction left by the nation's Founders: universal ideals of Equality and Liberty and the monstrous injustice of human slavery.

With wit and penetrating sensitivity, Miller shows us a Lincoln with unusual intellectual power, as he brings together the great themes that will be his legend-preserving the United States of America while ending the odious institution that corrupted the nation's meaning. Miller finds in this superb politician a remarkable presidential combination: an indomitable resolve, combined with the judgment that keeps it from being mindless stubbornness; and a supreme magnanimity, combined with the discriminating judgment that keeps it from being sentimentality. Here is the realistic war leader persisting after multiple defeats, pressing his generals to take the battle to the enemy, insisting that the objective was the destruction of Lee's army and not the capture of territory, saying that breath alone kills no rebels, remarking that he regretted war does not admit of holy days, asking whether one could believe that he would strike lighter blows rather than heavier ones, or leave any card unplayed. And here is the pardoner, finding every excuse to keep from shooting the simple soldier boy who deserts. Here too is the eloquent leader who describes the national task in matchless prose, and who rises above vindictiveness and triumphalism as he guides the nation to a new birth of freedom.

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President Lincoln by William Lee Miller

[President Lincoln](#) **Written by William Lee Miller** Book, 496 pages | Vintage | Biography & Autobiography - Presidents; Philosophy - Ethics & Moral Philosophy | **\$16.95** | 978-0-307-26871-6 (0-307-26871-3)

In his acclaimed book Lincoln's Virtues, William Lee Miller explored Abraham Lincoln's intellectual and moral development. Now he completes his "ethical biography," showing how the amiable and inexperienced backcountry politician was transformed by constitutional alchemy into an oath-bound head of state. Faced with a radical moral contradiction left by the nation's Founders, Lincoln struggled to find a balance between the universal ideals of Equality and Liberty and the monstrous injustice of human slavery.

With wit and penetrating sensitivity, Miller brings together the great themes that have become Lincoln's legacy-preserving the United States of America while ending the odious institution that corrupted the nation's meaning-and illuminates his remarkable presidential combination: indomitable resolve and supreme magnanimity.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780307268716>

Lincoln's Virtues by William Lee Miller

[Lincoln's Virtues](#) An Ethical Biography **Written by William Lee Miller** Trade Paperback, 544 pages | Vintage | Biography & Autobiography - Presidents; History - United States - Civil War Period (1850-1877) | **\$15.95** | 978-0-375-70173-3 (0-375-70173-7)

William Lee Miller's ethical biography is a fresh, engaging telling of the story of Lincoln's rise to power. Through careful scrutiny of Lincoln's actions, speeches, and writings, and of accounts from those who knew him, Miller gives us insight into the moral development of a great politician - one who made the choice to go into politics, and ultimately realized that vocation's fullest moral possibilities.

As **Lincoln's Virtues** makes refreshingly clear, Lincoln was not born with his face on Mount Rushmore; he was an actual human being making choices - moral choices - in a real world. In an account animated by wit and humor, Miller follows this unschooled frontier politician's rise, showing that the higher he went and the greater his power, the worthier his conduct would become. He would become that rare bird, a great man who was also a good man. Uniquely revealing of its subject's heart and mind, it represents a major contribution to our understanding and of Lincoln, and to the perennial American discussion of the relationship between politics and morality.

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Arguing about Slavery by William Lee Miller

[Arguing about Slavery](#) John Quincy Adams and the Great Battle in the United States Congress **Written by William Lee Miller** Trade Paperback, 592 pages | Vintage | History - United States | **\$19.00** | 978-0-679-76844-9 (0-679-76844-0)

In the 1830s slavery was so deeply entrenched that it could not even be discussed in Congress, which had enacted a "gag rule" to ensure that anti-slavery petitions would be summarily rejected. This stirring book chronicles the parliamentary battle to bring "the peculiar institution" into the national debate, a battle that some historians have called "the Pearl Harbor of the slavery controversy." The campaign to make slavery officially and respectably debatable was waged by John Quincy Adams who spent nine years defying gags, accusations of treason, and assassination threats. In the end he made his case through a combination of cunning and sheer endurance. Telling this story with a brilliant command of detail, **Arguing About Slavery** endows history with majestic sweep, heroism, and moral weight.

"Dramatic, immediate, intensely readable, fascinating and often moving."--New York Times Book Review

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