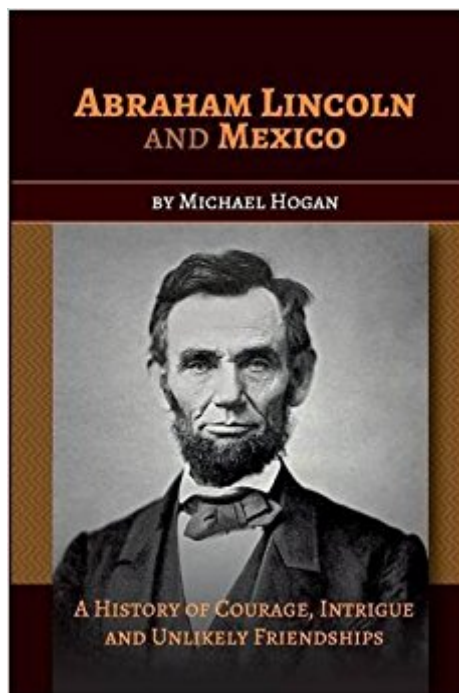




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Abraham Lincoln And Mexico: A History Of Courage, Intrigue And Unlikely Friendships



Synopsis

This book by a noted Ph.D. historian is one of the best books available about historical relations between the United States and Mexico. It shines new light on reasons for the US invasion of Mexico in 1846, opposition by Abraham Lincoln and other politicians to the unjustified and unconstitutional decision by President Polk to go to war, the importance of the ensuing war against Mexico, the resulting territorial seizures by the United States, the impact both nationally and internationally to both countries, the troubling legacy even today, and the result of silences that have been pervasive over the years regarding this conflict. It examines all aspects of this history based on actual documents in government, university, and private institutions in both the US and Mexico, including citations to these documents and the complete text for many of them in the Appendix. The book covers more than two decades of US history, from 1846 to the immediate aftermath of the Civil War. As such, this outstanding book is a welcome addition to continuing discussion about the roles of the United States and Mexico during two of the most controversial and complex periods in American history, and how decisions made then continue to permeate the daily lives of citizens and residents of both countries.

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Customer Reviews

Michael Hogan's important new study of US expansionist policy in the mid-nineteenth century provides an illuminating and unvarnished account of United States imperialist ambitions vis-à-vis Mexico. His book is a powerful indictment of and a necessary corrective to the frequently heard simplistic and self-serving nationalist claims of American exceptionalism. It is also a spirited defense

against and rebuttal of simplistic thinking about Abraham Lincoln's ideas about slavery, Mexico, and American hegemony. Hogan sets the record straight on these and other controversial historical matters, and in his generous and open-minded approach to historiography, offers a positive way forward in considering Mexican-American relations. -- Robert DiYanni, Professor, Center for the Advancement of Teaching. New York University.

In this shining contribution to the literature on Abraham Lincoln and that of the US-Mexican War, Michael Hogan illuminates the stance of a young politician against that terrible war, telling a story that is both urgently necessary and well more than a century overdue. -- C.M. Mayo, author of *The Last Prince of the Mexican Empire*

Michael Hogan, in *Abraham Lincoln and Mexico*, brings together a passion for Mexico and an understanding of the United States during the nineteenth century so that he narrates their history with a sense of the intertwining of international relevance with an engrossing story. Here Abraham Lincoln becomes a human being of keen ideas and political know-how rather than the marble statue of his monument; here Benito Juarez also becomes an individual beyond the dour lawyer portrayed in textbooks, movies, and television. There is a scope about this book that finds a kind of grandeur in the events as they are eloquently described. -- William H. Beezley, Professor of History, University of Arizona. Author of *The Essential Mexico* (Oxford University Press).

The story of Lincoln's evolving defense of Mexico's autonomy and rights as a sovereign nation is an excellent forum for understanding related topics including the limitations of presidential power, the interpretation of the power to wage war, and the limits of the use of a pre-emptive attack on another country. This thoughtful, well-balanced presentation of primary document resources illuminates Lincoln's rising stature as a voice of protest against the crimes of war and the unjustifiable invasion of another republic. Like his earlier work, *The Irish Soldiers of Mexico*, Michael Hogan's Lincoln narrative will soon become a primary resource for scholars and teachers interested in the politics of civil war, territorial expansion, and human slavery. -- Victoria M. Breting-Garcia, Independent scholar/historian.

While *Abraham Lincoln and Mexico* undoubtedly privileges the U.S. context, it nevertheless adds to the vital pedagogical mission of challenging triumphalist narratives of U.S. identity with more critical renderings of the past. Building on one of his previous books, *The Irish Soldiers of Mexico* (1997), and based on decades of experience teaching U.S. history in Guadalajara, Hogan reiterates what Mexicans have been voicing since 1848: the war with the United States was clearly a war of northern aggression. -- Carlos R. Hernández, Department of History, Yale University.

These neglected connections between Lincoln and Mexico provide valuable insights into U.S.-Mexico relations and international history. This is an important book which is far-reaching in its contemporary implications. It should be a resource in every high school and college classroom. --

Victor Gonzalez PÃ©rez, Facultad de Estudios Sociales, Colegio Americano,

Guadalajara.Â Abraham Lincoln and Mexico is a great read. As an AP teacher, I believe that books like these are worth their weight in gold. Michael Hogan has not only broken ground on undiscovered sources covering Lincoln's relationship with Mexico, but has also generously annexed the sources in their entirety. It is a godsend for history teachers who are constantly looking for new material and ways to challenge theirÂ students' analytical skills. -- Liam O'Hara, Chair, Department of History and Social Studies, American School Foundation of Guadalajara, A.C.Â Dr. Hogan has done it again, finding a grand tale lost in the shadows of history. His meticulous research brings to light a period of Lincoln's life often ignored by other biographers. Although Lincoln's opposition to the Mexican War is well-documented, some have dismissed it as political posturing or partisan bluster. The historical record, however, shows us that Lincoln's opposition came from his personal belief that the war represented a terrible injustice unworthy of his beloved United States of America. -- Christopher Minster, Ph.D., Founder and Editor of About.com's Latin American History site.Â The research that went into Abraham Lincoln and Mexico is excellent. Dr. Hogan has backed up his thesis with solid facts. I also like the way in which he dealt with so many "minor" characters and factors in describing the complex relations between the US, Mexico, and foreign powers, instead of concentrating only on the principal actors and events. It gives a more complete and realistic picture of the whole era, although the wealth of detail might prove a little overwhelming for some general readers. IÂ is a very important book which deserves a wide circulation. I am in complete agreement with Michael Hogan's research methods to back up everything as far as possible with the earliest most authentic source materials and, if possible, "set the record straight."Â Michael Hogan has done this to perfection. -- Ronald Barnett, Ph.D. former Professor of Classics, Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara.Â Abraham Lincoln and Mexico brings to light that which for too long has hidden in the shadows: the interest, integrity, and involvement of our sixteenth President in the struggles and victories of our southern neighbor, be they internal or external with the United States and France. Through the extensive use of primary documents Hogan reveals the insight and intelligence with which Lincoln and his closest associates approached Mexico. He brings to light little known roles played by actors such as Matias Romero, Charge d'Affaires of JuÃ¡rez to Washington DC; Philip Sheridan, Lew Wallace, and Ulysses Grant of Civil War fame; or the unknown buffalo soldier who fought with and for the republican army of Mexico against the imperial armies of France, Austria and Belgium as they sought to impose their emperor on Mexico. It is a story full of complicated motivations and characters. It is a tale well told. -- Philip Stover, former Deputy Superintendent, San Diego Unified School District, and author of Religion and Revolution in Mexico's North.

Michael Hogan is the author of more than twenty books, including two collections of short stories, eight books of poetry, selected essays on teaching in Latin America, two novels, and the best-selling *Irish Soldiers of Mexico*, a history of the Irish battalion in Mexico which formed the basis for an MGM movie starring Tom Berenger. Dr. Hogan's work has appeared in many journals such as the *Paris Review*, the *Harvard Review*, *Z-Magazine*, *Political Affairs* and the *Monthly Review*. He is the former director of Latin American initiatives for the College Board, and a special consultant to the U.S. Department of State's Office of Overseas Schools. Hogan has worked as an Humanities Department Head for fourteen years in American schools abroad and as a professor of international relations at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara. He has given workshops and presentations at conferences in the United States, Canada, Malaysia, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina. He currently lives in Guadalajara, Mexico with the textile artist Lucinda Mayo, and their dog, Molly Malone.

I was suckled on the teat of misinformation about manifest destiny. I remember the nun telling us that it was "God's will" that the US took Mexico's territory. She could have been a relative of Polk's based on the fervor of her misinformation. When a person in religious garb stands in front of the US flag and says something, "take it to the bank". In spite of a "privileged" education, I didn't begin to get the truth about the US invasion of Mexico until I found that Henry David Thoreau went to jail as a war protester and I went off on a hunt for the truth. Dr. Michael Hogan is a renowned historian who has thoroughly documented this book. His intellectual honesty rivals President Lincoln's. His prose is a savior from the dry facts of the matter and it is an easy and compelling read. I have lived most of my adult life in Mexico and have discussed most of these issues with Mexicans. That began 60 years ago and many of those people still had the invasion stuck in their craw. Rightfully so, I might add. I was amazed at the remote details that Dr. Hogan wove into the story, and flabbergasted that neither victor nor vanquished gave proper credit to the "Buffalo Soldiers" for their heroic service to Mexico in 1846-48. Black lives certainly made a difference in the expulsion of the French and their mercenaries. Abraham Lincoln is a hero in Mexico for sure. My Mexican wife thinks he is a hero because he freed the slaves in the US. Little does she know of the debt Mexico has to Lincoln in the defeat of the French. Thank you, Dr. Hogan, for your masterful work. I found it to be a really wonderful read, it kept me up after my bedtime.

An excellent book illuminating the link between Lincoln and Mexico. Again, another part of US history that has generally left in the darker corners of education curriculum. The race to annex Mexico by a dishonest President Polk, the push to annex Texas as possibly three slave states leading up to the Civil War, and invasion of Mexico by Napoleon are some of the historical events that Hogan has ably chronicled. Great book.

Where to begin - I've read many references on the Mex-Am War (1846-1848), but this goes beyond it. Hogan speaks to us from a neutral point of view (As well as any man can). His treatment of A. Lincoln's views at the time of the war are mind bending at least. This was not a war of defense, but a war of expansion, a war of oppression, a war of manifest destiny. How one of our greatest Presidents before he was a President viewed it at the time & after is the heart of the book. But there are things said here that transcend history and point to our current political situations. Please read this - you'll find it is relevant to the world today, and it's a fun read.

This is a fascinating and fresh look at the early relationship between the USA and Mexico. It completely upended what I had been taught about the US invasion of Mexico, and, its well-documented and new source material illustrates just how brave and principled a leader was the Republican statesman and President, Abraham Lincoln. You will gain a new and nuanced understanding of the times, and a real appreciation for our neighbor to the south, her vulnerability and struggle for independence and efforts to maintain and define her freedom. If you are a seeker of truth, insight, and historical accuracy "or just a fan of Abraham Lincoln -- this is a must read. I wish it had been available to me in High School, when I formed so many false impressions of Mexico that later served to devalue and underestimate the loyal and complex giant that is our neighboring entr e to the rest of Latin America. I also marvel at the precocious brilliance of the Mexican statesman Romero, whose diaries Hogan used to illuminate his work. Lincoln as a master of international relations in a tumultuous period is not the Lincoln I learned about in High School. This is a relevant book that is needed in our time "and I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of Dr. Hogan for its deliverance!

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