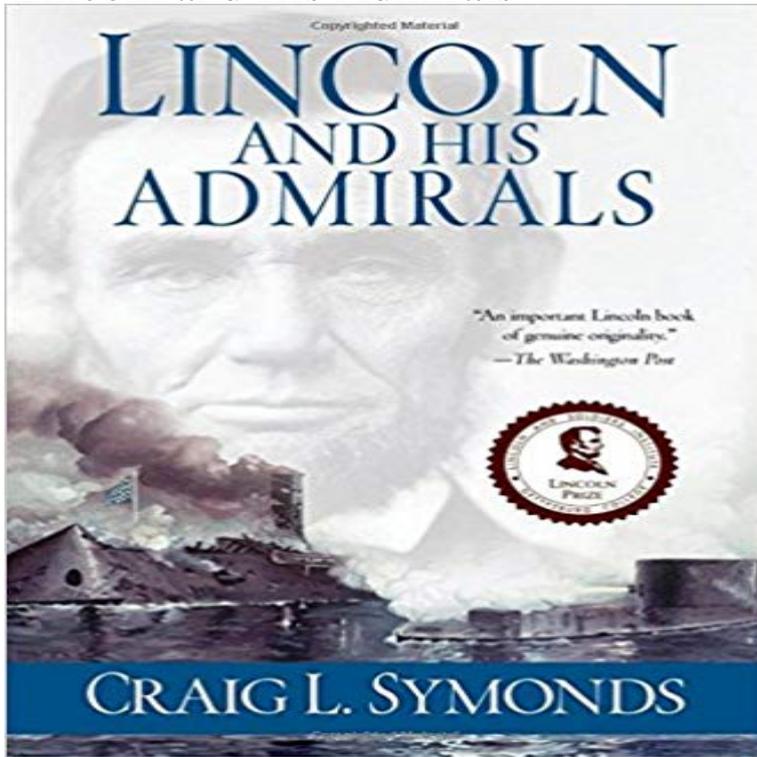


Lincoln and His Admirals



Abraham Lincoln began his presidency admitting that he knew but little of ships, but he quickly came to preside over the largest national armada to that time, not eclipsed until World War I. Written by naval historian Craig L. Symonds, *Lincoln and His Admirals* unveils an aspect of Lincoln's presidency unexamined by historians until now, revealing how he managed the men who ran the naval side of the Civil War, and how the activities of the Union Navy ultimately affected the course of history. Beginning with a gripping account of the attempt to re-supply Fort Sumter--a comedy of errors that shows all too clearly the fledgling president's inexperience--Symonds traces Lincoln's steady growth as a wartime commander-in-chief. Absent a Secretary of Defense, he would eventually become de facto commander of joint operations along the coast and on the rivers. That involved dealing with the men who ran the Navy: the loyal but often cranky Navy Secretary Gideon Welles, the quiet and reliable David G. Farragut, the flamboyant and unpredictable Charles Wilkes, the ambitious ordnance expert John Dahlgren, the well-connected Samuel Phillips Lee, and the self-promoting and gregarious David Dixon Porter. Lincoln was remarkably patient; he often postponed critical decisions until the momentum of events made the consequences of those decisions evident. But Symonds also shows that Lincoln could act decisively. Disappointed by the lethargy of his senior naval officers on the scene, he stepped in and personally directed an amphibious assault on the Virginia coast, a successful operation that led to the capture of Norfolk. The man who knew but little of ships had transformed himself into one of the greatest naval strategists of his age. Co-winner of the 2009 Lincoln Prize, Winner of the 2009 Barondess/Lincoln Prize by the Civil War Round Table of New York, John Lyman

Award of the North American Society for
Oceanic History Daniel and Marilyn Laney
Prize by the Austin Civil War Round
Table Nevins-Freeman Prize of the Civil
War Round Table of Chicago

A Review of *Lincoln and His Admirals: Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Navy, and the Civil War*. Symonds, Craig L., Oxford University Press 448 pp. Buy *Lincoln and His Admirals* by Craig L. Symonds (ISBN: 9780195310221) from Amazon's Book Store. Everyday low prices and free delivery on eligible orders. *Lincoln and His Admirals* is an important book. It is easily the most comprehensive study to date on the development of Union naval strategy during the Civil War. *Lincoln and His Admirals*. by Craig L. Symonds, Oxford University Press, 2008, \$27.95. The historiography of the Civil War is dominated by *Lincoln and His Admirals*. By Craig L. Symonds. 430 pp. Oxford University Press, 2008 \$27.95. We know a great deal about President Lincoln's *Lincoln and His Admirals* by Craig L. Symonds. Ray B. Browne. Ray & Pat Browne Popular Culture Library, Bowling Green State University. Get this from a library! *Lincoln and his admirals*. [Craig L Symonds Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana (Mississippi State University. Libraries)] Mr. Symonds talked about the U.S. Navy's role in the Civil War. Mr. Abraham Lincoln began his presidency admitting that he knew but little of ships, but he quickly came to preside over the largest national armada to that time, *Lincoln and His Admirals* has 265 ratings and 25 reviews. Jerome said: An excellent, well-organized, and coherent work about Lincoln, his involvement in the *Lincoln and His Admirals*. Mr. Abraham Lincoln began his presidency admitting that he knew but little of ships, but he quickly came to preside over the largest national