

Lincoln's Contested Legacy

Name:

As you read the excerpt, please respond to the following questions.

1. Abraham Lincoln is often seen in a very positive light. Parke Godwin states that “through all his public function, there shone the fact that he was a wise and good man... [He was] our supremest leader—our safest counselor—our wisest friend—our dear father.” There were, however, some detractors. What would they argue as being some faults in Lincoln's leadership?

2. Why does the Southern diarist Kate Stone believe that Lincoln had his assassination coming to him?

*3. Discuss how Frederick Douglass's opinion of President Lincoln change over time. (please continue to answer this question every time you come across Douglass in the excerpt)

4. “In August 1908, riots broke out in Lincoln's hometown of Springfield, Illinois, after a white woman, Mabel Hallam, claimed she had been raped by a local black man, George Richardson.” How did the citizen's of Springfield react to the news? What advocacy group sprung out of this terrible crime?

5. On page 36, there is a quote from the future Democratic president Franklin D. Roosevelt. How does President Roosevelt feel about Lincoln?

6. Who was the first African-American to speak negatively about Lincoln? What did this person say?

7. What was the quote used by President Bush shortly after the September 11 terrorist attacks that was reminiscent of Lincoln's words prior to the Civil War?

8. How has President Obama used Lincoln in his public life? (what does Obama believe Lincoln's legacy is?)

9. How did the 1864 election help to give Lincoln a mandate for the 13th amendment to the Constitution? If you were in Lincoln's shoes, would you have pushed as hard as he did to carry on with the elections that year?