

Tomek notes, the story of the hall is the story of that movement “in microcosm,” shedding light on the competing agendas of gradualist and immediatist abolitionists (xiii). Moreover, the story of the hall reveals much about the racism that permeated the North as states abolished slavery and blacks gained their freedom.

The book opens with an overview of the history of the antislavery movement, tracing the efforts of Quakers, the founding of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, the beginnings of the free produce movement, the arguments for colonization, and the rise of immediatism. With this basic background in place, Tomek then turns her attention to the story of the hall. Highlighting the diversity and the complexity of the board of managers that oversaw fundraising and construction, she emphasizes the complexity of the antislavery movement. Although the money for the construction of the hall was raised primarily by women, the project was supervised by the men of the Pennsylvania Hall Association. As Tomek narrates the construction of the hall, she contextualizes the story within the broader history of the antislavery movement, recounting, for example, the murder of abolitionist editor Elijah P. Lovejoy and the “amalgamation wedding” of Theodore Dwight Weld and Angelina Grimké. In the months and years after the destruction of the Hall, the building became a martyr for the antislavery cause, much as Lovejoy had after his death. The “lynching” of the hall was an important shift in the antislavery movement and in American society.

Pennsylvania Hall is part of the Critical Historical Encounters Series published by Oxford University Press. Books in this series focus on major critical moments in American history. In this short but thorough biography of Pennsylvania Hall, Tomek gives us a well-researched and well-written narrative of the hall and the antislavery movement. Significantly, she persuasively argues that the hall’s destruction marked not only a key moment in the antislavery movement but also revealed the tensions of the past and hinted at the challenges to come as Americans wrestled with the challenge of establishing a more equal society. The “lynching” of Pennsylvania Hall ultimately backfired, as abolitionists used its destruction to argue that fundamental American values, such as free speech, were at stake.

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Emancipation, the Union Army, and the Reelection of Abraham Lincoln. By JONATHAN W. WHITE. (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 2014. 275 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95.)

Over three million men fought in the American Civil War, two million of whom donned the Union blue. In recent decades, historians have provided a proliferation of scholarship on soldiers from the North and South, considering their motivations for enlistment, wartime experiences, and the aftermath of their ser-

vice. Yet, for Union soldiers, Jonathan W. White proposes that there has been inadequate coverage of their politics, especially in relationship to the presidential election of 1864. Traditionally, according to White, historians have surmised that the high percentage of votes cast for Lincoln by Union soldiers indicated a strong preference for both “Honest Abe” and the Republican Party (1–4). The usual evidence for this comes from the overwhelming support Lincoln received in 1864 from the soldier vote. White argues, however, that these numbers, if not outright lies, only tell part of the story. Forty percent of Union soldiers did not cast a ballot for Lincoln in 1864. Rather, through examining a combination of actions—direct support for Democratic candidate George McClellan, resignation from the army, or purposeful abstentions from voting—White argues that the politics of a significant and neglected portion of Union soldiers requires scholarly attention.

Those understudied soldiers form the crux of White’s monograph. Over the course of five chapters, White lays the groundwork for a discussion that highlights how Republicans in and outside of the army intentionally manipulated soldiers into supporting Lincoln or punished discontents through forced resignations or intimidation. The main source of the tension between Republicans and Democrats in (and out of) the Union Army was, unsurprisingly, the issue of emancipation. Unlike Chandra Manning’s recent work, *What This Cruel War Was Over*, White takes umbrage with the idea that Union soldiers largely came to support the necessity of emancipation (77–79). While many Union soldiers did support the destruction of slavery, many Democrats—as well as some Republicans—disliked the prospects of fighting for the end of the peculiar institution. Union officials responded swiftly and severely to such disdain, removing officers who opposed emancipation and limiting the franchise of deserters and political opponents both during and after the war.

White has provided a solid monograph, which he deeply researched to enrich the discussion of emancipation and Civil War soldiers. Along with William Blair’s *With Malice Toward Some*, White demonstrates how allegiance functioned as a political weapon during and after the war. In doing so, White clearly demonstrates that Republicans manipulated policy and events in the army, either through forced dismissals from service, limitations placed on voting, intimidation, or policies that disgusted and chased Democrats away from the Union Army.

The result of White’s short work is a call for continued reevaluation of not just the election of 1864 but much of what historians “know” about Civil War soldiers. By highlighting the coercion used by Republicans as well as the large number of deserters who abandoned the Union Army, White has questioned cherished assumptions about the politics and commitment of Union soldiers. Historians of the Civil War era must consequently reconsider our understanding of the Union soldier and his role in the politics of the period.

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