

A House Dividing: The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858 (Dialogues in History)

Stephen Berry



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A House Dividing: The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858 (Dialogues in History) Stephen Berry *A House Dividing: The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858* updates the Lincoln-Douglas debates for the sound-bite era. Instead of 100,000 words, this volume in the **Dialogues in History** series gives students 20,000 words from the debates. Rather than long, uncontested ramblings, it offers rapid-fire accusations and responses. Despite their reputations as intellectual heavyweights, Lincoln and Douglas were not above mudslinging; their arguments prove surprisingly studded with ad hominem attacks, political grandstanding, and gross appeals to the candidates' respective bases.

Historians generally agree on Civil War causality: a disagreement over the right of slaveholding in the territories caused secession; a disagreement over the right of secession caused the Civil War. *A House Dividing* places these political disagreements at the center of the narrative. Watching the cut-and-thrust of past political theater draws students into discussions of the continued importance of the political process as the place where the national agenda is set and executed.

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