
Two Articles about Emancipation Proclamation by Louis P. Masur and Barry Schwartz

Introduction

The Emancipation Proclamation is a vital part of our nation's history, and it was a turning point during the Civil War Era of the United States. Lincoln issued the proclamation in order to free the slaves in rebel states, and this action also strengthened the Union. After the proclamation was issued, any countries that supported the Confederacy were seen to support slavery. Therefore, the countries that were strictly anti-slavery cut ties with the rebel states, and the power of the Union increased as a result. The main point of the Emancipation Proclamation was that those who were enslaved in rebel states were to be freed. This action affected the Union as well as the Confederacy, although they were both affected in different ways. T

he Union received support from anti-slavery countries, and the Confederacy lost the support they originally had from these anti-slavery countries because of these countries' refusal to associate with slavery. Basically, the Emancipation Proclamation turned the Civil War from a war indirectly driven by the slavery topic into a war based solely on the legality of slavery in certain areas of the United States. The articles being reviewed today are written by authors Louis P. Masur and Barry Schwartz.

Liberty is a Slow Fruit: Lincoln the Deliberate Emancipator

Louis P. Masur is William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of American Institutions and Values at Trinity College in Hartford. In his article Liberty is a Slow Fruit: Lincoln the Deliberate Emancipator, Masur analyzes the details that caused the Emancipation Proclamation to make the change in history that it did. He describes the series of events as well of the opinions of many people on the document itself. The article is well organized, as it is clearly organized in a way that does not jump around and is easy to understand. The author answers the questions that he sets out to answer, and he thoroughly analyzes the aspects of the topic. The article is well-written and easy to understand, as the words used are easily understood and it is easy to comprehend the message about which the author is writing. The article is also not too lengthy, which makes it easier to read since it is more concise.

The author makes agreeable points, as the article is based primarily on facts and it is difficult to argue with history. There is not an obvious bias in the article, although Masur clearly supports the effect that the Emancipation Proclamation made on Americans. The author gets his evidence from no other obvious sources other than historical facts and events, and he uses his own writing techniques to write about these events in a descriptive way. The vocabulary in the article is not extremely extensive, and the words used are easy to understand. The lack of complicated words makes for an article that is not too difficult to comprehend and is overall more enjoyable to read. There are not any obvious ways that the author could improve this article, as it is short, well-worded, and pleasant to read.

The Emancipation Proclamation: Lincoln's Many Second Thoughts

Barry Schwartz is the Dorwin Cartwright Professor of Social Theory and Social Action at Swarthmore College. In his article *The Emancipation Proclamation: Lincoln's Many Second Thoughts*, Schwartz presents the facts of many of the causes and effects that happened due to the establishment of the Emancipation Proclamation. The article has many different elements and covers multiple topics that pertain to the document. Therefore, much of the information gets blended together due to the overload of facts and is not particularly well-organized. The author answers all of the questions that he sets out to answer, but they are answered in a way that is not very clear and can be confusing to the reader.

The fact that there is so much information used to answer these questions and that the article is quite extensively written overshadows the actual answers to the questions that are presented. The article is not particularly well-written, as it is wordy, lengthy, and dull, and it can be boring to read because of the droning tone used to describe the sequence of events listed. The combination of these factors makes the article difficult to understand as well. The author makes agreeable points, as they are based mostly on facts about real, historical events and cannot really be argued. There is no major bias in this article, because it is based almost solely on the facts of the Emancipation Proclamation. The author gets his information from the works of other authors, and there are multiple citations throughout the article that state the sources for this piece of work.

The vocabulary that is used in this article is not complex in itself, but the combination of the semi-extensive words makes the article difficult and complicated. The author could improve his article by shortening it, because the reader easily loses interest when reading. Schwartz could also improve his article by using a more simplified vocabulary so that the reader can make more sense of what is being said in the article. Overall, the article was extensively written, and the information presented is overbearing.

Summary

Between the two articles being reviewed, *Liberty is a Slow Fruit: Lincoln the Deliberate Emancipator* by Louis P. Masur was the more enjoyable article because of its concise presentation of information and its less extensive vocabulary. The article was well-written and well organized, which made it more pleasant to read altogether. The article *The Emancipation Proclamation: Lincoln's Many Second Thoughts* by Barry Schwartz was less enjoyable, mainly because it was extremely lengthy and had a vocabulary that was difficult to comprehend at times. Overall, both of the articles present facts that are essential to understanding the importance of the Emancipation Proclamation. Masur's article provides simpler information that is easier to comprehend, while Schwartz's article has information that is more extensive and in-depth.