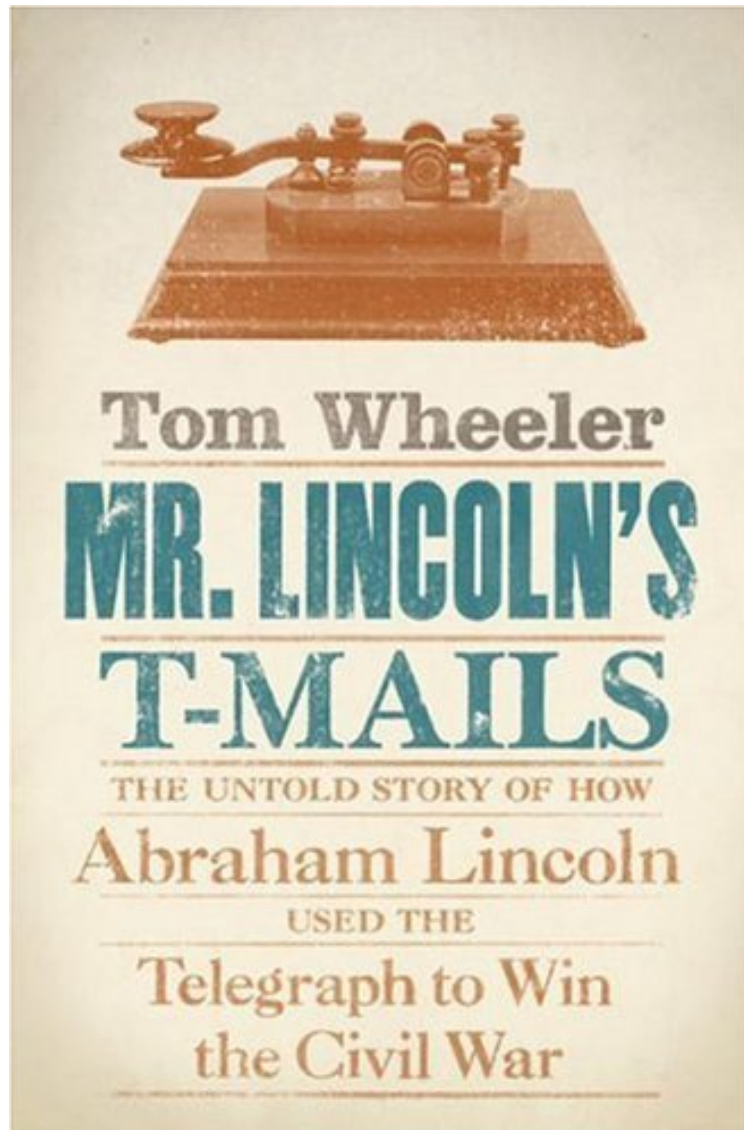


(Mobile ebook) Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War

Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War

Tom Wheeler

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Tom Wheeler : Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A boring review of the Civil War, that happens to mention telegraphs By Zachary Littrell A drab exercise in making one of the most fascinating instances in US and military history into a unrelenting snoozefest. There is nothing more disheartening than realizing about 25% into a book that it

is bad and it will probably continue to be bad. An interesting thesis and a fun intersection of technology, communication, and the Civil War is let down by a tremendously mediocre writer. It has the structure of an uninspired high school history paper, complete with unrelenting repetition -- did Wheeler need to hit some magical word count? I didn't even really bother to read the last chapter that in-depth, because it was literally a rehashing conclusion paragraph stretched out. Worst, it's really hardly about the telegraph's role in the Civil War. It reads much more as a general outline of the Civil War that just happens to shoehorn how the telegraph figures into it. Many key telegrams are either paraphrased or omitted altogether -- his notes and bibliography are quite admirably thorough, but some in-text citations and quotes would've been much more appreciated than repeating a dozen times lines like "Lincoln devoured dispatches." Wheeler also doesn't keep his opinions from shading figures in history. If your name isn't Lincoln, you probably had some critical character flaw that makes you let down your nation, while Lincoln is always doing right (even if his decisions do have some questionable outcome). I would've been ok with such heavy-handedness if it was any good. Now, how to rate this mess? Did I learn some stuff -- yes! Does it talk about the telegraph's role in the Civil War and Lincoln's presidency -- yes! Is it worth your time? No.. Go find a proper book about the Civil War if you're interested in the war in general, and look up articles and papers if you want to learn about contemporary telegrams. I managed to pick this up on sale for a dollar, and I feel like I wasted a dollar and a week of reading. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **OUTSTANDING CIVIL WAR HISTORY!** By Carolina Bookhound Anyone who has studied the U.S. Civil War knows about the significance of the railroad and telegraph to that conflict. These two inventions truly made it the first modern war. When Abraham Lincoln entered the White House, aside from a brief stint in the Black Hawk War, he had virtually no military experience. He learned on the job! Perhaps the most significant thing that he learned was how to use the telegraph to his advantage at many levels. This fascinating book traces how his education in that respect evolved. It offers fresh insights to the character and leadership skills of this great man. It is a heretofore unexplored dimension of Civil War history. I have studied the life and career of Abraham Lincoln since I was in the third grade and I came away with some new perspectives. Tom Wheeler has created a masterpiece! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **A Unique Perspective on Lincoln's Skill as a Communicator** By Donna L. Halper I was preparing to teach my Senior Seminar in Media Studies, and going through some books I've used in the past, when I came upon this one. I suddenly remembered how I've long meant to write a review of it-- so, better late than never! No, Tom Wheeler's book is not new-- in fact, it was written circa 2006, and didn't get much attention back then; but that's a shame, because this is a fascinating study of how President Abraham Lincoln embraced a new technology (the telegraph), and used it to his advantage. Interestingly, my being late with the review turned out okay: "Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails" is more relevant now than ever, since we are living in a world where our new president loves to Tweet. In Lincoln's day, it was about sending telegrams to the newspapers and magazines, calling attention to what the president wanted them to know (and cover). Mr. Wheeler's readable and informative book explains how no matter what age you live in, being the master of the media of your day can help you to control the messaging and thus influence the news. I learned a lot from reading "Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails," and if history and media studies interest you as much as they interest me, you'll be glad you found this book. It's well worth buying and well worth reading!

The Civil War was the first "modern war." Because of the rapid changes in American society, Abraham Lincoln became president of a divided United States during a period of technological and social revolution. Among the many modern marvels that gave the North an advantage was the telegraph, which Lincoln used to stay connected to the forces in the field in almost real time. No leader in history had ever possessed such a powerful tool to gain control over a fractious situation. An eager student of technology, Lincoln (the only president to hold a patent) had to learn to use the power of electronic messages. Without precedent to guide him, Lincoln began by reading the telegraph traffic among his generals. Then he used the telegraph to supplement his preferred form of communication-- meetings and letters. He did not replace those face-to-face interactions. Through this experience, Lincoln crafted the best way to guide, reprimand, praise, reward, and encourage his commanders in the field. Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails tells a big story within a small compass. By paying close attention to Lincoln's "lightning messages," we see a great leader adapt to a new medium. No reader of this work of history will be able to miss the contemporary parallels. Watching Lincoln carefully word his messages-- and follow up on those words with the right actions-- offers a striking example for those who spend their days tapping out notes on computers and BlackBerrys. An elegant work of history, Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails is an instructive example of timeless leadership lessons.

From Booklist The Internet has sparked interest in its predecessor, the telegraph (Tom Standage's *The Victorian Internet*, 1998); here is a case study in the trend. Applying "early adopter" buzzwords to Lincoln, Wheeler's inquiry into his use of the telegraph has the spirit of a management consultant appraising a client's leadership style. The author relates that Lincoln personally sent out 1,000 telegrams during the Civil War, learning along the way what was or wasn't effective. Initially an intermittent user, Lincoln at times was so reliant on rapid communication that he spent nights at the War Department's telegraph office. Every Lincoln reader is familiar with this image, and Wheeler taps

into this common memory by quoting Lincoln's telegraphic words on these occasions. They group most numerous around specific battles (e.g., 1862's Second Battle of Bull Run) and Lincoln's reprieves of condemned soldiers. Expanding on this footnote to history, Wheeler shows a Lincoln groping for a best-use of new technology and learning the limitations of the "killer app." Gilbert Taylor Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved The book thunders along, following the "messages of lightning" down the wires. The writing is focused and lean. About the Author Tom Wheeler is managing director of Core Capital and the author of Take Command: Leadership Lessons from the Civil War. He is chairman and president of the Foundation for the National Archives, a nonprofit organization dedicated to telling the American story through its documents, and a former director of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). He lives in Washington, D.C.