



Written by [Staff](#) on December 21, 2020

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Letters to the Editor

Likes Lincoln

Concerning the book review entitled “Unpopular Problem,” of the book *The Problem With Lincoln* by Thomas J. DiLorenzo, in the October 19, 2020 issue of TNA, I respond as a Lincoln scholar with an admitted admiration for our 16th president, yet with a desire for works on him to be historically accurate. The book reviewer Laurence Vance states that “most works about Lincoln are more hagiographical than historical,” which would be true for those written in the 19th and early 20th centuries, but not since.

The problem with *The Problem With Lincoln* is that it is neither hagiographical nor historical. Let us review: In the 1860 election, four candidates ran, one of whom represented the Southern Democrats. Lincoln won. The same Democrats who validated that election by participating then launched a rebellion to cancel its result.

If anyone is to be blamed for the expansion of the government, it would be those who made that action necessary to preserve the Union. Note that Lincoln was assassinated and did not manage the Reconstruction policies that are more worthy of a critical review. I value books critical of Lincoln, but the DiLorenzo title must be classed among those that fail to criticize him where he would be open to a fair dose of such.

Archie Lintz
Huntington, Indiana

Dislikes Lincoln

The book review “Unpopular Problem” presents many of the problems with Lincoln, showing he was far from a saint. But what I consider to be probably his biggest fault was preventing sovereign states from leaving the Union. I challenge anyone to find that section of the Constitution that states that a state cannot secede.

James Madison did not include such a clause because he believed the Constitution would not be ratified with that clause included. The states considered themselves to be separate entities. As the author points out, “United States” is plural. In fact, the Electoral College is in the Constitution because the individual states select the president.

Howard Last
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Eliminating Social Security

In the Letters to the Editor section in the July 20 issue, Howard Last makes the case to eliminate Social Security, as if that would take “Big Brother” out of our lives. Social Security was introduced during the Progressive, socialist FDR administration as a means of dividing American workers, as public workers exempted themselves from Social Security deductions and established a much better pension plan for “public servants.”

Last also asks, “Anyone know which section of the Constitution authorizes Social Security?” I would



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suggest that it is the same section that authorizes public-servant pensions. When you find that one, please let me know. The constitutionally fatal flaw of Social Security is that it did not include all Americans: Greedy public servants consider themselves as more equal than you or me.

Last also tells us that he was self-employed, paying both sides of Social Security — the employer and the employee share. He also put an equal amount in private savings, from which he gets a 10-times higher return than from Social Security at 75.

I am 81 and have been paying into Social Security since 1953, and the bulk of my pension is from this source. And I don't live the life of a retired deputy sheriff from California.

This isn't the only constitutional violation by our public servants. The violations are many. Moreover, the Ninth and 10th Amendments are completely ignored by a socialist-minded Supreme Court with justices such as Roberts and Gorsuch, whose presence suggests that America gave up tar and feathers way too soon.

Equality is never practiced by anyone on the public payroll anymore, and justice is a distant dream. Progressive socialism has become a fifth column in our nation, and the civil war for our individual rights and personal freedom has begun all over again.

Jim Davis
Prescott, Arizona



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