



Written by [Staff](#) on February 18, 2019

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## Letters to the Editor

To comment on the movie review by Steve Byas about Dinesh D'Souza's movie *Death of a Nation* by The New American (September 17, 2018 issue) — in which D'Souza lauds Abraham Lincoln and attacks Democrats — let me first bring up a historical quote: "The workingmen of Europe feel sure that, as the American War of Independence initiated a new era of ascendancy for the middle class, so the American Antislavery war will do for the working classes. They consider it an earnest of the epoch to come that it fell to the lot of Abraham Lincoln, the single-minded son of the working class to lead his country through the matchless struggle for the rescue of an enchained race and the reconstruction of the social world."

This is mighty high praise given President Lincoln after his reelection victory in 1864. If not clear enough, the writer begins his open letter to President Lincoln, "We congratulate the American people upon your re-election by a large majority."

Who is this mystery writer congratulating Lincoln while beating the war drums against slavery and casting the American war in terms of class warfare? It's none other than the "Father of Communism," Karl Marx.

Such praise was not new from Marx. As early as 1861, he proclaimed, "It ought to be remembered that it was not the North, but the South, which undertook this war; the former acting only on the defense."

His statement, of course, was far from accurate. It was the North that twice sent hostile ships into a Southern port to reinforce a fort against the wishes of the host state. It was President Lincoln who warned the South in his inaugural address that "the power confided to me will be used to ... collect the duties and imposts; but, beyond what may be necessary for these objects, there will be no invasion." And it was Lincoln who, without declaration from Congress, called for an army to invade the South and "collect the duties and imposts."

More-honest contemporary foreigners objected to the "fake news" from Marx. "Union means so many millions [of dollars] lost to the South; secession means the loss of the same millions to the North.... The quarrel between North and South is ... solely a fiscal quarrel." So said Charles Dickens. He continued: "The Northern onslaught upon slavery was no more than a piece of specious humbug designed to conceal its desire for economic control of the Southern states."

The actions of Lincoln were controversial at home, controversial in the South, and controversial abroad. He initiated an unpopular war and relied upon immigrant soldiers to invade and conquer the South. In addition to the support from the "Father of Communism," Lincoln and the Radical Republican Party received support from the failed socialist revolutionaries of 1848 who immigrated to the United States of America and started rifle clubs and the Wide Awake organizations.

Why did Lincoln receive such support from the successors of socialists and the predecessors of the communists? He centralized the United States, destroying the voluntary aspect of the Constitution as a compact. Much like the history of the European Union, or the warnings this magazine issues regarding the United Nations, Lincoln made union involuntary and forced the states to surrender their sovereignty. The South, and every other state in the Union, suffers to this day under the weight of the leviathan created by Lincoln.

D'Souza's most recent movie, *Death of a Nation*, does not chronicle the forceful destruction of the



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Constitutional Republic created by our ancestors in 1789, but glorifies the Republican Party and the abandonment of the Constitution using an end-justifies-the-means logic. The storyline sold by D'Souza is the same "fake news narrative" pushed by Lincoln and his socialist backers in their quest to subvert the federal government and conquer the states.

There is enough material from current events and recent history to criticize the Democrat party without repeating the socialist "fake news" of the 19th century. I am disappointed that this magazine would promote such shallow thinking, glorifying a significant achievement of the conspiracy and communism.

For the sake of our nation, I pray that D'Souza is wrong and that President Trump is not another Abraham Lincoln.

Robert K. Merting  
Greenville, South Carolina

**Author responds:** The movie was reviewed favorably despite, not because of, D'Souza's strong praise of Lincoln. I thought I indicated that fact in the review — perhaps not strongly enough.



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