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978-0-521-76383-7 - Slavery, Race, and Conquest in the Tropics: Lincoln, Douglas,  
and the Future of Latin America

Robert E. May

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## Slavery, Race, and Conquest in the Tropics

*Slavery, Race, and Conquest in the Tropics* challenges the way historians interpret the causes of the American Civil War. Using Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas's famed rivalry as a prism, Robert E. May shows that when Lincoln and fellow Republicans opposed slavery in the West, they did so partly from evidence that slaveholders, with Douglas's assistance, planned to follow up successes in Kansas by bringing Cuba, Mexico, and Central America into the Union as slave states. A skeptic about "Manifest Destiny," Lincoln opposed the war with Mexico, condemned Americans invading Latin America, and warned that Douglas's "popular sovereignty" doctrine would unleash U.S. slaveholders throughout Latin America. This book internationalizes America's showdown over slavery, shedding new light on the Lincoln–Douglas rivalry and Lincoln's Civil War scheme to resettle freed slaves in the Tropics.

Robert E. May is a professor of history at Purdue University. He is the author of *Manifest Destiny's Underworld: Filibustering in Antebellum America* (2002); *John A. Quitman: Old South Crusader* (1985), winner of the Mississippi Historical Society's book prize; and *The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire* (1973). He is editor of *The Union, the Confederacy, and the Atlantic Rim* (1995).

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# Slavery, Race, and Conquest in the Tropics

*Lincoln, Douglas, and the Future  
of Latin America*

ROBERT E. MAY

*Purdue University*



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*To Jill*

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## Abbreviations Used in the Notes

- AL Abraham Lincoln
- BBPC James J. Barnes and Patience P. Barnes, ed., *Private and Confidential: Letters from British Ministers in Washington to the Foreign Secretaries in London, 1844–67* (Selinsgrove: Susquehanna University Press, 1993)
- CG *Congressional Globe*
- CWAL Roy P. Basler, ed., *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, 9 vols. (New Brunswick, NJ, 1953–55)
- HSP Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- JRMP James D. Richardson, comp., *A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, 1789–1908*, 11 vols. (Washington, DC, 1908)
- LC Library of Congress
- RG48 Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior Relating to the Suppression of the African Slave Trade and Negro Colonization, 1854–1872, M160, National Archives, Washington, DC
- SAD Stephen A. Douglas
- UC Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago
- WHH William H. Herndon
- WHS William Henry Seward
- WRM William R. Manning, comp., *Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States: Inter-American Affairs, 1831–1860*, 12 vols. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1932–39)