The American Civil War is invariably linked with racial concepts in American society. Despite the effort by some to deny the role of slavery in the conflict, it is well accepted in academia that the war was the product of opposing views of the peculiar institution. In *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: Religion and the Politics of Race in the Civil War Era and Beyond*, Steven L. Dundas, historian, ethicist, and theologian, argues that racism was at the heart of religious views and the politics of the Civil War era. Sadly, says Dundas, racial prejudice continues to influence perceptions of the struggle over a century and a half later. Some say the same about present-day social attitudes toward African Americans. Through an examination of the historiography of the period and mostly secondary literature discussing the bloodshed between 1861 and 1865, Dundas defends his argument persuasively.

Throughout the book, the reader is treated to an overview of racism's impact on American politics, military policy, and religion. Dundas begins his analysis with the arrival of the first Africans at Jamestown in 1619. Time progresses and so do the racial views of the white settlers. By the time of the American Revolution, enslavement of Africans had become a vital part of the economy of the colonies. The revolutionary rhetoric included discussion of slavery's place in a democracy. Instead of freeing all slaves throughout the original states of the Union, the founding generation bequeathed the responsibility of regulating slavery to the individual states. Over time a debate arose between those northern states that had abolished slavery and those in the South which had not. To justify the continuance of human bondage, Americans incorporated religion into their racist views and political system. When the struggle over slavery exploded into civil war, the US military became involved in the discussion. The US government prohibited African Americans from fighting in the conflict until it was half over. Despite the belief that the American Civil War ended racism and slavery, Reconstruction saw white supremacy take on different forms. Its evolution allowed for anti-
African American rhetoric to persist in modern American society.

Dundas's thesis that white supremacist views impacted both religion and politics during the period of the American Civil War is well supported and presented in an engaging manner. The reader of Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory is treated to examinations of coverage of historical events and figures that support the assertion that African Americans have been the targets of discrimination since the days of British colonialism to those of the present. The broad range of sources Dundas employs to add credence to his claim attests to this. The work itself is also accessible to the general public. Dundas does an excellent job of explaining concepts so that those not well versed in the scholarship of the Civil War era can understand.

The understandability and level of engagement present in Dundas's work does have some faults, however. The sourcing detracts slightly from Dundas's points. Although there are primary sources spread throughout the text, much of the evidence comes from secondary sources. Each chapter cites works by scholars who have written on the topic covered in that portion of the work. At times, one can become confused as to whether they are reading a summary of present scholarly attitudes about the subject matter, or Dundas's interpretation of the information. Dundas occasionally cites pages taken directly from a source. Many of these direct quotations come from secondary sources rather than primary ones. This is an acceptable practice, but it can lead to the reader losing the sense of the author's line of reasoning. Dundas's choice to cite mainly secondary sources also undermines his assertions because it suggests that Dundas is repeating an argument that has already been put forward.

Overall, Stephen Dundas's Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: Religion and the Politics of the Civil War Era and Beyond has the potential to pique interest in the topic of racism in the United States of America. Through its easily conveyed contention that racism impacted politics in pre-Civil War America, Dundas's book adds to the study of the Civil War era in a way that allows for more readers to engage with professional historians' work on the subject. It may also lead the reader to consider their own biases when they consider both the American Civil War and the world around them. The choice of source material, from a professional historian's viewpoint, may detract from the work's authoritativeness, but Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory still tells a story that needs to be told.
If there is additional discussion of this review, you may access it through the network, at https://networks.h-net.org/h-war

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