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ANNUAL  
ENDOWED  
LECTURE

# LINCOLN AND THE WEST

A lecture by **James McPherson**

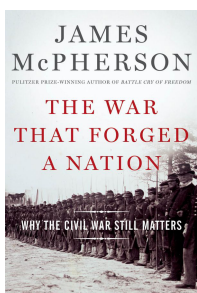
6pm  
**TUESDAY**  
**October 6, 2015**  
**Lincoln Hall 75**

1620 SW Park Ave  
Portland, OR, 97201

*Event is **FREE** and open to the public*

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**HISTORY**

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Abraham Lincoln was a product of the American West. He was born in 1809 in Kentucky, almost as far west as one could go and still be within one of the United States. He grew up in the “Old Northwest” states of Indiana and Illinois and represented the interests of that region in the Illinois legislature and in Congress. The main political issue in his rise to leadership of the Republican Party and his presidential candidacy was the exclusion of slavery from the western territories.

As president and commander-in-chief during the Civil War, much of his attention was focused on what was described as the war’s western theater. He also faced a major conflict growing out of the Sioux uprising in Minnesota during the war, and after the war he intended to take a trip to the Pacific Coast, a region of much interest to him but which he had never seen. Regrettably, he did not live to make that trip.



**James McPherson** is an American Civil War historian, and the George Henry Davis ‘86 Professor Emeritus of United States History at Princeton University.

He received the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. McPherson served as the president of the American Historical Association in 2003, and is a member of the editorial board of Encyclopædia Britannica. His recent book, *The War That Forged a Nation: Why the Civil War Still Matters*, was released in March 2015.

“Abraham Lincoln towers over ‘The War That Forged a Nation,’ as he towered over his own era. Mr. McPherson is especially good—and consistently fascinating—on how the president’s thinking, both strategic and moral, evolved during the war, as he moved from using the emancipation of the slaves as one more weapon against the South to seeing it as the mainspring that drove the cause he led. Lincoln knew that American freedom was always imperfect, a work continuously in progress.”

— **Richard Snow**, *The Wall Street Journal*