



We have the great pleasure of inviting you to the lecture of

JAMES H. READ

“The Road Not Taken: Abraham Lincoln and the Peaceful Abolition of Slavery”



Thursday, December 12, 2019, 7:00 pm
Coffee Shop Coffee Press, Bergstraße 12, 5020 Salzburg

Slavery was abolished in the United States through a bloody civil war. But that was not the way Abraham Lincoln originally hoped slavery would end. Lincoln's plan was to end slavery gradually, peacefully, and democratically.

Events didn't take that direction -- not because Lincoln's plan was unrealistic, but because slaveowners considered it very realistic. Lower South states seceded from the Union to prevent his taking the first step. Thus American democracy did not fail to address slavery: it was blocked from making the attempt.

American democracy today is more deeply divided than at any time since the 1850s.

Throughout much of the contemporary world, including the United States and Europe, faith in democracy has declined and political polarization increased. Lincoln's "road not taken" is worth examining because he preserved his faith in democracy under circumstances even more challenging than those we face today.



James H. Read, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University

James H. Read is Professor and Chair of Political Science at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University. He is the author of three books, *Power versus Liberty: Madison, Hamilton, Wilson, and Jefferson* (2000), *Doorstep Democracy: Face to Face Politics in the Heartland* (2008), and *Majority Rule versus Consensus: The Political Thought of John C. Calhoun* (2009). He received his Ph.D from Harvard University in 1988.

He directed his university's Salzburg Study Abroad Program in 2015. He is currently writing a book on Abraham Lincoln's political thought.

Please register with Maria Ganauser

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