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4. Henry Clay and the election of 1844: The limits of a rhetoric of compromise Clay and his times ; Clay's rhetorical situation in 1844 ; The Raleigh letter ; The Alabama letters ; Clay's subsequent letters ; Conclusion ; References ; Part II. Abraham Lincoln's political argumentation; 5. Consistency and change in Lincoln's rhetoric about equality; Introduction ; Antecedents ; 1857: The Springfield speech ; Attenuating the meaning of "equality" ; Equality as an abstract ideal ; Defending against the charge of extremism ; Defining Douglas as extremist ; 1858: The Lincoln-Douglas debates  
Maintaining the dissociation Hedging devices ; Into the presidency ; Conclusions and implications ; References ; 6. "Public sentiment is everything": Lincoln's view of political persuasion; Lincoln at Ottawa ; The attack against Douglas ; The defense of Lincoln ; Assumptions and implications ; References ; 7. Lincoln and the House Divided: Launching a national political career; Introduction ; The political context ; Analysis of the speech ; The "House Divided" opening section ; Body of the speech: The conspiracy argument ; The "Living Dog" conclusion ; Outcomes and implications ; References  
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The historical argument

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### Sommario/riassunto

Especially during Barack Obama's first campaign for the presidency, commentators and Obama himself noted several similarities between him and Abraham Lincoln. These comparisons became the premises for arguments from historical analogy. Such arguments can have several purposes, including making a direct comparison, using the past as a new frame of reference for the present, and suggesting teleology. Each of these uses has pitfalls as well as promises. Obama, however, used analogies to make a fortiori arguments, indicating that if Lincoln could surmount greater obstacles, we should be able to su

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