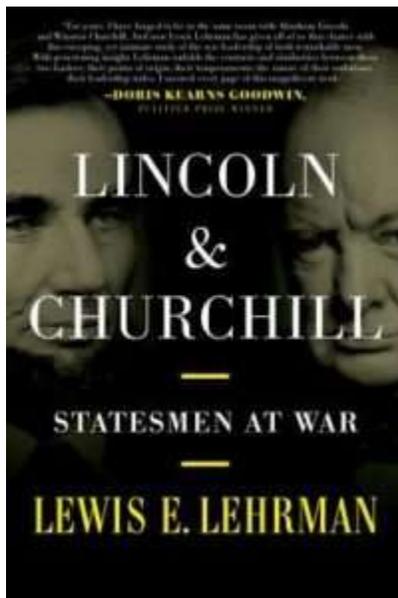


Before the Lease Runs Out: Summer Reading List for 2018

[Al Mohler](#) | *President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary* | Thursday, July 12, 2018

The days of summer may seem wonderfully long, but the season itself is frustratingly brief. Shakespeare put it this way: “And summer’s lease hath all too short a date.” Talk that way at the picnic table and friends may assume you have been in the heat for too long, but we get the point. For readers, summer is the opportunity to read books simply for the pleasure of reading them. No good book comes without bringing more than mere pleasure, but reading for fun is reading for sufficient reason. I read steadily throughout the year, across the range of literature. But my annual recommended summer reading list is always tilted (to say the least) to non-fiction. This year is no exception. I heartily recommend these ten books that combine great interest and a worthy story well told. The added benefit to each of these is a greater understanding of the world. Just consider that deeper understanding to be an added bonus.

3. Lewis E. Lehrman, [Lincoln & Churchill: Statesmen at War](#) (Stackpole Books).



Just a year after the release of his *Churchill, Roosevelt & Company: Studies in Character and Statecraft*, Lewis Lehrman is back with *Lincoln & Churchill: Statesmen at War*. An accomplished historian and biographer, Lehrman has written a book that looks at Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill through a new lens, considering these two towering historical figures as leaders at war. The book reveals both men in a new light, considering how each understood the world, conceived of statesmanship, and lead massive war efforts. The two men faced very different historical moments, but both were fueled by a clear understanding of their goals and obsessions. Both demonstrated leadership beyond all expectation, and both learned to lead by the force of both words and example. One was born into poverty on the American frontier while the other was born in the splendor of a duke’s palace. Both made their way into the annals of history, and the

words and deeds of both men continue to shape the world today. My favorite part of the book is Lehrman’s consideration of the particular approach each man took to the English language, with both often using single-syllable Anglo-Saxon words in their speeches. Considering Lincoln and Churchill together was a stroke of genius.