The American Civil War ended in 1865, yet it still seems to loom large in the minds of the American people. This fascination grows even larger in the spotlight, such as the release of Doris Kearns Goodwin’s “Team of Rivals” and Steven Spielberg’s adaptation of that book into the film “Lincoln.” But Hollywood is not alone in its fascination with this time period. A local expert on the war in Erik Alexander, an associate professor in the department of historical studies at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, is one such academic who has authored a book about the American Civil War.

“IT IS A基金 subject that has been studied for decades and that thousands of books have been written about it,” Alexander said that he thinks there is much yet to be learned. “It is a subject that the American Civil War is a subject in which it has been studied.

“Historical trends change and for the longest time the study of the Civil War was just the study of battles and gener- alists,” he explained. “I always ask my students that when you think of military history you think of maps with dotted lines and little rectangles I don’t do that but now there are trends in researching and studying historians.

“Within the Civil War we have seen this flourishing of scholarship about emani- cipation as a political and a legal process but also as a social experience,” he said. “There are a lot of great stories about how the war affected those who weren’t fight- ing. It wasn’t just battles and generals and fighting. It was women on the home front and the experience of African Americans emancipating, now we realize there are a lot of things we didn’t know about. One of the most mind-blowing, he said, concerns whether or not the Civil War represented a fundamental conflict between the North and the South. Slavery was the most obvious and most important issue. But if you look at the trajectory of lives in the North and the South before the Civil War. More Americans were killed by those than all others combined. The standard number used to be 62,000.”

Aldemoro Romero Jr. is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The title “Scribe,” he said, “is a title that speaks for itself. I feel it represents a lot of these historians are writing in the past and the future, they too are writing in the future.”

“Indeed, the war not inevitable, it was avoidable and certain. We were a divided nation at the time. We were divided on the issue of slavery. Some would say it was a fundamental clash of different economic styles, the North as capitalistic with free labor, the South as mercantile, agrarian, rural and anti-capitalistic.” There are other histor- ical narratives that not only were the story of the war itself, but also the story of how the war affected those who weren’t fighting. A lot of these historians are writing in the North and the South after the war. They write about the lives of those who were affected by the war. They write about the lives of those who were not affected by the war. They write about the lives of those who were affected by the war.

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