

## Entry 13 von Stroheim Book Excerpts

### EXCERPTS FROM *THE SILVER LINING – A RE-APPRAISAL OF THE EFFECTS OF SLAVERY*

By Walther von Stroheim, Ph.D.

Page 101: Though human beings are given to seeing things in terms of absolutes, the outcomes of history and human behavior always present a mixed picture. While the institution of slavery is inconsistent with the basic principles of democracy, this mere fact alone should not prevent a candid appraisal of all its impacts, both positive and negative. While my basic thesis is bound to ignite controversy in these politically correct times, basic academic integrity and honesty requires me to do so.

Page 235: Strong emotions on the subject of slavery have caused most past writers to compromise their objectivity, taking a slanted view of the situation. Indeed, the history books of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century on the effects of slavery largely were written by authors representing the victorious North's point of view after the American Civil War. To some extent, this trend has continued ever since.

Page 240: There is no question that slavery damaged the family structure and basic right of self-determination of the millions of African Americans who were brought involuntarily to this country. However, there is a silver lining to this, as their descendents now enjoy an unparalleled degree of economic prosperity, achievement and material wealth, particularly when compared to the citizens of any other country in Africa. Indeed, no African American would choose to go back and be repatriated to the land of their origins.