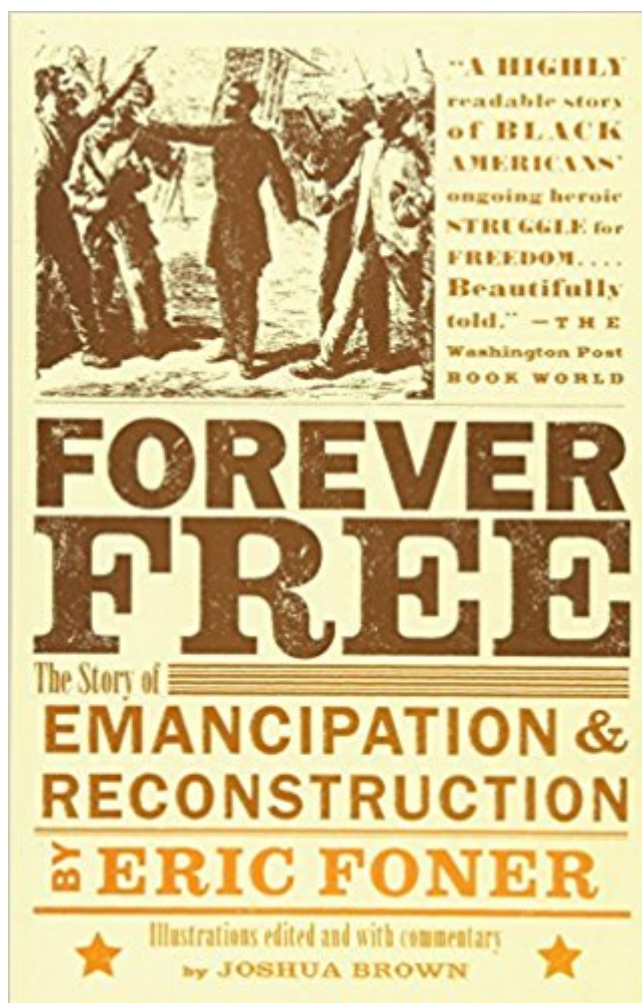


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Forever Free: The Story Of Emancipation And Reconstruction



Synopsis

From one of our most distinguished historians comes a groundbreaking new examination of the myths and realities of the period after the Civil War. Drawing on a wide range of long-neglected documents, Eric Foner places a new emphasis on black experiences and roles during the era. We see African Americans as active agents in overthrowing slavery, in shaping Reconstruction, and creating a legacy long obscured and misunderstood. He compellingly refutes long-standing misconceptions of Reconstruction, and shows how the failures of the time sowed the seeds of the Civil Rights struggles of the 1950s and 60s. Richly illustrated and movingly written, this is an illuminating and essential addition to our understanding of this momentous era.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Timeline of Emancipation In *Forever Free*, Eric Foner, the leading historian of America's Reconstruction era, reexamines one of the most misunderstood periods of American history: the struggle to overthrow slavery and establish freedom for African Americans in the years before, during, and after the Civil War. *Forever Free* is extensively illustrated, with visual essays by scholar Joshua Brown discussing the images of the period alongside Foner's text. 1787 The United States Constitution is ratified, containing several protections for slavery, including the Fugitive Slave Clause, three-fifths clause, and a clause prohibiting the abolition of the slave trade from Africa before 1808. 1829-31 Publication of *Appeal ... to the Coloured Citizens of the World* by David Walker and *The Liberator*, a weekly newspaper edited by William Lloyd Garrison, marks the emergence of a new, militant abolitionist movement. Diagram of a slave ship from an 1808 report 1831

August 22 Nat Turner launches a slave rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia, resulting in the deaths of 55 white persons before the uprising is crushed. 1846 August Congress adjourns after intense sectional debate over the Wilmot Proviso, a proposal to prohibit slavery in all territory acquired in the Mexican-American War. 1860 November 6 Election of Abraham Lincoln as president, representing the anti-slavery Republican Party 1861 February 4 Seven seceded southern states form the Confederate States of America April 12 The Confederate attack on South Carolina's Fort Sumter begins the Civil War. A woodcut published in an 1831 account of the Nat Turner uprising May 24 Gen. Benjamin F. Butler declares fugitive slaves at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, "contraband of war," who will not be returned to their owners. August 6 First Confiscation Act provides for the emancipation of slaves employed as laborers by the Confederate army. 1862 April 16 Congress abolishes slavery in the District of Columbia with compensation to loyal owners, and also appropriates funds for "colonization" of freed slaves outside the United States. July 17 Second Confiscation Act frees slaves of disloyal owners. September 22 Five days after the Battle of Antietam, Lincoln issues the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which warns the South that if the rebellion has not ended by January 1, he will emancipate the slaves. It also promises aid to states that adopt plans for gradual, compensated emancipation and refers to colonization of freed people outside the country. 1863 January 1 Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing slaves in areas under Confederate control. It exempts Tennessee and parts of Louisiana and Virginia and does not apply to the border states, and also authorizes the enlistment of black soldiers. "Contrabands" in Cumberland Landing, Virginia, May 1862 July 30 Lincoln insists black Union soldiers captured by the Confederate army be treated as prisoners of war, not escaped slaves as Confederate president Jefferson Davis has threatened. December 8 Lincoln issues the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, offering a pardon and restoration of property (except slave property) to Confederates who take an oath of allegiance to the Union. 1864 September 5 New constitution of Louisiana abolishes slavery; new constitutions in Maryland, Missouri, and Tennessee follow suit in the next six months. November 8 Lincoln reelected as president. January 16 Gen. William T. Sherman issues Special Field Order 15, setting aside land in coastal South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida for settlement by black families in 40-acre plots. March 3 Congress orders emancipation of wives and children of black soldiers. March 13 Confederate Congress authorizes enlistment of black soldiers. April 11 In the last speech before his death, two days after Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox, Lincoln favors limited black suffrage in the South. Company E, 4th U.S. Colored Infantry, at Fort Lincoln, Washington, DC April 14 Assassination of Lincoln. December 18 Ratification of the 13th Amendment

irrevocably abolishes slavery throughout the United States. 1866 April 9 Over the veto of President Andrew Johnson, Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, establishing citizenship of black Americans and requiring that they be accorded equality before the law, principles later written into the Constitution in the 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868. John Wilkes Booth assassinates Lincoln, April 1865 1867 March 2 Congress passes the Reconstruction Act, again over President Johnson's veto, extending the right to vote to black men in the South and inaugurating the era of Radical Reconstruction, America's first experiment in interracial democracy. 1877 February After intense bargaining to resolve the disputed presidential election of 1876, Democrats agree to recognize Republican Rutherford B. Hayes as president, and Hayes agrees to end federal support for remaining Reconstruction governments. A March 1867 cartoon, following the passage of the Reconstruction Act, shows President Johnson and his southern allies angrily watching African Americans vote. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. Probably no period in American history is as controversial, as distorted by myth and as "essentially unknown" as the era of emancipation and Reconstruction, award-winning historian Foner (The Story of American Freedom; Reconstruction; etc.) argues in this dense, rectifying but highly readable account. His analysis of "that turbulent era, its successes and failures, and its long-term consequences up until this very day" addresses the debates among historians, corrects the misrepresentations and separates myth from fact with persuasive data. Foner opens his work with an overview of slavery and the Civil War and concludes with a consideration of the Civil Rights movement and the continuing impact of Reconstruction upon the current political scene, a framework that adds to the clarity of his history of that era, its aftermath and its legacy. Joshua Brown's six interspersed "visual essays," with his fresh commentary on images from slavery through Reconstruction to Jim Crow, buttress Foner's text and contribute to its accessibility. In his mission to illuminate Reconstruction's critical repercussions for contemporary American culture, Foner balances his passion for racial equality and social justice with disciplined scholarship. His book is a valuable, fluid introduction to a complex period. 139 illus. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Forever Free is an excellent and detailed introduction to a new narrative about the Reconstruction period in the American South. For too long the American public has seen the Reconstruction largely through myths perpetrated by Southern Whites and given great publicity through such films as The

Birth of a Nation and Gone With the Wind. Eric Foner is a prominent and leading voice in giving a more accurate account of the accomplishments of the Reconstruction and the struggles of Southern Blacks to form a government true to the principles of the American Constitution. His detailed stories of the period, its struggle for racial freedom and equality before the law, which was already losing momentum by 1876, is accompanied by images of American Blacks in the press during that time, showing how Blacks saw themselves and the general public saw them over the course of these developments. The Reconstruction was not a failed experiment. This book shows in words and pictures how the period laid the groundwork (in such measures as introducing public education to the South) for later positive developments in freedom for all Americans regardless of race.

This is one of the most important books ever written on American History. Should be required reading for the entire country. Not only a detailed historical review of the Reconstruction period, but also a story of crushed dreams, unimagined cruelty to millions of Americans and a grand national deception.

Here's an opportunity to be enlightened and entertained the entire length of the book. I have nothing but praise for the author.

Interesting read, I'm not one for history books but I enjoyed this.

Would recommend to friends

This accessible overview is so well done, you have to read it to appreciate it. Mr. Foner has done America a major service in "Forever Free." Read it!

Great book.

Nothing astounding here a standard historical text, not quite a text book information is packaged more by concept than specific chronology. If you have read Foner's other texts on this time period, you will find it somewhat repetitive. The things that stand out in Forever Free are the illustrations, photographs, and "visual essays." The visual essays add glimpses into the true cultural climate going a bit deeper than the rest of the text

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