

# Give Me Liberty An American History By Eric Foner

Give Me Liberty! An American History Forever Free Give Me Liberty! Give Me Liberty! Who Owns History? The Story of American Freedom The New American History Our Fragile Freedoms A Short History of Reconstruction Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men Voices of Freedom Tom Paine and Revolutionary America The New Republic Justice Stephen Field The Course of United States History: To 1877 The Battle for the Black Ballot Civil War Generals in Defeat The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman The Presidency of James Buchanan Civil Rights, the Constitution, and Congress, 1863-1869 Eric Foner Eric Foner Eric Foner Eric Foner Eric Foner Eric Foner American Historical Association Eric Foner Eric Foner Eric Foner Herbert David Croly Paul Kens Nasaw 0256035512 Charles L. Zelden Steven E. Woodworth Brian Steel Wills Elbert B. Smith Earl M. Maltz

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from one of our most distinguished historians a new examination of the vitally important years of emancipation and reconstruction during and immediately following the civil war a necessary reconsideration that emphasizes the era s political and cultural meaning for today s america in forever free eric foner overturns numerous assumptions growing out

of the traditional understanding of the period which is based almost exclusively on white sources and shaped by often unconscious racism he presents the period as a time of determination especially on the part of recently emancipated black americans to put into effect the principles of equal rights and citizenship for all drawing on a wide range of long neglected documents he places a new emphasis on the centrality of the black experience to an understanding of the era we see african americans as active agents in overthrowing slavery in helping win the civil war and even more actively in shaping reconstruction and creating a legacy long obscured and misunderstood foner makes clear how by war s end freed slaves in the south built on networks of church and family in order to exercise their right of suffrage as well as gain access to education land and employment he shows us that the birth of the ku klux klan and renewed acts of racial violence were retaliation for the progress made by blacks soon after the war he refutes lingering misconceptions about reconstruction including the attribution of its ills to corrupt african american politicians and carpetbaggers and connects it to the movements for civil rights and racial justice joshua brown s illustrated commentary on the era s graphic art and photographs complements the narrative he offers a unique portrait of how americans envisioned their world and time forever free is an essential contribution to our understanding of the events that fundamentally reshaped american life after the civil war a persuasive reading of history that transforms our sense of the era from a time of failure and despair to a threshold of hope and achievement

give me liberty an american history is a concise clear and inclusive narrative of american history written by distinguished historian eric foner

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a thought provoking new book from one of america s finest historians history wrote james baldwin does not refer merely or even principally to the past on the contrary the great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways and history is literally present in all that we do rarely has baldwin s insight been more forcefully confirmed than during the past few decades history has become a matter of public controversy as americans clash over such things as museum presentations the flying of the confederate flag or reparations for slavery so whose history is being written who owns it in w ho owns history eric foner proposes his answer to these and other questions about the historian s relationship to the world of the past and future he reconsiders his own earlier ideas and those of the pathbreaking richard hofstadter he also examines international changes during the past two decades globalization the collapse of the soviet union the end of apartheid in south africa and their effects on historical consciousness he concludes with considerations of the enduring but often misunderstood legacies of slavery the civil war and reconstruction this is a provocative even controversial study of the reasons we care about history or should

originally released in 1990 the new american history edited for the american historical association by eric foner has become an indispensable volume for teachers and students in essays that chart the shifts in interpretation within their fields some of our most prominent american historians survey the key works and themes in the scholarship of the last three decades along with substantially revised essays from the first edition this volume presents three entirely new ones on intellectual history the history of the west and the histories of the family and sexuality the second edition of the new american history reflects in foner's words the continuing vitality and creativity of the study of the past how traditional fields are being expanded and redefined even as new ones are created author note eric foner is dewitt clinton professor of history at columbia university he is the author of numerous books including reconstruction 1863 1877 which was awarded the bancroft prize

from one of the most acclaimed and influential historians of the united states an insightful guide to our history and why it matters eric foner has done more to shape the public and professional understanding of american history than any other scholar the preeminent historian of the civil war era foner's keynote has been american freedom and the recurring battles over its meanings and boundaries his award winning works show that freedom has been a birthright for some and a struggle for others that rights gained can also be lost and that they must always be tended with knowledge and vigilance the present political moment makes the importance of these themes abundantly clear this collection of foner's recent reviews and commentaries demonstrates the range of his interests and expertise running from slavery and antislavery through the disunion and remaking of the united states in the nineteenth century jim crow and the civil rights movement and into our current politics each piece shows a master at work melding historical knowledge and balanced judgment with crystalline prose foner takes up towering figures from washington to lincoln douglass and rosa parks pivotal events such as the fugitive slave act and the tulsa race massacre and the fragility of constitutional guarantees to civil liberties due process and birthright citizenship whether in times of war or peace he also explores recent controversies over how to commemorate and how to teach our history

an abridged version of reconstruction america's unfinished revolution the definitive study of the aftermath of the civil war winner of the bancroft prize avery o craven prize los angeles times book award francis parkman prize and lionel trilling prize

since its publication twenty five years ago free soil free labor free men has been recognized as a classic an indispensable contribution to our understanding of the causes of the american civil war a key work in establishing political ideology as a major concern of modern american historians it remains the only full scale evaluation of the ideas of the early republican party now with a new introduction eric foner puts his argument into the

context of contemporary scholarship reassessing the concept of free labor in the light of the last twenty five years of writing on such issues as work gender economic change and political thought a significant reevaluation of the causes of the civil war foner s study looks beyond the north s opposition to slavery and its emphasis upon preserving the union to determine the broader grounds of its willingness to undertake a war against the south in 1861 its search is for those social concepts the north accepted as vital to its way of life finding these concepts most clearly expressed in the ideology of the growing republican party in the decade before the war s start through a careful analysis of the attitudes of leading factions in the party s formation northern whigs former democrats and political abolitionists foner is able to show what each contributed to republican ideology he also shows how northern ideas of human rights in particular a man s right to work where and how he wanted and to accumulate property in his own name and the goals of american society were implicit in that ideology this was the ideology that permeated the north in the period directly before the civil war led to the election of abraham lincoln and led almost immediately to the civil war itself at the heart of the controversy over the extension of slavery he argues is the issue of whether the northern or southern form of society would take root in the west whose development would determine the nation s destiny in his new introductory essay foner presents a greatly altered view of the subject only entrepreneurs and farmers were actually free men in the sense used in the ideology of the period actually by the time the civil war was initiated half the workers in the north were wage earners not independent workers and this did not account for women and blacks who had little freedom in choosing what work they did he goes on to show that even after the civil war these guarantees for free soil free labor free men did not really apply for most americans and especially not for blacks demonstrating the profoundly successful fusion of value and interest within republican ideology prior to the civil war free soil free labor free men remains a classic of modern american historical writing eloquent and influential it shows how this ideology provided the moral consensus which allowed the north for the first time in history to mobilize an entire society in modern warfare

edited by eric foner and coordinated with each chapter of the text this companion to give me liberty includes 139 primary source documents touching on the theme of american freedom

since its publication in 1976 tom paine and revolutionary america has been recognized as a classic study of the career of the foremost political pamphleteer of the age of revolution and a model of how to integrate the political intellectual and social history of the struggle for american independence foner skillfully brings together an account of paine s remarkable career with a careful examination of the social worlds within which he operated in great britain france and especially the united states he explores paine s political and social ideas and the way he popularized them by pioneering a new form

of political writing using simple direct language and addressing himself to a reading public far broader than previous writers had commanded he shows which of Paine's views remained essentially fixed throughout his career while directing attention to the ways his stance on social questions evolved under the pressure of events this enduring work makes clear the tremendous impact Paine's writing exerted on the American revolution and suggests why he failed to have a similar impact during his career in revolutionary France and it offers new insights into the nature and internal tensions of the republican outlook that helped to shape the revolution in a new preface Foner discusses the origins of this book and the influences of the 1960s and 1970s on its writing he also looks at how Paine has been adopted by scholars and politicians of many stripes and has even been called the patron saint of the internet

outspoken and controversial Stephen Field served on the Supreme Court from his appointment by Lincoln in 1863 through the closing years of the century no justice had ever served longer on the court and few were as determined to use the court to lead the nation into a new and exciting era Paul Kens shows how Field ascended to such prominence what influenced his legal thought and court opinions and why both are still very relevant today one of the famous gold rush forty niners Field was a founder of Marysville California a state legislator and state Supreme Court justice his decisions from the state bench and later from the federal circuit court often placed him in the middle of tense conflicts over the distribution of the land and mineral wealth of the new state Kens illuminates how Field's experiences in early California influenced his jurisprudence and produced a theory of liberty that reflected both the ideals of his Jacksonian youth and the teachings of laissez faire economics during the time that Field served on the U.S. Supreme Court the nation went through the Civil War and Reconstruction and moved from an agrarian to an industrial economy in which big business dominated fear of concentrated wealth caused many reformers of the time to look to government as an ally in the preservation of their liberty in the volatile debates over government regulation of business Field became a leading advocate of substantive due process and liberty of contract legal doctrines that enabled the court to veto state economic legislation and heavily influenced constitutional law well into the twentieth century in the effort to curb what he viewed as the excessive power of government Field tended to side with business and frequently came into conflict with reformers of his era gracefully written and filled with sharp insights Kens study sheds new light on Field's role in helping the court define the nature of liberty and determine the extent of constitutional protection of property by focusing on the political economic and social struggles of his time it explains Field's jurisprudence in terms of conflicting views of liberty and individualism it firmly establishes Field as a persuasive spokesman for one side of that conflict and as a prototype for the modern activist judge while providing an important new view of capitalist expansion and social change in Gilded Age America

the history of voting rights in america is a checkerboard marked by dogged progress against persistent prejudice toward an expanding inclusiveness the supreme court decision in smith v allwright is a crucial chapter in that broader story and marked a major turning point for the modern civil rights movement charles zelden s concise and thoughtful retelling of this episode reveals why denied membership in the texas democratic party by popular consensus party rules and from 1923 to 1927 state statutes texas blacks were routinely turned away from voting in the democratic primary in the first decades of the twentieth century given that texas was a one party state and that the primary effectively determined who held office this meant the total exclusion of texas blacks from the political process this practice went unchecked until 1940 when lonnie smith a black dentist from houston fought his exclusion by election judge s e allwright in the 1940 democratic primary defeated in the lower courts smith finally found justice in the u s supreme court which ruled 8 1 that the democratic party and its primary were not private and voluntary and thus were duly bound by constitutional protections governing the electoral process and the rights of all citizens while the initial impetus of the case may have been the wish of one man to exercise his right to vote the real meaning of smith s challenge to the texas all white primary lies at the heart of the entire civil rights revolution one of the first significant victories for the naacp s newly formed legal defense fund against jim crow segregation it provided the conceptual foundation which underlay thurgood marshall s successful arguments in brown v board of education it was also viewed by marshall looking back on a long and storied career as one of his most important personal victories as zelden shows the smith decision attacked the intractable heart of segregation as it redrew the boundary between public and private action in constitutional law and laid the groundwork for many civil rights cases to come it also redefined the court s involvement in what had been a hands off area of political questions and foreshadowed its participation in voter reapportionment cases a landmark case in the evolution of southern race relations and politics and for voting rights in general smith also provides a telling example of how the clash between national concerns and local priorities often acts as a lightning rod for resolving controversial issues zelden s lucid account of the controversies and conflicts surrounding smith should refine and reinvigorate our understanding of a crucial moment in american history

contains seven case studies evaluating confederate and union generals who might be considered capable failures officers of high pre war reputation some with distinguished records in the civil war explores the various reasons these men suffered defeat such as flaws of character errors of judgment lack of preparation or circumstances beyond their control annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

this is the best biography of one of the most exciting colorful and controversial figures of the civil war a renowned cavalryman nathan bedford forrest perfected a ruthless hit and run guerrilla warfare that terrified union soldiers and garnered the respect of warriors like

william sherman who described his adversary as that devil forrest the most remarkable man our civil war produced on either side historian bruce catton rated forrest one of the authentic military geniuses of the whole war but brian steel wills covers much more than the cavalryman s incredible feats on the field of battle he also provides the most thoughtful and complete analysis of forrest s hardscrabble childhood in backwater mississippi his rise to wealth in the memphis slave trade his role in the infamous fort pillow massacre of black union soldiers his role as early leader and grand wizard of the first ku klux klan and his declining health and premature death in a reconstructing america

this book offers conclusions that are very different from most of the traditional historical interpretations of the buchanan presidency historians have either condemned buchanan for weakness and vacillation or portrayed him as a president dedicated to peace who did everything constitutionally possible to avoid war under the scrutiny of elbert b smith buchanan emerges as a strong figure who made vital contributions not to peace but to the accelerating animosities that produced the war historians who have considered the civil war a necessary and justifiable price for the destruction of slavery should feel a debt to james buchanan smith writes those who think the war could and should have been avoided owe him nothing most of the accounts of the era have concentrated on the dred scott case bleeding kansas and the lecompton constitution the lincoln douglas debates john brown the rise of the republicans and the disintegration of the democrats the election of 1860 and the bitter quarrels over slavery extension occasioned by these events buchanan has often appeared on a stage occupied by more important actors whether or not the war was already inevitable by march 1857 cannot be proved that a subsequent series of emotion packed events filled both north and south with rage and fear triggering secession and the war is undebatable it is smith s theory that buchanan in leading the united states through these fateful years added much to the war spirit that developed in both sections driven by affection and sympathy for the southerners he tried to satisfy their demands for slavery rights in the territories this aroused bitter anti south feelings throughout the north which foiled his efforts and further convinced the southerners that they could no longer have their way inside the union the one event that finally triggered the southern secession was the election of a republican president and buchanan s agreement with the southern demands and his personal hatred for stephen a douglas did much to accomplish this covering the most controversial period in american history smith presents important new evaluations for the consideration of students of both the civil war and the presidency

through a close analysis of legislative proceedings and of the precise language used maltz builds a strong case that congressional actions on civil rights including statutes such as the freedman s bureau bill the district of columbia suffrage bill and the civil rights act of 1866 as well as the thirteenth fourteenth and fifteenth amendments of the

early reconstruction era generally reflected the ideology and intentions of the more conservative republicans these moderates advocated limited absolute equality rather than total racial equality and opposed the undue federal regulation of private and state actions

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