A Short History Of Reconstruction Eric Foner

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eric foner s 1988 account of the decade following the american civil war shows that black people were integral in ending slavery and were often key drivers of what successes there were in the reconstruction period

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examines the origins of reconstruction during the civil war explores how african american and white southerners responded to defeat and the destruction of slavery and examines the policies of reconstruction governments and the reasons for their overthrow

between world war i and world war ii african americans quest for civil rights took on a more aggressive character as a new group of black activists challenged the politics of civility traditionally embraced by old guard leaders in favor of a more forceful protest strategy beth tompkins bates traces the rise of this new protest politics which was grounded in making demands and backing them up with collective action by focusing on the struggle of the brotherhood of sleeping car porters bscp to form a union in chicago headquarters of the pullman company bates shows how the bscp overcame initial opposition from most of chicago s black leaders by linking its union message with the broader social movement for racial equality as members of bscp protest networks mobilized the black community around the quest for manhood rights and economic freedom they broke down resistance to organized labor even as they expanded the boundaries of citizenship to include equal economic opportunity by the mid 1930s bscp protest networks gained platforms at the national level fusing brotherhood activities first with those of the national negro congress and later with the march on washington movement lessons learned during this era guided the next generation of activists who carried the black freedom struggle forward after world war ii

as nathan huggins once stated altering american history to account fully for the nation s black voices would change the tone and meaning the frame and the substance of the entire story rather than a sort of pilgrim s progress tale of bold ascent and triumph american history with the black parts told in full would be transmuted into an existential tragedy closer huggins said to sartre s no exit than to the vision of life in bunyan the relation between memory and history has received increasing attention both from historians and from literary critics in this volume a group of leading scholars has come together to examine the role of historical consciousness and imagination in african american culture the result is a complex picture of the dynamic ways in which african

american historical identity constantly invents and transmits itself in literature art oral documents and performances each of the scholars represented has chosen a different site of memory from a variety of historical and geographical points and from different ideological theoretical and artistic perspectives yet the book is unified by a common concern with the construction of an emerging african american cultural memory the renowned group of contributors including hazel carby werner sollors volclark catherine clinton and nellie mckay among others consists of participants of the five year series of conferences at the dubois institute at harvard university from which this collection originated conducted under the leadership of geneviore fabre melvin dixon an nathan huggins the conferences and as a result this book represent something of a cultural moment themselves and scholars and students of american and african american literature and history will be richer as a result

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

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one of the most misunderstood periods in american history reconstruction remains relevant today because its central issue the role of the federal government in protecting citizens rights and promoting economic and racial justice in a heterogeneous society is still unresolved america s reconstruction examines the origins of this crucial time explores how black and white southerners responded to the abolition of slavery traces the political disputes between congress and president andrew johnson and analyzes the policies of the reconstruction governments and the reasons for their demise america s reconstruction was published in conjunction with a major exhibition on the

era produced by the valentine museum in richmond virginia and the virginia historical society the exhibit included a remarkable collection of engravings from harper s weekly lithographs and political cartoons as well as objects such as sculptures rifles flags quilts and other artifacts an important tool for deepening the experience of those who visited the exhibit america s reconstruction also makes this rich assemblage of information and period art available to the wider audience of people unable to see the exhibit in its host cities a work that stands along as well as in proud accompaniment to the temporary collection it will appeal to general readers and assist instructors of both new and seasoned students of the civil war and its tumultuous aftermath

this study is the first to critically survey the changing and highly controversial historical literature surrounding the american civil war era from contemporary interpretations up to the present the racial question was one of the central causes of the war there was recognition of the need for america to conform wholly to the declaration of independence that all men are created equal the book both analyzes historians attitudes and assumptions and suggests that each writer s perspective was partly determined by the dictates of time and place

the racist legacy behind the western idea of freedom the era of the enlightenment which gave rise to our modern conceptions of freedom and democracy was also the height of the trans atlantic slave trade america a nation founded on the principle of liberty is also a nation built on african slavery native american genocide and systematic racial discrimination white freedom traces the complex relationship between freedom and race from the eighteenth century to today revealing how being free has meant being white tyler stovall explores the intertwined histories of racism and freedom in france and the united states the two leading nations that have claimed liberty as the heart of their national identities he explores how french and american thinkers defined freedom in racial terms and conceived of liberty as an aspect and privilege of whiteness he discusses how the statue of liberty a gift from france to the united states and perhaps the most famous symbol of freedom on earth promised both freedom and whiteness to european immigrants taking readers from the age of revolution to today stovall challenges the notion that racism is somehow a paradox or contradiction within the democratic tradition demonstrating how white identity is intrinsic to western ideas about liberty throughout the history of modern western liberal democracy freedom has long been white freedom a major work of scholarship that is certain to draw a wide readership and transform contemporary debates white freedom provides vital new perspectives on the inherent racism behind our most cherished beliefs about freedom liberty and human rights

in this revisionist study young denies that adams was a reactionary critic of democracy and instead contends that he was an idealistic though often disappointed advocate of representative government young focuses on adams s belief that capitalist industrial development during the gilded age had debased american ideals and then turns to a careful study of adams s famous contrast of the unity of medieval society with the fragmentation of modern technological society book jacket

gripping and essential jesse wegman new york times an authoritative history by the preeminent scholar of the civil war era the second founding traces the arc of the three foundational reconstruction amendments from their origins in antebellum activism and adoption amidst intense postwar politics to their virtual nullification by narrow supreme court decisions and jim crow state laws today these amendments remain strong tools for achieving the american ideal of equality if only we will take them up

in this study paludan offers us lincoln in the round a complex even contradictory personality who found greatness without seeking it and who felt deeply troubled about what he perceived as his failings as a president and person

this spirited narrative challenges students to think about the meaning of american history thoughtful inclusion of the lives of everyday people cultural diversity work and popular culture preserves the text s basic approach to american history as a story of all the american people the seventh edition maintains the emphasis on the unique social history of the united states and engages students through cutting edge research and scholarship new content includes expanded coverage of modern history post 1945 with discussion of foreign relations gender analysis and race and racial relations chapter based links to the world connect us history to global events and provide web links for further research while end of chapter legacies for a people and a nation focus on meaningful events or movements relevant to present day issues or controversies

mcdonald explores how and why the presidency has evolved into such a complex and powerful institution unlike any other in the world he chronicles the presidency s creation implementation and evolution and explains why it s still working today despite its many perceived afflictions

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