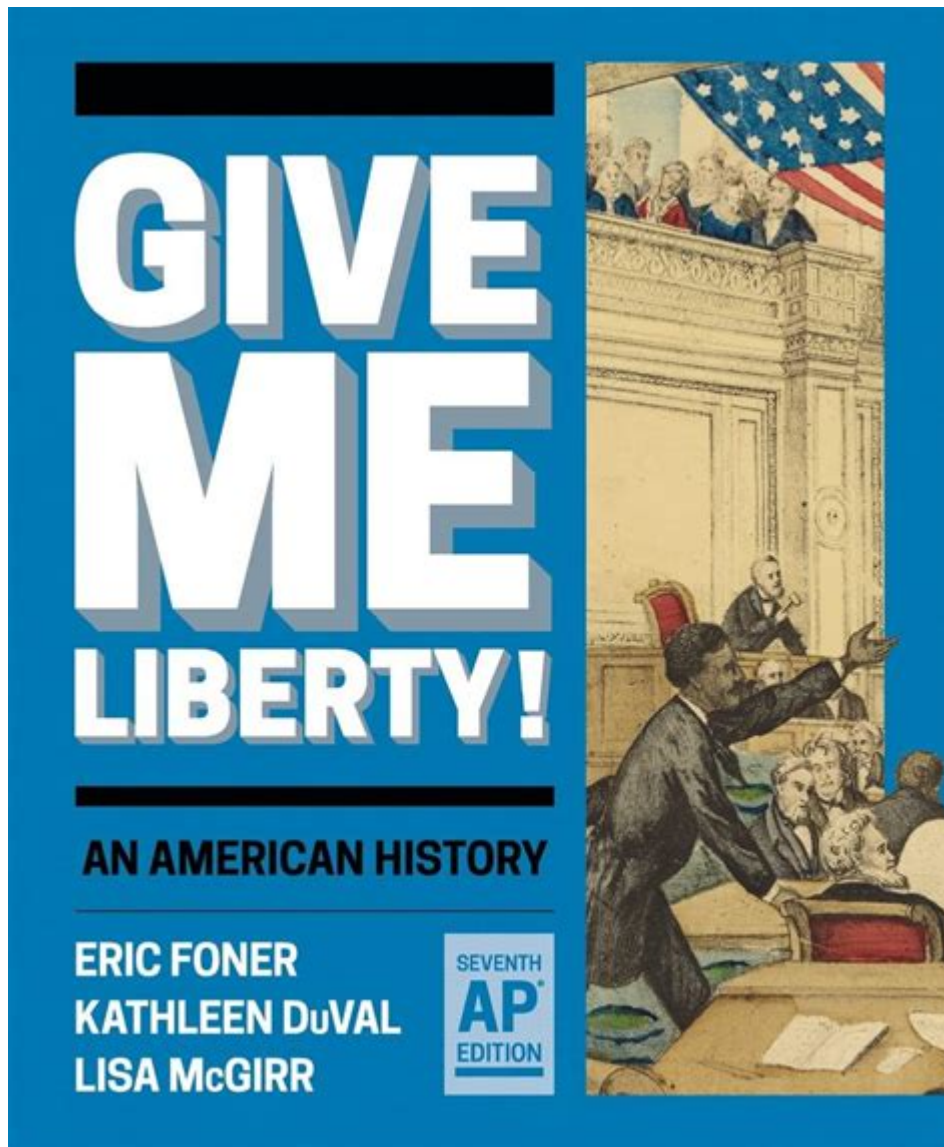


[Give Me Liberty Eric Foner](#)



Give Me Liberty! Eric Foner's Enduring Legacy on American History

Are you fascinated by the complexities of American history, particularly the ongoing struggle for liberty and equality? Then you've likely encountered the name Eric Foner. This post delves deep into the impact of Eric Foner's acclaimed work, exploring his key arguments, critical reception, and enduring relevance in understanding the American experience. We'll analyze why "Give Me Liberty!" remains a cornerstone text for students and scholars alike, examining its strengths, limitations, and lasting contribution to the field of American history.

The Foner Approach: A Fresh Perspective on American History

Eric Foner's "Give Me Liberty!" is not just another textbook; it's a meticulously researched and compelling narrative that challenges traditional interpretations of American history. Foner masterfully weaves together political, social, economic, and cultural threads to paint a rich and nuanced picture of the nation's past. Instead of presenting a sanitized, heroic narrative, he confronts the uncomfortable truths of American history, including slavery, racism, and inequality, placing these issues squarely within the larger context of the nation's development.

A Focus on the Common People: Moving Beyond Elite Narratives

One of Foner's most significant contributions is his focus on the experiences of ordinary Americans. He gives voice to marginalized groups—women, African Americans, Native Americans, and working-class individuals—whose stories are often overlooked in more traditional accounts. This inclusive approach offers a more comprehensive and representative understanding of the nation's past. By highlighting the struggles and contributions of these groups, Foner challenges the traditional emphasis on political elites and provides a more democratic interpretation of American history.

Interpreting Key Historical Moments Through a Progressive Lens

Foner's analysis of pivotal historical moments, such as the American Revolution, Reconstruction, and the Civil Rights Movement, offers a nuanced and often critical perspective. He avoids simplistic narratives of progress, acknowledging the complexities and contradictions inherent in these periods. His interpretation emphasizes the ongoing struggle for liberty and equality, highlighting both the successes and setbacks in the pursuit of these ideals. This nuanced approach fosters a deeper understanding of the continuing relevance of these historical events to contemporary issues.

Critical Reception and Enduring Influence of "Give Me Liberty!"

"Give Me Liberty!" has garnered widespread praise for its scholarly rigor, engaging writing style, and accessibility. It has become a standard text in countless college and university courses, influencing generations of students and shaping their understanding of American history. While some critics have questioned specific interpretations or emphases, the book's overall impact on the field is undeniable. Foner's commitment to inclusive history and critical analysis continues to inspire debate and scholarship, pushing the boundaries of historical interpretation.

Beyond the Textbook: Foner's Broader Contributions

Foner's influence extends beyond "Give Me Liberty!" He is a prolific scholar and author, whose work spans various periods and aspects of American history. His contributions to the understanding of Reconstruction, the abolitionist movement, and the Civil Rights Movement are particularly noteworthy. He has also played a crucial role in shaping the public discourse on race, equality, and social justice. His ongoing engagement in public intellectual life ensures that his work continues to resonate with contemporary audiences.

The Ongoing Relevance of Foner's Work in the 21st Century

In an era marked by ongoing debates about race, inequality, and social justice, Foner's work holds particular relevance. His meticulous historical analysis illuminates the persistent challenges in realizing the ideals of liberty and equality enshrined in the American founding documents. His emphasis on the ongoing struggle for these ideals serves as a powerful reminder of the work that remains to be done. By understanding the historical context of these struggles, we can better address contemporary challenges and work towards a more just and equitable future.

Conclusion:

Eric Foner's "Give Me Liberty!" is more than just a textbook; it's a powerful and enduring contribution to our understanding of American history. His meticulous research, inclusive approach, and critical analysis have transformed how we interpret the nation's past and grapple with its ongoing challenges. Foner's work serves as a vital resource for students, scholars, and anyone seeking a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the American experience.

FAQs:

1. Is "Give Me Liberty!" suitable for high school students? While challenging, its clear writing style makes it accessible to advanced high school students, particularly those with a strong interest in history.
2. What are some alternative textbooks that offer similar perspectives? Texts by historians like Howard Zinn ("A People's History of the United States") and James Oakes ("Freedom National") offer alternative, though not always directly comparable, viewpoints.
3. Does Foner exclusively focus on negative aspects of American history? No, while addressing difficult truths, Foner also highlights moments of progress and the contributions of diverse groups to the nation's development.
4. How has Foner's work been criticized? Some critics argue his interpretations are overly critical or that he underemphasizes certain aspects of American exceptionalism.
5. Where can I find more information on Eric Foner's other works? You can explore his publications through online academic databases and his publisher's website. Many university libraries also hold extensive collections of his works.

give me liberty eric foner: Give Me Liberty! An American History Eric Foner, 2016-09-15
Give Me Liberty! is the #1 book in the U.S. history survey course because it works in the classroom. A single-author text by a leader in the field, Give Me Liberty! delivers an authoritative, accessible, concise, and integrated American history. Updated with powerful new scholarship on borderlands and the West, the Fifth Edition brings new interactive History Skills Tutorials and Norton InQuizitive for History, the award-winning adaptive quizzing tool.

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Vol Foner, Eric, 2019-12-01 A powerful text by an acclaimed historian, Give Me Liberty! delivers an authoritative, concise, and integrated American history. In the Sixth Edition, Eric Foner addresses a question that has motivated, divided, and stirred passionate debates: "Who is an American?" With new coverage of issues of inclusion and exclusion—reinforced by new primary source features in the text and a new secondary source tutorial online—Give Me Liberty! strengthens students' most important historical thinking skills. The Seagull Edition offers the complete text of the Full Edition in full color and a portable trim size with fewer illustrations and maps and an exceptionally low price.

give me liberty eric foner: Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad Eric Foner, 2015-01-19 The dramatic story of fugitive slaves and the antislavery activists who defied the law to help them reach freedom. More than any other scholar, Eric Foner has influenced our understanding of America's history. Now, making brilliant use of extraordinary evidence, the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian once again reconfigures the national saga of American slavery and freedom. A deeply entrenched institution, slavery lived on legally and commercially even in the northern states that had abolished it after the American Revolution. Slaves could be found in the streets of New York well after abolition, traveling with owners doing business with the city's major banks, merchants, and manufacturers. New York was also home to the North's largest free black community, making it a magnet for fugitive slaves seeking refuge. Slave catchers and gangs of kidnappers roamed the city, seizing free blacks, often children, and sending them south to slavery. To protect fugitives and fight kidnappings, the city's free blacks worked with white abolitionists to organize the New York Vigilance Committee in 1835. In the 1840s vigilance committees proliferated throughout the North and began collaborating to dispatch fugitive slaves from the upper South, Washington, and Baltimore, through Philadelphia and New York, to Albany, Syracuse, and Canada. These networks of antislavery resistance, centered on New York City, became known as the underground railroad. Forced to operate in secrecy by hostile laws, courts, and politicians, the city's underground-railroad agents helped more than 3,000 fugitive slaves reach freedom between 1830 and 1860. Until now, their stories have remained largely unknown, their significance little understood. Building on fresh evidence—including a detailed record of slave escapes secretly kept by Sydney Howard Gay, one of the key organizers in New York—Foner elevates the underground railroad from folklore to sweeping history. The story is inspiring—full of memorable characters making their first appearance on the historical stage—and significant—the controversy over fugitive slaves inflamed the sectional crisis of the 1850s. It eventually took a civil war to destroy American slavery, but here at last is the story of the courageous effort to fight slavery by practical abolition, person by person, family by family.

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Remade the Constitution Eric Foner, 2019-09-17 "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.

give me liberty eric foner: *Story of American Freedom* Eric Foner, 1999-09-07 Freedom is the cornerstone of his sweeping narrative that focuses not only congressional debates and political treatises since the Revolution but how the fight for freedom took place on plantation and picket lines and in parlors and bedrooms.

give me liberty eric foner: *Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men* Eric Foner, 1995-04-20 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.

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and small farmers within it; the evolution of racial attitudes and patterns of race relations; and the emergence of a national state possessing vastly expanded authority and committed, for a time, to the principle of equal rights for all Americans. This smart book of enormous strengths (Boston Globe) remains the standard work on the wrenching post-Civil War period—an era whose legacy still reverberates in the United States today.

give me liberty eric foner: Forever Free Eric Foner, 2013-06-26 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 eric foner: Voices of Freedom Eric Foner, 2005 Edited by Eric Foner and coordinated with each chapter of the text, this companion to *Give Me Liberty!* includes primary-source documents touching on the theme of American freedom. The freedom theme is explored in the words of well-known historical figures and ordinary Americans. Each document is accompanied by an introductory headnote and study questions.

give me liberty eric foner: Who Owns History? Eric Foner, 2003-04-16 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 *Who 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.

give me liberty eric foner: Give Me Liberty! and Voices of Freedom Eric Foner, 2013-11-12 It is the leading text in the field because it works in the classroom.

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Foner, 2011-09-26 "A masterwork [by] the preeminent historian of the Civil War era."—Boston Globe
Selected as a Notable Book of the Year by the New York Times Book Review, this landmark work gives us a definitive account of Lincoln's lifelong engagement with the nation's critical issue: American slavery. A master historian, Eric Foner draws Lincoln and the broader history of the period into perfect balance. We see Lincoln, a pragmatic politician grounded in principle, deftly navigating the dynamic politics of antislavery, secession, and civil war. Lincoln's greatness emerges from his capacity for moral and political growth.

give me liberty eric foner: Tom Paine and Revolutionary America Eric Foner, 2005 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.

give me liberty eric foner: American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750-1804 Alan Taylor, 2016-09-06 "Excellent . . . deserves high praise. Mr. Taylor conveys this sprawling continental history with economy, clarity, and vividness."—Brendan Simms, *Wall Street Journal* The American Revolution is often portrayed as a high-minded, orderly event whose capstone, the Constitution, provided the nation its democratic framework. Alan Taylor, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, gives us a different creation story in this magisterial history. The American Revolution builds like a ground fire overspreading Britain's colonies, fueled by local conditions and resistant to control. Emerging from the continental rivalries of European empires and their native allies, the revolution pivoted on western expansion as well as seaboard resistance to British taxes. When war erupted, Patriot crowds harassed Loyalists and nonpartisans into compliance with their cause. The war exploded in set battles like Saratoga and Yorktown and spread through continuing frontier violence. The discord smoldering within the fragile new nation called forth a movement to concentrate power through a Federal Constitution. Assuming the mantle of "We the People," the advocates of national power ratified the new frame of government. But it was Jefferson's expansive "empire of liberty" that carried the revolution forward, propelling white settlement and slavery west, preparing the ground for a new conflagration.

give me liberty eric foner: The Key of Liberty William Manning, 2022-10-27 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

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efficacy of history as a discipline.—Booklist

give me liberty eric foner: A Struggle for Power Theodore Draper, 2011-05-04 From one of the great political journalists of our time comes a boldly argued reinterpretation of the central event in our collective past—a book that portrays the American Revolution not as a clash of ideologies but as a Machiavellian struggle for power.

give me liberty eric foner: The Reader's Companion to American History Eric Foner, John A. Garraty, 2014-01-14 An A-to-Z historical encyclopedia of US people, places, and events, with nearly 1,000 entries “all equally well written, crisp, and entertaining” (Library Journal). From the origins of its native peoples to its complex identity in modern times, this unique alphabetical reference covers the political, economic, cultural, and social history of America. A fact-filled treasure trove for history buffs, The Reader’s Companion is sponsored by the Society of American Historians, an organization dedicated to promoting literary excellence in the writing of biography and history. Under the editorship of the eminent historians John A. Garraty and Eric Foner, a large and distinguished group of scholars, biographers, and journalists—nearly four hundred contemporary authorities—illuminate the critical events, issues, and individuals that have shaped our past. Readers will find everything from a chronological account of immigration; individual entries on the Bull Moose Party and the Know-Nothings as well as an article on third parties in American politics; pieces on specific religious groups, leaders, and movements and a larger-scale overview of religion in America. Interweaving traditional political and economic topics with the spectrum of America’s social and cultural legacies—everything from marriage to medicine, crime to baseball, fashion to literature—the Companion is certain to engage the curiosity, interests, and passions of every reader, and also provides an excellent research tool for students and teachers.

give me liberty eric foner: Nothing But Freedom Eric Foner, 2007-09 Nothing But Freedom examines the aftermath of emancipation in the South and the restructuring of society by which the former slaves gained, beyond their freedom, a new relation to the land they worked on, to the men they worked for, and to the government they lived under. Taking a comparative approach, Foner examines Reconstruction in the Southern states against the experience of Haiti, the British Caribbean, and early twentieth-century southern and eastern Africa. He reveals Reconstruction to have been, despite its failings, a unique and dramatic experiment in interracial democracy in the aftermath of slavery. Steven Hahn's timely new foreword places Foner's analysis in the context of recent scholarship and assesses its enduring impact in the twenty-first century.

give me liberty eric foner: America: A Narrative History Shi, David E., 2019-07-01 America is the leading narrative history because students love to read it. Additional coverage of immigration enhances the timeliness of the narrative. New Chapter Opener videos, History Skills Tutorials, and Norton’s adaptive learning tool, InQuizitive, help students develop history skills, engage with the reading, and come to class prepared. What hasn’t changed? Our unmatched affordability. Choose from Full, Brief (15% shorter), or The Essential Learning Edition--featuring fewer chapters and additional pedagogy.

give me liberty eric foner: Give Me Liberty!, 6th Edition (Volume 1) Eric Foner, 2019-10 The leading U.S. history textbook, with a new focus on Who is an American?

give me liberty eric foner: Midnight Rising Tony Horwitz, 2011-10-25 A New York Times Notable Book for 2011 A Library Journal Top Ten Best Books of 2011 A Boston Globe Best Nonfiction Book of 2011 Bestselling author Tony Horwitz tells the electrifying tale of the daring insurrection that put America on the path to bloody war Plotted in secret, launched in the dark, John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry was a pivotal moment in U.S. history. But few Americans know the true story of the men and women who launched a desperate strike at the slaveholding South. Now, Midnight Rising portrays Brown's uprising in vivid color, revealing a country on the brink of explosive conflict. Brown, the descendant of New England Puritans, saw slavery as a sin against America's founding principles. Unlike most abolitionists, he was willing to take up arms, and in 1859 he prepared for battle at a hideout in Maryland, joined by his teenage daughter, three of his sons, and a guerrilla band that included former slaves and a dashing spy. On October 17, the raiders seized Harpers

Ferry, stunning the nation and prompting a counterattack led by Robert E. Lee. After Brown's capture, his defiant eloquence galvanized the North and appalled the South, which considered Brown a terrorist. The raid also helped elect Abraham Lincoln, who later began to fulfill Brown's dream with the Emancipation Proclamation, a measure he called a John Brown raid, on a gigantic scale. Tony Horwitz's riveting book travels antebellum America to deliver both a taut historical drama and a telling portrait of a nation divided—a time that still resonates in ours.

give me liberty eric foner: American History: A Very Short Introduction Paul S. Boyer, 2012-08-16 This volume in Oxford's A Very Short Introduction series offers a concise, readable narrative of the vast span of American history, from the earliest human migrations to the early twenty-first century when the United States loomed as a global power and comprised a complex multi-cultural society of more than 300 million people. The narrative is organized around major interpretive themes, with facts and dates introduced as needed to illustrate these themes. The emphasis throughout is on clarity and accessibility to the interested non-specialist.

give me liberty eric foner: Give Me Liberty Daniel Letwin, John Louis Recchiuti, Thomas Clarkin, 2007-09 This two-volume study guide has approximately 1,700 questions: 1,400 multiple-choice and true/false questions (approximately 50 per chapter), and almost 300 essay questions (about 10 per chapter). The guide includes definitions of key terms and chapter review questions.

give me liberty eric foner: The Zealot and the Emancipator H. W. Brands, 2020-10-06 From the acclaimed historian and bestselling author: a page-turning account of the epic struggle over slavery as embodied by John Brown and Abraham Lincoln—two men moved to radically different acts to confront our nation's gravest sin. John Brown was a charismatic and deeply religious man who heard the God of the Old Testament speaking to him, telling him to destroy slavery by any means. When Congress opened Kansas territory to slavery in 1854, Brown raised a band of followers to wage war. His men tore pro-slavery settlers from their homes and hacked them to death with broadswords. Three years later, Brown and his men assaulted the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, hoping to arm slaves with weapons for a race war that would cleanse the nation of slavery. Brown's violence pointed ambitious Illinois lawyer and former officeholder Abraham Lincoln toward a different solution to slavery: politics. Lincoln spoke cautiously and dreamed big, plotting his path back to Washington and perhaps to the White House. Yet his caution could not protect him from the vortex of violence Brown had set in motion. After Brown's arrest, his righteous dignity on the way to the gallows led many in the North to see him as a martyr to liberty. Southerners responded with anger and horror to a terrorist being made into a saint. Lincoln shrewdly threaded the needle between the opposing voices of the fractured nation and won election as president. But the time for moderation had passed, and Lincoln's fervent belief that democracy could resolve its moral crises peacefully faced its ultimate test. *The Zealot and the Emancipator* is the thrilling account of how two American giants shaped the war for freedom.

give me liberty eric foner: Our Lincoln Eric Foner, 2009 A collection of essays about Abraham Lincoln.

give me liberty eric foner: The Making of New World Slavery Robin Blackburn, 1997 At the time when European powers colonized the Americas, the institution of slavery had almost disappeared from Europe itself. Having overcome an institution widely regarded as oppressive, why did they sponsor the construction of racial slavery in their new colonies? Robin Blackburn traces European doctrines of race and slavery from medieval times to the early modern epoch, and finds that the stigmatization of the ethno-religious Other was given a callous twist by a new culture of consumption, freed from an earlier moral economy. *The Making of New World Slavery* argues that independent commerce, geared to burgeoning consumer markets, was the driving force behind the rise of plantation slavery. The baroque state sought—successfully—to batten on this commerce, and—unsuccessfully—to regulate slavery and race. Successive chapters of the book consider the deployment of slaves in the colonial possessions of the Portuguese, the Spanish, the Dutch, the English and the French. Each are shown to have contributed something to the eventual

consolidation of racial slavery and to the plantation revolution of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It is shown that plantation slavery emerged from the impulses of civil society rather than from the strategies of the individual states. Robin Blackburn argues that the organization of slave plantations placed the West on a destructive path to modernity and that greatly preferable alternatives were both proposed and rejected. Finally he shows that the surge of Atlantic trade, premised on the killing toil of the plantations, made a decisive contribution to both the Industrial Revolution and the rise of the West.

give me liberty eric foner: *Founding Brothers* Joseph J. Ellis, 2002-02-05 PULITZER PRIZE WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A landmark work of history explores how a group of greatly gifted but deeply flawed individuals—Hamilton, Burr, Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, Adams, and Madison—confronted the overwhelming challenges before them to set the course for our nation. “A splendid book—humane, learned, written with flair and radiant with a calm intelligence and wit.” —The New York Times Book Review The United States was more a fragile hope than a reality in 1790. During the decade that followed, the Founding Fathers—re-examined here as Founding Brothers—combined the ideals of the Declaration of Independence with the content of the Constitution to create the practical workings of our government. Through an analysis of six fascinating episodes—Hamilton and Burr’s deadly duel, Washington’s precedent-setting Farewell Address, Adams’ administration and political partnership with his wife, the debate about where to place the capital, Franklin’s attempt to force Congress to confront the issue of slavery and Madison’s attempts to block him, and Jefferson and Adams’ famous correspondence—Founding Brothers brings to life the vital issues and personalities from the most important decade in our nation’s history.

give me liberty eric foner: *Reckoning with History* Jim Downs, Erica Armstrong Dunbar, T K Hunter, Timothy Patrick McCarthy, 2021-08-03 Reckoning with History brings together original essays from a diverse group of historians who consider how writing about the past can engage with the urgent issues of the present. Covering a broad range of topics, these essays illuminate what it means to be a socially and politically engaged historian.

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