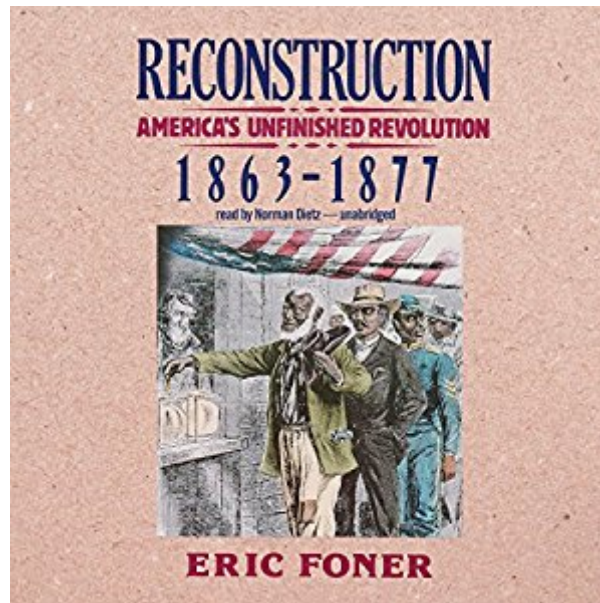




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Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877



Synopsis

The period following the Civil War was one of the most controversial eras in American history. This comprehensive account of the period captures the drama of those turbulent years that played such an important role in shaping modern America. Eric Foner brilliantly chronicles how Americans, black and white, responded to the unprecedented changes unleashed by the Civil War and the end of slavery. He provides fresh insights on a host of other issues, including the ways in which the emancipated slave's quest for economic autonomy and equal citizenship shaped the political agenda of Reconstruction; the remodeling of Southern society and the place of planters, merchants, and small farmers within it; the evolution of racial attitudes and patterns of race relations; Abraham Lincoln's attitude toward Reconstruction; the role of "carpetbaggers" and "scalawags"; and the role of violence in the period. This "smart book of enormous strengths" (Boston Globe) has become the classic work on the wrenching post-Civil War period, an era whose legacy reverberates in the United States to this day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reconstruction is exceptional. Well written in a manner easily understood as well as factual, informative and even at times, a bit humorous. An extremely important record without the dryness of most text books.

A+++

Foner is a master at knitting together many disparate details into a synthesis that allows larger historical movements to be apparent. It is obvious that he has the easy command of the subject that comes from a career spent studying not just the work of other historians, but also many and varied primary sources from the Civil War and Reconstruction era.

Great book. Wonderful analysis of reconstruction as can only be expected by Eric Foner, but some genius decided that they wouldn't put any page numbers into the Kindle version. Worthless to use as a reference without the page numbers. Returning the Kindle version and buying a paperback copy. Just to be clear, this is a five star book but the Kindle version is worthless to historians and students wanting to cite their sources.

Foner's work is new to me so I did not read the edition that is not updated and cannot point out the differences. I cannot say enough about this historian professor author and his work. I cannot imagine being without it now that I have found it. The story of reconstruction must be impossible to understand or tell for the themes, the influences, the elements, all so complex, so HUGE and so MEANINGFUL in our history then and our body politic now. I would recommend this for anyone who wants to understand and is willing to face our history full on and see how and why things stand as they do today, how and why it has taken so long, how and why it appears that we do learn, we do evolve, and we also do choose not to.

THE, predominate modern synthesis of Reconstruction. A must read for any U.S. Historian.

Foner's work educated me about quite a few major points:

- The role of black revolt during the war years in dismantling slavery and converting abolition from a radical position to a simple recognition of the evolving facts on the ground.
- Blacks' skill and ambition in organizing socially and politically, once they were free.
- The magnitude of the nation-building challenge of providing 2.3 million ex-slaves in the Deep South with the rights to vote and to hold office, with schools, and with land for subsistence. Even without violent, white-supremacist resistance, this would have been a huge task.
- The vast extent of white supremacist violence against African Americans.
- The role of the industrialization stimulated by the war economy in distracting Republicans in the North from pursuing racial justice in the South.
- The role of the tight-money depression that started in 1873 in creating a labor movement and an anti-labor, including anti-black, backlash among Republicans in the North.
- The frankness of anti-black

racism in U.S. history, including for example in President Andrew Johnson's speeches. I suspect that points like these would be new and interesting for the general reader in the U.S., mainly the white public.

This was an interesting book about Reconstruction by a leading authority. After having read a great deal about the Civil War, it was interesting and depressing to learn more about the reversals during Reconstruction

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