

eric foner give me liberty

eric foner give me liberty is a landmark textbook that has shaped the way students, educators, and history enthusiasts understand American history. Authored by esteemed historian Eric Foner, "Give Me Liberty!" offers a comprehensive and engaging narrative that explores the development of freedom and democracy in the United States. This article examines the structure, themes, and impact of the book, delves into Foner's scholarly background, provides insights into how the textbook is used in educational settings, and discusses its critical reception. Readers will discover why "Give Me Liberty!" remains an influential resource, how it stands out from other history textbooks, and what makes Eric Foner's perspective unique. From the book's focus on liberty and equality to its ongoing relevance in classrooms, this guide provides a thorough overview for anyone interested in American history, teaching resources, or Eric Foner's contributions to historical scholarship.

- Overview of "Give Me Liberty!" by Eric Foner
- Eric Foner: Historian and Author
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Overview of "Give Me Liberty!" by Eric Foner

"Give Me Liberty!" by Eric Foner stands out as one of the most widely adopted textbooks in American history courses at universities and high schools. The book provides a comprehensive, chronological account of the nation's past, emphasizing the evolving concept of liberty. Foner's approach highlights the struggles, triumphs, and contradictions in America's journey toward freedom and equality. The narrative integrates political, social, and cultural history, giving readers a multifaceted view of the United States. By focusing on the experiences of diverse groups, including African Americans,

immigrants, women, and laborers, "Give Me Liberty!" offers a more inclusive lens on American history. The textbook is recognized for its clarity, engaging writing style, and scholarly rigor, making it accessible for students and valuable for instructors seeking a well-rounded curriculum.

Eric Foner: Historian and Author

Background and Credentials

Eric Foner, the author of "Give Me Liberty!", is a distinguished historian specializing in American history, particularly the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. He has taught at Columbia University for decades and is known for his scholarly contributions, including several award-winning books. Foner's expertise and commitment to exploring themes of freedom, race, and equality have established him as a leading voice in the field of history.

Philosophy and Approach to History

Foner's work is characterized by a commitment to critical analysis and a broad, inclusive narrative. He emphasizes the importance of understanding history from multiple perspectives, focusing on marginalized groups and the ongoing struggle for rights and liberty. His historical philosophy is rooted in the belief that history is not static; it is shaped by contestation, debate, and change over time.

Thematic Structure and Content of the Textbook

Major Themes Addressed

- **Liberty and Freedom:** The evolution of these concepts and their impact on American society.
- **Democracy and Political Change:** The development of democratic institutions and practices.
- **Race and Ethnicity:** The role of race in shaping American history, including slavery, segregation, and civil rights.
- **Social Movements:** Labor, women's suffrage, civil rights, and contemporary activism.
- **Economic Development:** Industrialization, capitalism, and the changing

American economy.

- Immigration and Migration: Patterns and effects on American culture and identity.

Chronological Organization

"Give Me Liberty!" is organized chronologically, starting with the colonial era and progressing through contemporary history. Each chapter contextualizes key events, individuals, and movements, and connects them to the broader theme of liberty. The structure allows readers to grasp how historical developments are interconnected and how the meaning of freedom has evolved through different periods.

Educational Use and Classroom Impact

Adoption in Academic Institutions

Eric Foner's "Give Me Liberty!" is widely used in high schools, colleges, and universities across the United States. Its clear prose, engaging narrative, and emphasis on critical thinking make it popular among educators. The textbook supports various pedagogical approaches, including discussion-based learning and thematic analysis.

Learning Outcomes

Students using "Give Me Liberty!" gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of American history. The book encourages critical analysis, fosters awareness of historical debates, and promotes appreciation for diversity in historical narratives. Its focus on primary sources and interpretive questions nurtures skills in evidence-based reasoning.

Critical Reception and Influence

Scholarly Recognition

"Give Me Liberty!" has received praise from historians, educators, and reviewers for its balanced perspective and thorough research. Critics laud Foner's ability to synthesize large amounts of information without

sacrificing depth or nuance. The textbook is often cited in academic literature as a model for inclusive historical writing.

Impact on Historical Understanding

The influence of "Give Me Liberty!" extends beyond the classroom. It has shaped public discourse on American history, contributed to curriculum reform, and inspired further research into freedom and equality. The book's accessible style and thematic focus have made it a resource for lifelong learners as well as students.

Key Themes Explored in "Give Me Liberty!"

Liberty and Its Limits

Central to Foner's textbook is an exploration of how liberty has been defined, limited, and expanded throughout American history. The book examines the contradictions between ideals and realities, such as the coexistence of slavery and freedom, and the ongoing struggles for civil rights and equality.

Diversity and Inclusion

"Give Me Liberty!" foregrounds the experiences of groups often marginalized in traditional history narratives. Foner incorporates the perspectives of African Americans, Native Americans, immigrants, women, and workers, providing a richer and more accurate picture of the nation's past.

Contestation and Change

The text emphasizes that American history is shaped by contestation—debates over the meaning of freedom, the boundaries of democracy, and the rights of citizens. This approach helps readers understand that progress is often achieved through struggle and negotiation.

Comparisons with Other American History Textbooks

Distinctive Features of "Give Me Liberty!"

- Inclusive Narrative: Focus on multiple perspectives and social groups.
- Thematic Emphasis: Concentration on liberty, equality, and democracy.
- Accessible Writing: Clear, engaging prose suitable for a wide audience.
- Scholarly Integrity: Reliance on primary sources and rigorous research.

Strengths and Limitations

While "Give Me Liberty!" is praised for its inclusivity and thematic coherence, some critics note its dense content may require guided instruction. Nonetheless, its strengths—especially its ability to connect historical events to enduring questions—make it a preferred choice for many educators.

Recent Editions and Updates

New Content and Pedagogical Features

Eric Foner regularly updates "Give Me Liberty!" to incorporate recent scholarship and reflect contemporary debates. New editions include expanded coverage of topics such as immigration, environmental history, and technological change. Updates also address evolving pedagogical needs, such as digital resources and assessment tools.

Adaptation for Diverse Learning Environments

The textbook's flexible structure allows instructors to tailor content to different courses, including survey classes and specialized studies. Supplemental materials, such as primary source readers and online platforms, enhance the learning experience and support varied instructional styles.

Conclusion

"Give Me Liberty!" by Eric Foner remains a foundational text for understanding the American experience. Its comprehensive narrative, critical

approach, and emphasis on liberty and equality distinguish it from other history textbooks. Eric Foner's scholarship and commitment to inclusive history continue to influence educators, students, and lifelong learners, ensuring the book's relevance in an ever-changing educational landscape.

Trending and Relevant Questions and Answers about eric foner give me liberty

Q: Who is Eric Foner, and why is he significant in American history scholarship?

A: Eric Foner is a renowned American historian specializing in the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. He has authored numerous influential books and is widely respected for his expertise in themes of liberty, race, and equality.

Q: What is the main focus of "Give Me Liberty!" by Eric Foner?

A: The main focus of "Give Me Liberty!" is the evolution of freedom and democracy in the United States, examining how these concepts have shaped and been contested throughout American history.

Q: How is "Give Me Liberty!" different from other American history textbooks?

A: "Give Me Liberty!" distinguishes itself through its inclusive narrative, thematic emphasis on liberty and equality, accessible writing style, and commitment to rigorous scholarship.

Q: What audiences is "Give Me Liberty!" intended for?

A: The textbook is designed for high school, college, and university students, but its clear prose and engaging narrative also make it suitable for general readers interested in American history.

Q: How often is "Give Me Liberty!" updated?

A: Eric Foner regularly updates the textbook to include recent scholarship, contemporary issues, and new pedagogical tools, ensuring its ongoing relevance.

Q: What are some key themes explored in "Give Me Liberty!"?

A: Key themes include the development of liberty, democracy, race and ethnicity, social movements, economic change, and the role of marginalized groups in shaping history.

Q: Why is the concept of liberty central to Eric Foner's textbook?

A: Foner uses liberty as a lens to examine the contradictions, struggles, and progress that have defined American history, highlighting how the meaning of freedom has changed over time.

Q: Is "Give Me Liberty!" used outside of the United States?

A: While primarily adopted in American educational institutions, the textbook is also used internationally for courses on American history, politics, and culture.

Q: What supplemental materials are available for "Give Me Liberty!"?

A: Supplemental resources include primary source readers, instructor's guides, online platforms, and assessment tools to support diverse learning environments.

Q: How does "Give Me Liberty!" encourage critical thinking in students?

A: The textbook incorporates primary sources, interpretive questions, and thematic analysis, fostering evidence-based reasoning and critical engagement with historical debates.

[Eric Foner Give Me Liberty](#)

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Eric Foner's "Give Me Liberty!": A Comprehensive Guide

Are you delving into the rich tapestry of American history? Then Eric Foner's monumental work, "Give Me Liberty! An American History," is likely on your reading list. This comprehensive text offers a nuanced and engaging exploration of the American past, challenging traditional narratives and sparking critical thinking. This blog post serves as your ultimate guide to navigating Foner's "Give Me Liberty!", exploring its key themes, strengths, and criticisms, helping you unlock a deeper understanding of this seminal work and its impact on historical scholarship. We'll dissect its structure, highlight its strengths, address potential criticisms, and provide insights to enhance your reading experience.

Understanding Eric Foner's Approach in "Give Me Liberty!"

Foner's "Give Me Liberty!" stands apart from other American history textbooks due to its distinct approach. He masterfully weaves together a narrative that incorporates:

A Focus on Social and Cultural History:

Unlike many texts that prioritize political events, Foner dedicates significant attention to the experiences of marginalized groups. He skillfully interweaves the stories of women, enslaved people, Native Americans, and working-class individuals, offering a more inclusive and representative account of American history. This commitment to social and cultural history enriches the narrative and challenges simplistic interpretations of the past.

Emphasis on Contested Narratives:

Foner doesn't present a monolithic, uncritical view of American history. Instead, he highlights the constant conflicts and debates that have shaped the nation's trajectory. He expertly showcases diverse perspectives and challenges readers to critically evaluate the historical narratives they've encountered. This encourages a more nuanced and engaged understanding of the past.

A Thematic Structure:

While chronologically organized, the text also explores overarching themes like liberty, equality, and power. This thematic approach provides a framework for understanding the complex interactions between different historical events and social movements. It helps readers connect disparate moments in history to understand the ongoing evolution of American ideals and realities.

Key Strengths of "Give Me Liberty!"

Several factors contribute to the enduring popularity and academic respect afforded to Foner's "Give Me Liberty!":

Accessibility and Engaging Writing Style:

Despite the complexity of the subject matter, Foner writes in a clear, concise, and engaging style, making the text accessible to a wide audience, including students and general readers with a keen interest in American history.

Comprehensive Coverage:

The text provides a remarkably comprehensive overview of American history, spanning from the earliest colonial settlements to the contemporary era. This breadth of coverage is crucial for a holistic understanding of the nation's development.

Rigorous Scholarship:

Foner's scholarship is impeccable. He meticulously cites sources, providing evidence for his claims and fostering trust in his interpretations. His work reflects years of dedicated research and a deep understanding of the historical context.

Diverse Perspectives:

As mentioned earlier, the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives is a defining strength of the text. This commitment to inclusivity significantly enriches the narrative and helps to create a more accurate and representative picture of the past.

Addressing Potential Criticisms of "Give Me Liberty!"

While widely acclaimed, "Give Me Liberty!" is not without its critics. Some argue that:

Length and Detail:

The sheer volume of information can be overwhelming for some readers. The detailed accounts, while insightful, might require significant time and effort to fully absorb.

Potential for Bias:

Although Foner strives for objectivity, the inherent subjectivity of historical interpretation means that some readers might disagree with his specific interpretations or emphases. It's crucial to approach any historical account with a critical eye, considering diverse perspectives.

Emphasis on Certain Themes:

The book's strong focus on social and cultural history might lead some to believe that other aspects, like military history or specific political events, are underrepresented. However, this is a matter of prioritization and doesn't necessarily diminish the text's value.

Enhancing Your "Give Me Liberty!" Experience

To maximize your engagement with Foner's work, consider these tips:

Utilize supplemental resources: Consult primary source documents, articles, and other historical materials to deepen your understanding of specific events or themes.

Engage in discussion: Discuss the book's content with classmates, professors, or fellow readers to foster a more dynamic and collaborative learning experience.

Focus on specific chapters: Don't feel obligated to read the entire text in one go. Focus on chapters that are particularly relevant to your interests or research.

Conclusion

Eric Foner's "Give Me Liberty!" is an essential text for anyone seeking a nuanced and engaging understanding of American history. While it has its limitations, its strengths — its inclusive approach, accessible writing style, rigorous scholarship, and emphasis on contested narratives — make it a landmark achievement in historical writing. By critically engaging with the text and exploring supplementary materials, readers can develop a richer and more profound appreciation of the complexities and contradictions of the American past.

FAQs

1. Is "Give Me Liberty!" suitable for someone with little prior knowledge of American history? Yes, Foner's writing style makes the book accessible even to those with limited prior knowledge. However, its length might require sustained effort.
2. Are there different editions of "Give Me Liberty!"? Yes, there are several editions, some tailored to different course requirements. Check the publisher's website for the most up-to-date information.
3. What is the best way to approach reading such a lengthy textbook? Break it down into manageable chunks, focusing on specific themes or chapters at a time. Utilize the book's organizational structure to guide your reading.
4. Does "Give Me Liberty!" cover contemporary American history? Yes, the book extends its coverage into the contemporary era, analyzing recent historical developments and trends.
5. Where can I find supplemental resources to enhance my understanding of the book's content? Numerous online resources, including primary source documents, academic articles, and historical websites, can be used to supplement your reading. Consult your library or university resources for guidance.

eric foner give me liberty: 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.

eric foner give me liberty: Give Me Liberty!, 6th Edition (Volume 2) Eric Foner, 2019-10 The leading U.S. history textbook, with a new focus on Who is an American?

eric foner give me liberty: Give Me Liberty!: An American History Seagull 6E Combined 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.

eric foner give me liberty: Give Me Liberty! An American History Eric Foner, 2017-05-01 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. The best-selling Seagull Edition is also available in full color for the first time.

eric foner give me liberty: Give Me Liberty!: An American History (Brief Fourth Edition) (Vol. 2) Eric Foner, 2014-02-07 The leading text in a brief, full-color edition. Clear, concise, integrated, and up-to-date, Give Me Liberty! is a proven success with teachers and students. Eric Foner pulls the pieces of the past together into a cohesive picture, using the theme of freedom throughout. The Brief Fourth Edition is streamlined and coherent, and features stronger coverage of American religion, a bright four-color design, and a reinforced pedagogical program aimed at fostering effective reading and study skills.

eric foner give me liberty: 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.

eric foner give me liberty: Give Me Liberty! Eric Foner, 2006 Give Me Liberty! An American History is a concise, clear, and inclusive narrative of American history written by distinguished historian Eric Foner.

eric foner give me liberty: The Second Founding: How the Civil War and Reconstruction 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.

eric foner give me liberty: 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.

eric foner give me liberty: Reconstruction Eric Foner, 2011-12-13 From the preeminent historian of Reconstruction (New York Times Book Review), a newly updated edition of the prize-winning classic work on the post-Civil War period which shaped modern America, with a new introduction from the author. Eric Foner's masterful treatment of one of the most complex periods of American history (New Republic) redefined how the post-Civil War period was viewed. Reconstruction chronicles the way in which Americans—black and white—responded to the unprecedented changes unleashed by the war and the end of slavery. It addresses the ways in which the emancipated slaves' 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; 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.

eric foner give me liberty: 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.

eric foner give me liberty: 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.

eric foner give me liberty: *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* Eric 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.

eric foner give me liberty: 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.

eric foner give me liberty: *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.

eric foner give me liberty: *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.

eric foner give me liberty: 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.

eric foner give me liberty: 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.

eric foner give me liberty: 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.

eric foner give me liberty: *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.

eric foner give me liberty: *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.

eric foner give me liberty: *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.

eric foner give me liberty: *A Discourse Concerning Western Planting* Richard Hakluyt, 1877

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