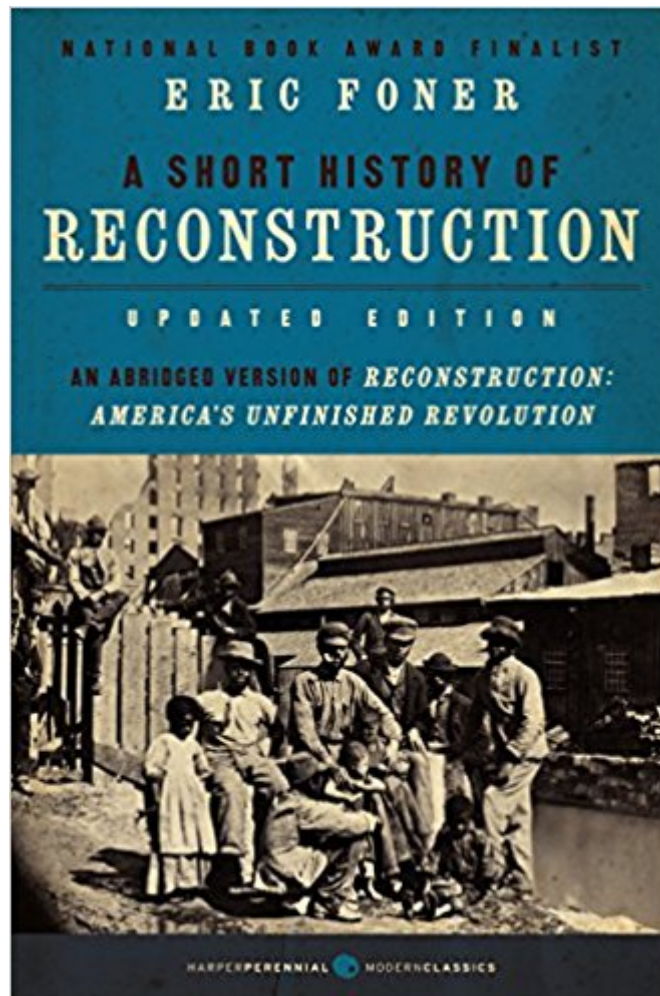




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# A Short History Of Reconstruction, Updated Edition



## Synopsis

From the "preeminent historian of Reconstruction" (New York Times Book Review), this is a newly updated abridged edition of the prize-winning classic work on the post-Civil War period which shaped modern America. In this updated edition of the abridged Reconstruction, Eric Foner redefines 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 quest of emancipated slaves—searching for economic autonomy and equal citizenship, and describes the remodeling of Southern society; the evolution of racial attitudes and patterns of race relations; and the emergence of a national state possessing vastly expanded authority and one committed, for a time, to the principle of equal rights for all Americans. This "masterful treatment of one of the most complex periods of American history" (New Republic) remains the standard work on the wrenching post-Civil War period—an era whose legacy still reverberates in the United States today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is history written on a grand scale, a masterful treatment of one of the most complex periods of American history." -- David Herbert Donald, "The New Republic"

"Eric Foner has put together this terrible story with greater cogency and power, I believe, than has been brought to the subject heretofore. He avoids ideological skids, freeloading hindsight, and mirages of certitude . . . Foner's

book brings to distinguished fruition one great cycle of Reconstruction historiography." -- C. Vann Woodward, "New York Review of Books" "A heroic synthesis that should dominate the field--much like C. Vann Woodward's interpretation of the new South . . . It gives nearly equal time to all the protagonists in the Reconstruction drama and recognizes how inextricably economic, political, social and ideological issues are bound." -- Thomas C. Holt, "Washington Post Book World" "A remarkable clarity is one of the many beauties of this book that dwells on so many conflicts and ambiguities . . . Foner's "Reconstruction" is a smart book of enormous strengths." -- Neil Irvin Painter, "Boston Globe" "Foner's book traces in rich detail the bitter course of the history of the South's failure to adjust to the revolution that brought the Civil War. Only by tracing that history and understanding can the region disenthral itself even today. No book could be more timely."-- William Kovach, "Atlanta Constitution"

From the "preeminent historian of Reconstruction" (New York Times Book Review), a newly updated AND abridged edition of the prizewinning classic on the post-Civil War period that shaped modern America. In this updated edition of the abridged Reconstruction, Eric Foner redefines 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 quest of emancipated slaves searching for economic autonomy and equal citizenship, and describes the remodeling of Southern society, 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 "masterful treatment of one of the most complex periods of American history" (New Republic) remains the standard work on the wrenching post-Civil War period—an era whose legacy still reverberates in the United States today.

The Reconstruction Era in the US after the Civil War was a vital link between the nation as it was before the War and as it was in the decades following, and as it is today. The era is a vast and complicated concept to understand. What I liked about this book was the clarity and ease with which it explains what happened, when it happened, and who made it happen. Based on a more comprehensive academic work on Reconstruction by the same author, this book condenses all of the important information into an authoritative and easily read overview based on historical fact. I trust the authenticity of the information. My understanding of Reconstruction has been greatly improved. Read this book if you want to begin to understand the forces that shaped this country in

the aftermath of the Civil War. Read this book if you want to gain insight into the history of discrimination and race relations in the US. Read this book if you have been visiting Civil War Battlefield Parks (as I have) and have been left in awe of the enormity of it all, and wanting to try to put it into some kind of social and cultural perspective. Just read this book.

Great introduction to Reconstruction from the premier historian on the subject. Foner takes the middle ground between saying Reconstruction was a failure or a success. He claims such it is impossible to classify an issue as complicated as Reconstruction with a simple verdict. I would suggest this book to anyone who wondered what happened after the Civil War and/or why a major Civil Right movement for African Americans failed to take place for almost a hundred years after Reconstruction.

Eric Foner has reconstructed our view of Reconstruction, changing the "Lost Cause" mythology of corruption and poor government from 1865 until 1877 in the South to a story of grass roots democracy, struggles for racial equality and African American voting, and the unremitting violence and racism which destroyed the possibilities of democracy after the Civil War. This exceptional history should be read in conjunction, if possible, with a thorough review, on this 150th commemoration, of the Civil War and all its complexity. Following this text, one might read about the re-enslavement of African Americans 1880-1940 and the second Reconstruction of the 1950s and the 1960s.

The scholarship is excellent. Some of the chapters were difficult to plow through. But the historical perspective is superb. The kindle version is rather poor in places. Some words were incorrect because they mixed letters, like R instead of B. Several times I had to do some heavy guesswork to figure out words.

I am reading this in conjunction with Foner's in-line course on reconstruction. The two formats complement each other. Foner offers insights that go well beyond the southern white experience to include the range of white and black southern experience, the women's movement, industrialization in the north, and expansion into the west. Many parallels to contemporary issues are evident.

Excellent overview of an oft neglected or misinterpreted part of American history. A good resource for all Americans to familiarize themselves with an important part of their nation. An interesting

perspective for African Americans who are familiar with the 1960s civil rights struggles and might be unaware of the first civil rights struggle in the 1860s.

This book shows why history has to be scrutinized and rewritten over time by people with less emotional/personal investment.

Great book. 5 star writing and history. However, 1 star Kindle rating because of defects in presentation. Kindle version does not contain the numerous valuable illustrations or print page numbers, making it much less useful than it should be. is unable to explain this. Bottom line: If you want the illustrations or page numbers (which are essential for academic citing use) do not buy Kindle version.

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