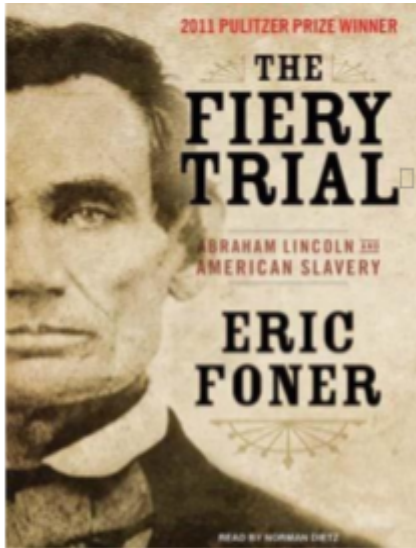


# DP History First Year Summer Reading

## Choose ONE to read and Create your Book Review

Choose ONE of the preceding books to read and evaluate as a historian. Produce and create the following assignment and be prepared to discuss you reading the first week of class and turn the critical book review in.



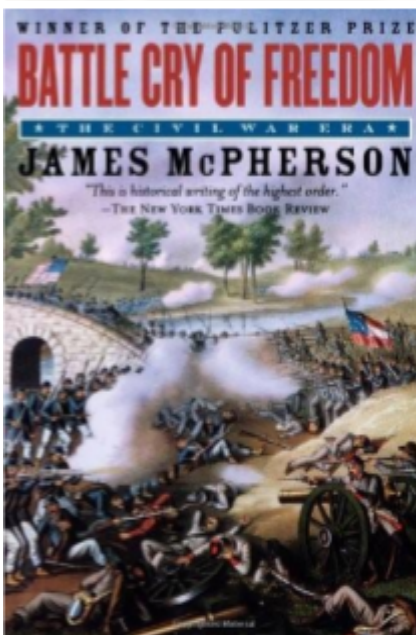
### **The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery**

**Eric Foner**

**ISBN-10:** 039334066X

**ISBN-13:** 978-0393340662

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.



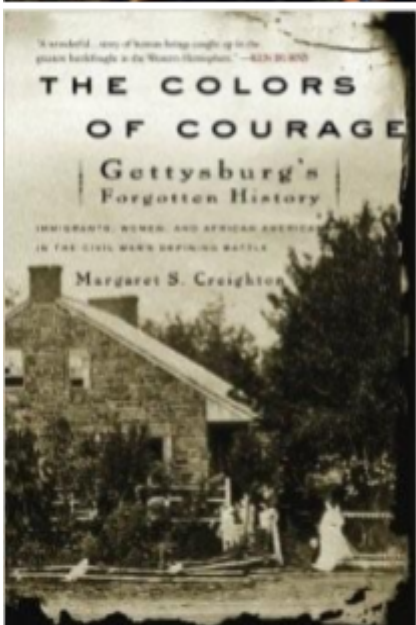
### **Battle Cry of Freedom**

**James McPherson**

**ISBN-10:** 019516895X

**ISBN-13:** 978-0195168952

James McPherson's fast-paced narrative fully integrates the political, social, and military events that crowded the two decades from the outbreak of one war in Mexico to the ending of another at Appomattox. Packed with drama and analytical insight, the book vividly recounts the momentous episodes that preceded the Civil War--the Dred Scott decision, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry--and then moves into a masterful chronicle of the war itself--the battles, the strategic maneuvering on both sides, the politics, and the personalities. Particularly notable are McPherson's new views on such matters as the slavery expansion issue in the 1850s, the origins of the Republican Party, the causes of secession, internal dissent and anti-war opposition in the North and the South, and the reasons for the Union's victory.



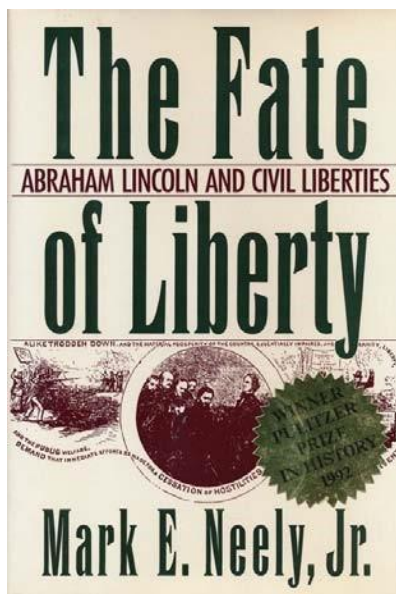
### **The Colors of Courage: Gettysburg's Forgotten History: Immigrants, Women, and African Americans in the Civil War's Defining Battle**

**Margaret S. Creighton**

**ISBN-10:** 0465014577

**ISBN-13:** 978-0465014576

In the summer of 1863, as Union and Confederate armies converged on southern Pennsylvania, the town of Gettysburg found itself thrust onto the center stage of war. The three days of fighting that ensued decisively turned the tide of the Civil War. In *The Colors of Courage*, Margaret Creighton narrates the tale of this crucial battle from the viewpoint of three unsung groups--women, immigrants, and African Americans--and reveals how wide the conflict's dimensions were. A historian with a superb flair for storytelling, Creighton draws on memoirs, letters, diaries, and newspapers to bring to life the individuals at the heart of her narrative. *The Colors of Courage* is a stunningly fluid work of original history--one that redefines the Civil War's most remarkable battle.



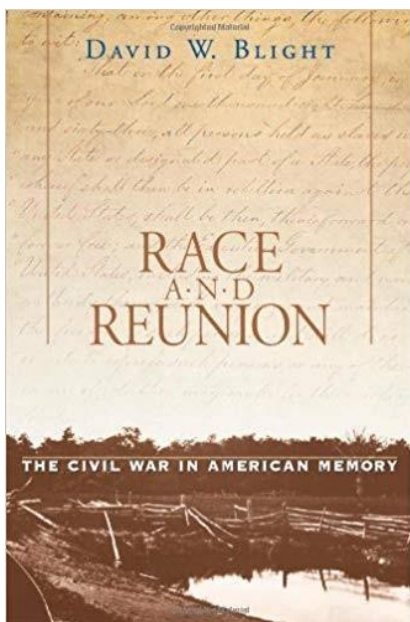
## **The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties**

**Mark E. Neely**

**ISBN-13:** 978-0760788646

**ISBN-10:** 0195064968

Abraham Lincoln was known as the Great Emancipator, he was also the only president to suspend the writ of habeas corpus. Indeed, Lincoln's record on the Constitution and individual rights has fueled a century of debate, from charges that Democrats were singled out for harassment to Gore Vidal's depiction of Lincoln as an "absolute dictator." Now, in the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Fate of Liberty*, one of America's leading authorities on Lincoln wades straight into this controversy, showing just who was jailed and why, even as he explores the whole range of Lincoln's constitutional policies. Mark Neely depicts Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus as a well-intentioned attempt to deal with a floodtide of unforeseen events: the threat to Washington as Maryland flirted with secession, disintegrating public order in the border states, corruption among military contractors, the occupation of hostile Confederate territory, contraband trade with the South, and the outcry against the first draft in U.S. history.



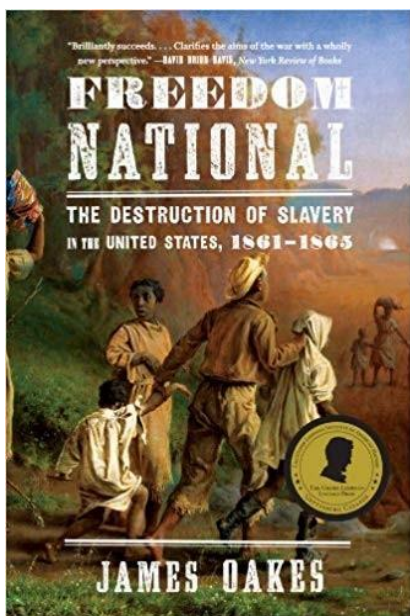
## **Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory**

**David W. Blight**

**ISBN-10:** 0674008197

**ISBN-13:** 978-0674008199

No historical event has left as deep an imprint on America's collective memory as the Civil War. In the war's aftermath, Americans had to embrace and cast off a traumatic past. David Blight explores the perilous path of remembering and forgetting, and reveals its tragic costs to race relations and America's national reunion. In 1865, confronted with a ravaged landscape and a torn America, the North and South began a slow and painful process of reconciliation. The ensuing decades witnessed the triumph of a culture of reunion, which downplayed sectional division and emphasized the heroics of a battle between noble men of the Blue and the Gray. Nearly lost in national culture were the moral crusades over slavery that ignited the war, the presence and participation of African Americans throughout the war, and the promise of emancipation that emerged from the war. *Race and Reunion* is a history of how the unity of white America was purchased through the increasing segregation of black and white memory of the Civil War. Blight delves deeply into the shifting meanings of death and sacrifice, Reconstruction, the romanticized South of literature, soldiers' reminiscences of battle, the idea of the Lost Cause, and the ritual of Memorial Day. He resurrects the variety of African-American voices and memories of the war and the efforts to preserve the emancipationist legacy in the midst of a culture built on its denial.



## **Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States, 1861-1865**

**James Oakes**

**ISBN-10:** 0393347753

**ISBN-13:** 978-0393347753

*Freedom National* is a groundbreaking history of emancipation that joins the political initiatives of Lincoln and the Republicans in Congress with the courageous actions of Union soldiers and runaway slaves in the South. It shatters the widespread conviction that the Civil War was first and foremost a war to restore the Union and only gradually, when it became a military necessity, a war to end slavery. These two aims—"Liberty and Union, one and inseparable"—were intertwined in Republican policy from the very start of the war.



## Critical Book Review:

Did you enjoy the book you chose? Why did you choose this book? **You will need to write a complete book review due the first day of class.** A critical book review is not a book report or a summary. It is a reaction paper in which strengths and weaknesses of the material are analyzed. It should include a statement of what the author has tried to do, evaluate how well (in the opinion of the reviewer) the author has succeeded, and present evidence to support this evaluation. Your review will need to be 2 to 3 pages in length. In your essay articulating your opinion, please support your response by discussing at least a couple of specific references from the book. Keep it clear and focused; remember this is not a summary of what you have read but rather a review about it so most of your paper should be opinion based.

Some general questions to think about when writing a book review are...

1. What point of view is the book written in?
2. Who is the intended audience?
3. What is the author's style? Formal? Informal? Evaluate the quality of writing: is it clear and focused? Does it have fluidity?
4. How did the book affect you? Did it change or reinforce any previously held ideas?
5. Would you recommend this book to other? Why or why not?

Again these are questions to help guide you in completing your book review, you do not have to answer them or even use them; they are just to help you if you get "stuck".