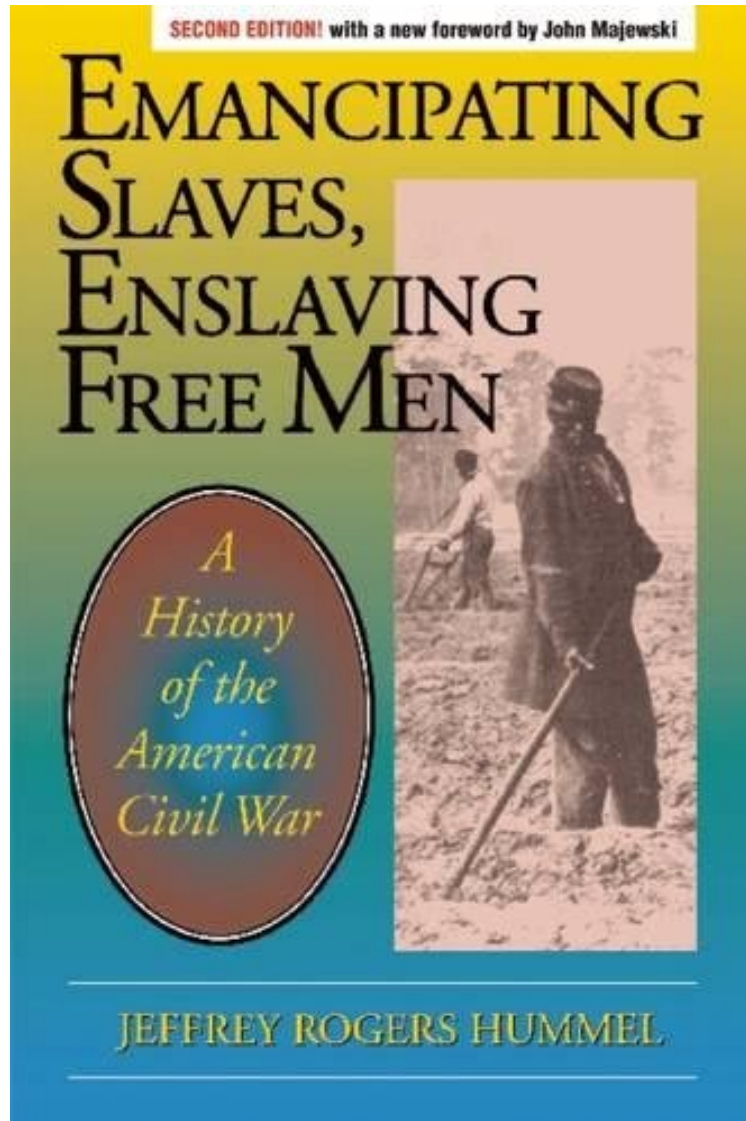


Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men: A History of the American Civil War, 2nd Edition

Jeffrey Rogers Hummel

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nineteenth century history collection. Hummel considers secession, slavery, economics, and the possible alternatives to war in this balanced approach to understanding a divided nation as well as the divisions within the divided nation. As our nation is perhaps far more divided than ever, in more ways than ever, this book is just as relevant as it has ever been. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Economist Adds His Research to the Subject of Slavery By Customer This is a serious, scholarly work on the economics of slavery and the tremendous cost of emancipation. It is not an emotional or moralistic view. If you are looking for that book, this is not for you. It is broken into 2 parts for each chapter: a regular written chapter for each topic, and the highly useful written bibliography, chock full of terrific, scholarly research and resources for further study. It is a volume that belongs in the serious library of anyone studying the Civil War, Reconstruction and/or Slavery in North America. The author is an economist so he delivers a new eye on the subject that is unusual, and prompted me to buy the book originally many years ago. My first copy is so highlighted and written in that I ordered an extra copy one for my kindle for quick reference while reading. Highly recommended for serious readers only. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. No Chattel Slavery, Yes Political Slavery By Book "Booker" Looker Hummel has written a book that I feel is more balanced and detailed than either of DiLorenzo's ventures into the topic. I was pleased that much of the historicity of the book was corroborated by what I had read in high school and so the book was for me a refresher on this era in American history. Hummel discusses in-depth the ways in which secession would have undermined slavery and frequently brings up specific entries from many different historical figures to give an accurate and complete picture of the Civil War and the ensuing Reconstruction. I strongly recommend reading this book if possible. One more thing I was pleased with reading this book: the author is much more detached from the events, rarely approaching the scorn and indignation with which DiLorenzo approaches the topic (if at all). Not to throw DiLorenzo under the bus, but I feel his books are a little misleading at times.

This book combines a sweeping narrative of the Civil War with a bold new look at the war's significance for American society. Professor Hummel sees the Civil War as America's turning point: simultaneously the culmination and repudiation of the American revolution. Chapters tell the story of the Civil War, discussing the issues raised in readable prose, each followed by a detailed bibliographical essay, looking at the different major works on the subject with varying ideological viewpoints and conclusions. In his economic analysis of slavery, Professor Hummel takes a different view. While some writers claim that slavery was unprofitable and harmful to the Southern economy, and others maintain it was profitable and efficient for the South, Hummel uses the economic concept of 'Deadweight Loss' to show that slavery was both highly profitable for slave owners and harmful to Southern economic development. While highly critical of Confederate policy, Hummel argues that the war was fought to prevent secession, not to end slavery, and that preservation of the Union was not necessary to end slavery arguing that the South crucially relied on the Northern states to return runaway slaves to their owners.

"With its insightful analysis (not to mention the extensive bibliographical essay that elaborates each chapter), *Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men* will supply both the academic and the Civil War buff with an added perspective on the causes and consequences of the Civil War." -- Publishers Weekly "Hummel . . . presents some uncomfortable truths for both sides of the Civil War. For the South, Hummel builds a case that the war was indeed about slavery. For the North, he shows that a war to preserve the union was morally bankrupt and that freeing the slaves was the only justifiable reason for fighting. Yet Hummel demonstrates that even a war for such a noble cause was probably unnecessary, since slavery was politically doomed in an independent South. Hummel also illustrates some of the cost of the war, such as Lincoln's suppression of political opposition, the closing of dissenting newspapers, and the creation of big government under Republicans Lincoln, Johnson, and Grant. Here, Hummel steps on some toes." -- Library Journal ". . . a lucid, edifying account of the Civil War era. Mr. Hummel has an impressive command of the relevant contemporary literature. His interpretations are thoughtful, often provocative, always well worth considering. Civil War buffs will want this book on their shelves." -- Kenneth M. Stampp, author of *The Peculiar Institution* "Even veteran students of the conflict will find much to challenge their thinking in this forcefully argued and clearly written study." -- Gary W. Gallagher, Professor of American History, Penn State University