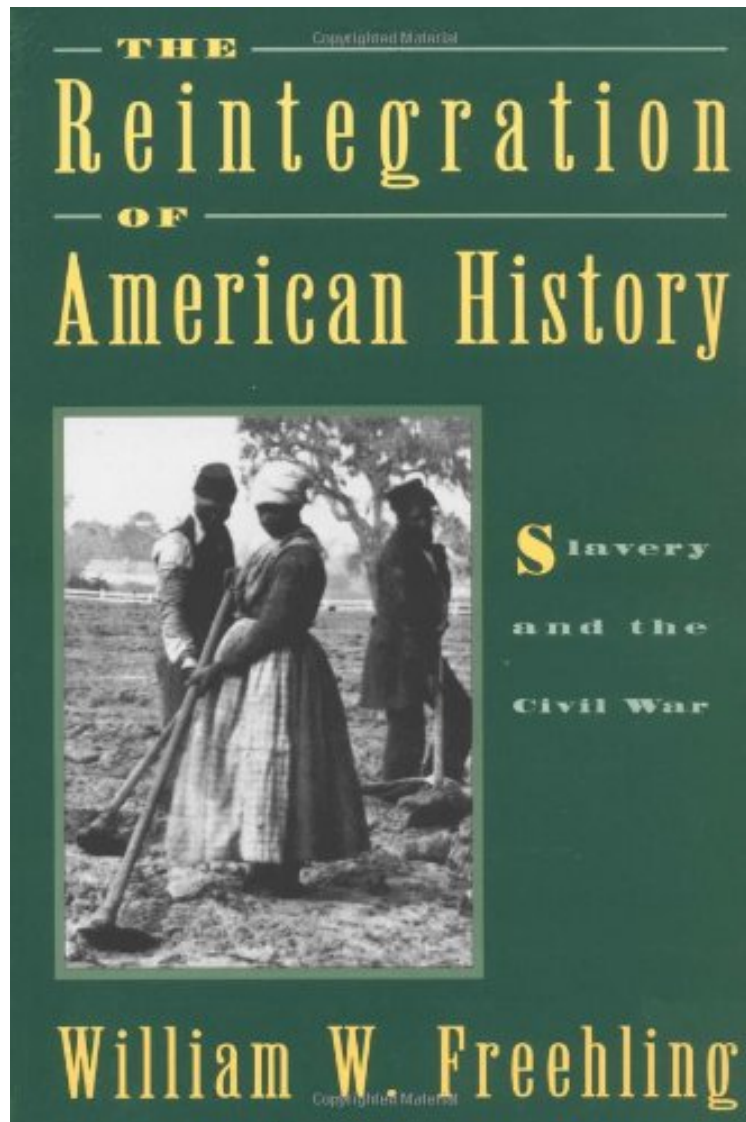


(Download free ebook) The Reintegration of American History: Slavery and the Civil War

# The Reintegration of American History: Slavery and the Civil War

*William W. Freehling*

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#2080482 in Books William W Freehling 1994-05-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.10 x .80 x 9.10l, 1.09 #File Name: 0195088085336 pagesThe Reintegration of American History Slavery and the Civil War | File size: 56.Mb

**William W. Freehling : The Reintegration of American History: Slavery and the Civil War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Reintegration of American History: Slavery and the Civil War:

11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. The Way of the Lash: Slavocracy in Thought and ActionBy Omer BelskyWilliam W. Freehling calls for a new, 'reintegrated' American history, merging social, political and military history, in his fascinating essay collection, which follows the evolution of the Slavocratic South in roughly

chronological order: the second essay deals with the Founding Fathers' attitudes towards slavery, while the later ones map Southern history to Appomattox. The main thread through Freehling's essays is the conflict he sees between two incompatible Southern ideologies: Paternalism - the view that a Southern Slavocracy has to guide not only black slaves and white women, but also 'lesser' white men; and what he calls Herrenvolkism, or white supremacy - the notion, associated with Andrew Jackson, that America is the republic of equal white men. Most exciting is Freehling's description of a tendency - one may almost say conspiracy - by Southern Paternalists to undermine the main instrument of the Herrenvolk ideology, the Jacksonian Democratic party, and replace it with a solid, Paternalistic, anti-slavery South. The prime suspect is Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, who commenced the struggle for the annexation of Texas as a way to awaken Southern consciousness: "There is [a] systematic conspiracy against the South and its institution..." Upshur wrote "[t]he South will be deceived... and will wake up, only to find itself powerless". Upshur saw the danger in "Northern Politicians... ever ready to sacrifice both political and moral principle" (quoted on pp. 126-128). Abel Upshur considered Herrenvolk democracy untrustworthy because not all Southerners had slave property and thus a stake in the system. Instead, they could be deluded by Jacksonian demagogues. (pp. 130-131). The Texas annexation issue was thus, at least partially, a measure against the Democratic Party. Possibly because Freehling's research covers such long periods, he downplays the role of contingencies. In his discussion of the causes of Southern defeat in the Civil War, Freehling criticizes historians such as James McPherson, who believe that the outcome of the Civil War was dependent upon battlefield victories. "[M]ilitary narrators [argue]... military outcomes shaped social outcomes, not vice versa, and military outcomes might easily have been reversed". Freehling convincingly argues that regardless of the outcome of Antietam, British pro Southern Military intervention was unlikely, and that even had George McClellan won the 1864 presidential elections, the war for the Union would have continued (pp. 224-228). Freehling locates social causes for Southern defeat: the defection of upper South whites and of blacks to the North. Here Freehling fails to differentiate between the circumstances of the war and the causes for the defeat. In the 1850s, the sectional conflict was between Southerners and Northerners - but in the 1860s, the American Civil War raged between the eleven states of the Confederacy and the rest of the United States. Did Southerners lose the war before they began to fight it because of their political failure to win the allegiance of the Border South? Possibly, but Freehling should prove it. When the war broke, the Confederates had several advantages: 2 million square kilometers of territory that the North had to conquer, some of the best soldiers in the United States, experienced leadership, and most important, it had to merely defend itself in an age of war technology advantageous to the defense. Certainly, the task was onerous, but Freehling hardly considers the failure to devise means corresponding to the ends: the failure of strategy. Unlike the Northern 'Anaconda Plan', which was tailored to the North's strengths and the South's weaknesses, the South's strategy, as far as there was one, made absolutely no sense - the South spent its precious manpower and best commanders on pointless invasions of the North along the Eastern front, while allowing Grant to defeat them in the West. Had the South chosen a defensive strategy, forcing the North to waste its power against heavy artillery in the bulwarks, the war might have ended very differently. By 1863, the Confederacy might have been doomed - but that was due to defective leadership, not necessarily to the long patterns of Southern history. Similarly, Freehling does not distinguish between the South's reasons to press for strict Fugitive Slave Laws and for largely symbolic victories in Kansas and Nebraska from the reasons for Southern secession in 1860 (p. 143). Historians' consensus on the second question is clear: Southerners left the Union because the Republican Revolution meant that the Union was no longer in Slaveholder's hands, and thus no longer safe for slavery. But why did Southerners, by forcing proslavery measures, undermine the antebellum two party system and thus their control of American politics? Freehling offers an intriguing partial answer: Southerners feared that increasing Fugitives from Border states would undermine slavery in the Upper South, and that, as the rates of slavery in the border states would decline, 'demagogues' - that is, anti-slavery advocates - would triumph in them, leading to the eventual abolition of slavery throughout the United States. Similarly, the agitation to reopen the slave trade was to solve the dwindling of slavery in the upper South (p.210). Thus the pro-Slavery campaigns were rational, if miscalculated, reactions to the social disunity of the South. This is part of Freehling's campaign for a 'reintegrated' American History - "the whole socio/political/military history flow[ing] in one piece" (p. 274). I find two flaws in Freehling's approach: it underemphasizes Economics, and it lacks systematic quantification. Viewing slavery as an economic system offers two alternative explanations for the phenomena he described: that the higher productivity of slavery in the tropical lower South, not fugitive slaves and anti-slavery propaganda, caused the dwindling of slavery in the border regions, and that similarly, the booming lower South economy of the 1850s, and the shortage of slaves, were the roots of the agitation for reopening the slave trade. The solution to both questions can not come from general sociology, from reading the mind of Southerners, or from political history. The only way to answer these questions is a systematic quantitative approach. As Colin McEvedy wrote: "History being a branch of the biological sciences, its ultimate expression must be mathematical." 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. wow By A Customer if you're interested in civil war causation and the ante-bellum south, GET THIS BOOK! i've studied the civil war-era for a while now and every single essay taught me something new. I LOVE THIS FREAKING BOOK! thanks, mr. freehling. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fast shipping and a well-conditioned book! By Pamela Norva You really lived up to the

expectation of shipping it fast. The book is in a very good condition as well. Thank you!

William W. Freehling is one of America's leading historians. His groundbreaking works on slavery and the years leading up to the Civil War have earned him numerous awards and prizes. His first book, *Prelude to Civil War: The Nullification Controversy in South Carolina, 1816-1836*, was hailed as one of the most significant studies of the pre-Civil War era, and earned him the prestigious Bancroft Prize and the Allan Nevins Prize for history. And his Owsley Prize-winning *The Road to Disunion: Secessionists at Bay, 1776-1854*, was praised by the *Washington Times* as "A triumph of historical research and art." This provocative collection of essays, all of them new or thoroughly revised, synthesizes thirty years of Freehling's writing and reflection on the nature of slavery and the causes of the Civil War. He offers a fascinating look at subjects such as the nonradical nature of the American Revolution, as seen in the Founding Fathers' chary manner in promoting the antislavery cause. He illuminates the problematic concept of a "paternalism" which supposedly harmonized liberty for slaveholders (those who could protect themselves) with protection for slaves and impoverished whites (those who would allegedly fail as free men). Freehling then considers slaveholders' attempts to reconcile slavery with democracy and thus formulate a coherent world view, especially as seen in the strained ideologies of John C. Calhoun, George Fitzhugh, and James Henley Thornwell. In an important new interpretation of slave resistance, such as the Denmark Vesey uprising of 1822 (which sought to undercut this paternalistic reconciliation of democracy and slavery), he describes rebellious slaves' success in casting doubt on the compatibility of democratic and authoritarian realms, and fugitive slaves' success in provoking Civil War and emancipation. Stressing the need for a new synthesis of American history both chronologically and topically, Freehling explains why the Civil War came, relating it to the American Revolution and the reasons why the Confederacy lost the Civil War. Likewise, the nature of slavery as a social institution is connected with the nature of pre-war politics and to the outcome of wartime military encounters. Enhanced with brief introductions, the essays lay out the design of a new multicultural history of the United States, one which emphasizes the way African Americans, white women, and white men condition each other and foster social and political change.

From Publishers Weekly Bancroft Prize-winning historian Freehling ( *Prelude to Civil War* ) offers a thoughtful collection of essays--some new, some thoroughly revised--reflecting 30 years of thoughts on the nature of slavery and the causes of the Civil War. Particularly interesting are the individual introductions to the essays, in which he reappraises his own work, as in the introduction to his revised version of his 1972 "The Founding Fathers and Slavery" where he reflects on his "partial disenchantment" with his original "overemphasis" on the Founders' antislavery accomplishments. In other essays he examines slaveholder expansionism; the movement to solve the "slavery problem" by deporting blacks; the internal divisions that led to the Confederate defeat; and the slaveholders' paternalism, in the context of freedman Denmark Vesey's 1822 conspiracy against Charleston slaveowners who were shocked at the idea that these black "family friends" could actually hate them. Unlike those historians who call the Civil War a clash of industrial and agrarian cultures or a battle over "states' rights," Freehling insists that the conflict cannot be understood without first understanding slavery's role in the balance of power between North and South, what he calls in his final essay "this epic American story of slavery, sectional crisis, Civil War and emancipation." Although slavery remains difficult to understand on any but an abstract level, it is to Freehling's great credit that he has offered an immensely readable explanation of the forces that created--and ultimately made impossible--what the slaveholders chose to describe simply as the "Peculiar Institution." Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The enormous popularity of revisionist scholarship on the Civil War and Reconstruction has overshadowed studies of the crucial antebellum period. Freehling's *Prelude to Civil War* (1966) and *Secessionists at Bay* ( LJ 8/90), the first volume of his study entitled *The Road to Disunion*, help explain how a small group of Southern political activists increasingly pushed the nation toward war. Having brought the history of a troubled leadership up to 1854 in that book, Freehling here takes the opportunity to reconsider ideas he has developed over the years. This new book contains a refreshingly self-reflective attitude toward scholarly efforts to integrate multicultural concerns with traditional interest in political events. The focal essay, which reflects on "transforming moments" on his "road toward understanding disunion," provides a model for other scholars. Recommended for academic libraries.- Charles K. Piehl, Mankato State Univ., Minn. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s An accessible and revealing, against-the-grain look at the twists and turns both of owning and being a slave in the 19th- century and of the business of researching, revising, and writing history. Using the most traditional and time-honored tools of historical investigation, Freehling (History/SUNY Buffalo) tells compelling stories of how and why the Civil War happened. Without sentimentality for Dixieland plantations or an ideologically driven discussion of the evils of slavery and other oppressions, the author demonstrates the need for historical research and writing that takes into account the points of view of all historical agents, including white women; poor, white ethnics; Native Americans, and African-Americans, male and female, slave and free. Rather than dramatic military battles and presidential proclamations, Freehling highlights what was happening in local communities and in state legislatures, demonstrating throughout how Northern desire for white-only republics, as much as Southern desire for continued slave-owning, fueled the

continuation of slavery in spite of America's rhetoric of freedom and equality. By not letting anyone off the hook of historical responsibility (including Lincoln and Jefferson, who both thought of African-Americans as racially inferior and incapable of living freely among whites), the author dramatically complicates and enriches the texture of 19th-century American history. Perhaps best of all, he gives an insider's account of historical research, showing the hard work or sifting through mountains of material to find the few gems that alter our understanding of the past. Freehling casts light on the murkiness of the antebellum American past and shows how close we are to, and how far we are from, understanding something of the fullness of American history. This is a well-written, mature collection of essays that deserves a wide readership. -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.