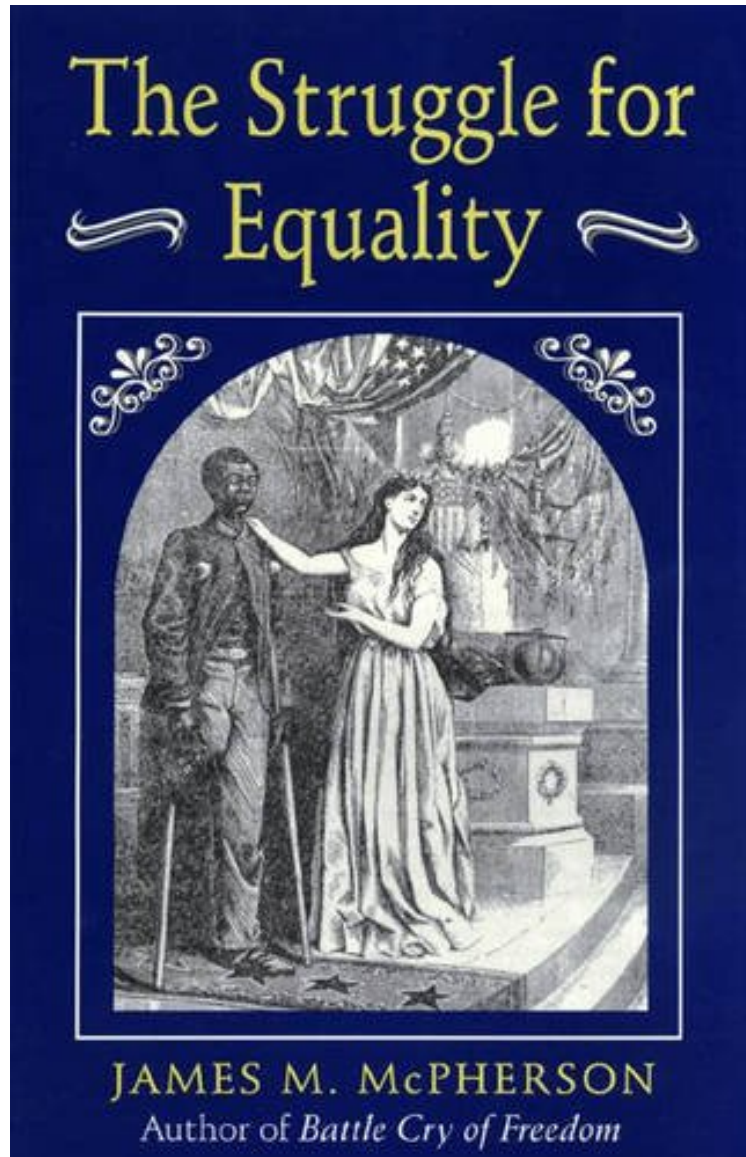


# The Struggle for Equality: Abolitionists and the Negro in the Civil War and Reconstruction

James M. McPherson

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**James M. McPherson : The Struggle for Equality: Abolitionists and the Negro in the Civil War and Reconstruction** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Struggle for Equality: Abolitionists and the Negro in the Civil War and Reconstruction:

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following review helpful. Five StarsBy Chicago JoeThank You.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.  
Outstanding history of the abolitionist movementBy BillThis is an outstanding history of the anti-slavery movement in the United States from the 1830' to the passage of the 13th amendment. It covers the various factions within the movement and the diverse tactics that were employed by those factions to advance their cause. For most of history of the movement abolitionist were passionately hated by most Americans because many considered their advocacy to be the source of much of the political rancor of the day. It is a fascinating story how the people within this hated movement were able to change the hearts and minds of the American people, and the politicians that represented them, to the extent that the 13th amendment could become reality. This is a must read for anyone who has any interest in civil rights or the origins of the Civil War.

In *The Struggle for Equality*, the renowned Civil War historian James McPherson offered an important and timely analysis of the abolitionist movement and the legal basis it provided to the civil rights movement of the 1960s. This work remains an incisive demonstration of the successful role played by rights activists during and after the Civil War, when they evolved from despised fanatics into influential spokespersons for the radical wing of the Republican party. The vivid narrative stresses the intensely individual efforts that characterized the movement, drawing on letters and anti-slavery periodicals to let the voices of the abolitionists express for themselves their triumphs and anxieties. Asserting that it was not the abolitionists who failed in their efforts to instill the principles of equality on the state level but rather the American people who refused to follow their leadership, McPherson raises broad questions about the obstacles that have long hindered American reform movements in general. This new paperback edition contains a preface in which the author explains some of the changing perspectives that would lead him to write several aspects of this story differently today. The original hardcover was a winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Award in Race Relations.

From *Library Journal*These volumes, published in 1975 and 1964, respectively, chronicle the abolitionist movement from before the Civil War to the part it played in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. LJ's reviewer found *The Abolitionist Legacy* an "ably researched, well-written book" (LJ 12/15/75). Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. Winner of the Warren F. Kuehl Prize, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations "Must surely be assigned an important place in the literature of the history of ideas and of race relations in the United States."--*The Times Literary Supplement* "The *Abolitionist Legacy* shows many of the same graces as its predecessor: wide-ranging and careful research, a strong sense of story line, an eye for good quotations, unyielding sympathy for those who devoted their lives to uplifting the freedmen."-- *s in American History* "In addition to discussing the complex blend of egalitarianism and paternalism in the thought of white proponents of black advancement, McPherson offers suggestions of the intricate mixture of racial consciousness, individual ambition, and racial romanticism that continues to fuel modern black separatism."--*Political Science Quarterly*