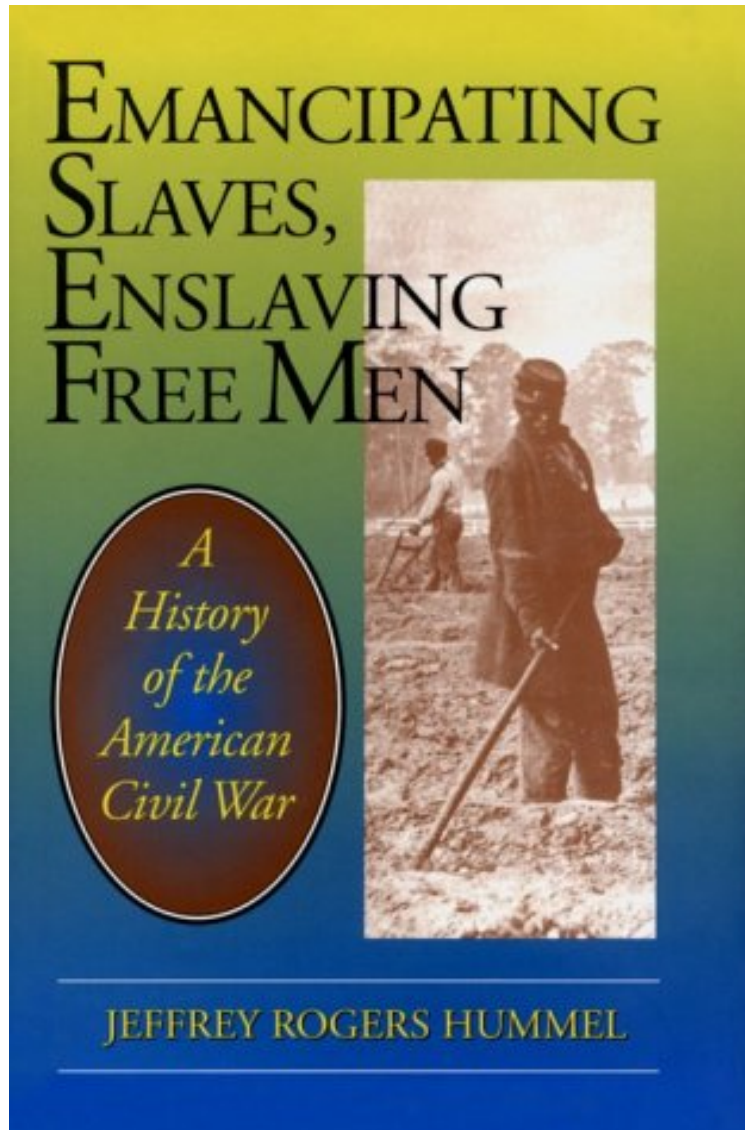


[E-BOOK] Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men: A History of the American Civil War

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

Jeffrey Hummel

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like a history book that goes beyond the typical textbook "North good, South bad" should have this book in their 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.

Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men is an exciting narrative history offering fresh insights into many aspects of the Civil War. "This is 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 University of California, Berkeley "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". -- Library Journal "In this insightful treatment of the Civil War (addressing the causes, the war itself and Reconstruction), Hummel's text argues against the thesis that armed confrontation was inevitable. With its insightful analysis (not to mention the extensive bibliographical essays that elaborate each chapter), Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men will supply both the academic and Civil War buff with an added perspective on the causes and consequences of the Civil War". -- Publishers Weekly

From Publishers Weekly In this insightful treatment of the Civil War (addressing the causes, the war itself and Reconstruction), Hummel's text argues against the thesis that armed confrontation was inevitable. "As an excuse for civil war," he says, "maintaining the States territorial integrity is bankrupt and reprehensible. Slavery's elimination is the only morally worthy justification." But slavery, he suggests, was on its way out in any case. Not only was it a political liability, but the institution's many-faceted costs (social cost, enforcement, uprisings, mistreatment) outweighed any profits. If, after decades of unsuccessful compromise, the North had recognized the South's revolutionary right to self-determination and had let the Gulf states secede, slavery would have succumbed in the border states. Hummel goes on to argue, as have many others before, that after a devastating war and the disappointment of Reconstruction, a federal government that once interfered only a little in the affairs of individual states "had been transformed into an overbearing bureaucracy that intruded into daily life with taxes, drafts, surveillance, subsidies and regulations." Hummel, a professor of history and economics at Golden Gate University in San Francisco, quotes David H. Donald, saying, "Before the Civil War, many politicians and writers referred to the United States in the plural"--i.e., the United States are, a grammatical agreement no longer used after 1865. With its insightful analysis (not to mention the extensive bibliographical essays that elaborate each chapter), Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men will supply both the academic and Civil War buff with an added perspective on the causes and consequences of the Civil War. Copyright 1996 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Hummel (history and economics, Golden Gate Univ.) 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. A worthwhile purchase for public and academic libraries. Robert A. Curtis, Taylor Memorial P.L., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.