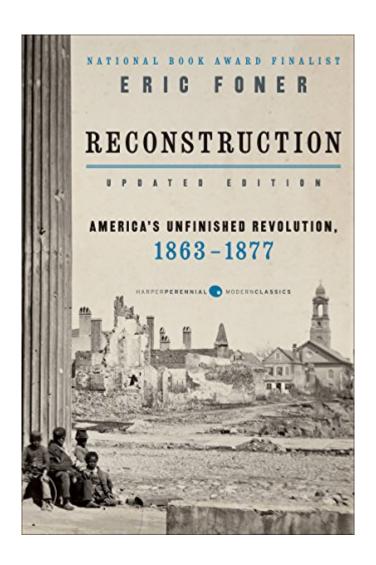
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# Reconstruction Updated Edition: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-18





## **Synopsis**

With a New IntroductionFrom the "preeminent historian of Reconstruction" (New York Times Book Review), a newly updated edition of the prizewinning classic work on the post-Civil War period that shaped modern AmericaEric Foner's "masterful treatment of one of the most complex periods of American history" (New Republic) redefined how the postâ "Civil War period was viewed.Reconstruction chronicles the way in which Americansâ "black and whiteâ "responded to the unprecedented changes unleashed by the war and the end of slavery. It addresses the quest of emancipated slaves searching for economic autonomy and equal citizenship, and describes the remodeling of Southern society, the evolution of racial attitudes and patterns of race relations, and the emergence of a national state possessing vastly expanded authority and committed, for a time, to the principle of equal rights for all Americans. This "smart book of enormous strengths" (Boston Globe) remains the standard work on the wrenching postâ "Civil War periodâ "an era whose legacy still reverberates in the United States today.

### **Book Information**

File Size: 6438 KB

Print Length: 752 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial Modern Classics; Revised ed. edition (December 2, 2014)

Publication Date: December 2, 2014

Sold by: A HarperCollins Publishers

Language: English

ASIN: B00LEYI4TK

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #117,901 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #112 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields #133 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Social Policy #154 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > Civil War

### **Customer Reviews**

I gradually read Eric Foner's comprehensive Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution,

1863-1877, updated ed. (New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2014) on Kindle over a period of several months. The first edition was published in 1988. It is not possible to capture adequately in this review the breadth of Foner's research and analysis. Suffice it to say that he covers probably every important political, social, and economic development, both in the North and the South, during the years 1863 through 1877. The present review focuses on some but not all of his themes. I was impressed by Foner's meticulous documentation of the factual developments he discusses. For the most part, Foner lets the facts speak for themselves. Although he has an analytical framework, his interpretation is informed more by historical facticity than by a preconceived ideological orientation. His extensive knowledge of the facts on the ground is remarkable. This work clearly represents a lifetime of study of these decades of American history. One thread that runs through this work is the influence of classical liberalism and its intellectual precursors on Reconstruction and beyond. I recently read C. B. Macpherson's The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism: Hobbes to Locke, a book written by a Canadian professor that did not address American history. Macpherson focused on the seventeenth-century English philosophers and thinkers who formed, as it were, the intellectual basis of the later laissez-faire theories of Adam Smith and his contemporaries in the eighteenth-century Enlightenment.

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