



# From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans

*John Hope Franklin*

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## **From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans** John Hope Franklin

From Slavery to Freedom remains the most revered, respected, and honored text on the market. The preeminent history of African Americans, this best-selling text charts the journey of African Americans from their origins in Africa, through slavery in the Western Hemisphere, struggles for freedom in the West Indies, Latin America, and the United States, various migrations, and the continuing quest for racial equality. Building on John Hope Franklin's classic work, the ninth edition has been thoroughly rewritten by the award-winning scholar Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. It includes new chapters and updated information based on the most current scholarship. With a new narrative that brings intellectual depth and fresh insight to a rich array of topics, the text features greater coverage of ancestral Africa, African American women, differing expressions of protest, local community activism, black internationalism, civil rights and black power, as well as the election of our first African American president in 2008. The text also has a fresh new 4-color design with new charts, maps, photographs, paintings, and illustrations.

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## **From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans Details**

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# **From Reader Review From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans for online ebook**

## **Ann says**

John Hope Franklin was a most amazing man. I requested this book at the library after learning of his connection to Nashville's Fisk University and after his recent death.

This reference / text book is full of a great deal of information - very impressive. I was able to skim through it, though didn't read it cover to cover.

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## **Rizky Hutapea says**

One of the most complete historical description for black American history

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## **Thomas Rush says**

When one encounters John Hope Franklin, now in video form on old TV shows or youtube, the first thing one is struck by is his natural dignity. He had such an easy-going personality, that he was able to easily make you like him right away. There was a benevolent quality about him, a naturally giving kind of spirit. In addition to his calm, kind and peaceful air, one is immediately struck by his intelligence. He's a man that can tell you something that happened 70 years ago with the clarity of as if it happened 5 minutes ago. All of this brings us to this book, the magnum opus of his career. In taking us through the more than 350 years of African-American History, he rarely leaves a stone unturned. The conciseness and clarity of his writing makes it easy to read as well. This book is in the top-rank of survey Histories of Black America, and Professor Hope-Franklin holds his own with any other Historian who has ever written. You will be hard-pressed to find a better History of Africa-America than this. This is a classic book, comprehensive in scope and an excellent piece of scholarship written at the highest level of its craft. I cannot say enough positive things about this work. An outstanding contribution.

I read Hope-Franklin's work no more than 2 pages at a sitting. This is the only way I could digest this mountain of information, to "eat this elephant-of-a-book-of 505 pages only one spoonful at a time." It takes Job-like patience to do it this way. This is not the kind of book I could do marathon reading with, breezing through 30 to 50 pages at a sitting. If I had done that, I would have gotten bored and bogged down. I also looked up all words in this book in a dictionary that were unfamiliar to me, and copied them down into a notebook. Though I pride myself on having a very comprehensive reading vocabulary, Hope-Franklin's verbiage had me looking up and writing down quite a number of words. I am glad that I read the book slowly and to have also looked up all necessary vocabulary words, absorbing much more information doing it this way than any other way. It took me quite some time to read the book, but I am profoundly blessed to have done it my way. I can only hope the level of my reading is reflected in this review.

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## **Edward Bryant says**

I believe this is one of the best single volume surveys of Black History in America. Dr. Franklin is a sharp

chronicler and writes in a tone that is scientific enough, but also with some passion and the patience of a true historian. I first used the book in an African American History course in college and since purchased the most updated versions for family bookshelf.

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### **Dee's Books says**

Thank you Dr. Waller for introducing me to this THOUGHT-PROVOKING JEWEL IN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL CIRCA 1984!

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### **Vince Carter says**

Even with all the attendant publicity of how transforming an experience it was for our president to achieve his office, this famed account is remarkable. Daunting in its range certainly, yet the readable way in which so many stories of heroism and horror, inspiration and contribution are told makes it so worth the experience.

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### **Josh Brown says**

The singular commitment to cataloguing and analyzing the history of black people in the United States that this volume exhibits provides a perspective on American history that is invaluable for understanding our present day circumstances - both for understanding contemporary issues that are “about race” as well as the ones that seem not to be.

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### **Mac says**

One of the best historians I've read in a while. He tells the story of the African American in America better than anyone I've read so far. Franklin's research is top notch. I recommend this book to anyone interested in America as we know it today.

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### **Douglas says**

Text book for my African American History up to 1877 class. Very readable & enlightening.

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### **Brad Neece says**

Not an easy read but an informatively fulfilling one. It's a comprehensive account of the African American experience from the slavery era through the post civil rights era.

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## Kiki Unhinged says

Required reading for Ethnic History class

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## Mark Bowles says

### A. Overview

1. Moss comes on board to offer a younger perspective for the 40th anniversary of Franklin's work. This book attempts to "bring together the essential facts in the history of the American Negro from his ancient African beginnings down to the present time. (Xi)" This history is the story of "the strivings of the nameless millions who have sought adjustment in a new and sometimes hostile world."

### B. Land of their fathers

1. In the last 1/3 of the 20th century blacks have written fondly of their African heritage, and the land of their fathers. We learn of these lands through travelers' accounts and oral history. This chapter looks at the main African political units including Ghana, Mali, Songhay, and some other lesser states.

### C. The African way of life

1. It is hard to generalize about an African way of life on a continent so large. This chapter focuses on West Africa because the bulk of the slaves came from this area.

2. Politics: All areas had a basic desire to form a government to help solve the needs of the community.

3. Economics: An agricultural people. The land belonged not to individuals but to the collective community. The "master of the ground" administered the soil and led the religion. There was sophisticated artisanry in the tribes (basketry, textile weaving, pottery, woodworking, and metallurgy).

4. Society: The family was the basis of social organization. The eldest male led the family, yet families were linked through the mother. Matrilineal lineage. Polygamy existed everywhere yet was not a universal practice.

5. Religion: Ancestor worship. The spirit of the forefathers had unlimited power over their lives.

6. Arts: Carvings, wood, stone, and ivory sculptures. Almost all tribes expressed their artistic aesthetics. Music is one example of this.

7. Lack of written language is partly explained by the heterogeneous language. There were so many regional dialects that no written language was ever adopted.

8. Transplantation of African culture: How much was brought over to America? As Africans from different tribes lived together in America there was an interaction among different African cultures. In places like the Sea Islands much of the African culture remained in place. Thus, African culture was brought over in the boat and was modified in America.

### D. The slave trade and the New World

### E. Colonial slavery

1. Virginia and Maryland: Began with 20 slaves in 1619 at Jamestown. They were listed as indentured servants. As the Virginians required more labor they made the blacks' status into "perpetual servitude." Slavery came to Maryland in 1634.

2. Carolina and Georgia; the Middle colonies; Colonial New England

### F. That all men may be free

1. By the middle 18th, slavery was an integral part of the economy. The Declaration of Independence remained silent on the issue of slavery. Blacks were not permitted to enlist to fight for independence. But, when men were needed

G. Washington began to allow all indentured servants and slaves fight. Eventually a

black regiment was set up. There was a fight after the war to manumit the slaves. The antislavery movement was so strongly resisted in the South that the movement died.

#### G. The turn of the 19th century

1. Trouble in the Caribbean. 1807 US and England outlaw the slave trade.

#### II.

##### A. The effort to attain peace

1. Reconstruction and the nation: This period is not just Southern history. It is an integral part of national history. This was a crisis that demanded action. The central problem was how to move the nation towards greater economic and political democracy.

2. Conflicting policies: Lincoln, Presidential Reconstruction, Congressional Reconstruction

3. Relief and rehabilitation: Relief was led by agencies like the Freedman's Bureau, church, Northern teachers.

4. Economic adjustment: Black Codes initially made blacks return to work for the Southern planters.

"Perhaps the greatest failure of Reconstruction was economic. (216)"

5. Blacks in politics: Constitutional conventions, blacks in public office. "At no time was there Negro rule anywhere in the South. (221)"

##### B. Losing the peace

1. Republicans and Democrats struggle for domination. This struggle shaped Reconstruction and led to the final defeat by both in attaining peace between the races.

2. Reconstruction ended gradually as restraints were slowly relaxed.

3. Disenfranchisement movements: The Democrats returned to power in the South and sought ways to reduce the power of blacks. When the Populist revolt failed (in which the black and white farmers joined together) total disenfranchisement occurred..

4. White supremacy triumphs: This occurred because whites were fighting each other. This gave the black voter the balance of power. Thus, the vote was taken away to remove this power from blacks. Plessy v. Ferguson.

##### C. Philanthropy and self-help

1. The only area in which blacks could improve their status was in education. Education became the great preoccupation of blacks. Northern philanthropers aid this quest.

2. Booker T. Washington: His ascendance was one of the most significant episodes in race relations after 1877. Great proponent of vocational education. Conflict with Du Bois.

3. Economic struggles: Difficulty in purchasing farmlands. Blacks were unaware of modern agricultural methods. B.T. Washington wanted to stimulate black business somehow.

4. It was more important for blacks to maintain a separate social and cultural existence than it was for them to do it economically. This was done through fraternal organizations. One of the results was a growing number of black intellectuals. By the end of the century blacks realized that the brunt of the burden of black development would have to be carried by blacks themselves.

##### D. Race and the nation

1. The new imperialistic strivings of America. Blacks and their involvement in the Spanish American War. The Spaniards called them "Smoked Yankees." Americans did not unanimously favor the arming of blacks.

2. Spain secedes their West Indies holdings and Puerto Rico. Also Cuba.

3. Urban problems. Employment difficulties. Violence against blacks.

4. Blacks organize to try to end these problems. Du Bois and the Niagara Movement. NAACP forms

##### E. In pursuit of democracy

1. World War I. 20,000 blacks fought. Many went to the recruiting stations but were not accepted. Black regiments. There was general disregard for the safety of the black regiments like the 92nd. They had the highest casualty rates. But generally the blacks in combat were very enthusiastic.

2. At home blacks were also enthusiastic about the war. They purchased tremendous amounts of war bonds. Migration of hundreds of blacks to Northern industrial cities. The fundamental cause of the migration was

economic.

3. The black press supported the war enthusiastically also.

#### F. Democracy escapes

1. The black soldiers returned initially to jubilation, but this did not last long. KKK and violence, race riots. Blacks were being discriminated against at the workplace and they generally believed that “democracy had escaped them.”

2. Protest rise: NAACP fights for an anti-lynching law. Marcus Garvey appeals for race pride.

#### G. The Harlem Renaissance

1. Socioeconomic problems in black literature: Literature, poetry, skilled dramatic actors, light comedy with Vaudeville. Jazz Age.

#### H. The New Deal

1. Depression: Black cabinet.

#### I. Two worlds of race

1. Tremendous interest in education in the 20th century. This interest did not decline since Reconstruction.

Founding of black colleges.

2. There was a distinctly separate black world within America. Thus they developed institutions of their own to establish their own identity. But blacks did participate in the affairs of the larger community.

#### J. Fighting for the 4 freedoms

1. Blacks go to World War II. Discrimination existed but they had the greatest opportunity in this war than any previous one.

2. On the home front they benefited from the war with new job opportunities. But there were race riots

3. Much interest was given to the role that the UN might play in ending discrimination in America.

#### K. The Postwar years

1. The main adjustment for the American people at this time was the adjustment to the new position of the black.

2. The most dramatic facts of life for postwar blacks was their increasing urbanization. Whites moved out and took the better jobs with them as new industrial parks opened outside the city. The black ghetto formed. This is one of the major factors that led to the deterioration of the black family

3. Poets and writers in postwar years. Blacks in TV (Cosby, Gumbal).

#### L. The Black Revolution

1. The main stimulus to direct black action was the opposition by whites to their cause.

2. Bus boycotts, sit-ins, freedom marches.

3. Civil Rights acts were the “illusion of fulfillment.” Blacks did not register to vote. Only 58% were registered in 1976.

#### M. New Forms of Activism

1. Reagan years: Unemployment concerns

2. Jesse Jackson’s political career

3. The war in Vietnam and war protests. Fights against Apartheid

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## Phi Beta Kappa Authors says

John Hope Franklin

ΦBK, Fisk University, 1953

Author

From the publisher: This is the dramatic, exciting, authoritative story of the experiences of African



Americans from the time they left Africa to their continued struggle for equality at the end of the twentieth century.

Since its original publication in 1947, *From Slavery to Freedom* has stood as the definitive history of African Americans. Coauthors John Hope Franklin and Alfred A. Moss, Jr., give us a vividly detailed account of the journey of African Americans from their origins in the civilizations of Africa, through their years of slavery in the New World, to the successful struggle for freedom and its aftermath in the West Indies, Latin America, and the United States.

This eighth edition has been revised to include expanded coverage of Africa; additional material in every chapter on the history and current situation of African Americans in the United States; new charts, maps, and black-and-white illustrations; and a third four-page color insert. The authors incorporate recent scholarship to examine slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the period between World War I and World War II (including the Harlem Renaissance).

*From Slavery to Freedom* describes the rise of slavery, the interaction of European and African cultures in the New World, and the emergence of a distinct culture and way of life among slaves and free blacks. The authors examine the role of blacks in the nation's wars, the rise of an articulate, restless free black community by the end of the eighteenth century, and the growing resistance to slavery among an expanding segment of the black population.

The book deals in considerable detail with the period after slavery, including the arduous struggle for first-class citizenship that has extended into the twentieth century. Many developments in recent African American history are examined, including demographic change; educational efforts; literary and cultural changes; problems in housing, health, juvenile matters, and poverty; the expansion of the black middle class; and the persistence of discrimination in the administration of justice.

All who are interested in African Americans' continuing quest for equality will find a wealth of information based on the recent findings of many scholars. Professors Franklin and Moss have captured the tragedies and triumphs, the hurts and joys, the failures and successes, of blacks in a lively and readable volume that remains the most authoritative and comprehensive book of its kind.

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## **Warner says**

Amust read history on black people

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## **Chelsea says**

A very good, and very accessible, survey of black history in the US. I really recommend this for beginners (like me) in understanding black American history.

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