

Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History

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The best-selling companion reader to the Give Me Liberty! family of books.

A rich collection of documentary voices addressing a central theme in American history—freedom.

The documents in this collection show that although in some ways universal, the idea of freedom has never been a fixed, timeless concept with a single, unchanging definition. In fact, the history of the United States is in part a story of debates and struggles over freedom. Crises like the American Revolution, the Civil War, and the Cold War have permanently transformed the meaning of freedom. So too have demands by various groups of Americans for greater freedom.

The primary-source selections in this book include presidential proclamations and letters by runaway slaves, famous court cases and obscure manifestos, prevailing ideas and dissenting ones. The voices range from Las Casas and Pontiac through Jefferson, Thoreau, Douglass, and Lincoln to Stanton, Sanger, Garvey, Luce, Byrd, and Obama. The Fourth Edition of *Voices of Freedom* includes new documents that better reflect the religious aspects of American history. It remains a comprehensive collection that offers a diverse gathering of authors and a wide breadth of opinion.

Fully compiled and edited by Eric Foner, the collection includes headnotes and critical questions for each document. The book is organized as a companion to the textbook *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, Fourth Edition, by Eric Foner, and it can also be used with other texts in the American history survey and other courses.

Eric Foner is the pre-eminent historian of the Civil War era. His teaching and scholarship have shaped our understanding of that pivotal period. His books have garnered every major award, including the Pulitzer Prize for *The Fiery Trial*, his study of Lincoln and American slavery. The DeWitt Clinton Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University, he also writes frequently for the *Nation* and other major periodicals. He lives in New York City.

Other Books

Nevada Law Journal,

“[Voices of Freedom](#)” . An American History¹ and the companion two - volume documentary reader .
Voices of Freedom . Earlier this week , his *Forever Free : The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction* , written with Joshua Brown , was published .”