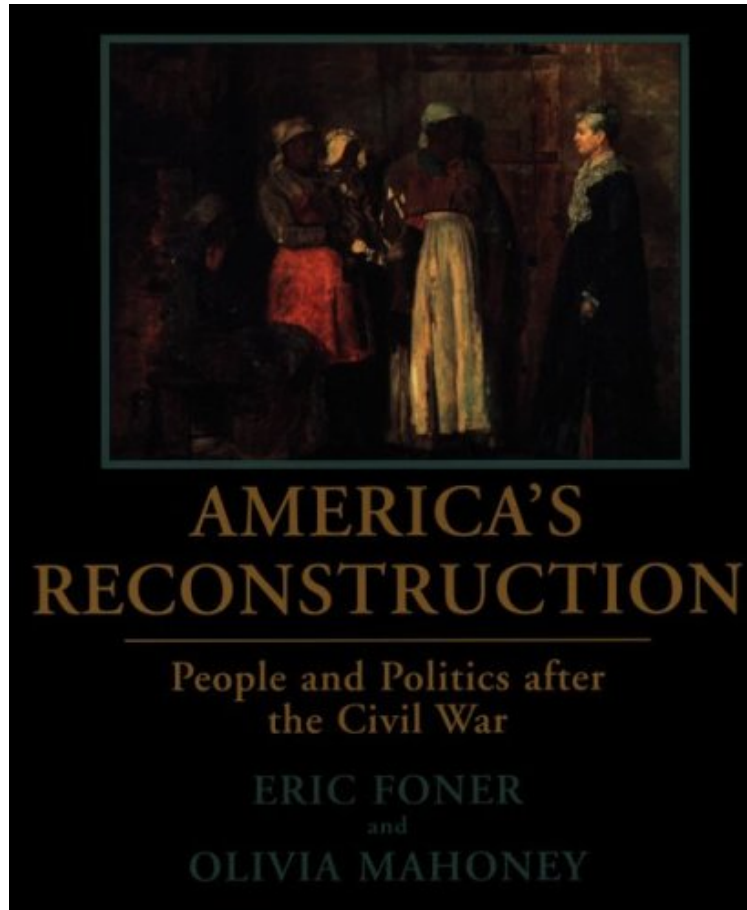


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America's Reconstruction: People and Politics After the Civil War

Eric Foner, Olivia Mahoney

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One of the most misunderstood periods in American history, Reconstruction remains relevant today because its central issue -- the role of the federal government in protecting citizens' rights and promoting economic and racial justice in a heterogeneous society -- is still unresolved. *America's Reconstruction* examines the origins of this crucial time, explores how black and white Southerners responded to the abolition of slavery, traces the political disputes between Congress and President Andrew Johnson, and analyzes the policies of the Reconstruction governments and the reasons for their demise. *America's Reconstruction* was published in conjunction with a major exhibition on the era produced by the Valentine Museum in Richmond, Virginia, and the Virginia Historical Society. The exhibit included a remarkable collection of engravings from *Harper's Weekly*, lithographs, and political cartoons, as well as objects such as sculptures, rifles, flags, quilts, and other artifacts. An important tool for deepening the experience of those who visited the exhibit, *America's Reconstruction* also makes this rich assemblage of information and period art available to the wider audience of people unable to see the exhibit in its host cities. A work that stands alone as well as in proud accompaniment to the temporary collection, it will appeal to general readers and assist instructors of both new and seasoned students of the Civil War and its tumultuous aftermath.

From the Publisher An illustrated companion volume to the first major museum exhibit on the era of Reconstruction, written by the author of *Reconstruction*, the award-winning definitive book on the period. About the Author Eric Foner is DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University. He is the author of, among other works, *Who Owns History? Rethinking the Past in a Changing World*; *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution*, winner of the Bancroft Prize; *Freedom's Lawmakers: A Directory of Black Officeholders During Reconstruction*; and *Nothing But Freedom: Emancipation and Its Legacy*. Olivia Mahoney is senior curator at the Chicago History Museum.