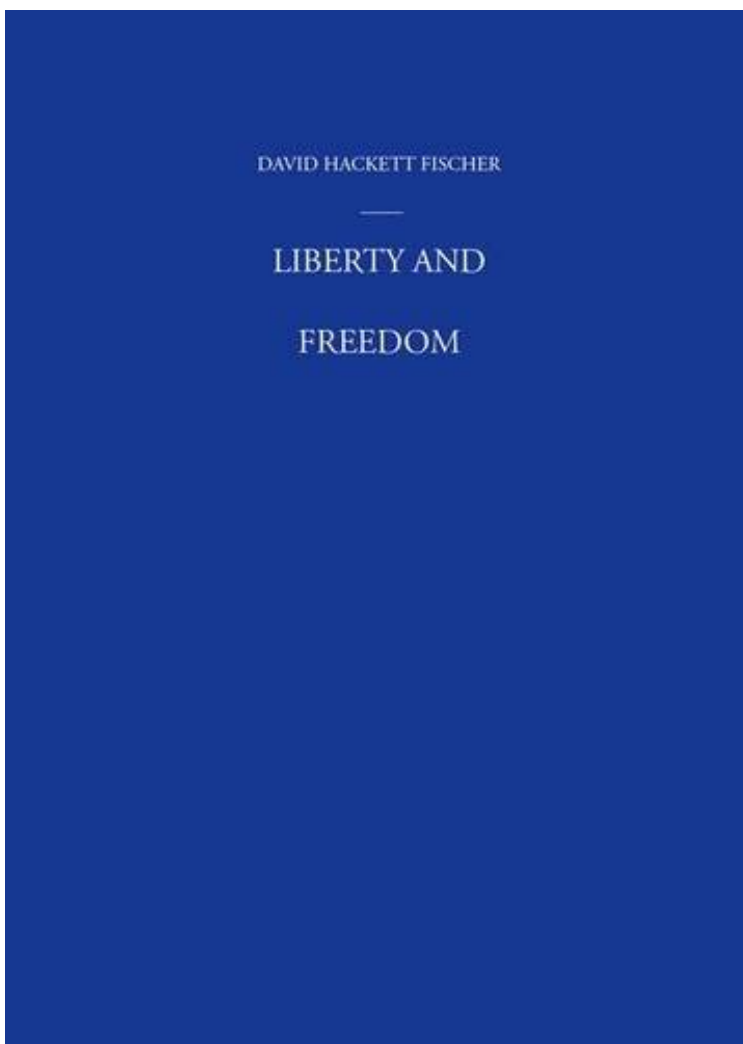


[Ebook free] Liberty and Freedom: A Visual History of America's Founding Ideas (America: a cultural history)

Liberty and Freedom: A Visual History of America's Founding Ideas (America: a cultural history)

David Hackett Fischer
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David Hackett Fischer : Liberty and Freedom: A Visual History of America's Founding Ideas (America: a cultural history) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Liberty and Freedom: A Visual History of America's Founding Ideas (America: a cultural history):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mystic ChordsBy Jason S. TaylorEvery politician talks of Liberty and/or Freedom. Some would say that is ironic as at least one definition of liberty is having as few politicians in one's hair as possible. But we can ignore that as alas, you need politicians to watch each other and of course if you spend all

your time keeping politicians from stealing your Liberty you will of course find you have become-a politician. A more important point is that few of us seem to know what Liberty or Freedom is. They are just words. This book seeks to correct that. The book emphasizes that Liberty is Romance in linguistic origin and freedom is Celtic and Teutonic and that they are different cultural concepts. "Liberty" refers to privilege one enjoys; a City with Liberty has no Emperor, and is a nation unto itself. A person with liberty is not a slave, as so many were in the Mediterranean world, and as in some parts all men were (in Ancient Sumerian there was originally no word for freeman or citizen or anything like that; there was slave and there was master but some were apparently slaves of slaves). In the Teutonic sense, "free" is a function of brotherhood or "fraternity". To be within the tribe is also to be within the tribe's law. To have an appeal against overbearing chieftains The distinction makes sense. In large cities the tendency toward organization makes "Liberties" stand out more. A City that can achieve "Liberty" not merely in the collective sense but in the individual has achieved much. Farther to the North ties were looser, strangers took their life in their hands (which they did everywhere) and one did not need to travel far to be a stranger. It is "Freedom" that is an achievement. Yet the two are synergistic. One's Liberty is no fine thing if there are none who will help protect it, and one's Freedom is no fine thing if it is the Freedom of the anthill-if one's supposed fellows will allow you no "liberties." But that too is an abstract concept. The meat of the book is not abstraction. It is mythology (in the best sense) and art. With that we can travel through the (often hostile) subcultures, political factions, movements, and what not that effected America and see the various motifs they used for Liberty and Freedom. Some concepts seem more morally sound or attuned to justice than others. Certainly it is common for people to grow up proud of the aspect of "Liberty and Freedom" that they grew up with and be blind to it's weakness. But seeing an overview of different kinds of people from different backgrounds and how they expressed their ideas gives understanding as a whole. The book follows symbology used from Ancient times, to Northern European, to the American Colonial and Revolutionary periods to today. As well it gives foreign ideas; for Liberty and Freedom are not the possession of America (though OUR Liberty and OUR Freedom, certainly is). When you get through the book you will realize that America is not just an idea, and not just a nation. It is a "Liberty and Freedom obsessed" nation. You cannot separate the abstraction of Liberty or Freedom from the nationhood of America. But you will also be able to have a better grasp of what it means and why it is to be cherished.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The Symbols of America By Grover Smith This is a must for every American home. The highest quality of book binding, it is put together to last a long time similar to Encyclopedia This book is loaded with pictures (that's important for the young to help hold their interest) of Early colonial flags and folk art reflecting the love and imagination of the American people. My favorite part of the book is the extensive research into what the symbols meant to the men and women who designed and fought under the flags and who made the other emblems. Ex. Eagles, American Indian images; paintings; propaganda of the growing party system and domestic arguments from Jamestown through to 2004. I bought ten copies and gave one to each of my children and a couple of extra for friends who share my love of America. I like that he keeps the symbols in each original context (in the time of their creation). My favorite time periods, are the first three hundred years. As much of the last hundred I have lived. IF you like American history Buy this book, if you have Children buy this book, if you home school buy this book. It will enlighten your personal understanding of where we have come from and the changes in these past years will stir you up to help restore American patriotism in our homes. A Great resource for this and following generations. David Hackett Fischer is a remarkable historian and a great writer best known for Washington's Crossing. 47 of 48 people found the following review helpful. America's finest historian outdoes himself By Odysseus David Hackett Fischer's Albion's Seed established him as one of the finest historians writing for a general audience. Since the publication of that landmark history, Fischer has produced a number of outstanding books, including among them Paul Revere's Ride, and Washington's Crossing, each of which skillfully demonstrates how cultural forces, reflected in individual decisions and actions, affected the course of events at a critical fork in the historical road. This latest work from Fischer compares favorably to his greatest works, and is a plausible candidate for his finest effort yet. To be great history, a work must succeed on several levels. One is that it must be interesting -- the reader must feel compelled to press on. Another is that it must be informative; it should educate, ideally in a fair way, conveying what is most important, and minimizing the influence of author bias. But the acid test of what makes for a great history may be whether it enables the reader to understand his world in a fundamentally new, insightful way. Albion's Seed and Fischer's other great works accomplish this. So too does Liberty and Freedom, in spades. Fischer aims to trace the development of the concepts and values of Liberty and Freedom throughout American history. To lay the foundation, he studies the terms themselves. Liberty, Fischer finds, derives from the classical Latin world, with connotations relating to the release from bondage. Consequently, in later history, it carries overtones of meaning the ability to move and to act without interference or constraint by others. Freedom, on the other hand, relates to the Germanic "Freiheit," and has different connotations, specifically the possession of the full rights of citizenship, of belonging to a society. We see its connotations in phrases such as "the rights of free-born Englishmen," the sense that in belonging to a community, each member is accorded certain rights and freedoms. Fischer argues that the English language is unique in carrying these twin concepts within the language in parallel, with the result that English-speaking cultures have long pursued both conceptions, and only more recently have begun to use the terms more interchangeably. The suggestion is made that

the dual conception arises in part from the historical fact that both Romance and Germanic language and cultural influences implanted themselves in England many centuries ago. Fischer traces the flowering of the concepts of liberty and freedom in America, with great attention to how these have been expressed through popular culture and political argument. His history is one of broad participation; elected leaders make cases for their visions of liberty and freedom, but so too do the teeming masses express their evolving views of liberty and freedom in ways that shape the country's direction. Someone who is considering buying this book should be aware that this is just about the quickest 800 pages you will ever come across. I devoured it in just a few days on my commutes. His writing is brisk, the volume handsomely illustrated. The chapters are brief and thematically very tightly organized. If there is a slow patch in the book, I cannot recall it. One of Fischer's more interesting conclusions pertains to the role of America's military conflicts in shaping the progress of American freedom. His general thesis is that each conflict has led at first to a curtailment of individual freedom, but then has resulted in its considerable expansion. Consider, for example, that the Civil War began with the suspension of habeas corpus and ended not only with its reinstatement but with the (then) radical 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, establishing emancipation and equal protection of the laws. WWII began with the incarceration of Japanese Americans, but its end ushered in the integration of America's schools, armed forces (and major league baseball.) Even the Cold War, which has become equated in Hollywood's popular memory with the early abuses by Joseph McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee, produced the boomerang effects of Miranda Rights, the Civil Rights act, and many other expansions of liberty in the 1960s. Fischer's message is a hopeful one in the climate of America's current conflict. He reminds us not only that each of America's conflicts has produced an initial constraint on individual liberties followed by their subsequent expansions, but also that each conflict has advanced the ball relative to the one before. The restraints on individual freedoms, for example, that occurred in the context of World War I far surpassed those that occurred in either WWII or the Cold War. Fischer saves his most powerful lesson till the end, when he documents that political power flows to those who publicly dedicate themselves to liberty and freedom, not to those who promise cradle-to-grave security, government-provided benefits, or any variant thereof. Americans' commitment to the twin conceptions of liberty and freedom remains strong even as Americans disagree on what these concepts mean and how they should apply to our daily lives. But the politician who ignores these fundamental values does so at his/her own peril.

Liberty and freedom: Americans agree that these values are fundamental to our nation, but what do they mean? How have their meanings changed through time? In this new volume of cultural history, David Hackett Fischer shows how these varying ideas form an intertwined strand that runs through the core of American life. Fischer examines liberty and freedom not as philosophical or political abstractions, but as folkways and popular beliefs deeply embedded in American culture. Tocqueville called them "habits of the heart." From the earliest colonies, Americans have shared ideals of liberty and freedom, but with very different meanings. Like DNA these ideas have transformed and recombined in each generation. The book arose from Fischer's discovery that the words themselves had differing origins: the Latin "liberty" implied separation and independence. The root meaning of "freedom" (akin to "friend") connoted attachment: the rights of belonging in a community of freepeople. The tension between the two senses has been a source of conflict and creativity throughout American history. *Liberty Freedom* studies the folk history of those ideas through more than 400 visions, images, and symbols. It begins with the American Revolution, and explores the meaning of New England's Liberty Tree, Pennsylvania's Liberty Bells, Carolina's Liberty Crescent, and "Don't Tread on Me" rattlesnakes. In the new republic, the search for a common American symbol gave new meaning to Yankee Doodle, Uncle Sam, Miss Liberty, and many other icons. In the Civil War, Americans divided over liberty and freedom. Afterward, new universal visions were invented by people who had formerly been excluded from a free society--African Americans, American Indians, and immigrants. The twentieth century saw liberty and freedom tested by enemies and contested at home, yet it brought the greatest outpouring of new visions, from Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms to Martin Luther King's "dream" to Janis Joplin's "nothin' left to lose." Illustrated in full color with a rich variety of images, *Liberty and Freedom* is, literally, an eye-opening work of history--stimulating, large-spirited, and ultimately, inspiring.

From Publishers Weekly English-speaking people have distinct words for the concepts of freedom and liberty. But that doesn't mean everyone agrees on what they mean, as Fischer (author of the bestselling *Washington's Crossing*) reveals in this exhaustive study of how the two have been defined in words and images from colonial times to the present. Short chapters supply the backstories of familiar symbols like the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty and Uncle Sam, and also reintroduce forgotten figures like Brother Jonathan, an early 19th-century representation of America as a country bumpkin that was popular in Europe. In a precursor to today's "salad bowl" image of cultural diversity, artists of the Revolutionary era portrayed America as "a flight of birds, a flock of sheep, even a kettle of fish." As the modern age approaches, photography becomes increasingly important, as seen in a triptych of riveting images from the Civil Rights movement. But the record also becomes somewhat muddled, Fischer finds, with Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix appearing as images on nearly equal footing with Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King. In the end, the oversize,

beautifully illustrated book shifts subtly from a rich graphic survey, incorporating painting, flags and sculpture, to a broader chronicle of the many ways Americans have articulated their most cherished ideals. Over 400 illus., 250 in color. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine

Fischer, author of *Washingtons Crossing* (**** May/June 2004) and *Albions Seed*, offers *Liberty and Freedom* as part of a four-volume history of American culture. Focusing on material culture rather than philosophical texts, he argues that we pass down ideas about liberty and freedom from one generation to the next, altering them as some groups simultaneously struggle against forms of repression. Fischers stories span well-known anecdotes about Betsy Ross, Frederick Douglass, and Jimi Hendrix to near-forgotten tales about the meaning of the Alabama flags rattlesnake banner of liberty. Although interesting, the sprawling narrative often fails to coalesce into a broader argument. In addition, while Fischer exhaustively explores older symbols, he doesnt delve as deeply into present-day icons (such as the gay liberation rainbow). Nonetheless, *Liberty and Freedom* is an important visual survey of where weve been and possibly where were headed. Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From Booklist

Part of a series on the cultural history of America, this book focuses on the different manifestations of folk culture as they relate to the concept of liberty and freedom, from the American Revolution through the current war on terrorism. Fischer highlights the origins of our nation's evolving notions of liberty and freedom, focusing not only on leaders and events but also on ordinary citizens and the structure and processes that impact their lives. This work uses artifacts, images, and materials--from the Statue of Liberty to the Stars and Stripes--as culturally reflective of historical evidence upon which our society can be critiqued. The more than 400 images add to the historical narratives and stories that examine ideals of freedom from our idealized periods through our more controversial eras, including the Civil War, civil rights, and the anti-Vietnam War movement. The story format makes his book particularly approachable as Fischer offers enormous breadth and depth of exploration of this theme that has defined much of American culture and politics.

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