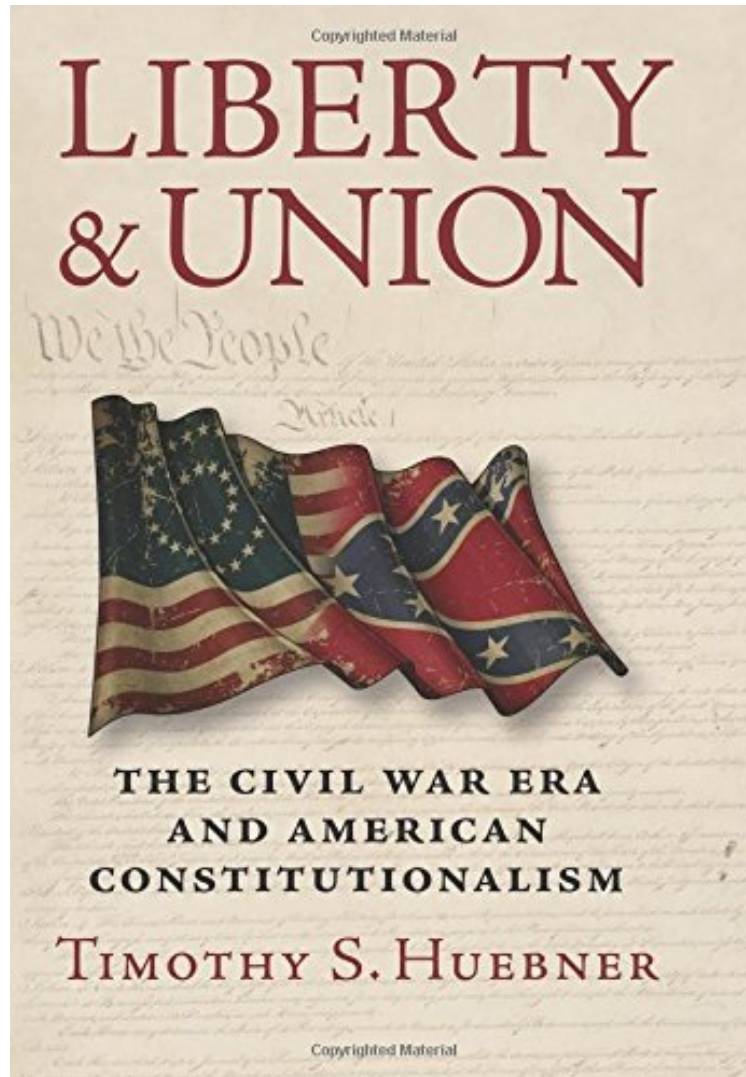


(Free and download) Liberty and Union: The Civil War Era and American Constitutionalism

# Liberty and Union: The Civil War Era and American Constitutionalism

*Timothy S. Huebner*

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**Timothy S. Huebner : Liberty and Union: The Civil War Era and American Constitutionalism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Liberty and Union: The Civil War Era and American Constitutionalism:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Garth M. GouldA well done book that addresses issues about the Civil War one seldom encounters elsewhere.14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Good overview of Civil WarBy CustomerWhen I saw this book advertised in the New York Review of Books, I asked my

local library to order it. And I am glad I did. I found this to be a well-written and informative book on the Civil War. There was plenty in here that either I did not know or that caused me to think about what I already knew differently. It seemed that by the time of the Dred Scott decision, the South had everything going for it - a Democratic president sympathetic to the South, a Supreme Court sympathetic to the South, a strengthened Fugitive Slave Act and the Dred Scott decision that ruled in favor of the South with respect to slavery in the Territories. And then it all began to unravel toward secession. The subtitle of the book is "The Civil War Era and American Constitutionalism." The author discusses the pre-war issues such as the Missouri Compromise, the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the Dred Scott case, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, the Kansas problem, nullification (by both SC with the tariff and later Wisconsin with the Fugitive Slave Act), secession; and war issues such as the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus (by both north and south) the Emancipation Proclamation, conscription, taxation, the Gettysburg Address (and how Lincoln used the word "nation" in the address when the word "union" had been used in the Constitution, by orators and in inaugurals); and post-war issues of Reconstruction. The author articulately weaves the politics, diplomacy, southern way of life, immigration and traditions of the day to round out the story of the Civil War. The book also has an extensive bibliography for further research and reading. I got the sense in reading this book that the author had a firm command of his subject. I recommend this book to any Civil War enthusiast whether well-read in the subject or a newcomer. I generally try not to do anything twice, but this is a book I'd consider reading a second time. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By JNS Very well researched and written. Fascinating.

This book is about the relationship between the Civil War generation and the founding generation, Timothy S. Huebner states at the outset of this ambitious and elegant overview of the Civil War era. The book integrates political, military, and social developments into an epic narrative interwoven with the thread of constitutionalism to show how all Americans engaged the nation's heritage of liberty and constitutional government. Whether political leaders or plain folk, northerners or southerners, Republicans or Democrats, black or white, most free Americans in the mid-nineteenth century believed in the foundational values articulated in the Declaration of Independence of 1776 and the Constitution of 1787 and this belief consistently animated the nation's political debates. *Liberty and Union* shows, however, that different interpretations of these founding documents ultimately drove a deep wedge between North and South, leading to the conflict that tested all constitutional faiths. Huebner argues that the resolution of the Civil War was profoundly revolutionary and also inextricably tied to the issues of both slavery and sovereignty, the two great unanswered questions of the Founding era. Drawing on a vast body of scholarship as well as such sources as congressional statutes, political speeches, military records, state supreme court decisions, the proceedings of black conventions, and contemporary newspapers and pamphlets, *Liberty and Union* takes the long view of the Civil War era. It merges Civil War history, US constitutional history, and African American history and stretches from the antebellum era through the period of reconstruction, devoting equal attention to the Union and Confederate sides of the conflict. And its in-depth exploration of African American participation in a broader culture of constitutionalism redefines our understanding of black activism in the nineteenth century. Altogether, this is a masterly, far-reaching work that reveals as never before the importance and meaning of the Constitution, and the law, for nineteenth-century Americans.

"A welcome and satisfying synthesis of the constitutional scholarship of the last half-century that accords the Reconstruction Amendments their proper place as the basis of our modern constitutional order." *Journal of Supreme Court History* "A strength of Huebner's book is its attention to groups often skipped over in more traditional constitutional histories, most essentially, African Americans. Indeed, Huebner seeks to unite what are often distinct historiographic streams: constitutional, military, and African American history." *Choice* "Huebner's writing is smooth and his narrative style makes for easy reading. His discussion of legal enactments and judicial decisions renders them readily understandable for non-lawyers. Huebner skillfully weaves a range of social, cultural and political information into the narrative." *Civil War News* "Provides an overdue reexamination of constitutional and legal developments from the antebellum era through Reconstruction. Huebner focuses on how the conflict revolutionized slavery and sovereignty, two of the most controversial questions of the founding era." *Charlotte News and Observer* "Huebner has produced a valuable study of American constitutionalism. Gracefully written . . . Huebner's mastery of the material and synthesizing mind keep the book on track from start to finish." *Weekly Standard* "A masterpiece." *Civil War Book* "At last, a brilliant, imaginative, and original re-examination which synthesizes the histories of the Civil War, of constitutional and legal development, and of the African American experience. The result is a masterful and beautifully written study that will stand out as a superb contribution." Jonathan Lurie, Rutgers University "What sets this book apart is Huebner's discussion of constitutional issue and history, in particular, his discussion of the African American tradition and black constitutionalism is superb, from antebellum US through Reconstruction." Orville Vernon Burton, author of *The Age of Lincoln* About the Author Timothy S. Huebner is Irma O. Sternberg Professor of History at Rhodes College in Memphis. His books include *The Southern Judicial Tradition: State Judges and Sectional*

Distinctiveness, 1790-1890 and The Taney Court: Justice, Rulings, and Legacy.