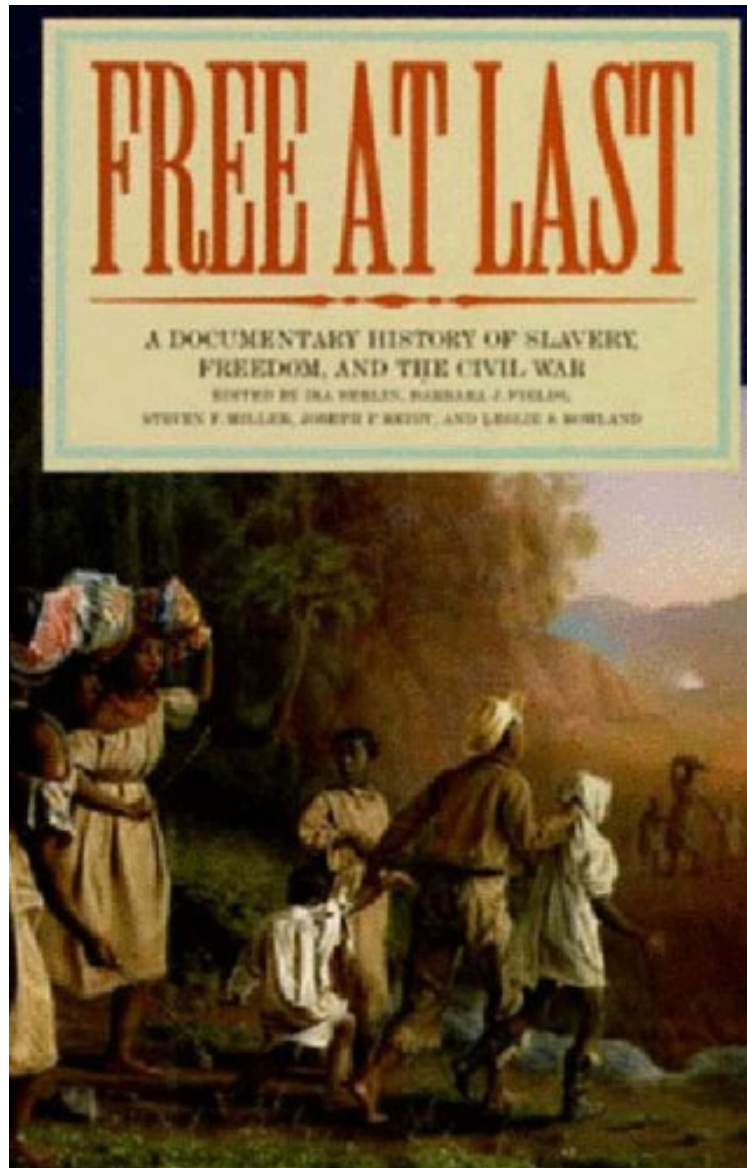


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Free at Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Freedom, and the Civil War

Barbara J. Fields, Steven F. Miller, Joseph P. Reidy, Rowland, Ira Berlin
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Barbara J. Fields, Steven F. Miller, Joseph P. Reidy, Rowland, Ira Berlin : Free at Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Freedom, and the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Free at Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Freedom, and the Civil War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I purchased the originally in a hard cover version shortly ...By CustomerI purchased the originally in a hard cover version shortly after it was released. Over the years of moving, I've lost this precious little gem and decided as a veteran, I wanted my three boys to hear the stories about the African American Soldiers who have contributed to the making of this nation. We were revolutionary soldiers. We participated in the First Barbary War (1801-1805), also known as the Tripolitanian War. We fought in the war of 1812. We were soldiers of the Mexican American War. We participated in the Civil War. We took San Juan Hill with Teddy Roosevelt during the Spanish American War. We participated in the trenches of WW1 with the likes of the Harlem Hell fighters (despite Blackjack Pershing efforts). We participated in WW2, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Grenada, Panama, Libya and today's other Middle Eastern operations. We are here and we have signed our citizenship with the blood of our ancestors and the souls of its citizens. We, the African American soldier, are as American as apple pie.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy JAMES G VONTUNGELNo problems.1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Really good bookBy Robert I. WilliamsThis is one of my areas of interest and Col Lanning did a great job of research and putting the book together. A very interesting and enjoyable read.

Free At Last brings together some of the most remarkable letters ever written by Americans. Made widely available for the first time, these letters, personal testimonies, official transcripts, and other records convey the struggle of black men and women to overthrow the slave system, to aid the Union cause as laborers and soldiers, and to give meaning to their newly won freedom in a war-torn nation.

From Publishers WeeklyThis superb anthology makes available to general readers selected materials originally published in, or projected for, the multivolume reference work *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation* (Cambridge University Press). This collection's editors are all connected with the Freedom Project; Berlin is the coordinator. The letters, reports and depositions included here, largely drawn from Union records, tell at first hand the human story of African Americans in the Civil War, which, the editors contend, was also a second American revolution. Between 1861 and 1865 government was transformed, citizenship redefined, social classes rearranged--and blacks were at the center of the process. The texts offered have a common denominator: the determination displayed by African American men and women to control their own destinies, especially in relations with whites. The editing and annotations are models of their kind, explaining and clarifying while preserving the originals' authenticity and immediacy. Illustrations. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Drawn from letters, affidavits, records, and other documents collected by The Freedmen and Southern Society Project, *Free at Last* gives voice to compelling observations about slavery written by both blacks and whites, in the North and South, during the Civil War. Ranging from clever rhetoric to personal accounts of unspeakable cruelty, the documents display crude eloquence and sophisticated commentary together, without correction or alteration. Editorial annotations provide a unifying narrative thread. Many of the documents here were previously published in the volumes comprising *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867*, also edited by Ira Berlin, but that does not diminish the usefulness of this volume as a means of providing broader access to them. Highly recommended for public and secondary school libraries.- Lawrence E. Ellis, Newberry Coll. Lib., S.C. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. *Free At Last* is a book with many voices that traces the black experience from the beginning of the Civil War to the beginning of Reconstruction. . . [An] invaluable work. -- New York Times [These documents are] consistently fascinating and moving. . . In such materials are the makings of a new appreciation of the meaning of slavery, the nature of the Civil War, and the unresolved heritage of emancipation. -- New York of Books