



Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad

By Eric Foner

Download now

Read Online 

Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad By Eric Foner

The dramatic story of fugitive slaves and the antislavery activists who defied the law to help them reach freedom.

More than any other scholar, Eric Foner has influenced our understanding of America's history. Now, making brilliant use of extraordinary evidence, the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian once again reconfigures the national saga of American slavery and freedom.

A deeply entrenched institution, slavery lived on legally and commercially even in the northern states that had abolished it after the American Revolution. Slaves could be found in the streets of New York well after abolition, traveling with owners doing business with the city's major banks, merchants, and manufacturers. New York was also home to the North's largest free black community, making it a magnet for fugitive slaves seeking refuge. Slave catchers and gangs of kidnappers roamed the city, seizing free blacks, often children, and sending them south to slavery.

To protect fugitives and fight kidnappings, the city's free blacks worked with white abolitionists to organize the New York Vigilance Committee in 1835. In the 1840s vigilance committees proliferated throughout the North and began collaborating to dispatch fugitive slaves from the upper South, Washington, and Baltimore, through Philadelphia and New York, to Albany, Syracuse, and Canada. These networks of antislavery resistance, centered on New York City, became known as the underground railroad. Forced to operate in secrecy by hostile laws, courts, and politicians, the city's underground-railroad agents helped more than 3,000 fugitive slaves reach freedom between 1830 and 1860. Until now, their stories have remained largely unknown, their significance little understood.

Building on fresh evidence—including a detailed record of slave escapes secretly kept by Sydney Howard Gay, one of the key organizers in New York—Foner elevates the underground railroad from folklore to sweeping history. The story is inspiring?full of memorable characters making their first appearance on the

historical stage?and significant?the controversy over fugitive slaves inflamed the sectional crisis of the 1850s. It eventually took a civil war to destroy American slavery, but here at last is the story of the courageous effort to fight slavery by "practical abolition," person by person, family by family.

16 pages of illustrations

 [Download Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Unde ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Un ...pdf](#)

Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad

By Eric Foner

Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad By Eric Foner

The dramatic story of fugitive slaves and the antislavery activists who defied the law to help them reach freedom.

More than any other scholar, Eric Foner has influenced our understanding of America's history. Now, making brilliant use of extraordinary evidence, the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian once again reconfigures the national saga of American slavery and freedom.

A deeply entrenched institution, slavery lived on legally and commercially even in the northern states that had abolished it after the American Revolution. Slaves could be found in the streets of New York well after abolition, traveling with owners doing business with the city's major banks, merchants, and manufacturers. New York was also home to the North's largest free black community, making it a magnet for fugitive slaves seeking refuge. Slave catchers and gangs of kidnappers roamed the city, seizing free blacks, often children, and sending them south to slavery.

To protect fugitives and fight kidnappings, the city's free blacks worked with white abolitionists to organize the New York Vigilance Committee in 1835. In the 1840s vigilance committees proliferated throughout the North and began collaborating to dispatch fugitive slaves from the upper South, Washington, and Baltimore, through Philadelphia and New York, to Albany, Syracuse, and Canada. These networks of antislavery resistance, centered on New York City, became known as the underground railroad. Forced to operate in secrecy by hostile laws, courts, and politicians, the city's underground-railroad agents helped more than 3,000 fugitive slaves reach freedom between 1830 and 1860. Until now, their stories have remained largely unknown, their significance little understood.

Building on fresh evidence—including a detailed record of slave escapes secretly kept by Sydney Howard Gay, one of the key organizers in New York—Foner elevates the underground railroad from folklore to sweeping history. The story is inspiring—full of memorable characters making their first appearance on the historical stage—and significant—the controversy over fugitive slaves inflamed the sectional crisis of the 1850s. It eventually took a civil war to destroy American slavery, but here at last is the story of the courageous effort to fight slavery by "practical abolition," person by person, family by family.

16 pages of illustrations

Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad By Eric Foner Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #136136 in Books
- Brand: W W Norton Company
- Published on: 2016-01-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1

- Dimensions: 8.30" h x .90" w x 5.60" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 352 pages



[Download](#) **Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Undocumented Immigrants** ...pdf



[Read Online](#) **Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Undocumented Immigrants** ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad By Eric Foner

Editorial Review

Review

“Illuminating . . . an invaluable addition to our history.” (Kevin Baker - New York Times Book Review)

“Mandatory, and riveting, reading.” (Sam Roberts - New York Times)

“[A] detailed narrative . . . infused with the spirit of freedom.” (Bruce Watson - San Francisco Chronicle)

“Excellent . . . Mr. Foner, bringing to bear his well-honed research skills and his deep knowledge of slavery and race relations . . . vividly describes the key part that New York City played in the operations of the Underground Railroad . . . he merits high praise for contributing solid information and thoughtful analysis to the history of this shadowy, extensive network.” (David S. Reynolds - Wall Street Journal)

“Riveting . . . a visceral chronicle of defiance and sacrifice.” (Edward P. Jones - O Magazine)

“Bring[s] to bear the insights of a long and distinguished career writing about the Civil War and Reconstruction eras and a sharp sense of the ironies that involuntary servitude posed for a nation that proclaimed itself to be built on principles of liberty . . . highly readable.” (Michael D. Schaffer - Philadelphia Inquirer)

“A terrific and powerful story.” (Billy Heller - New York Post)

“Dramatic and compelling.” (David Hugh Smith - Christian Science Monitor)

“Suspense and drama on nearly every page. . . . The art of historical narrative at its very best.” (Jonah Raskin - Huffington Post)

“Eric Foner has won a place in the front rank of American historians with books that seem to vacuum up all available sources to produce bold new interpretations of the country’s reckoning with the big questions of slavery and freedom.” (Jennifer Schuessler - New York Times)

“Reminds us that history can be as stirring as the most gripping fiction.” (Wendy Smith - Los Angeles Times)

“Tells a story that will surprise most readers . . . Compelling.” (Adam Goodheart - The Atlantic)

“[Foner] carries the reader along, as if galloping through a valley of subterfuge and salvation that might also doom freedom at any time. Foner crucially delineates the profound challenge and existential risk that engulfed an interracial generation as the nation thundered toward dissolution, or Civil War.” (Kevin Lynch - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)

“Compelling . . . by turns scholarly and gripping.” (Alexander Nazaryan - Newsweek)

About the Author

Eric Foner is the preeminent historian of his generation, highly respected by historians of every

stripe?whether they specialize in political history or social history. His books have won the top awards in the profession, and he has been president of both major history organizations: the American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians. He has worked on every detail of *Give Me Liberty!*, which displays all of his trademark strengths as a scholar, teacher, and writer. A specialist on the Civil War/Reconstruction period, he regularly teaches the nineteenth-century survey at Columbia University, where he is DeWitt Clinton Professor of History. In 2011, Foner's *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* won the Pulitzer Prize in History, the Bancroft Prize, and the Lincoln Prize.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Duda:

The book untitled *Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad* contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy way. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was written by famous author. The author will bring you in the new age of literary works. You can read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can available their official web-site and order it. Have a nice examine.

Kimberly Gonzalez:

This *Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad* is brand-new way for you who has attention to look for some information since it relief your hunger info. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having small amount of digest in reading this *Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad* can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside that book is easy to get by anyone. These books acquire itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, that's why I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in e-book form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this reserve is the answer. So there is no in reading a publication especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for a person. So , don't miss it! Just read this e-book variety for your better life and also knowledge.

Marcy Madison:

As a scholar exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library in order to make summary for some e-book, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's spirit or real their interest. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to go to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that studying is not important, boring and can't see colorful photographs on there. Yeah, it is to get complicated. Book is very important for you. As we know that on this age, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this *Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad* can make you feel more interested to read.

Steven Holloway:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got college students? We believe that that issue was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person similar to reading or as reading through become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important and also book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update with regards to something by book. Numerous books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is this Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad.

**Download and Read Online Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad By Eric Foner
#JM02G1KBW9E**

Read Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad By Eric Foner for online ebook

Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad By Eric Foner Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad By Eric Foner books to read online.

Online Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad By Eric Foner ebook PDF download

Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad By Eric Foner Doc

Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad By Eric Foner MobiPocket

Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad By Eric Foner EPub