

How Republican Reformers Fought The Civil War, Defied Lincoln, and Ended Slavery

Throughout history, there have been pivotal moments that have shaped the course of nations. One such moment in American history was the Civil War, a conflict that tore the country apart but ultimately led to the abolition of slavery. While President Abraham Lincoln is often credited with ending slavery, it is important to recognize the vital role played by Republican reformers who fought the war, defied Lincoln at times, and were instrumental in bringing about this historic change.

The Rise of Republican Reformers

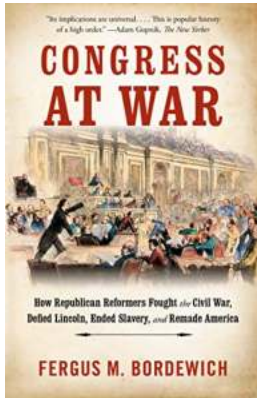
In the mid-19th century, the Republican Party emerged as a force for anti-slavery sentiment. Comprised of various factions, including former Whigs, Free Soilers, and antislavery Democrats, the Republicans sought to combat the institution of slavery and promote human rights. They believed that all men were created equal, and their vision for America was one where freedom and opportunity were accessible to every citizen.

Republican reformers were driven by a deep moral conviction that slavery was a grave injustice and an affront to the principles on which the United States was founded. They recognized that the institution of slavery undermined the very essence of American democracy and sought to eradicate it from the nation.

Congress at War: How Republican Reformers Fought the Civil War, Defied Lincoln, Ended Slavery, and Remade America

by Fergus M. Bordewich (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 24558 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 575 pages



The Battle Against Slavery

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, the Republican reformers saw the conflict as an opportunity to address the issue of slavery head-on. They understood that this was not just a war to preserve the Union but also a war to end the institution of slavery once and for all.

Republican reformers played various roles in the war effort, from serving as officers in the Union Army to leading political campaigns and advocating for emancipation. They fought passionately both on and off the battlefield to ensure that the abolition of slavery became a reality.

Defying Lincoln

While President Lincoln is revered today as the Great Emancipator, it is important to note that Republican reformers often found themselves at odds with his policies. Lincoln, initially focused on preserving the Union rather than ending slavery, was cautious about pushing for immediate emancipation, fearing it could alienate border states and weaken the Union war effort.

Republican reformers, on the other hand, believed that the war was an opportunity to strike a decisive blow against slavery and secure the freedom of enslaved individuals. They pushed Lincoln to adopt a more radical approach regarding emancipation, challenging his cautious stance.

One significant instance of this defiance was the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862. While Lincoln had been hesitant to take such a drastic step, pressure from Republican reformers, including individuals like Frederick Douglass, ultimately influenced his decision. The proclamation declared that all slaves in Confederate territory were to be set free, effectively shifting the focus of the war from preserving the Union to also ending slavery.

The End of Slavery

The efforts of Republican reformers, combined with the Emancipation Proclamation, brought about a significant turning point in the Civil War. The Union Army, now fighting not only to preserve the Union but also to end slavery, gained momentum and support.

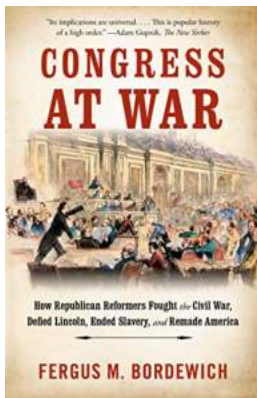
Republican reformers continued to advocate for the emancipation and rights of African Americans throughout the war. They believed that ending slavery was not enough; it was essential to ensure the full and equal citizenship of formerly enslaved individuals. This led to the passage of critical legislation such as the 13th Amendment, which officially abolished slavery in the United States.

The Republican Legacy

The pivotal role played by Republican reformers in fighting the Civil War, defying Lincoln, and ending slavery marks a significant milestone in American history. Their unwavering dedication to the principles of freedom and equality changed the course of the nation and paved the way for a more inclusive society.

Today, the Republican Party continues to evolve and face new challenges. While its modern-day stance may differ from that of its 19th-century counterpart, the legacy of Republican reformers serves as a reminder of the power of individuals to bring about transformative change.

In , the Civil War was not merely a battle fought for the preservation of the Union, but also a war fought by Republican reformers to end the institution of slavery. They defied President Lincoln, pushed for emancipation, and ultimately succeeded in bringing about the abolition of slavery. Their actions and beliefs remain an inspiring testament to the enduring fight for justice and equality.



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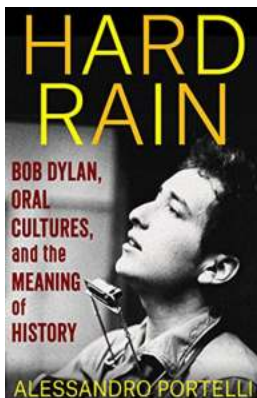


The story of how Congress helped win the Civil War--a new perspective that puts the House and Senate, rather than Lincoln, at the center of the conflict.

This brilliantly argued new perspective on the Civil War overturns the popular conception that Abraham Lincoln single-handedly led the Union to victory and

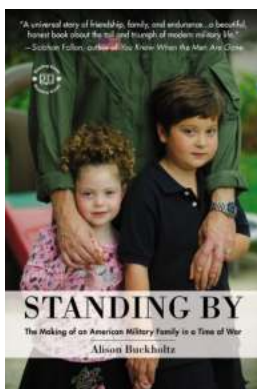
gives us a vivid account of the essential role Congress played in winning the war

Building a riveting narrative around four influential members of Congress-- Thaddeus Stevens, Pitt Fessenden, Ben Wade, and the pro-slavery Clement Vallandigham--Fergus Bordewich shows us how a newly empowered Republican party shaped one of the most dynamic and consequential periods in American history. From reinventing the nation's financial system to pushing President Lincoln to emancipate the slaves to the planning for Reconstruction, Congress undertook drastic measures to defeat the Confederacy, in the process laying the foundation for a strong central government that came fully into being in the twentieth century. Brimming with drama and outsized characters, Congress at War is also one of the most original books about the Civil War to appear in years and will change the way we understand the conflict.



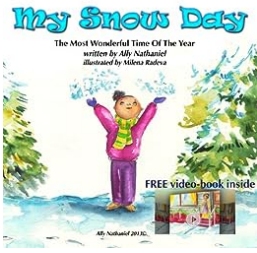
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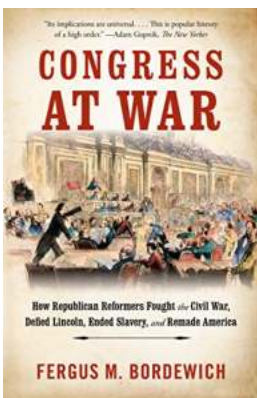
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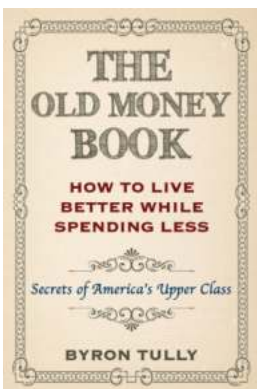
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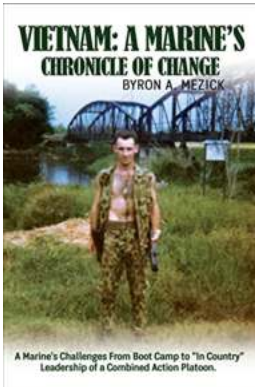
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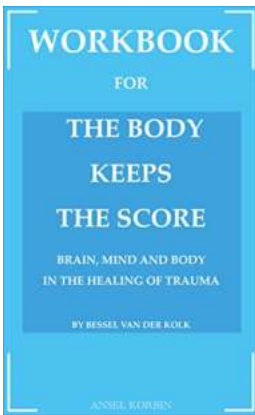
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