

Hard Road to Freedom: The Story of African America : From African Roots Through the Civil War, , / 2002 / 216 pages / Rutgers University Press, 2002 / 9780813531809 / James Oliver Horton, Lois E. Horton

Black leaders felt that African Americans could make the strongest case for freedom and citizenship if they demonstrated their heroism and commitment to the country on the battlefield, as they had done since 5,000 black men fought for the Patriot cause in the American Revolution. No one put this more forcefully than Frederick Douglass did in the middle of the Civil War: "Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder, and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on earth or under the earth which can deny ...". The story of the campaign and its antecedents is quite fascinating. Xi, 406 pages : 25 cm. The story of African America from its African roots to the political and social upheavals at the end of the twentieth century. Includes bibliographical references (pages 357-387) and index. Africa and the Atlantic slave trade -- The evolution of slavery in British North America -- Slavery and freedom in the age of revolution -- The early republic and the rise of the cotton kingdom -- Slavery and the slave community -- Free people of color and the fight against slavery -- From militancy to Civil War. -- From Reconstruction to Jim Crow -- Populism, industrial unions African Americans and their allies continually raised the cry for freedom, building determined black communities and dedicated antislavery organizations that contributed to the abolition of slavery. The precarious freedom after the Civil War brought new opportunities, but also new dangers and the limitations of Jim Crow. The precarious freedom after the Civil War brought new opportunities, but also new dangers and the limitations of Jim Crow. This book tells of America's unsteady advance along the road to freedom, the triumphs and hope, as well as the failures and despair, from the vantage point of the African Americans who resolutely played a critical role in that story.