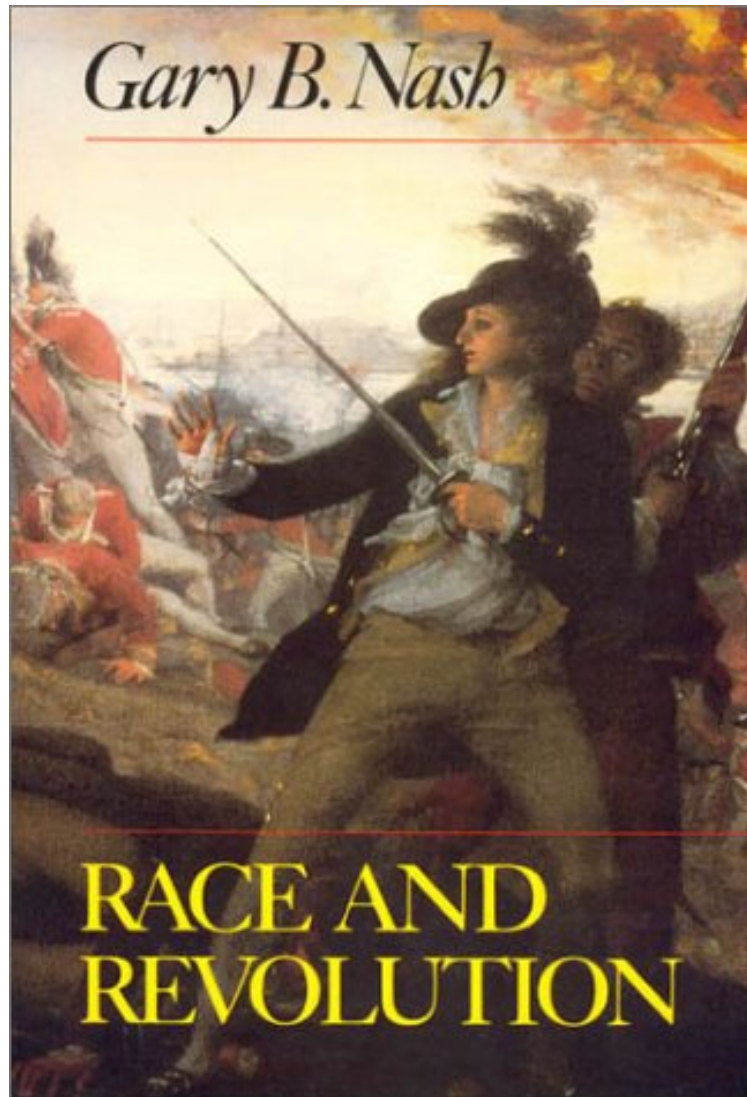


(Free download) Race and Revolution (Merrill Jensen Lectures in Constitutional Studies)

Race and Revolution (Merrill Jensen Lectures in Constitutional Studies)

Gary B. Nash

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#2505631 in Books Rowman n Littlefield Publishers 1990-12-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.22 x .87 x 6.30l, 1.14 #File Name: 0945612117224 pages | File size: 38.Mb

Gary B. Nash : Race and Revolution (Merrill Jensen Lectures in Constitutional Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Race and Revolution (Merrill Jensen Lectures in Constitutional Studies):

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. An Important Perspective on whether or not the new U.S. Nation Would Allow SlaveryBy Roger D. LauniusDespite other comments about him on-line, Gary B. Nash is an exceptional

historian who has made path-breaking contributions to the understanding of the American Revolution. "Race and Revolution" is one such contribution among many others. This is a book based on three lectures names for Merrill Jensen at the University of Wisconsin in 1988. It makes the case that at no time between the establishment of slavery in the British colonies in North America the U.S. Civil War was the time more opportune for Americans to abolish slavery than the revolutionary era during the 1770s and 1780s. It represented a unique occasion to end the "peculiar institution" but for five related reasons, according to Nash, the revolutionary leaders of the nation failed to seize this possibility. For Nash the five reasons are: "First, it was the era when the sentiment for ridding American society of the peculiar institution was the strongest. Second, it was the moment when the most resistant part of the new nation, the lower South, was most precariously situated and thus manifestly ill-prepared to break away from the rest of the states. Third, it was a period when the system of thought called environmentalism was in full sway, suggesting that the degraded condition of slaves was a matter of social conditioning, not innate inferiority. Fourth, it was a time when the opening of the vast trans-Appalachian West provided the wherewithal for a compensated emancipation. Lastly, it was the era when the use of this western domain as an instrument for binding the nation together had moved to the forefront of the public mind and when the existence of this vast unsettled territory as part of a national domain provided an area where free slaves could be colonized if they were not to be permitted to remain in the settled parts of the country" (pp. 6-7). This was a heady time with possibilities abounding. Nash relates this story in three core chapters on (1) the embrace of abolitionism, (2) the failure of abolitionism, and (3) the role of blacks in the new nation. He follows this with a collection of key documents that illuminate and extend his central argument. This is a complex and important book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read the Revolution! By Robert W. Howe Excellent little book that deserves to be read by anyone interested in understanding the American Revolution and making its promises real. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. seems interesting to me. By Judy A. Sheas expected....my 16 year old had to read it for school. it said it was okay...

The most profound crisis of conscience for white Americans at the end of the eighteenth century became their most tragic failure. *Race and Revolution* is a trenchant study of the revolutionary generation's early efforts to right the apparent contradiction of slavery and of their ultimate compromises that not only left the institution intact but provided it with the protection of a vastly strengthened government after 1788. Reversing the conventional view that blames slavery on the South's social and economic structures, Nash stresses the role of the northern states in the failure to abolish slavery. It was northern racism and hypocrisy as much as southern intransigence that buttressed 'the peculiar institution.' Nash also shows how economic and cultural factors intertwined to result not in an apparently judicious decision of the new American nation but rather its most significant lost opportunity. *Race and Revolution* describes the free black community's response to this failure of the revolution's promise, its vigorous and articulate pleas for justice, and the community's successes in building its own African-American institutions within the hostile environment of early nineteenth-century America. Included with the text of *Race and Revolution* are nineteen rare and crucial documents--letters, pamphlets, sermons, and speeches--which provide evidence for Nash's controversial and persuasive claims. From the words of Anthony Benezet and Luther Martin to those of Absalom Jones and Caesar Sarter, readers may judge the historical record for themselves. 'In reality,' argues Nash, 'the American Revolution represents the largest slave uprising in our history.' *Race and Revolution* is the compelling story of that failed quest for the promise of freedom.

From Library Journal Social historian Nash (*Forging Freedom* , LJ 5/1/88) presents three essays and supporting annotated documents dealing with the neglected topic of slavery during the Revolutionary era. He argues convincingly that most Revolutionary leaders understood the incompatibility of slavery with their equalitarian ideology. Unlike past historians, Nash especially blames Northern leaders, who were unwilling to compensate Southern slaveholders or to accept a biracial America, for the persistence of slavery at a time when it most easily could have been abolished. He contends that free blacks adapted to Northern discrimination by creating alternative organizations, especially black churches, which safeguarded an African-American identity and maintained abolitionist fervor. Relying upon recent scholarship, the author provides an insightful, well-written investigation which will appeal to scholars and the general public.- David Szatmary, Univ. of Washington, Seattle Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. A powerful, forthright, and revisionist interpretation . . . thoroughly convincing. (Linda K. Kerber) The best history makes a difference in how we think about and feel the past. *Race and Revolution* is an important, tough-minded, provocative group of essays that contributes to our understanding of the most debilitating virus in the American system. Not only has Gary Nash illuminated the critical challenge of race and slavery in the revolutionary era and 'the most tragic failure' of American leaders, but he has brought to the forefront the long ignored role of black revolutionists in the early struggles for freedom. (Leon F. Litwack) Gary Nash has written a powerful, forthright, and revisionist interpretation of the founding generation and slavery which challenges much received wisdom. I find it thoroughly convincing. (Linda K. Kerber) *Race and Revolution* is a bold and stirring documentation of the collapse of the devotion for liberty in America in the immediate wake of the American Revolution. While his interpretations will startle some,

Gary Nash correctly finds that the demise of efforts to abolish slavery and incorporate blacks in American society proceeded directly from an increasingly conservative, white supremacist North, not a self-serving South. Finally, historians may be taking off the blinders that have perpetually obscured our ability to understand slavery and race as national, not regional problems. (Larry E. Tise) *Race and Revolution* should become standard reading in graduate and undergraduate seminars. It is broadly conceived and engages the major historiographical issues in such a way as to suggest new avenues of investigation. (R.J.M. Blackett) A powerful book . . . a tightly argued and vigorous reassessment of the revolutionary generation's failure to eliminate slavery. (*Journal Of The Early Republic*) Clearly written . . . [Nash]'s coverage of the free black community's vigorous efforts to achieve justice in white supremacist society in the northern states is particularly illuminating. (*Choice*)

About the Author Gary B. Nash is the author of a variety of books on race and class in early America, including: *Freedom By Degrees: Emancipation in Pennsylvania and Its Aftermath* with Jean Soderlund (Oxford, 1991); *Forging Freedom: The Black Urban Experience in Philadelphia, 1720-1820* (Harvard, 1988); *Race, Class and Politics: Essays on Colonial and Revolutionary Society* (Univ. of Illinois, 1985); *The Urban Crucible: Social Change, Political Consciousness, and the Origins of the American Revolution* (Harvard, 1979); *Red, White, and Black: The Peoples of Early America* (Prentice-Hall, 1974, 1982); *Class and Society in Early America* (Prentice-Hall, 1970); and *Quakers and Politics: Pennsylvania, 1681-1726* (Princeton, 1968). He is a general editor of *The American People: Creating a Nation and a Society* (Harper and Row, 1986, 1990). In addition to teaching history at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he received a UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award, Professor Nash is the associate director of the National Center for History in the Schools. He holds his B.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University.