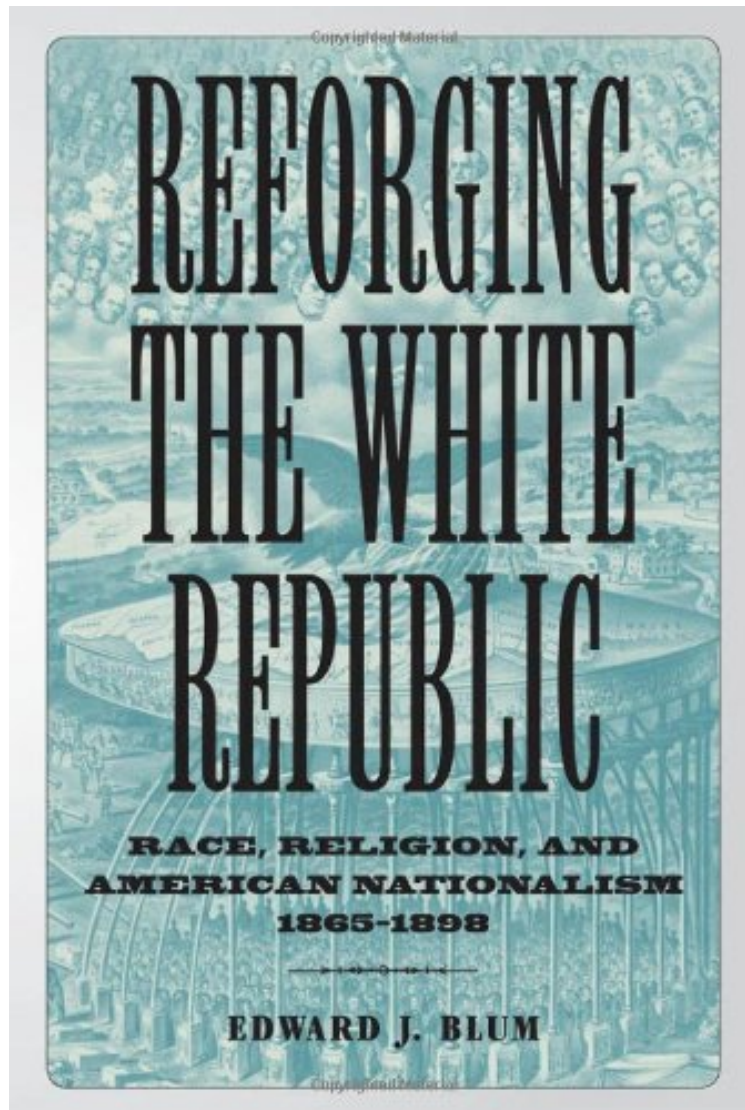


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(Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War)

## **Reforging the White Republic: Race, Religion, and American Nationalism, 1865--1898 (Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War)**

*Edward J. Blum*

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## Nationalism, 1865--1898 (Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Sad StoryBy David MirelesThis book shares a sad but true story of how America became united after the Civil War. In order to come back together the North and the South sacrificed the citizenship of African Americans. Blum argues that rather than take the chance to remake country towards a more free and just society like the declaration of independence calls for whites again asserted that this was there country. Using race and religion as driving points the North and South reemerged as a union that was decidedly a white republic. Although forced to concede some things to African Americans whites maintained their social and political superiority over them. In examining the period from 1865-1898 Blum tells the story of America at a certain point. It is interesting to see America at a specific point in time. The great part about Blum's book is that it explains the relationship between race and religion. At the same time an American state emerged which was hyper nationalist and hyper racist. Religion was a means to justify these belief systems. Bloom uses extensive documentation to argue his point. HE shows just how pervasive these ideas had become after the war. overall a good read for people that are interested in religion or history.3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Essential Added ReadingBy PeacefulSeekerIf you ever have a class in American Religious History or Church History it is worth including this even if it's not on the syllabus. It is valuable info overlooked; fully footnoted with plenty of quotes revealing the rest of the story regarding American legends like Beecher, Beecher Stowe, D. L. Moody, et al. If you wonder how people can be abolitionist but during reconstruction flip so that they are more interested in forgiving rebels who've committed treason than justice and advocacy for freedmen, this will help you understand. You will also be exposed to the heroism of whites who went South to live and act redemptively in the face of repudiation and true danger.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Reforging The White RepublicBy ByronIn Reforging the White Republic, Edward Blum writes his first book about the Civil War. Focusing on an issue ignored by many historians, Blum argues that religion played a significant role in unifying white America. However, in order to achieve this goal, African Americans had to be excluded from the equation. Edward Blum also challenges the perceptions of some historians that the war resolved the issues of the Civil War and created a unified America. The war did not create national unity, but merely exhausted Confederates to the point where they were no longer able to fight. While the war had ended, loyalty to the ideals of the Confederacy had not waned. This book is particularly relevant today, as regional issues still remain in the country. While the Civil War has ended, its traces still remain, in contemporary issues over the meaning of the Confederate flag. Therefore, Edward Blum's contention that reconstruction did not occur instantaneously is particularly valid when contextualized by what is happening in the present day.

During Reconstruction, former abolitionists in the North had a golden opportunity to pursue true racial justice and permanent reform in America. But why, after the sacrifice made by thousands of Civil War patriots to arrive at this juncture, did the moment slip away, leaving many whites throughout the North and South more racist than before? Edward J. Blum takes a fresh look at this question in *Reforging the White Republic: Race, Religion, and American Nationalism, 1865-1898*, where he focuses on the vital role that religion played in reunifying northern and southern whites into a racially segregated society. He tells the fascinating story of how northern Protestantism, once the catalyst for racial egalitarianism, promoted the image of a "white republic" that conflated whiteness, godliness, and nationalism. A blend of history and social science, *Reforging the White Republic* offers a surprising perspective on the forces of religion as well as nationalism and imperialism at a critical point in American history.

About the AuthorEdward J. Blum is the coeditor of *Vale of Tears: New Essays in Religion and Reconstruction*. He is a fellow with the DuBois Center for the Advanced Study of Religion and Race at the University of Notre Dame. Winner of the 2004 C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize of the Southern Historical Association. Edward J. Blum is assistant professor of history at San Diego State University. He is coeditor of *Vale of Tears: New Essays in Religion and Reconstruction* and author of *W. E. B. Du Bois, American Prophet*.