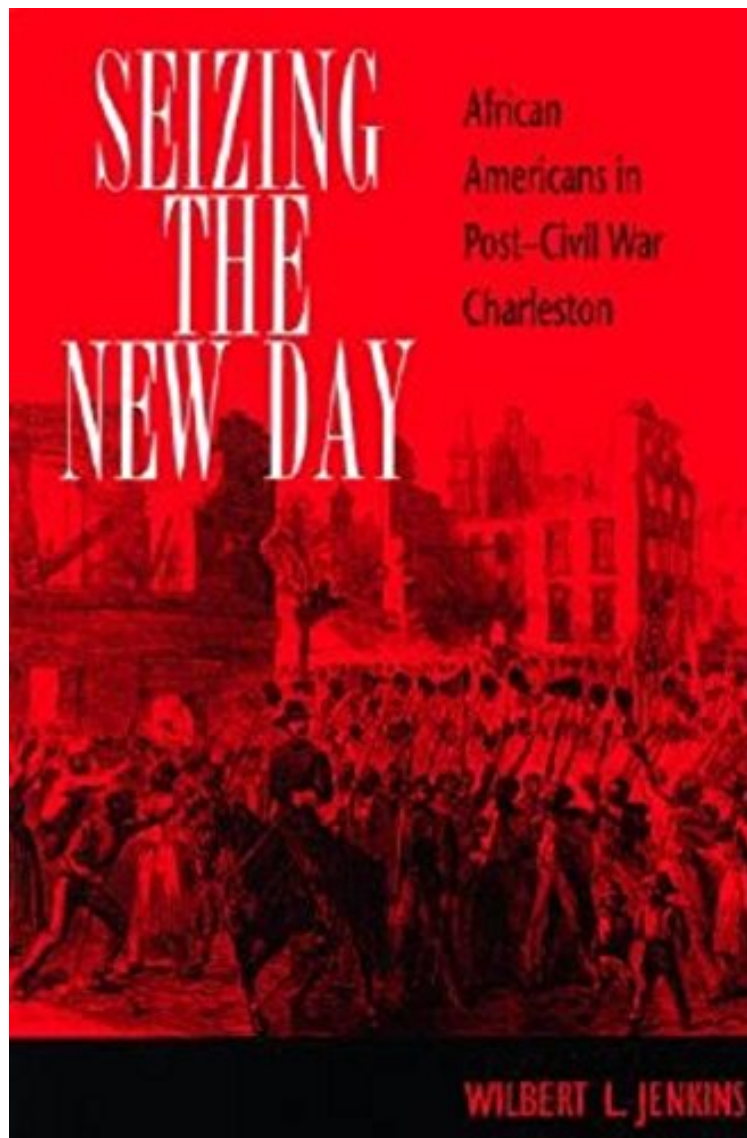


(Download ebook) Seizing the New Day: African Americans in Post-Civil War Charleston (Blacks in the Diaspora)

## Seizing the New Day: African Americans in Post-Civil War Charleston (Blacks in the Diaspora)

*Wilbert L. Jenkins*

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#5038792 in Books Wilbert L Jenkins 1998-07-22 1998-07-22 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.02 x 6.12l, 1.18 #File Name: 0253333806256 pages Seizing The New Day | File size: 59.Mb

**Wilbert L. Jenkins : Seizing the New Day: African Americans in Post-Civil War Charleston (Blacks in the Diaspora)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Seizing the New Day: African Americans in Post-Civil War Charleston (Blacks in the Diaspora):

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A different Civil War story  
By Mark Mills 'Seizing the New Day' is a wonderful book about enslaved southerners of Charleston, South Carolina freeing themselves. They are 'seizing the new day,' no gifts are discussed here. They are a somewhat surly group, quick to anger, but careful to keep long term goals in mind. They are still a surly group at the book's end, but they have made a lot of progress. The focus is very narrow, but richly detailed. We only follow the events in Charleston. Who lived next to whom? What church did they go to? What school did they attend? Who did they marry? This is a story of the 'Civil War.' Told from the street level of Charleston between 1850 and 1870, it twists the 'accepted story' presented by Hollywood. I'm used to the Civil War starting with the shelling of Fort Sumter and ending with Lee's surrender at Appomattox. This version of the 'Civil War' starts with the Nat Turner rebellion and ends with the 15th amendment. Instead of the great establishment leaders like Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln, this war is fought by people that won't abide with bondage. It is a war between slave owners and those they seek to dominate. There is no talk of a Northern Army 'freeing' people, the most prominent army unit mentioned is the 21st United States Colored Troops. The mayor of Charleston surrendered the city to them on February 18, 1865. The book is organized into 7 chapters. The first two and last are narrative, the war story. Chapters 3 through 6 develop sub themes regarding how the winners of the war (remember, the Mayor surrendered to colored troops) went about establishing economic, educational and community institutions for 'the New Day.' The book is careful to bolster its case by retelling hundreds of stories pulled from contemporary sources; autobiographies, newspapers, government documents, etc. Anyone writing a civil war film script would find this book a welcome source of authentic street scenes. Despite the bold title, the notion of 'seizing liberty' is rather hidden in the multitude of individual stories recounted here. It's easy to read the book as a colorful recap of many small and disconnected efforts. I suspect this reflects the author's desire to maintain academic respectability. The story about Lee and Grant is, after all, the accepted version.

Seizing the New Day is a good book, carefully researched, logically organized, and clearly written.... an excellent model for others who would study change at the local level in this fascinating period of American history. And the volume is handsomely illustrated with well-chosen photographs, drawings, and maps."?H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences  
For former slaves in Charleston, South Carolina, life was a constant struggle adjusting to freedom while battling whites' attempts to regain control. Using autobiographies, slave narratives, Freedmen's Bureau letters and papers, and other primary documents, Wilbert L. Jenkins attempts to understand how the freedmen saw themselves in the new order and to shed light on their hopes and aspirations. He emphasizes, not the defeat of these aspirations, but rather the victories the freedmen won against white resistance.

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About the Author  
Wilbert L. Jenkins is Associate Professor of History at Temple University.