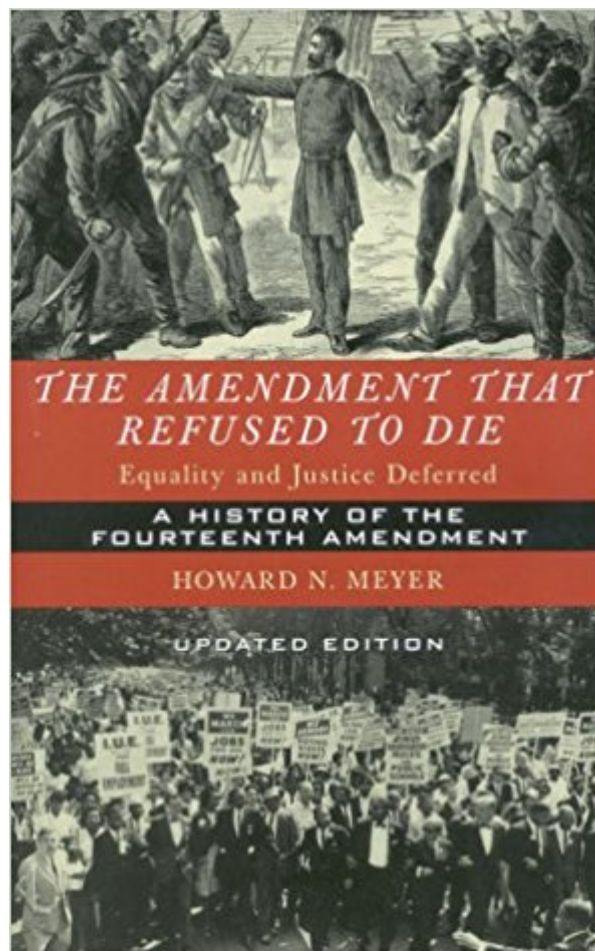




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The Amendment That Refused To Die: Equality And Justice Deferred: The History Of The Fourteenth Amendment



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Synopsis

Relying on both celebrated and little-known cases, this acclaimed chronicle of the Fourteenth Amendment "a constitutional guarantee of equality and freedom and the cornerstone of individual liberty as we know it" traces the amendment's fascinating origins in the aftermath of the Civil War; its near repudiation; violent reactions against it; its revival in the twentieth century; and, in a substantial new afterword, its recent challenges and setbacks. Meyer looks at current attacks against the amendment, which threaten affirmative action, desegregation, voting rights, abortion rights, gay rights, and protection from oppressive measures of the State.

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Customer Reviews

If you are a normal person don't let the Forward to this book discourage you. It get's better. Overall this book was an enjoyable read. The first 3/4 of the book was well written, coherent, fair and had easily digestible chapters. It fell apart nearing the end. After reading this book I now understand the intention and implications of this amendment, namely, to apply to the States, the Bill of Rights for all Americans. Before reading this book I had little understanding that many States, both before and after the American Civil War, ignored the Bill of Rights in many areas. I understand better the legal, historical and cultural difficulties in applying this amendment and others. This book focused mainly on rights of black Americans, free speech and law enforcement. If your are a critical reader, you can overlook Mr. Meyer's strong opinions such as his excoriation of Justice Scalia's "we are one race, American". I am encouraged to learn of the perseverance of political minorities such as Thad Stevens, John Bingham, John Marshall and others. I may have found some new "political heroes." I

learned more deeply that America always seems to correct her errors in regard to her American Constitutional ideal in law and culture although many times with a "snail's pace" and with many setbacks. I am more encouraged that the the dignity of the human person may someday be protected in law, practice and culture as an American Constitutional ideal since it took a long struggle to understand the dignity of the black man, the ideal of free speech, tempered law enforcement and the like. I am disappointed that Mr. Meyer does not recognize a whole class of Americans who do not enjoy constitutional protections of the Bill of Rights, namely the pre-born.

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