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Salem Press Announces the Newest Addition to the Popular *Defining Documents* series: *Slavery*

Defining Documents in American History: Slavery delves into the extremely long and violent history of the titular subject. These volumes discuss slavery in multiple contexts, from ancient times to the slave trade during colonial America, and from the abolitionist movement to issues of slavery in the modern era.

Slavery was not universally endorsed, but it became a part of the economic fabric of the United States. Riots and rebellions alarmed owners and strengthened the resolve of those who worked toward the abolition of slavery and the emancipation of the men, women, and children deemed “property” and valued as only three-fifths of a human. It took a civil war to achieve the goal of freedom for all, and decades of work that continues to this day, to gain and defend the civil rights liberties afforded to all citizens.

Defining Documents in American History: Slavery offers in-depth analysis of fifty-eight documents, including letters, memoirs, newspaper accounts, book excerpts, speeches, sermons, political debates, testimony, field orders, firsthand accounts, diaries, memoirs, court rulings, legal texts, and legislative acts. The material is organized into five groups:

- **Early Debates and Considerations** explores John Woolman’s *Some Considerations on the Keeping of Negroes*, as well as An Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery passed in Pennsylvania in 1780, and the Slavery Clauses of the U.S. Constitution meant to preserve a delicate balance between slave-holding and free states.
- **Antebellum Activities** covers the Missouri Compromise of 1820, Justice Joseph Story’s decision in *United States v. Amistad* calling for equal rights for all men under the law, and its opposite ruling in the *Dred Scott* decision.
- **Slave Stories** draws on authors who tell the stories of their lives as slaves, including Nat Turner, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglas, and Solomon Northup.
- **Worlds of Woe and War** begins with Abraham Lincoln’s First Inaugural Address of 1861, in which he tries to maintain the status quo for Southern state and preserve the union, and ending with his Second Inaugural Address of 1865 and its call to “bind up the nation’s wounds” as the Civil War is drawing to an end.

- **Facing the Future** evaluates efforts to incorporate freedmen into society including the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, a Field Order promising freemen “forty acres and mule,” and efforts to reunite families pulled apart by slavery.

Each document is supported by a critical essay, written by historians and teachers, that includes a Summary Overview, Defining Moment, Author Biography, Document Analysis, and Essential Themes.

About the Series

Defining Documents consists of a collection of essays on important historical documents by a diverse range of writers on a broad range of subjects in world history. The series offers a broad range of historical documents on important authors and subjects in world history, with primary source documents, in-depth analysis, and comprehensive lesson plans that represent the diversity of ideas and contexts that define social, political and cultural subjects throughout world history. *The Defining Documents* series is perfect for students, those researching a particular era, or anyone interested in world history. Visit www.salempress.com for more information about additional titles in this series.

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“All in all, this set gives students a glimpse of the underside of US history through primary documents. For faculty who do more than simply use a textbook for their courses, this set should find use in the hands of high school through undergraduate course in US history. Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty.”

— **CHOICE, 2019** on *Defining Documents: Secrets, Leaks & Scandals*

Defining Documents in American History: Slavery

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