

The history of
From Slavery to Freedom:
A History of African Americans
High School Edition

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From Slavery to Freedom was written by the legendary and award-winning scholar, the late John Hope Franklin, the preeminent historian in African American History.

First published in 1947, From Slavery to Freedom is considered to be one of the most important works in the scholarship of African American history.

Thurgood Marshall used the text as a guide, citing historical references from the book, in the case of Lynman Johnson v. The University of Kentucky to defend Johnson's right to admission in all-white graduate school. Franklin was a key witness in the case. The ruling was in favor of Johnson. (1949)

Franklin was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Clinton for his chronicling of the African American experience. During Clinton's presentation he stated, "John Hope Franklin has both lived and chronicled the history of race in America. He is the author of many books including the classic From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans." (1995)

From Slavery to Freedom was used, and cited by, the NAACP legal team in the landmark school segregation case Brown v. Board of Education. Franklin served as a consultant on the case. (1954)

Under Clinton, Franklin served as Chair on the President's Advisory Board for the One America initiative. (1997)

Duke University christened a new lab facility within the Franklin Humanities Institute. The facility is named From Slavery to Freedom, in honor and memory of John Hope Franklin and his work. (2018)

"From Slavery to Freedom is the book through which his legacy endures, and with it his life of learning and undying commitment to justice and equality for all."