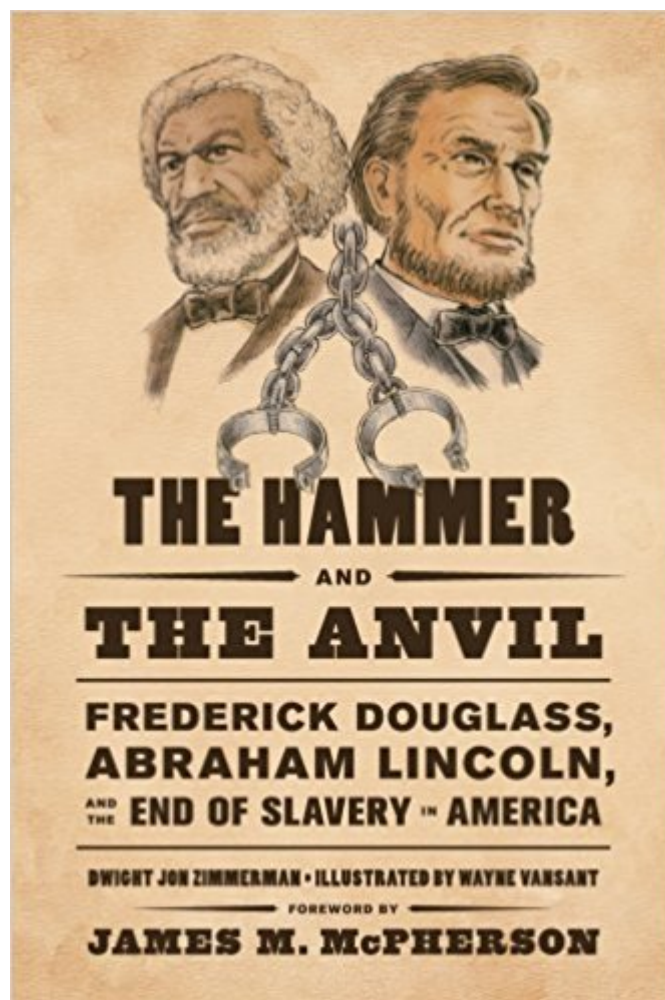




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# The Hammer And The Anvil: Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, And The End Of Slavery In America



## Synopsis

The period leading up to the Civil War was one of great change. Congress divided itself between Northerners and Southerners, citizens on the frontier took up arms against one another, and movements for secession and abolition were more urgent than ever. In *The Hammer and the Anvil*, the award-winning author Dwight Jon Zimmerman and the renowned artist Wayne Vansant vividly depict the tumultuous time through the lives of two men who defined it: Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. With a foreword by the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James M. McPherson, *The Hammer and the Anvil* reveals that its protagonists each wrestled with the question of slavery from a young age. Douglass, a slave who was spared no brutality, once fought an especially cruel master and eventually escaped north to freedom. Lincoln, who was hired out by his father to do manual labor on neighbors' farms, found this harsh life intolerable. As a senator, Lincoln sought ways to end the westward spread of slavery, believing that adding free states to the Union would diminish the power of the Southern states and lead to the gradual disappearance of the "peculiar institution." Douglass was less patient. He had become a skilled orator and an influential editor of Northern abolitionist journals, and called on white Americans to honor their nation's founding commitment to liberty. When the Civil War erupted in April 1861, Douglass hoped that the conflict would mean the end of slavery. But Lincoln delayed emancipation, and Douglass despaired until he met the president face-to-face and recognized that their causes were one and the same. Featuring evocative and dramatic scenes of this seminal time, *The Hammer and the Anvil* will engage both Civil War buffs and young people new to the study of American history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Engaging and insightful . . . A compelling look at two of the most important figures in American history.” —Publishers Weekly

“An utterly ingenious graphic history of one of the most important stories in American history--the strikingly parallel lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln that eventually converged in friendship. Powerfully illustrated and written, *The Hammer and the Anvil* highlights for young readers, and anyone interested in graphic stories, the central debates of the Civil War era and of our own time: race, freedom, citizenship, state versus federal government, and the meaning of the American Dream.” —John Stauffer, author of *Giants: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln*

“A highly original, historically accurate, and utterly irresistible take on the lives and contributions of those two giants, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. This book raises the genre of ‘graphic history’ to a new level. Dwight Jon Zimmerman and Wayne Vasant have produced a page-turner that will engage young readers, and no doubt delight their parents, too.” —Harold Holzer, Chairman, Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation

“An ingenious telling of the most important story in our nation’s history through the lives of the two greatest Americans of the nineteenth century, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Students, teachers, and general readers--even those who think history is not for them--will find this an exciting, compelling read. A brilliant work!” —James G. Basker, President of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

“*The Hammer and the Anvil* makes the extraordinary moment that brought Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln together accessible to young students. It’s an eye-opener.” —Ira Berlin, author of *The Making of African America*

Dwight Jon Zimmerman is the coauthor with Bill O’Reilly of The New York Times bestseller *Lincoln’s Last Days*. He is the author of *The Vietnam War: A Graphic History* and the co-executive producer of the Discovery Channel’s miniseries *First Command*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York. Wayne Vasant is the illustrator of *The ’Nam* and *The Vietnam War: A Graphic History*, among many other works. He lives in Mableton, Georgia. James M. McPherson is the George Henry Davis 1886 Professor of History, Emeritus, at Princeton University. He is the author of numerous award-winning books on the Civil War, including *Battle Cry of Freedom*, which won the Pulitzer Prize.

I am pleased to award this graphic novel 5 stars. I just finished reading it with a class of first year college students and it was well received. It was engaging and compelling. Further, it enhanced our study of Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. I loved the way the book was laid out and the way the authors made connections to the present day. I would recommend this to students and teachers alike, especially those who love history, as I do. This 5 star book gives students a good understanding of the era of slavery. Hammer and the Anvil make this topic interesting because it is a graphic novel. Also, it is easier to read because of the pictures and conversation bubbles. This book is a very good choice for teens and will give them the information they need to know about slavery and the civil war.

**Meg Megan Rasnake**  
**The Hammer and the Anvil**  
**Review**  
**By Megan** I would give this graphic novel 5 stars. Reading this class as a first-year college student, I got a better understanding of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. I was very engaged in this book because of the graphics. These two men who did not know each other, had a lot more in common than it seemed. This novel kept me interested by reading the similarities between Douglass and Lincoln and seeing how these two very important figures in American History became friends. There was never a dull moment in this exciting novel where I was not interested. The graphics made this novel very different than a traditional book because I felt as if I had a better understanding by picturing the scenes. This novel was very powerfully illustrated and written. I would recommend The Hammer and the Anvil for young students who are interested in graphic novels and interested in topics such as race and freedom.

**Marcus Sydnor**  
**The Hammer and the Anvil Final Project**  
**Marcus** It has been a pleasure to read this wonderful graphic novel and I would give this book 4 stars out of 5. This book has helped me view and understand the lives of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. I have learned that both abolitionist leaders have a lot in common. They both lost their mothers at young ages and both have either been a slave or treated like one, which started their hatred towards slavery. This novel increased my knowledge about the Civil War and the events leading up to the war. This book also talks about the events leading up to his presidency and the events that occurred in Douglass's life for him to become an abolitionist. This book is a good book and I am happy that I read it this summer and I also would recommend this book to other college students who either want to know more about the Civil War or want to know more about Lincoln and Douglas's life and achievements.

**Georgina** I don't even know where to begin about this book. This book helped me so much in understanding the life that Frederick Douglass had and the struggles he went through. It portrays it in text and it is a graphic novel so it shows pictures along with the words. It is a dual biography of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. There are some good facts in this book and I would really recommend this book to anybody not just

college students. Brandi'll award this graphic novel four star. Although I'm not a huge fan of reading, I will admit that this book was well put together and very detailed. Reading this book, I learned that both Douglass and Lincoln were two very strong-willed and opinionated men. Douglass escaping slavery to find his way in life and Lincoln being the president while having odds against him about how blacks are treated by his "own kind" shows how determined they were to stop slavery and segregation. Also, Both Douglass and Lincoln self-educated themselves and spoke against slavery, which brought them together in the Abolitionist movement. I definitely recommend this book to other first year college students. Unlike a traditional textbook, this book has pictures that explains the story and gives an illustration or vision of what times in those days were like. It also has dialogue, which I thought was pretty unique. So for those reasons, this graphic novel is good for entertainment as well as knowledge. I give this book a four because it really was a good and outstanding book. I really learned about a strong African American man that made a change during his time and it is still influential to this day. The book told me a lot about Frederick had his connection with such people as Lincoln where both men put their mind together it was an inspiration to see the work they did. When reading the book and learning about Douglass struggled and how he always strived for success it makes you want to do the same. This book was a great key for knowledge and shows how power was the key to everything in the past and in the present. Ma'Shiya Q

Preserving a nation's past for future generations is imperative for any country. With an entire generation of American young people having been raised to learn and experience virtually everything through visual mediums, how clever to use graphic arts to adapt history. For this nation's students to fully understand America, they simply must to have a firm understanding of the Civil War era and all of its facets. "The Hammer and the Anvil" covers a host of issues in a way that will draw in young people in compelling ways. The foreword by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James M. McPherson and James G. Basker's endorsement of the book as, " . . . A brilliant work!" trumps a book jacket error, albeit a sloppy one by the publisher. (For those who may not be aware, Mr Basker is President of the prestigious Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.) It is both my pleasure and my honor to award "The Hammer and the Anvil" a five-star rating. It is well-deserved. Bonnie Bartel Latino is a former columnist for Stars and Stripes newspaper in Europe. She also reviews for the Mobile (AL) Press-Register Sunday "Living Arts" books page.

I knew I'd like reading about Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln together in the same book. But I wasn't at all sure how I'd react to reading

text combined with pictures. I can now report that I've become an advocate of the graphic novel art form because of Dwight Jon Zimmerman's words and Wayne Vansant's drawings. In the hands of the writer and the artist, intellectual knowledge grows into the deeper experience of emotional knowing. For example, we know that Douglass was raised a slave from childhood. In this book the stark words and pictures make the reader feel the child's confusion and heartbreak when his grandmother abandons him with slaveholders. In this way, a way that I will truly remember, the words and pictures together convey the unimaginable cruelty of the slave system. We know Lincoln grew up in poverty. But on a visceral level I now feel the horror Lincoln endured: his father rented him out to other Illinois farmers and refused to let the boy who loved learning go to school or read. Words and pictures deepen the terror. That either man triumphed over the nightmare of their childhood to grow into manhood and guide a nation on the verge of self-destruction is something for us all to think about and honor. Both Douglass and Lincoln were born in February. But this is a book for all time and for all readers. I borrowed the book from the library. As soon as I post this review, I am buying this treasure to add to my collection.

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