

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU

Reconstructing the American South after the Civil War

by Paul A. Cimbala

Orig. Ed. 2005 (Anvil) 220 pp. ISBN 978-1-57524-094-7 Paper \$26.25

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, better known as the Freedmen's Bureau, was established in the spring of 1865 to help white and black Southerners make the transition from slavery to freedom, while securing the basic civil rights of the ex-slaves. It failed to accomplish what its creators had hoped, but its history tells us much about why Northerners and Southerners, whites and blacks, approached Reconstruction in the way that they did and why that failure occurred. *The Freedmen's Bureau: Reconstructing the American South after the Civil War* is a succinct summary of the agency's history accompanied by key documents that illustrate Northern ideology, black expectations, and white Southern resistance. Topics of the day, including labor, education, violence, politics, and justice place the federal agency within the larger context of post-Civil War history.

About the Author

Paul A. Cimbala is a professor of history at Fordham University in the Bronx, New York, where he teaches Civil War Era, Southern and African American history. He received his Ph.D. from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to accepting a position at Fordham, he was an assistant editor with *The Black Abolitionist Papers Project* at Florida State University and an assistant professor of history at the University of South Carolina at Aiken. He is the author of *Under the Guardianship of the Nation: The Freedmen's Bureau and the Reconstruction of Georgia, 1865-1867*, and has edited numerous essay collections including (with Randall M. Miller) *The Freedmen's Bureau and Reconstruction: Reconsiderations*. He is presently completing a study of slave musicians titled *Jester, Trickster, Priest: Black Musicians from Slavery to Freedom in the Rural American South* and has begun research on a history of the Union Army's Veteran Reserve Corps.

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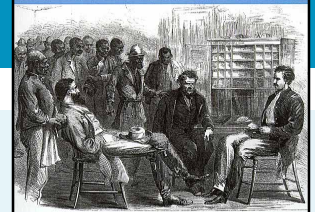
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THE ANVIL SERIES

Edited by Paul A. Cimbala



KRIEGER PUBLISHING COMPANY

1-800-724-0025

