

1 | Introduction

- Freedom and liberty are fundamental to Americans' identity
- Freedom and liberty are often used interchangeably
- Freedom and liberty (fal) are often looked back as a constant definition that did not change throughout history, but Foner thinks that the definition that changed (link to history is a series of arguments)
- This reading will focus on the definition of fal throughout the civil war

2 | "We All Declare for Liberty"

- Abraham Lincoln: "We all declare for liberty...but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing"
 - the north saw freedom as everyone enjoying the products of their labor
 - the south saw freedom as the power to do as they please with other men, as well as their products of labor
- The North winning the Civil War changed the definition of freedom to the northern meaning
- The Civil War changed the idea of the power of the American Government:
 - The Gov got more power, but it was the power to "create positive social change"
 - it went from northerners not liking the gov because it supported slavery to liking the gov because it abolished slavery
- Civil War was a fight for slavery as well as the country → a fight for less state rights and more power in the central gov because states rights was a more pro slavery stance
- North triumph meant new definition of freedom as well as a new nation coming out of the war that would be built on this idea of new freedom

3 | What is Freedom?

- After the war the notion of freedom became a hot topic of debate because that would define what would happen to enslaved peoples
- thus control of the definition was also a hot topic
- Through this lens, the definition of freedom post civil war was not some static definition, but rather a "battle ground" for debate
- there were three different "definitions" of freedom:
 - the one of the former slaves
 - the one of the Southern whites
 - the one of the Republican North

4 | **Hiram Powers: *America***

- talks about how a Bust, was constantly changed, and how that was a reflection of how the united states definition of freedom was constantly changing as well

5 | **Alexander Gardner: *What Do I want, John Henry? Warrenton Virginia, November 1862***

6 | **Susan Torrey Merritt: *Antislavery Picnic at Weymouth Landing, Massachusetts***

7 | **Samuel J. Miller: *Fredrick Douglass***

8 | **The great Constitutional Revolution**

9 | **Boundaries of Exclusion**

10 | **Davide Gilmore Blythe: *Old Virginia Home***

11 | **Constant Mayer: *Love's Melancholy***