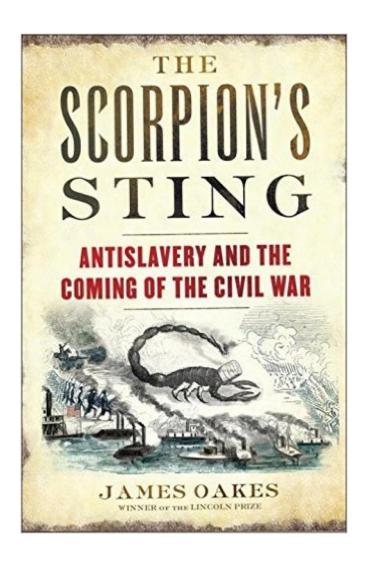
# The book was found

# The Scorpion's Sting: Antislavery And The Coming Of The Civil War





## **Synopsis**

An award-winning historian illuminates the strategy for ending slavery that precipitated the crisis of civil war. Surrounded by a ring of fire, the scorpion stings itself to death. The image, widespread among antislavery leaders before the Civil War, captures their long-standing strategy for peaceful abolition: they would surround the slave states with a cordon of freedom. They planned to use federal power wherever they could to establish freedom: the western territories, the District of Columbia, the high seas. By constricting slavery they would induce a crisis: slaves would escape in ever-greater numbers, the southern economy would falter, and finally the southern states would abolish the institution themselves. For their part the southern states fully understood this antislavery strategy. They cited it repeatedly as they adopted secession ordinances in response to Lincoln's election. The scorpion's sting is the centerpiece of this fresh, incisive exploration of slavery and the Civil War: Was there a peaceful route to abolition? Was Lincoln late to emancipation? What role did race play in the politics of slavery? With stunning insight James Oakes moves us ever closer to a new understanding of the most momentous events in our history.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1 edition (May 19, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393239934

ISBN-13: 978-0393239935

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #786,648 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #503 in Books > History >

Americas > United States > Civil War > Abolition #1009 in Books > History > Americas > United

States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields #2939 in Books > History > Americas > United

States > African Americans > Discrimination & Racism

### Customer Reviews

I think the Booklist reviewer got it completely right. If you are a casual Civil War buff or are more concerned with the military aspects of the conflict rather than the political, cultural and philosophical ones, this book is probably not for you. On the other hand, if legal and philosophical fine points are your daily bread, you'll likely gobble it up with gusto. After briefly explaining that most anti-slavery

Americans put their hopes into a policy of containment that would cause the institution to wither and die, the author spends most of his book detailing fine points concerning the treaties that ended the American Revolution and the War of 1812. These provisions had to do with American slaves emancipated by British forces and demands by the former owners for a return of their "property" or compensation for its loss. Debates over these issues, both between Americans and British people and among Americans themselves helped lay the groundwork for U.S. emancipation as it eventually occurred in practice. I found the book interesting in the beginning, but by the end of the first third, repetition began to set in for me, and while the overall thrust of the book casts an interesting perspective on the intellectual run up to the Civil War, I confess I found the second half to be a long-winded exercise in going over the same points again and again. Following that good first half, the book just withered away for me.

In the years leading up to the American Civil War, why did the question of slavery become so completely intractable? In this fascinating book, author James Oakes explains that the two sides rightly saw what Abraham Lincoln had explained, that the nation could not continue half slave and half free. That is to say, that either slavery must exist everywhere in the nation, or it would fail where it did exist. Early on, the abolitionists had suggested that if the slave states could be ringed with free states, that it would quickly die out, the way that a scorpion ringed with fire would stink itself to death. This was a powerful metaphor that grabbed the attention of both the North and the South.Overall, I think that the author does do a great job of showing how philosophically deep the question of slavery ran, and why the nation could not be a partial slave state. The book is relatively short, but is a very interesting and thought-provoking read. If you are interested in the American Civil War, and want to understand it even better, then get this book. I highly recommend it!

The first three chapters offer a very strong analysis of the Republicans and slavery, slaves as property, and race and slavery. The final chapter on wartime emancipation, which goes back to the War for Independence, unfortunately searches for a point. In addition, the final chapter inexplicably fails to examine military emancipation during the Civil War (the subject of Oakes's Freedom National).

The first chapter is disappointing as it seems a long and convoluted way of stating the obvious. However, the rest of the book is first rate.

Fresh look at battles over slavery leading up to Civil War - new sources and original analysis.

read it all the day I got it. Clear, well organized writing makes his points well. Not sure I understand why military emancipation issues needed so much coverage though.

This book was purchases for a class. For being such a concise book, this is one of the most valuable books that detail slavery leading up to the Civil War.

A fine book regarding the anti-slavery positions in the country prior to the war. The chapter on military emancipation was overly detailed.

#### Download to continue reading...

The Scorpion's Sting: Antislavery and the Coming of the Civil War For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Still Not Enough: Coming of Age, Coming Out, and Coming Home African Canadians in Union Blue: Volunteering for the Cause in the Civil War (American Abolitionism and Antislavery) Vietnam War: The Vietnam War in 50 Events: From the First Indochina War to the Fall of Saigon (War Books, Vietnam War Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 6) World War 2 History's 10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women) The Silence and the Scorpion: The Coup Against Chavez and the Making of Modern Venezuela Aitutaki Sting (Ben Hood Thrillers Book 28) Starship Scorpion (The Galactic Wars Book 1) The Sting of the Wild University, Court, and Slave: Pro-Slavery Thought in Southern Colleges and Courts and the Coming of Civil War Lincoln's Generals' Wives: Four Women Who Influenced the Civil War--for Better and for Worse (Civil War in the North Series) From Manassas to Appomattox (Civil War Classics): Memoirs of the Civil War in America The Civil War: A Narrative: Volume 2: Fredericksburg to Meridian (Vintage Civil War Library) A Savage Conflict: The Decisive Role of Guerrillas in the American Civil War (Civil War America) The Civil War at Sea (Reflections on the Civil War Era) A Refugee at Hanover Tavern: The Civil War Diary of Margaret Wight (Civil War Series) The Killer Angels: The Classic Novel of the Civil War (The Civil War: 1861-1865 Book 2) Stop the Coming Civil War: My Savage Truth Coming Out, Coming Home: Helping Families Adjust to a Gay or Lesbian Child Signatures of Citizenship: Petitioning, Antislavery, and Women's Political Identity

**Dmca**