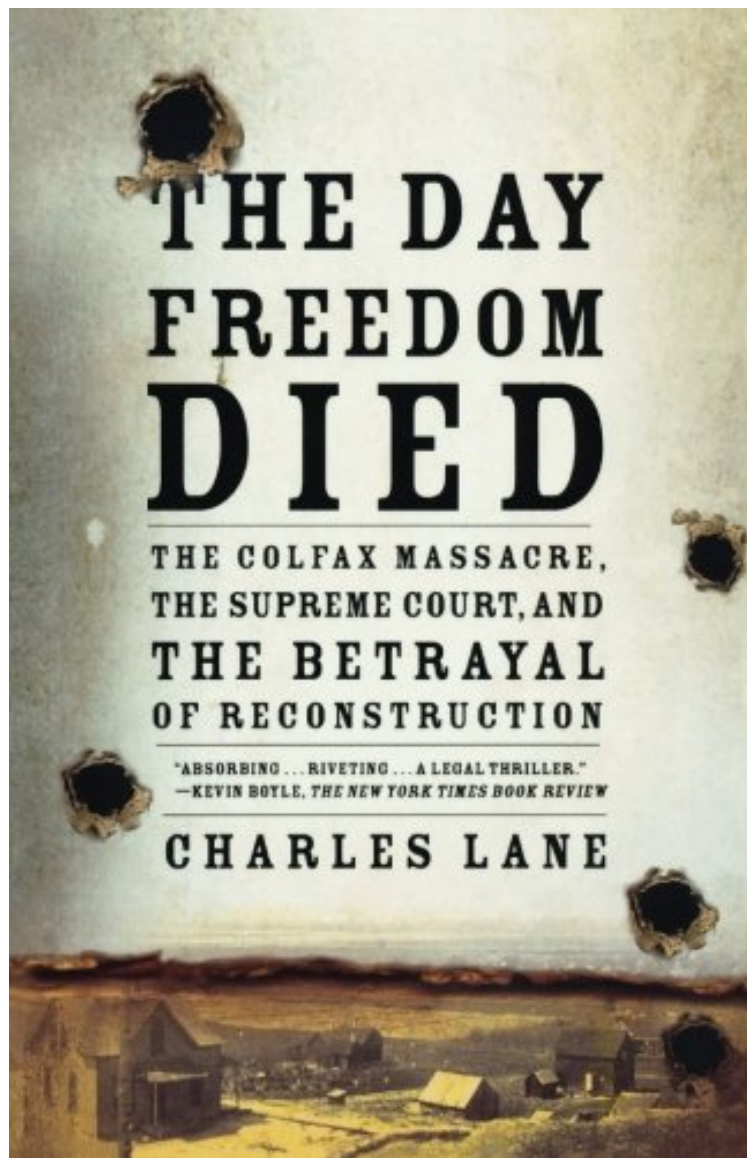


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The Day Freedom Died: The Colfax Massacre, the Supreme Court, and the Betrayal of Reconstruction

Charles Lane

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Charles Lane : **The Day Freedom Died: The Colfax Massacre, the Supreme Court, and the Betrayal of Reconstruction** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Day Freedom Died: The Colfax Massacre, the Supreme Court, and the Betrayal of Reconstruction:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. StunningBy JoeyP2A must read of an event that has been overlooked. Provides excellent insight into why things in the South went down as they did during Jim Crow, and how even in the North the cause of the freed blacks was pushed aside. This is critical reading if you want to understand our nation, and the long and hard road we're still traveling down.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Indispensable Account of the End of Civil Rights Despite the End of the ConfederacyBy Timothy D. StoneIn *The Day Freedom Died*, Chuck Lane has produced an indispensable, detailed account of the heartbreaking end of Reconstruction, and arguably, the continuation of the Civil War through political means, as several southern states used terror, backed even by the U.S. Supreme Court, to negate many of the laws and ideals that the Union supposedly had secured in vanquishing the Confederacy. Lane has used a cast of dozens of characters and anecdotes to document how a racist backlash terrorized African Americans in the American South after the end of slavery, despite the opposition of President Grant, an ardent supporter of civil rights. A must read for anyone who wants to understand the struggle for civil rights in America and the legacy we must never forget in order to safeguard a fair and civil society for all.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A touching tale of horror courage and deception.By Paul E.FosterThe awesome an emotional story that quite possibly touches my family. Mr. Eli Nelson a slave from Colfax LA is one of important figures in the book and could be a ancestor of my Foster Mother who was also a Nelson from Colfax. A must read for anyone trying to understand the brutal nature of racist white after the civil war in Louisiana and other parts of the confederacy.

"Absorbing . . . Riveting . . . A legal thriller."Kevin Boyle, *The New York Times Book Review*Following the Civil War, Colfax, Louisiana, was a town like many where African Americans and whites mingled uneasily. But on April 13, 1873, a small army of white exConfederate soldiers, enraged after attempts by freedmen to assert their new rights, killed more than sixty African Americans who had occupied a courthouse. Seeking justice for the slain, one brave U.S. attorney, James Beckwith, risked his life and career to investigate and punish the perpetratorsbut they all went free. What followed was a series of courtroom dramas that culminated at the Supreme Court, where the justices' verdict compromised the victories of the Civil War and left Southern blacks at the mercy of violent whites for generations. *The Day Freedom Died* is a riveting historical saga that captures a gallery of characters from presidents to townspeople, and re-creates the bloody days of Reconstruction, when the often brutal struggle for equality moved from the battlefield into communities across the nation.

From *Publishers Weekly*Starred . The Colfax Massacre, a buried episode in American history, took place on an Easter Sunday afternoon in 1873. Within four hours, at least eighty black American men had been brutally murdered by white vigilantes in Colfax, La. Journalist Lane's groundbreaking and persuasive work illustrates this pivotal event in the political and constitutional history of postCivil War America and its social, political and judicial aftermath. Full of illuminating detail, this well-paced account clarifies the controversial events that surrounded the massacre the development of a community of freed slaves, politicians' struggles and shenanigans, unchecked white vigilante intimidation and murder, the perpetrators' trials and the Supreme Court decision that, in effect, left it up to individual states to protect the rights of African-American citizens. Lane provides succinct background (biographical, historical and geographical) on persons, politics and places. Lucidly written, thoroughly readable, carefully documented, and impressively coherent, Lane's rendition of this turning point in the history of American race relations and racial politics ends a long silence in American history books. Students of American and African-American history will find it particularly valuable; fans of American history will find it a moving and instructive drama. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. One of the most memorable opening lines in English literature, from Ford Maddox Ford's novel *The Good Soldier*, is: 'This is the saddest story I have ever heard.' That could be the epigraph for Charles Lane's shattering account of the post-Civil War betrayal of African Americans and the bloody collapse of Reconstruction. George F. WillA highly impressive, deeply researched, engagingly written account of one of the lowest chapters in U.S. Supreme Court history. David J. Garrow, author of *Bearing the Cross*If you want to understand twentieth century politics, you have to begin at the end of the nineteenth, when the battle lines were drawn not just over civil rights for African Americans, but over what kind of nation this country would become. It all starts here, with the unkept promise of Reconstruction, and Charles Lane has found the perfect narrative--meticulously researched and wonderfully told--to bring the story to life. Nate Blakeslee, author of *Tulia*Lane has unearthed a tragic story that shows the real strength of human character and courage, and delivers a riveting account of the bloody struggle for racial equality after the smoke cleared the battlefields in the post-Civil War South. Jan Crawford Greenburg, author of *Supreme Conflict*Charles Lane is one of the most astute observers of the Supreme Court. In this gripping narrative, he proves to be a first rate historical sleuth as well. With psychological and political insight, Lane unforgettably brings to life one of the most shameful episodes in American constitutional history. Jeffrey Rosen, author of *The Supreme Court*In page after riveting page Charles Lane brings to life a massacre and its legal consequences that have been forgotten, ignored, or papered over by history. You'll put this book down amazed at how much you didn't know about race, Reconstruction, and the courts, and profoundly grateful that Lane had both the

curiosity and skill to so powerfully fill in the blanks. Dahlia Lithwick, Slate legal correspondent Brilliantly lays bare one of the most unknown but significant contributing events in the fatal collapse of Reconstruction. By transforming exhaustive historical research and detail into a dramatic portrayal of the high-stakes tug of war between racial, political, cultural, and sociological forces of the time, Charles Lane brings insight, urgency, and clarity to the Colfax Massacre. A vital and important contribution to our understanding of our country's history. Lalita Tademy, author of *Red River* and *Cane River* About the Author Charles Lane learned about the Colfax Massacre case while covering the Supreme Court for *The Washington Post*. A former correspondent for *Newsweek* and editor of *The New Republic*, Lane has reported from Japan, Latin America, Europe, and southern Africa. His essays have appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Atlantic*. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard and studied law at Yale. He lives in the Washington, D.C., area.