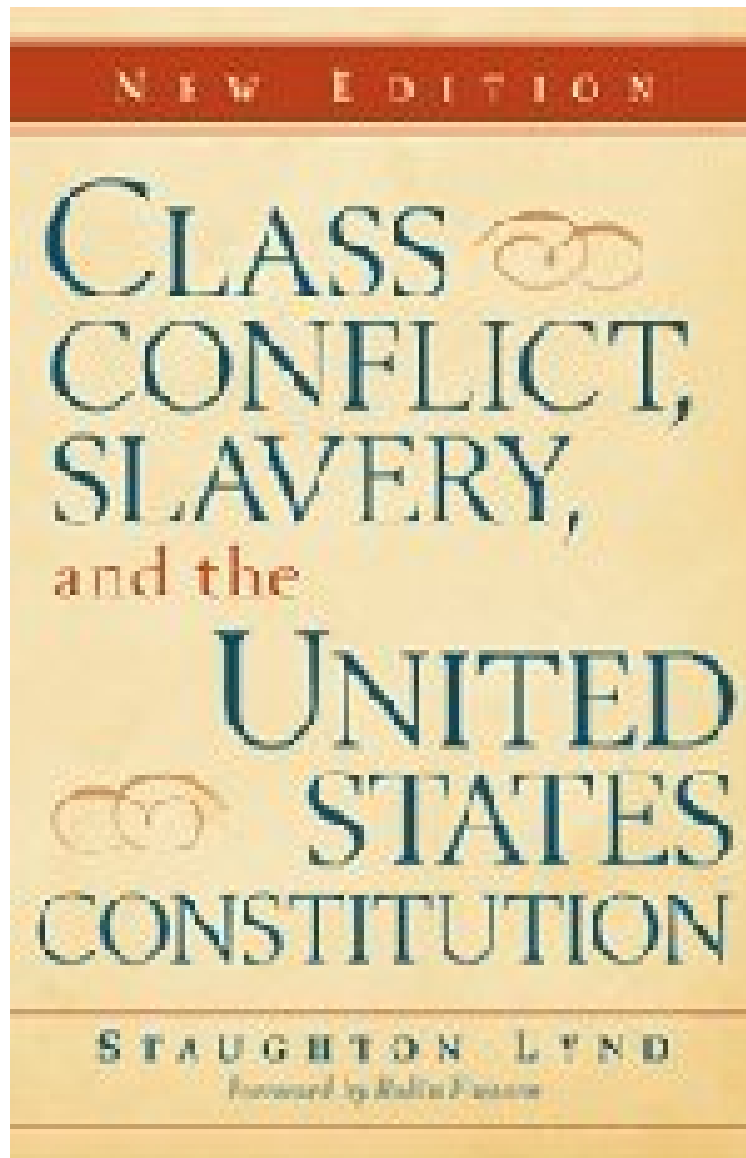


Class Conflict, Slavery, and the United States Constitution

From Staughton Lynd

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First published in 1967, *Class Conflict, Slavery, and the United States Constitution* was among the first studies to identify the importance of slavery to the founding of the American Republic. Provocative and powerful, this book offers explanations for the movements and motivations that underpinned the Revolution and the Early Republic. First, Staughton Lynd analyzes what motivated farm tenants and artisans during the period of the American Revolution. Second, he argues that slavery, and a willingness to compromise with slavery, were at the center of all political arrangements by the patriot leadership, including the United States Constitution. Third, he maintains that the historiography of the United States has adopted the mistaken perspective of Thomas Jefferson, who held that southern plantation owners were merely victimized agrarians. This new edition reproduces the original Preface by Edward P. Thompson and includes a new essay by Robin Einhorn that examines Lynd's arguments in the context of forty years of subsequent scholarship.

"Mr. Lynd discusses class conflict and slavery and their impact on the establishment of the Constitution. He contends that C. A. Beard's version of the nature of strife in this constitutional period requires revision. Rather than a conflict between capitalists and farmers, Mr. Lynd argues, the conflict was between commercial and noncommercial interests....An interesting and well-written book. Recommended for specialists and informed readers."-Library Journal

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About the Author Staughton Lynd received his BA from Harvard College and his MA and PhD from Columbia University. He taught at Spelman College and at Yale University. He is the author, editor, or co-editor of more than a dozen books and has published articles in journals including the *Journal of American History*, the *William and Mary Quarterly*, and the *Political Science Quarterly*. Robin Einhorn is a professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley.