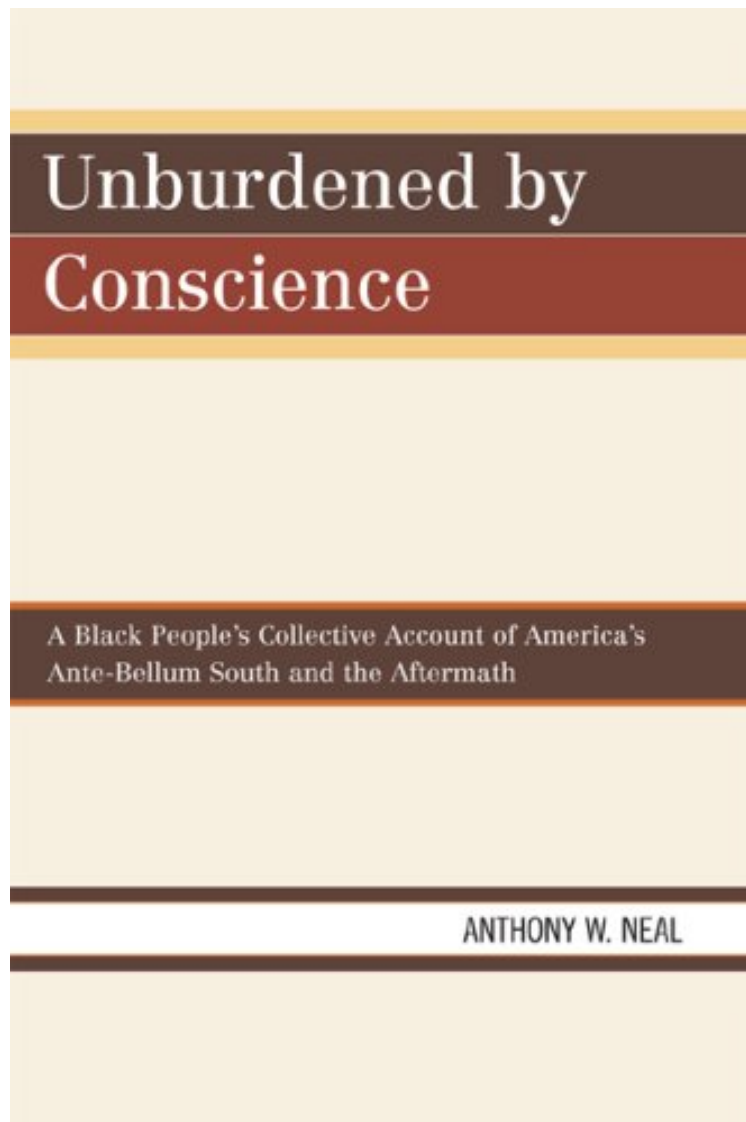


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## Unburdened by Conscience: A Black People's Collective Account of America's Ante-Bellum South and the Aftermath

*Anthony W. Neal*

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**Anthony W. Neal : Unburdened by Conscience: A Black People's Collective Account of America's Ante-Bellum South and the Aftermath** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unburdened by Conscience: A Black People's Collective Account of America's Ante-Bellum South and the Aftermath:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must-read on the subject  
By MJ  
Brief, well-researched, and plain spoken, this book deals with the inevitable realities of one group of people having unlimited, power over another group of people, virtually unaccountable to anyone. Power corrupts. And such power attracts those most likely to use it, not only for the financial gains, but for the personal license it provides. Without the common softening blur of euphemistic language, the author allows readers to come closer to putting themselves into the experience of countless slaves than nearly any other book I have read. In view of constant, world-wide news stories reminding us how quickly and brutally human beings fall into patterns of smug violence, abuse, and torture, when given even a minimal amount of authority over others, there is no reason to pretend slavery in U.S. history was any less horrific than at any other time in history, including slavery in its many forms across the globe today. As a nation, and as individuals, we need to grasp the realities of all the aspects of our history, glorious and shameful, without one version of events for one group and another version for another group, if we want the tools we need to become a 'united' country. I considered giving the book a 4-star rating, simply because its chapters are so brief, when there is so much more information and historical evidence available. But that is also what makes me able to recommend it to people who would never tackle a 500 page book on the subject, no matter how well-written it might be. Also, the subject matter is intense, and I found myself taking breaks now and then, in spite of the short length of the chapters, in order to process all the thoughts and reactions the text elicited. For all those reasons, it rates five stars from this reader.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thought provoking  
By R. E. Ifill  
I would highly recommend this book. Great for the academic world, research projects and for those who just want to know....

In *Unburdened by Conscience*, Anthony W. Neal forcefully argues that influential historians have been unable to offer a complete account of ante-bellum-era American slavery because of their preoccupation with humanizing the slaveholders. He charges them with concealing the full horrors of slavery in order to present the slaveholders in a more positive light. By skillfully weaving together candid first-hand accounts of courageous ex-slaves, Neal then permits us to see slavery in the United States from their point of view. Former slaves talk openly about the break-up of their marital unions and families and about matters rarely examined in most American slavery history books. Those issues include the slaveholders' legally sanctioned acts of violence, their practice of slave breeding, and their rape of black women. Through this work, Neal gives a voice to black people who endured American slavery, and they present a sobering record of it that is not found in most books on the topic.

It is well written and thoroughly researched and should become a standard text for African-American Studies courses that delve into the gross dehumanizing effects of American slavery. (Robert Johnson Jr.)  
About the Author  
Anthony W. Neal holds an A.B. with honors in history from Brown University and a J.D. from University of Texas School of Law. He has lectured at Bentley College on the topic of civil rights and has been a panelist for Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education and The Real Estate Bar Association for Massachusetts, advising lawyers, employers, and employees on state and federal anti-discrimination laws. He is a community leader, artist, historian, and an attorney of over twenty-two years. *Unburdened by Conscience* is his first book.