Emancipation, Freedom, and Black Troops

The war began over Union v. Southern Independence—Independence to preserve their “right” to own human property. By early 1862, emancipation was a logical war measure. The Preliminary Proclamation was issued on September 22 following the victory at Antietam on the 17th. Emancipation (proclaimed January 1, 1863) led to Freedmen and to the “US Colored Troops.” Why were blacks allowed to fight—in what had been a “white man’s war,” why and how well did they fight, and how did the south respond?

OUTLINE

I. Abolitionists, Lincoln, and Emancipation
   A. Abolitionists and Lincoln
   B. A “White Man’s War” and Fight
   C. Should Escaped Slaves be Returned?

II. The Proclamations
   A. Lincoln’s Realpolitick
   B. The Preliminary Proclamation
   C. The Impact of the Emancipation Proclamation

III. From Contraband to Freedmen
   A. Contrabands and the Army
   B. Freedmen

IV. Raiding Black Troops
   A. Early Efforts Repudiated
   B. Raising Black Regiments—Why?
   C. Why White Officers?

V. The USCT’s War
   A. Situation and Duties
   B. As a Fighting Force
   C. Massacres and Reprisals
   D. Occupation and Reconstruction

VI. The CSA’s Responses

Suggested Readings:

Lincoln and Emancipation
Benjamin Quarles, The Negro in the Civil War (Da Capo reprint 1989)
   —, Lincoln and the Negro (1962)
Hans Trefousse, ed., Lincoln’s Decision for Emancipation (1975)

Blacks in the Civil War
James M. McPherson, The Negro’s Civil War: How American Blacks Felt and Acted During the War for the Union (Vintage, 2003)
Bell I. Wiley, Southern Negroes 1861-1865 (1938)

Course Web Site: http://personal2.stthomas.edu/jcfitzharris/CivilWar/index.html
Louis Gerteis, *From Contraband to Freedman: Federal Policy Toward Southern Blacks, 1861-1865* (1973)

**US Colored Soldiers**
Joseph Glatthaar, *The Civil War’s Black Soldiers*, NPS Civil War Series, paper back and online: http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/civil_war_series/2/index.htm

**Black Confederates**

**The Post-war South**
James Roark, *Masters Without Slaves: Southern Planters in the Civil War and Reconstruction* (1977)
Willie Lee Rose, *Rehearsal for Reconstruction: The Port Royal Experiment* (1964)

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