

Authors Critiquing Lincoln

Anne Farrow, Joel Lang, Jenifer Frank | *Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery*

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Blaming the South for the horrors of slavery is analogous to blaming young black males for the horrors of the modern urban drug war. In both instances the metastasizing tumors lay elsewhere. As *Complicity's* brilliant research reveals, slavery's tumor lay in the North. Farrow, Lang, and Frank created a watershed work which has not been embraced in America, but one day it will be. Truth always takes its time when money is at stake. Harriett Beecher Stowe said it succinctly: "Northerners have slavery just the way they like it; all of the benefits and none of the screams."

This book contributed to three enduring changes in my view of the Civil War and the emancipation process.

(1) When the War began two ships per month were being built and outfitted for slaves in New York harbor. They were not built surreptitiously but in plain view. Each held as many as 1,000 slaves. This was forbidden by federal law but that law was ignored because the slave trade was too profitable. Once president, Lincoln quickly called an emergency session of Congress not to address slavery or war but to get his railroad built. As soldiers died, slaves kept arriving in New York and Lincoln didn't prosecute anyone.

(2) *Complicity's* authors introduced me to a profession of brokers called "Factors." Between harvest and planting the only banks large enough to provide capital to the huge Southern plantations were in New York and London. Factors arranged those loans and their careers made them more knowledgeable about the plantations than were the aristocratic owners. Without those loans many plantations would have died.

(3) The United States is fond of boycotts and embargoes. We have one in force against Iran and another worked brilliantly against South Africa. None was ever attempted against the Confederacy prior to the invasion of Virginia. Merchants in New York City such as Macy made significant profits from cotton goods and the Northern public loved sugar and cotton products. Thoreau said such a boycott by merchants and consumers would have peacefully and quickly ended slavery.

The authors express astonishment at their discovery of the depths of Northern complicity, especially since they were all raised in Northern cities. America's educational establishment for five generations preached the gospel of the South's monopoly on evil and the North's on virtue.

This book helps the truth rise a little higher in the quagmire of deceit. Slavery was not a Confederate phenomenon; it was an American, and indeed a global phenomenon.

Buy the book. It will provide some of the education you never received in school, but should have.

Amazon purchase link: http://www.amazon.com/Complicity-Promoted-Prolonged-Profited-Slavery/dp/0345467833/ref=cm_cr-mr-title