



George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal

Fritz Hirschfeld

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal

Fritz Hirschfeld

George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal Fritz Hirschfeld

"I never mean (unless some particular circumstance should compel me to it) to possess another slave by purchase; it being among my first wishes to see some plan adopted, by which slavery in this country may be abolished by slow, sure and imperceptible degrees."—George Washington, September 9, 1786

No history of racism in America can be considered complete without taking into account the role that George Washington—the principal founding father—played in helping to mold the racist cast of the new nation. Because General Washington—the universally acknowledged hero of the Revolutionary War—in the postwar period uniquely combined the moral authority, personal prestige, and political power to influence significantly the course and the outcome of the slavery debate, his opinions on the subject of slaves and slavery are of crucial importance to understanding how racism succeeded in becoming an integral and official part of the national fabric during its formative stages.

The successful end of the War for Independence in 1783 brought George Washington face-to-face with a fundamental dilemma: how to reconcile the proclaimed ideals of the revolution with the established institution of slavery. So long as black human beings in America could legally be considered the chattel property of whites, the rhetoric of equality and individual freedom was hollow. Progressive voices urged immediate emancipation as the only way to resolve the contradiction; the Southern slave owners, of course, stood firm for the status quo. Washington was caught squarely in the middle.

As a Virginia plantation proprietor and a lifelong slaveholder, Washington had a substantial private stake in the economic slave system of the South. However, in his role as the acknowledged political leader of the country, his overriding concern was the preservation of the Union. If Washington publicly supported emancipation, he would almost certainly have to set an example and take steps to dispose of his Mount Vernon slaves. If he spoke out on the side of slavery, how could he legitimately and conscientiously expect to uphold and defend the humanistic goals and moral imperatives of the new nation as expressed in the Declaration of Independence and embodied in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights? His was a balancing act that became more and more difficult to sustain with the passing years.

Relying primarily on Washington's own words—his correspondence, diaries, and other written records—supplemented by letters, comments, and eyewitness reports of family members, friends, employees, aides, correspondents, colleagues, and visitors to Mount Vernon, together with contemporary newspaper clippings and official documents pertaining to Washington's relationships with African Americans, Fritz Hirschfeld traces Washington's transition from a conventional slaveholder to a lukewarm abolitionist. *George Washington and Slavery* will be an essential addition to the historiography of eighteenth-century America and of Washington himself.

 [Download George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portr ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Por ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal Fritz Hirschfeld

From reader reviews:

Timothy Roesch:

This book untitled George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal to be one of several books this best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book shop or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, as you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this reserve from your list.

Cara Fultz:

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book than can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find guide that need more time to be study. George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal can be your answer because it can be read by you who have those short free time problems.

Duane Sills:

Do you like reading a publication? Confuse to looking for your preferred book? Or your book was rare? Why so many problem for the book? But any people feel that they enjoy with regard to reading. Some people likes examining, not only science book but also novel and George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal as well as others sources were given expertise for you. After you know how the truly great a book, you feel need to read more and more. Science book was created for teacher or maybe students especially. Those books are helping them to bring their knowledge. In other case, beside science reserve, any other book likes George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal to make your spare time far more colorful. Many types of book like this.

Ryan Fox:

A lot of reserve has printed but it is different. You can get it by net on social media. You can choose the top book for you, science, comic, novel, or whatever by means of searching from it. It is named of book George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal. You can add your knowledge by it. Without leaving behind the printed book, it may add your knowledge and make anyone happier to read. It is most essential that, you must aware about guide. It can bring you from one spot to other place.

**Download and Read Online George Washington and Slavery: A
Documentary Portrayal Fritz Hirschfeld #I65ZV8W4720**

Read George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal by Fritz Hirschfeld for online ebook

George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal by Fritz Hirschfeld Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal by Fritz Hirschfeld books to read online.

Online George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal by Fritz Hirschfeld ebook PDF download

George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal by Fritz Hirschfeld Doc

George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal by Fritz Hirschfeld Mobipocket

George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal by Fritz Hirschfeld EPub