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| Nota di contenuto | Introduction -- Slavery's Constitution : Constitution, slavery, and the coming of the Civil War ; Secession crisis : amending the Constitution to protect slavery ; Preserving the Constitution in the War for Emancipation -- Freedom's Constitution : Popular origins of universal emancipation ; Emancipation and reconstruction, Republicans and Democrats ; Presidential emancipation : Lincoln's Reconstruction Proclamation ; Congress responds : proposals for an abolition amendment ; Drafting of the thirteenth amendment -- Facing freedom : Legal theory and practical politics ; Democracy divided ; African Americans and the inadequacy of constitutional emancipation -- Debating freedom : Antislavery amendment and Republican unity ; |

Slavery, Union, and the meaning of the war ; Constitutional freedom and racial equality ; Unconstitutional constitutional amendment ; Dubious victory -- Key note of freedom : New party, a new amendment : the radical Democrats ; National Union Party and the amendment ; Race, reconstruction, and the Constitution : the changing context ; Party unity and presidential politics -- War within a war : emancipation and the election of 1864 : Parties dividing ; Peace feelers and peace fiascoes ; Retreat from Niagara ; Miscegenation and abolition ; State politics and abolition -- King's cure : New campaign for constitutional emancipation ; Lame ducks, lobbyists, and Lincoln ; Confronting constitutional failure ; Final vote -- Contested legacy of constitutional freedom : Meanings of freedom : the Union states and ratification ; Securing the union : the Confederate states and ratification ; Enacting the amendment : Congress and civil rights ; Legacies denied : the thirteenth amendment in the gilded age ; Legacies preserved : the thirteenth amendment in the 20th century -- Appendix : Votes on antislavery amendment.

Sommario/riassunto

This book examines emancipation after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. Focusing on the making and meaning of the Thirteenth Amendment, *Final Freedom* looks at the struggle among legal thinkers, politicians, and ordinary Americans in the North and the border states to find a way to abolish slavery that would overcome the inadequacies of the Emancipation Proclamation. The book tells the dramatic story of the creation of a constitutional amendment and reveals an unprecedented transformation in American race relations, politics, and constitutional thought. Using a wide array of archival and published sources, Professor Vorenberg argues that the crucial consideration of emancipation occurred after, not before, the Emancipation Proclamation; that the debate over final freedom was shaped by a level of volatility in party politics underestimated by prior historians; and that the abolition of slavery by constitutional amendment represented a novel method of reform that transformed attitudes toward the Constitution.
