

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910808991603321
Autore	Free Laura E. <1971->
Titolo	Suffrage reconstructed : gender, race, and voting rights in the Civil War era // Laura E. Free
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, New York ; ; London, [England] : , : Cornell University Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	1-5017-0108-8 1-5017-0109-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (246 p.)
Disciplina	324.6/2097309034
Soggetti	Women - Suffrage - United States - History - 19th century African Americans - Suffrage - History - 19th century Suffrage - United States - History - 19th century Women's rights - United States - History - 19th century United States Politics and government 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Introduction: We, the People -- 1. The White Man's Government -- 2. Manhood and Citizenship -- 3. The Family Politic -- 4. The Rights of Men -- 5. That Word "Male" -- 6. White Women's Rights -- Conclusion: By Reason of Race -- Acknowledgments -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The Fourteenth Amendment, ratified on July 9, 1868, identified all legitimate voters as "male." In so doing, it added gender-specific language to the U.S. Constitution for the first time. Suffrage Reconstructed is the first book to consider how and why the amendment's authors made this decision. Vividly detailing congressional floor bickering and activist campaigning, Laura E. Free takes readers into the pre- and postwar fights over precisely who should have the right to vote. Free demonstrates that all men, black and white, were the ultimate victors of these fights, as gender became the single most important marker of voting rights during Reconstruction. Free argues that the Fourteenth Amendment's language

was shaped by three key groups: African American activists who used ideas about manhood to claim black men's right to the ballot, postwar congressmen who sought to justify enfranchising southern black men, and women's rights advocates who began to petition Congress for the ballot for the first time as the Amendment was being drafted. To prevent women's inadvertent enfranchisement, and to incorporate formerly disfranchised black men into the voting polity, the Fourteenth Amendment's congressional authors turned to gender to define the new American voter. Faced with this exclusion some woman suffragists, most notably Elizabeth Cady Stanton, turned to rhetorical racism in order to mount a campaign against sex as a determinant of one's capacity to vote. Stanton's actions caused a rift with Frederick Douglass and a schism in the fledgling woman suffrage movement. By integrating gender analysis and political history, *Suffrage Reconstructed* offers a new interpretation of the Civil War-era remaking of American democracy, placing African American activists and women's rights advocates at the heart of nineteenth-century American conversations about public policy, civil rights, and the franchise.
