My Bondage and My Freedom

My Bondage and My Freedom is an autobiographical slave narrative written by Frederick Douglass and published in 1855. It is the second of three autobiographies written by Douglass, and is mainly an expansion of his first (Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass), discussing in greater detail his transition from bondage to liberty. Following this liberation, Douglass, a former slave, went on to become a prominent abolitionist, speaker, author, and publisher.

In his foreword to the 2003 Modern Library paperback edition, John Stauffer writes: “My Bondage and My Freedom,” [is] a deep meditation on the meaning of slavery, race, and freedom, and on the power of faith and literacy, as well as a portrait of an individual and a nation a few years before the Civil War. As his narrative unfolds, Frederick Douglass—abolitionist, journalist, orator, and one of the most powerful voices to emerge from the American civil rights movement—transforms himself from slave to fugitive to reformer, leaving behind a legacy of social, intellectual, and political thought. The 1855 text includes Douglass’s original Appendix, composed of excerpts from the author’s speeches as well as a letter he wrote to his former master.

SEE ALSO


Life and Times of Frederick Douglass (1881), Douglass' fuller slave narrative memoir.

Contact Mike Lough. MY BONDAGE and MY FREEDOM  
_by_ FREDERICK DOUGLASS  
_by a principle essential to Christianity, a PERSON is eternally differenced from 
a THING; so that the idea of a HUMAN BEING, necessarily excludes the idea of PROPERTY IN THAT BEING_. COLERIDGE.

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**SUGGESTIONS**

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

**ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE**

American Civil War, Underground Railroad, Abraham Lincoln, Suffrage, Abolitionism in the United States

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**ABOLITIONISM IN THE UNITED STATES**

**ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE**

American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, John Brown (abolitionist), Frederick Douglass, Underground Railroad

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**AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE**

Alice Walker, Blues, Booker T. Washington, Pulitzer Prize, African-American culture
than any, there was neither policy nor party to trammel the outpourings of his soul.