



Yankee Stepfather: General O. O. Howard and the Freedmen

William S. McFeely Ph.D.

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The story of a Civil War promise made to slaves?and broken.

At the close of the Civil War, Congress established the Freedmen's Bureau?formally, the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands?to deal with the question of the place in society of its new black citizens. General Oliver Otis Howard, known both admiringly and derisively as the "Christian General," was given the responsibility of defining the nation's commitment to four million former slaves.

Instructed by Congress to divide lands abandoned to the Union army into forty-acre plots and award them to freedmen, Howard began a program that might have given many families farms of their own. The effort had barely begun when it ran into President Andrew Johnson's policy of returning such lands to former white owners. Soon Howard and his agents were under pressure not to assist the free people, but to coerce them into working for landlords.

And yet, however tarnished the record, the Bureau was still recalled by W. E. B. DuBois for its "bright promise." *Yankee Stepfather* provides a revealing, and troubling, picture of the complex relationship of African Americans to their government at a crucial juncture in American history.

In a new foreword to this edition, William S. McFeely places his book, first published in 1968, in its place in the scholarship on race relations of the past quarter-century.

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Brad Bennett:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity this is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day every day to reading a reserve. The book Yankee Stepfather: General O. O. Howard and the Freedmen it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book possesses high quality.

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