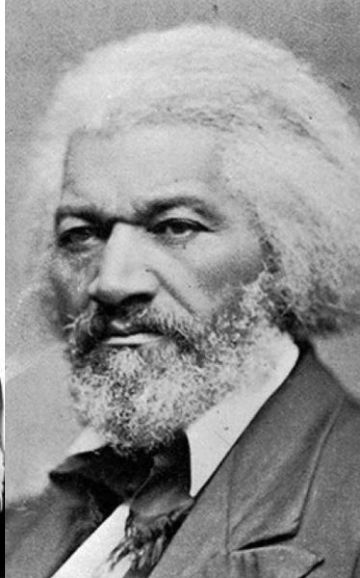


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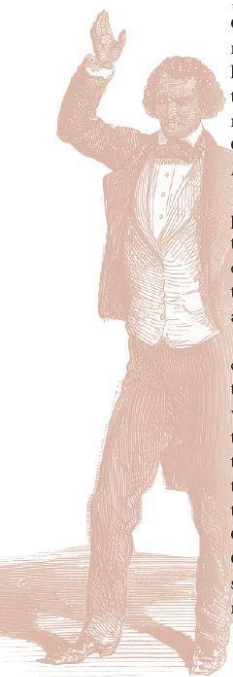
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How I Changed the World reveals the struggles and accomplishments of individuals who made a lasting impact on history. Each volume focuses on a famous person, such as Frederick Douglass, Frida Kahlo, Mohandas Gandhi, and others. It details pivotal moments in that person's life that led to a high-level change in thinking or action around the world.

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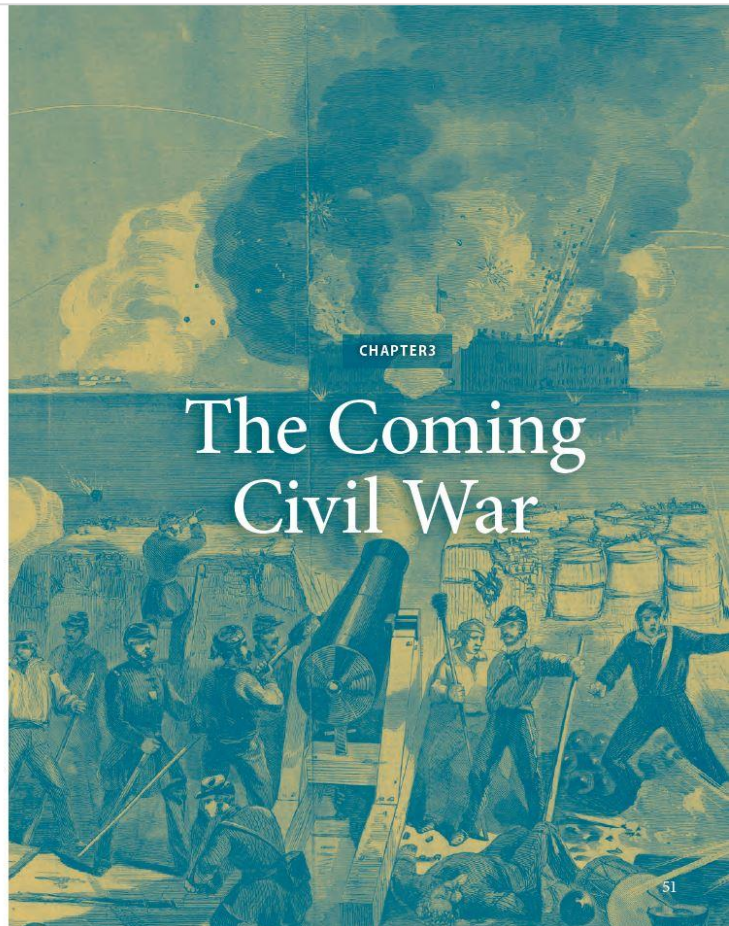


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the name *The North Star* for his publication. This was a reference to the star that many runaway slaves followed at night as they made their way to freedom. The newspaper was first published on December 3, 1847. It had subscribers throughout the United States, Great Britain, and the West Indies. While finances remained a concern, Frederick's dedicated colleagues, like Julia Griffiths, worked endlessly to raise funds to support the newspaper. *The North Star* would remain in circulation until 1851 when it merged with Gerrit Smith's *Liberty Party Paper* to form *Frederick Douglass' Paper*.

There was one unfortunate outcome of Frederick publishing his newspaper, however. His long association with friend and mentor, William Lloyd Garrison, ended in disagreement. Garrison had come to believe that the U.S. Constitution was a pro-slavery document and urged his supporters not to take part in elections.

After reading the Constitution himself, Frederick came to the opposite conclusion. He saw no proof that the Constitution supported slavery. He believed it was therefore the duty and privilege of every citizen to vote—if the government had given them the right to do so. Along with growing political differences, there was another reason for the split between the two men—Frederick's newspaper competed with Garrison's own paper. Despite his falling-out with Garrison, Frederick's *The North Star* proved to be a success and further established his name in the movement to end slavery.

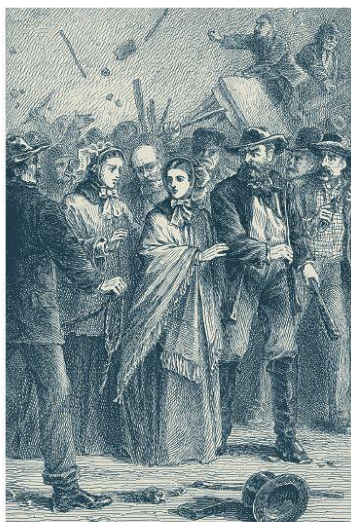


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The Changing Political Climate

Frederick was never away from the lecture circuit for very long, despite the burdens of being a newspaper publisher, a husband, and a father of four children (with a fifth one on the way). Wherever he went, Frederick spoke against slavery and urged his listeners to subscribe to *The North Star*. Around this time, another political movement began to gain in strength. Its goal was to achieve equal rights for men and women. The movement was led by such remarkable and

Frederick Douglass was a great African American statesman, abolitionist, social reformer, orator, and writer. He was born under the humblest.



influential women as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Susan B. Anthony. In July 1848, Frederick went to the Seneca Falls Convention, the first women's rights convention in the United States, held in Seneca Falls, New York. He was the only African American abolitionist to attend. This convention was planned by Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She, along with her Declaration of Sentiments, helped to gain equality for women at a time when a woman's traditional role in society—caring for the home and children—was very much entrenched. Frederick knew it was only fair for women to have a

voice in American politics and lent his considerable support to Stanton. He knew it wasn't right to fight for full citizenship as an African American man if women were to be denied the same right. After the convention, he used *The North Star* to make the case for women's rights.

The country was beginning to change. During this time, some of Frederick's ideas changed as well, especially after he formally broke ties with William Lloyd Garrison in 1851. One example was his view on the underground railroad. Though Frederick himself had made use of the organization during his escape to the North, he more and more began to call it the "up-per-ground railroad." He never approved of the public way in which some of his friends openly talked about the underground railroad, pointing out that its "stations" were far better known by the slaveholders than the slaves. He called upon his fellow abolitionists to do nothing to hinder his slave brothers and sisters in making their attempt to escape bondage.

In 1850, a crisis gripped the country and it moved closer to the great upheaval of what would be the Civil War. The United States was a growing nation. After the Mexican-American War (1846–1848), it had gained a lot of new territory—about half of Mexico, in fact. With this newly acquired land came an intense political struggle between the slave states in the South and the free states in the North. Politicians in the

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