

**Study Questions for Eric Foner, "Toward Equality: The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment"**

1. What goals did Republicans in Congress hope to achieve by passing the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment?
2. Why did some northern Republicans want to extend the suffrage to black men in the South? Why did others oppose taking this political stance?
3. What is birthright citizenship? Why does Foner say that establishing birthright citizenship "severed citizenship from race"? Why did the Republicans want to put this phrase in a *constitutional amendment* and not just a law?
4. How did the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment deal (or not deal) with the issue of what the a) federal government; b) state governments; and c) private individuals could do to an individual? Did the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment protect citizens from discrimination from all three?
5. The First Amendment keeps Congress from denying you the right of free speech. Before 1866, could the state of Virginia (or Pennsylvania or California or whatever state) deny you the right of free speech? If so, why? How did the "Privileges or Immunities Clause" of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment change all this? Or did it?
6. What was the purpose of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment's "Equal Protection Clause"? Did it achieve its intended purpose? If not, why not?
7. How did the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment change the balance of power between the federal government and the state governments? How did Section 1 of the Amendment transform Americans' relationship to their government?
8. Why was the phrase "male inhabitants" inserted into Section 2 of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment? What "problem" was being solved by doing this?
9. What was the intended purpose of Section 3 of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment? Did it achieve its intended purpose? If not, why not?
10. Why were some Republicans and many women disappointed with the final version of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment? Why were many Democrats and white southerners opposed to it in its final form?
11. What factors kept the supporters of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment from ultimately achieving all they had hoped?