



THE ADOPTION OF THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT

By Horace Edgar Flack

A historical work on the oft-debated Fourteenth Amendment!

For many years, widespread doubt existed as to the constitutionality of the Civil Rights Act of the United States. Because of this doubt, the Joint Committee of Fifteen formulated the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which defined citizenship for the first time in the nation's history and protected rights of the Federal government that otherwise could be compromised by the State governments, thus reversing the traditional relationship.

The Joint Committee of Fifteen that framed the Amendment had hoped to protect the property and rights of corporations against State legislation of a restrictive character. However, the first section of the Fourteenth Amendment gave rise to more adjudication than any other part of the Constitution, and the Court's interpretation of the Amendment in a number of cases effectively undermined what the framers had tried to accomplish.

Dr. Horace Edgar Flack's *The Adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment* reviews the purpose and object of this Amendment in historical context while analyzing how Supreme Court decisions during the 40 years between the Amendment's complete ratification in 1868 and his work's original publication gave the Fourteenth Amendment a vastly different meaning than those who drafted it had intended.

In compiling this work, Flack used all of the chief sources of the time, including the *Congressional Globe and Record*, the Reports of various Committees, and contemporary newspaper accounts. He includes a preface, a review of each of the sections of the Amendment, an appendix on the text of the War Amendments, and a complete index, assuring this work's place as a constitutional law classic.

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