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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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Nov. 22, 1994

CIVIL WAR HISTORIAN TO LECTURE AT UM

MISSOULA--

Reconstruction Period historian Eric Foner will discuss the Civil War's lasting effect on American society Thursday, Dec. 1, at The University of Montana.

Foner's free public lecture, "Reconstruction and the American Constitution," will begin at 8 p.m. in the Urey lecture Hall. It will be the fourth program in the 1994-95 President's Lecture Series on UM's Missoula campus.

"The Reconstruction Period after the American Civil War produced three of the most important changes in the Constitution in all of American history--the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments," Foner said in a recent interview. "These introduced the modern idea of civil rights, equal rights for all citizens, into the Constitution."

Foner will discuss how the Constitutional changes came about, how they redefined the rights of all American citizens and why they are still relevant today, he said.

Foner is the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University, where he has been on the faculty since 1988. During his 25-years as a historian, he has held several academic posts, including the Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University for the 1993-94 academic year, Fulbright Professor of American History at Moscow State University in spring 1990, Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions at Cambridge University for the 1980-81 academic year and history professor at City College and Graduate Center at the City University of

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New York from 1973-1982.

Foner is the author of numerous books. For his 1990 book, "A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln," which he co-authored with Olivia Mahoney, he received the Gustavus Myers Center's Outstanding Book on Human Rights Award. And for his book, "Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution 1863-1877," published in 1988, he received several awards, including the Los Angeles Times Book Award for History and the Bancroft Prize.

Foner's articles have appeared, among other places, in the Journal of American History, Harper's and Nation, and he has written book reviews for The New York Times, the New York Review of Books and numerous other academic journals.

During the late 1980s, Foner was guest curator at the Chicago Historical Society for an exhibition on the Civil War Era, an exhibition that has become part of the museum's permanent display. Currently, he is working with the Valentine Museum in Richmond, Va., on an exhibit on the Reconstruction Period which is scheduled to open next year.

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Contact: President's Lecture Series Coordinator Richard Drake, 243-2981.

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