

Reading “The 1857 Project: Extracting the Poison of Racism from America’s Soul”
by William H. Freivogel

Freivogel’s opening essay asserts that 1857 was one of the most important chapters in the nation’s story. It states: “The soul of America is its promise of ever-expanding freedom, equality and opportunity. The paradox of America is that over four centuries our Founders and our leaders reneged on this promise by embracing a devil’s bargain with slavery, segregation, racial superiority and racism.”

This essay challenges readers to reevaluate what we think we know about slavery, its legacy, and the connections it has to today’s American society.

How can we challenge what we’ve learned about our state, region, country; by extension--ourselves? Use this graphic organizer to track new information and ideas you learn about in William Freivogel’s essay, as well as questions that arise.

Three historical facts that surprise you	1.
	2.
	3.
Three quotes that stand out to you	1.
	2.
	3.
Three questions you have about content in the essay	1.
	2.
	3.

