

Frank Towers

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Education

PhD, University of California, Irvine, 1993
MA, UCLA, 1986
BA, University of Wisconsin, 1986

Employment

Associate Professor, University of Calgary, 2004-present (on leave 2015-16)
Mary Ball Washington Professor of American History (visiting appointment), University
College Dublin, 2015-16
Associate Professor, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, 2002-2004
Assistant Professor, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, 1999-2002
Assistant Professor, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, 1997-99
Assistant Professor, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, 1993-97 (on leave 1997-99)
Lecturer, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, Fall 1990; UCI, Summer 1991

Research

Books

Co-editor with Andrew Slap, *Confederate Cities: The Urban South during the Civil War
Era*. Historical Studies of Urban America. Chicago: University of Chicago Press,
2015.
Co-editor with Diane L. Barnes and Brian Schoen, *The Old South's Modern Worlds:
Slavery, Region, and Nation in the Age of Progress*. New York: Oxford University
Press, 2011.
The Urban South and the Coming of the Civil War. Charlottesville: University of
Virginia Press, 2004.

In progress

Single author research monograph, *The Slave Power's Grassroots: Proslavery Politics,
Voter Mobilization, and the Causes of the American Civil War*.
Edited book, *Remaking North American Sovereignty: Towards a Continental History of
State Transformation in the 1860s*. Manuscript submitted and under review
with Fordham University Press. Expected publication 2019.
Edited book, *Continent in Crisis: Transnational Histories of the Civil War Era*. Under
contract with Fordham University Press. Expected publication 2019-20.

Peer-reviewed essays

- "Afterword: The Possibilities of Reconstruction's Global History," in *Reconstruction in
a Globalizing World*. Edited by David Prior. New York: Fordham University Press,
2018.

- “Party Politics and the Sectional Crisis: A Twenty-Year Renaissance in the Study of Antebellum Political History,” in *Routledge History of Nineteenth-Century America*, edited by Jonathan D. Wells. Pages 109-130. New York: Routledge, 2017.
- “To be the ‘New York of the South’: Urban Boosters and Southern Secession,” in *Confederate Cities: The Urban South during the Civil War Era*, edited by Andrew Slap and Frank Towers. Pages 77-98. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015.
- “The Rise of the American Whig Party,” in *A Companion to the Era of Andrew Jackson*, edited by Sean Patrick Adams. Pages 328-347. Oxford, Eng.: Blackwell Publishing, 2013.
- “Mobtown’s Impact on the Study of Urban Politics in the Early Republic,” *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 107:4 (Winter 2012): 469-475.
- “Navigating ‘the Muddy Stream of Party Politics’: Sectional Politics and the Southern Bourgeoisie” in Jonathan Wells and Jennifer R. Green, eds. *The Southern Middle Class in the Nineteenth Century*. Pages 180-201. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2011.
- “Another Look at Inevitability: The Upper South and the Limits of Compromise in the Secession Crisis,” *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, 90 (Summer 2011): 108-125.
- “The Coming of Sectional Crisis” in *The American South: A Reader and Guide*. Daniel Letwin, ed. Pages 135-167. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2011.
- “Partisans, New History, and Modernization: The Historiography of the Civil War’s Causes, 1861-2011,” *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, 1:2 (June 2011): 237-264.
- “Strange Bedfellows: The Union Party and the Federal Government in Civil War Baltimore,” *The Maryland Historical Magazine* 106 (Spring 2011): 7-36.
- “The Southern Path to Modern Cities: Urbanization in the Slave States,” in *The Old South’s Modern Worlds: Slavery, Region, and Nation in the Age of Progress*. Diane Barnes, Brian Schoen, and Frank Towers, eds. Pages 145-165. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- “The Origins of the Antimodern South: Romantic Ethnic Nationalism, Modernity, and the Secession Movement in the American South,” *Secession as an International Phenomenon: From America’s Civil War to Contemporary Separatists Movements*, Don H. Doyle, ed. pages 174-190. Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 2010.
- “Balancing the Local and the Global: The American Civil War in Western Canadian Classrooms,” *The Journal of American History* 96:4 (March 2010): 1100-1103.
- Editor, “Violence in the Nineteenth Century,” special issue of *ATQ: 19th C. American Literature and Culture* new ser. 17:3 (September 2003). Author of “Introduction” to the issue, pages 129-134.
- “Secession in an Urban Context: Municipal Reform and the Coming of the Civil War in Baltimore,” in *From Mobtown to Charm City: New Perspectives on Baltimore Past*, Jessica I. Effenbein, John R. Breihan, and Thomas L. Hollowak, eds. (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society Press, 2002): 92-128.
- “Job Busting at Baltimore Shipyards: Racial Violence in the Civil War-Era South,” *Journal of Southern History* 66:2 (May 2000): 221-256.
- “Projecting Whiteness: Race and the Unconscious in the History of 19th-century American Workers,” *Journal of American Culture* 21:2 (Summer 1998): 47-57.

- “Violence as a Tool of Party Dominance: Election Riots and the Baltimore Know Nothings, 1854-60,” *Maryland Historical Magazine* 93:1 (Spring 1998): 5-39.
- “African-American Baltimore in the Era of Frederick Douglass,” *ATQ: 19th C. American Literature and Culture* new ser. 9:3 (September 1995): 165-180.
- “Military Waif: A Sidelight on the Baltimore Riot of 19 April 1861,” *Maryland Historical Magazine* 89 (Winter 1994): 427-446.
- “Serena Johnson and Slave Domestic Servants in Antebellum Baltimore,” *Maryland Historical Magazine* 89 (Fall 1994): 334-337.
- “Race, Power, and Money in Antebellum Baltimore: Mary Ridgely’s Thousand Dollar Note,” *Maryland Historical Magazine* 88 (Fall 1993): 317-323.
- “‘A Vociferous Army of Howling Wolves’: Baltimore’s Civil War Riot of April 19, 1861,” *The Maryland Historian* 23 (Fall/Winter, 1992): 1-27.

Forthcoming refereed essays

- “Slavery and the Breakup of the Democratic Party in the North: A Battle of Ideas and Organization,” in *The Political Worlds of James Buchanan and Thaddeus Stevens*. Edited by Michael Birkner, and Randall Miller, and John Quist. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2019.
- “The Threat of ‘Consolidation’: A Touchstone of Democratic Party Politics in the Civil War North,” *Journal of the Civil War Era*, 2019.
- “Urban and Rural America in the Civil War,” in *The Cambridge History of the American Civil War: Vol. 3*. Edited by Aaron Sheehan-Dean. New York: Cambridge University Press. Expected publication in 2019.
- “Transformation of the Urban and Rural South during Reconstruction,” *Oxford Reconstruction History Handbook*. Edited by Andrew L. Slap. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Recent grants and fellowships

- Mary Ball Washington Professor of American History, one-year teaching and research fellowship awarded by University College Dublin-National University of Ireland, 2015-16.
- Connection Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), July 2015 to fund “Remaking North American Sovereignty: Towards a Continental History of State Transformation in the Mid-19th Century.”
- Aid to Research Workshops and Conferences Grant, SSHRC to fund “The American Civil War and the cities of the slave South,” Calgary, May 25-26, 2012.
- Calgary Institute for the Humanities, Annual Fellowship, 2010–2011.
- Standard Research Grant, SSHRC, 2008-2011, for *The Slave Power’s Grassroots: Proslavery Politicians and their Electorates in the Late Antebellum United States*.
- Senior Fellowship, Institute for United States Policy Research, University of Calgary, 2008-2010.

Recent major service

- Associate editor, *Civil War History*, 2015-present
- International Committee, Organization of American Historians, 2015-2018. Chair, 2016-17.
- Conference organizer, *Remaking North American Sovereignty: Towards a Continental History of State Transformation in the Mid-Nineteenth Century*, July 30-August 1, 2015, Banff, Alberta
- Graduate Program Director, Centre for Military, Security, and Strategic Studies, University of Calgary, 2014-15, 2016-17.
- Conference organizer, "The American Civil War and the Cities of the Slave South," Calgary, May 25-26, 2012
- Graduate Program Director, History Department, University of Calgary, 2006-2010.