



# Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen

*Philip Dray*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen

Philip Dray

## Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen

Philip Dray

Reconstruction was a time of idealism and sweeping change, as the victorious Union created citizenship rights for the freed slaves and granted the vote to black men. Sixteen black Southerners, elected to the U.S. Congress, arrived in Washington to advocate reforms such as public education, equal rights, land distribution, and the suppression of the Ku Klux Klan.

But these men faced astounding odds. They were belittled as corrupt and inadequate by their white political opponents, who used legislative trickery, libel, bribery, and the brutal intimidation of their constituents to rob them of their base of support. Despite their status as congressmen, they were made to endure the worst humiliations of racial prejudice. And they have been largely forgotten—often neglected or maligned by standard histories of the period.

In this beautifully written book, Philip Dray reclaims their story. Drawing on archival documents, contemporary news accounts, and congressional records, he shows how the efforts of black Americans revealed their political perceptiveness and readiness to serve as voters, citizens, and elected officials.

We meet men like the war hero Robert Smalls of South Carolina (who had stolen a Confederate vessel and delivered it to the Union navy), Robert Brown Elliott (who bested the former vice president of the Confederacy in a stormy debate on the House floor), and the distinguished former slave Blanche K. Bruce (who was said to possess “the manners of a Chesterfield”). As Dray demonstrates, these men were eloquent, creative, and often effective representatives who, as support for Reconstruction faded, were undone by the forces of Southern reaction and Northern indifference.

In a grand narrative that traces the promising yet tragic arc of Reconstruction, Dray follows these black representatives’ struggles, from the Emancipation Proclamation to the onset of Jim Crow, as they fought for social justice and helped realize the promise of a new nation.



[Download Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Thro ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Th ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen Philip Dray**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Eleonora Plunkett:**

The book Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem with your subject. If you can make reading a book Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen to get your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You may know everything if you like open and read a e-book Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this e-book?

#### **Ronald Hill:**

What do you think of book? It is just for students as they are still students or this for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't wish do that. You must know how great as well as important the book Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen. All type of book is it possible to see on many solutions. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

#### **Janice Oconnell:**

The book untitled Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen is the book that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to you actually. The language that writer use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of analysis when write the book, therefore the information that they share to you is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

#### **Leona Hicks:**

Do you really one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Try and pick one book that you never know the inside because don't ascertain book by its cover may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside search likes. Maybe you answer might be Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen why because the excellent cover that make you consider regarding the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside or perhaps cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly assist you to pick up this book.

**Download and Read Online Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen Philip Dray #93NSHXPOWB1**

# **Read Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen by Philip Dray for online ebook**

Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen by Philip Dray Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen by Philip Dray books to read online.

## **Online Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen by Philip Dray ebook PDF download**

### **Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen by Philip Dray Doc**

**Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen by Philip Dray MobiPocket**

**Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen by Philip Dray EPub**