Contents

Acknowledgments vii

INTRODUCTION
The Unsteady March
1

"Bolted with the Lock of a Hundred Keys"

The Era of Slavery, 1619–1860

10

"Two "Thenceforward, and Forever Free" The Civil War, 1860–1865 47

THREE

"The Negro Has Got as Much as He Ought to Have"

Reconstruction and the Second Retreat, 1865–1908
72

FOUR
"The Color Line"

Jim Crow America, 1908–1938
106

"Deutschland and Dixieland"

Antifascism and the Emergence of Civil Rights, 1938–1941

"Double V: Victory Abroad, Victory at Home"

World War II

161

SEVEN
"Hearts and Minds"
The Cold War and Civil Rights, 1946–1954
202

"There Comes a Time"
The Civil Rights Revolution, 1954–1968
242

NINE
"Benign Neglect"?
Post—Civil Rights America, 1968–1998
288

CONCLUSION Shall We Overcome?

317

Notes

353

Index

407