

John Brown, Abolitionist



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出版者:Vintage

出版时间:2006-11-14

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780375726156

An authoritative new examination of John Brown and his deep impact on American history. Bancroft Prize-winning cultural historian David S. Reynolds presents an informative and richly considered new exploration of the paradox of a man steeped in the Bible but more than willing to kill for his abolitionist cause. Reynolds locates Brown within the currents of nineteenth-century life and compares him to modern terrorists, civil-rights activists, and freedom fighters. Ultimately, he finds neither a wild-eyed fanatic nor a Christ-like martyr, but a passionate opponent of racism so dedicated to eradicating slavery that he realized only blood could scour it from the country he loved. By stiffening the backbone of Northerners and showing Southerners there were those who would fight for their cause, he hastened the coming of the Civil War. This is a vivid and startling story of a man and an age on the verge of calamity.

作者介绍:

David S. Reynolds is a Distinguished Professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He is the author of *Walt Whitman's America: A Cultural Biography*, winner of the Bancroft Prize and the Ambassador Book Award. His other

books include Beneath the American Renaissance (winner of the Christian Gauss Award), John Brown, Abolitionist, Waking Giant: America in the Age of Jackson, Mightier than the Sword: Uncle Tom’s Cabin and the Battle for America, and Lincoln’s Selected Writings. He is a regular book reviewer for The New York Review of Books, The New York Times Book Review, and The Wall Street Journal.

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