



America Aflame: How the Civil War Created a Nation

David Goldfield

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In this spellbinding history, David Goldfield offers the first major new interpretation of the Civil War era since James M. McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*. Where other scholars have seen the conflict as a triumph of freedom, Goldfield paints it as America's greatest failure: a breakdown of society caused by the infusion of evangelical religion into the world of politics.

The price of that failure was horrific, but the carnage accomplished what statesmen could not: It made the United States one nation and eliminated the divisive force of slavery. The victorious North moved ahead, a land of innovation and industry. Religion was supplanted by a gospel of economic and scientific progress, and the South was left behind. The "fiery trial" of war transformed our country? a conflagration captured in vivid detail in *America Aflame*.

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