



A Disease in the Public Mind: A New Understanding of Why We Fought the Civil War

By Fleming, Thomas.

DaCapo. 1 Paperback(s), 2013. soft. Book Condition: New. In his character-driven history, Thomas Fleming takes readers back to the mid-19th century to trace the "diseases in the public mind" the distortions of reality propagated by politicians, self-interested businessmen, moralists, and a clamoring media that unraveled George Washington's vision of a united America and brought the country to fratricidal war. "With myth-destroying zeal and careful research Fleming contends that a fanatical sense of moral superiority on the part of the abolitionists, an irrational fear of a race war by Southerners abetted by sinister political posturing, and a deeply biased media were the prime motivating factors in a war that by far surpassed the casualties of all wars combined since America was founded. Fleming delves deeply into the hate and alarm engendered by both sides." *Huffington Post* "The prolific Fleming, for decades a fixture among American historians, pinpoints public opinion as the proximate origin of the war, specifically its acquisition by 1860 of a polarized, paranoid character, pitting Northerners' fear of 'slave power' against Southerners' terror of a race war sparked by Northern abolitionists (John Brown was their nightmare made real). Fleming recounts attitudes of prominent Founders toward slavery, emphasizing how their general recognition of its...



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