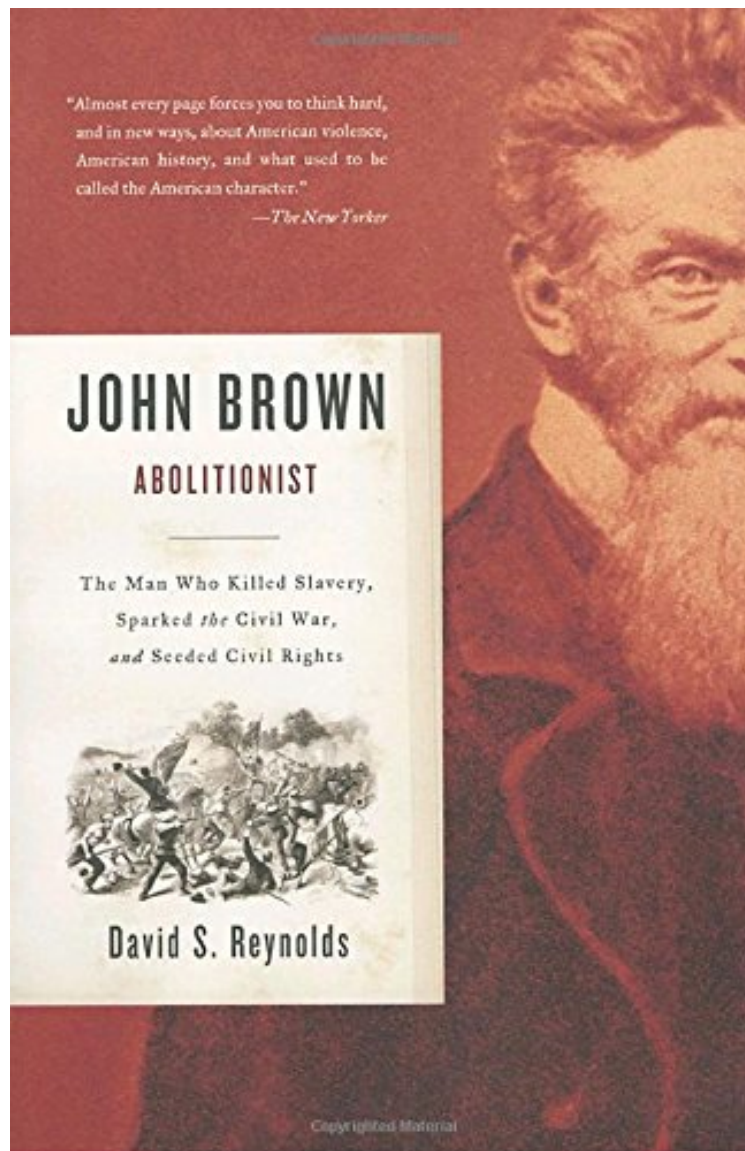


[Library ebook] John Brown, Abolitionist: The Man Who Killed Slavery, Sparked the Civil War, and Seeded Civil Rights

## John Brown, Abolitionist: The Man Who Killed Slavery, Sparked the Civil War, and Seeded Civil Rights

David S. Reynolds

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David S. Reynolds : **John Brown, Abolitionist: The Man Who Killed Slavery, Sparked the Civil War, and Seeded Civil Rights** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Brown, Abolitionist: The Man Who Killed Slavery, Sparked the Civil War, and Seeded Civil Rights:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Greatest White Hero in Black Studies. By A'Jamal Byndon This is one of the most underrated white guys in history. Any Black studies that teaches about slavery must have this kind of material in it. I will take John Brown's efforts as a real commitment toward the end of old school slavery. Now talk about someone who is willing to give their life for a cause. It was John Brown. He set the white standard for the commitment for civil and human rights, and the rest of the Tim Wise types have to stand behind him. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. John Brown, abolitionist By George Skinner "instead of hunting for a solution, the politicians had worked for a crisis. This they would presently get, and when they got it they would find it a catastrophe." Thus Bruce Catton wrote in his 1961 book "The Coming Fury" though not in the library yet it should be. It has always been fascinating to me to discover why things happen as much as what happened. There are big lessons in both of these books about where we may be headed. Some politicians suggested that the blood spilled in that war would not fill a thimble. We seem to be engaged in the same sort of disconnect every day now with pundits and politicians urging us from one war to the next and I am afraid that it will eventually lead to the crisis and catastrophe we refuse to see looming in America and the world. John Brown was a bell weather. The home grown spark that grew to a blaze we could not be put out but with much blood and suffering. There are big lessons in this book that we must learn very fast. Our own catastrophe is lurking in the shadows. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. John Brown, crazy or unwaveringly devoted to the abolition of slavery? By Cynthia Woods This book seems to slant towards John Brown's unwavering devotion to not only ending slavery, but seeing slaves as equals, a man far ahead of his time. The book is very well researched, at times the author is a little wordy and the timeline is occasionally hard to follow. If you are interested in the Civil War, or reading about abolition, this is the book for you

A cultural biography of John Brown, the controversial abolitionist who used violent tactics against slavery and single-handedly changed the course of American history. Reynolds brings to life the Puritan warrior who gripped slavery by the throat and triggered the Civil War. Reynolds demonstrates that Brown's most violent acts—including his killing of proslavery settlers in Kansas and his historic raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia—were inspired by the slave revolts, guerilla warfare, and revolutionary Christianity of the day. He shows how Brown seized public attention, polarizing the nation and fueling the tensions that led to the Civil War. Reynolds recounts how Brown permeated American culture during the Civil War and beyond, and how he planted the seeds of the civil rights movement by making a pioneering demand for complete social and political equality for America's ethnic minorities.

From Publishers Weekly In the very first paragraphs of this biography, Bancroft Prize-winner Reynolds (Walt Whitman's America) steps back a bit from the grandiose claims of his subtitle. Nevertheless, his book as a whole paints a positive portrait of the Calvinist terrorist Brown (1800-1859)—contrary to virtually all recent scholarship (by Stephen B. Oates and Robert Boyer, among others), which tends to depict Brown as a bloodthirsty zealot and madman who briefly stepped into history but did little to influence it. Reynolds's approach harks back to the hero-worship apparent in earlier books by W.E.B. Du Bois and Brown's surviving associates. John Brown waged a campaign so bloody during the Kansas Civil War—in 1856 he chased men and elder sons from their beds in cabins along the Pottawatomie Creek, and then lopped off their heads with broadswords as sobbing wives and younger children looked on—that fellow Kansas antislavery settlers rebuked him. Even the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison condemned Brown and his methods. After taking the federal armory and arsenal at Harpers Ferry in October 1859, Brown intended (had he not been swatted like a fly within hours) to raise and arm a large force of blacks capable of wreaking a terrible vengeance across Virginia. Yet Reynolds insists that "it is misleading to identify Brown with modern terrorists." Really? 25 bw illus. (Apr. 21) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine The claims of Reynolds's subtitle strike many as inflated; while John Brown certainly grew into a towering folkloric figure after his death, the historians who review the book note that his actions were less a direct cause than an important symbolic precursor to the Civil War. Some critics believe Reynolds, winner of the Bancroft Prize for Walt Whitman's America, is overly sympathetic to Brown's use of violence. Though other reviewers counter that the author never turns full-scale apologist, the question of whether violence is an acceptable response to injustice—even one as grave as slavery—hangs over the text, especially as Reynolds examines the parallels between Brown's actions and our current understanding of terrorism. One thing is certain: John Brown's legacy is as unstable a part of our national history as ever. Copyright © 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From Booklist \*Starred\* Hero or villain? The "meteor" who lit the way for the war to liberate slaves, or a violence-prone, deranged fanatic? The debate about John Brown is never ending, and it often reveals more about his partisans or detractors than it does about Brown himself. Professor Reynolds is generally sympathetic to Brown, and although he doesn't break any new factual ground, he does offer an interesting perspective. He views Brown as a virtual throwback to his Puritan forebears. Like Oliver Cromwell and Jonathan Edwards, Brown approached political disputes as struggles between good and evil, and he was quite prepared to play the role of an avenging angel. Reynolds acknowledges Brown's penchant for violence but adamantly rejects the charge of insanity. The focus of this biography, of course, is Brown's commitment to the cause of abolition, and Reynolds credits Brown for framing the issue of

slavery in stark, uncompromising terms. He glosses over some of Brown's un-Puritan-like traits, including his financial irresponsibility, but this is a very readable, well-argued analysis of an undeniably important and frustratingly enigmatic man, for all audiences. Jay Freeman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved