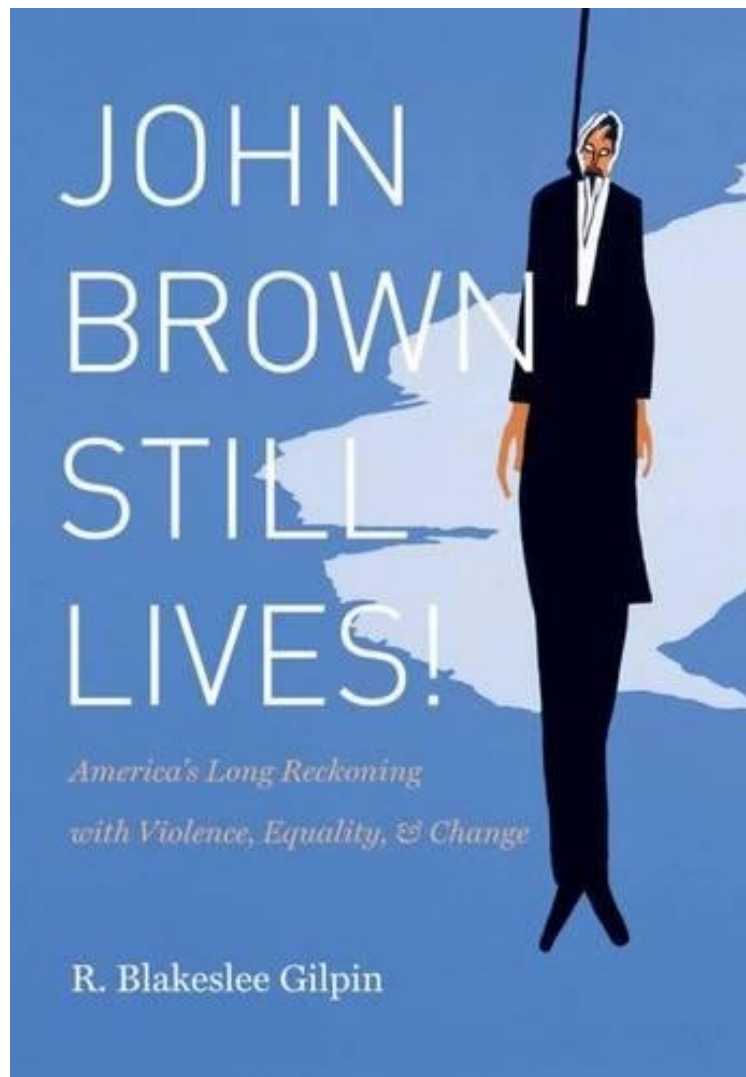


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John Brown Still Lives!: America's Long Reckoning with Violence, Equality, and Change

R. Blakeslee Gilpin

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Lives!: America's Long Reckoning with Violence, Equality, and Change:

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William TThis book reveals what whites should know about who their real heroes are. John Brown was a white man that rejected slavery and racism and stands as a hero to the slave and the thousands of whites that opposed slavery but have been written out of history.

From his obsession with the founding principles of the United States to his cold-blooded killings in the battle over slavery's expansion, John Brown forced his countrymen to reckon with America's violent history, its checkered progress toward racial equality, and its resistance to substantive change. Tracing Brown's legacy through writers and artists like Thomas Hovenden, W. E. B. Du Bois, Robert Penn Warren, Jacob Lawrence, Kara Walker, and others, Blake Gilpin transforms Brown from an object of endless manipulation into a dynamic medium for contemporary beliefs about the process and purpose of the American republic. Gilpin argues that the endless distortions of John Brown, misrepresentations of a man and a cause simultaneously noble and terrible, have only obscured our understanding of the past and loosened our grasp of the historical episodes that define America's struggles for racial equality. By showing Brown's central role in the relationship between the American past and the American present, Gilpin clarifies Brown's complex legacy and highlights his importance in the nation's ongoing struggle with the role of violence, the meaning of equality, and the intertwining paths these share with the process of change.

[Gilpin's] analysis is pointed and pertinent. University students will especially profit from his resurrections of Brown.--Library Journal
Gilpin's book is an outstanding contribution to the growing body of work on historical memory.--American Historical To read Gilpin's volume is to be overwhelmed by the unrelieved opportunism that, from every spot on the political spectrum, has found in John Brown the perfect vehicle for partisan gain.--Journal of American Studies
[Gilpin] illuminates how the memory of John Brown inspired white and black Americans. . . to understand the relationship between violence, equality, and social change.--Journal of the North Carolina Association of Historians
[A] fine study. . . [that] examine[s] with equal sophistication the diverse forms in which Brown has become a vehicle for some of the most pressing ideological debates in American political culture.--Journal of American History
Provides a refreshing reprieve from the typical biography by synthesizing a study of John Brown's legacy.--Louisiana History
Another fascinating study of how Americans have considered violence and change through their memories of one man and one event. . . . An excellent book.--Journal of Southern History
Gilpin's book shows . . . that John Brown remains a lightning rod in American culture, and the wildly divergent opinions of Brown are a testament to the power of history to define a man, his ideals, and his nation.--Kansas History
Gilpin provides a compelling analysis of an important topic.--West Virginia History
John Brown has mesmerized and polarized Americans for 150 years, speaking in different tongues to black and white, North and South, left and right. Gilpin dissects both the man and the myth to show how clashing visions of race and reform have shaped memory of Brown in every era. Provocative and illuminating, this book should be read by anyone who cares about Brown, the legacy of slavery, and the use and abuse of history in America.--Tony Horwitz, author of *Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid that Sparked the Civil War*
Gilpin's study of John Brown in American memory is a genuine masterpiece. The depth of the interpretation, the comprehensiveness of the research, the intellectual breadth of the narrative, and the lucidity of the prose make this a most outstanding work. The author has contributed enormously not just to our understanding of John Brown and his racial cause, but he has also thrown exceptional light on the cultural, racial, and political climates that altered "the Old Hero's" image in America over the course of fast-changing times.--Bertram Wyatt-Brown, Richard J. Milbauer Emeritus Professor of History, University of Florida, and author of *The Shaping of Southern Culture: Honor, Grace, and War, 1760s-1880s*
About the Author
R. Blakeslee Gilpin is visiting assistant professor of history at the University of South Carolina. He is a past fellow at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney and at the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.