

## This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War



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***(Kayla Gutkowski)***

## THIS REPUBLIC OF SUFFERING: DEATH AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR



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Vintage. 1 Paperback(s), 2008. soft. Book Condition: New. (One of Daedalus's 25 Books to Read by Labor Day) (Winner of the Bancroft Prize and the American History Book Prize; finalist for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize; and one of the New York Times Book Review's 10 Best Books of 2008) This remarkable book explores the social impact of the unprecedented carnage of the Civil War. Drew Gilpin Faust also the author of the Francis Parkman Prize winner *Mothers of Invention* and the president of Harvard University reveals how Americans sought a greater meaning in the conflict, trying to reconcile the loss of 600,000 men with their faith in a benevolent God. She details how mass burials affected those involved, and led to the modernization of the funeral industry. Our national veneration for those who die in battle began with the Civil War, Faust contends, alongside a growing public concern for individual rights. "No other generation of Americans has encountered death on the scale of the Civil War generation. This Republic of Suffering is the first study of how people in both North and South coped with this uniquely devastating experience. How did they mourn the dead, honor their sacrifice, commemorate their memory, and help their families? Drew Gilpin Faust's powerful and moving answers to these questions provide an important new dimension to our understanding of the Civil War." James M. McPherson 346.



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