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The Traumatic Colonel: The Founding Fathers, Slavery, and the Phantasmatic Aaron Burr

By Michael J. Drexler, Ed White

New York University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Traumatic Colonel: The Founding Fathers, Slavery, and the Phantasmatic Aaron Burr, Michael J. Drexler, Ed White, In American political fantasy, the Founding Fathers loom large, at once historical and mythical figures. In *The Traumatic Colonel*, Michael J. Drexler and Ed White examine the Founders as imaginative fictions, characters in the specifically literary sense, whose significance emerged from narrative elements clustered around them. From the revolutionary era through the 1790s, the Founders took shape as a significant cultural system for thinking about politics, race, and sexuality. Yet after 1800, amid the pressures of the Louisiana Purchase and the Haitian Revolution, this system could no longer accommodate the deep anxieties about the United States as a slave nation. Drexler and White assert that the most emblematic of the political tensions of the time is the figure of Aaron Burr, whose rise and fall were detailed in the literature of his time: his electoral tie with Thomas Jefferson in 1800, the accusations of seduction, the notorious duel with Alexander Hamilton, his machinations as the schemer of a breakaway empire, and his spectacular treason trial. The authors venture a psychoanalytically-informed exploration of post-revolutionary...



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