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Wolf by the Ears: The Missouri Crisis, 1819-1821

By John R. Van Atta

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIV PR Mrz 2015, 2015. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 226x150x15 mm. Neuware - From the early days of the republic, American leaders knew that an unpredictable time bomb - the question of slavery - lay at the heart of national politics. An implicit understanding between North and South helped to keep the issue at bay: northern states, where slavery had been set on course for extinction via gradual emancipation, tacitly agreed to respect the property rights of southern slaveholders; in return, southerners essentially promised to view slaveholding as a practical evil and look for ways to get rid of it. By 1819¿1820, however, westward expansion had brought the matter to a head. As Thomas Jefferson wrote at the time, a nation dealing with the politically implacable issue of slavery essentially held the ¿wolf¿ by the ears - and could neither let go nor hang on forever. In Wolf by the Ears, John R. Van Atta discusses how the sectional conflict that led to the Civil War surfaced in the divisive fight over Missouri statehood. The first organized Louisiana Purchase territory to lie completely west of the Mississippi River and northwest of the Ohio, Missouri carried special significance for both...



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