9/11: The Culture of Commemoration (Paperback)

By David Simpson

The University of Chicago Press, United States, 2006. Paperback. Condition: New. New edition. Language: English . Brand New Book. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, a general sense that the world was different - that nothing would ever be the same - settled upon a grieving nation; and the events of that day were received as cataclysmic disruptions of an ordered world. Refuting this claim, David Simpson examines the complex and paradoxical character of American public discourse since that September morning, considering the ways the event has been aestheticized, exploited, and appropriated, while Ground Zero remains the contested site of an effort at adequate commemoration. In 9/11, Simpson argues that elements of the conventional culture of mourning and remembrance - grieving the dead, summarizing their lives in obituaries, and erecting monuments in their memory - have been co-opted for political advantage. He also confronts those who labeled the event an apocalypse, condemning their exploitation of 9/11 for the defense of torture and war. In four elegant chapters - two of which expand on essays originally published in the London Review of Books to great acclaim - Simpson analyzes the response to 9/11: the nationally syndicated Portraits of Grief...

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