

# Rereading America

## Rereading America

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appalachia faces overwhelming challenges that plague many rural areas across the country including poorly funded schools stagnant economic development corrupt political systems poverty and drug abuse its citizens in turn have often been the target of unkind characterizations depicting them as illiterate or backward despite entrenched social and economic disadvantages the region is also known for its strong sense of culture language and community in this innovative volume a multidisciplinary team of both established and rising scholars challenge appalachian stereotypes through an examination of language and rhetoric together the contributors offer a new perspective on appalachia and its literacy hoping to counteract essentialist or class based arguments about the region s people and reexamine past research in the context of researcher bias featuring a mix of traditional scholarship and personal narratives rereading appalachia assesses a number of pressing topics including the struggles of first generation college students and the pressure to leave the area in search of higher quality jobs prejudice toward the lgbt community and the emergence of appalachian and affrilachian art in urban communities the volume also offers rich historical perspectives on issues such as the intended and unintended consequences of education activist cora wilson stewart s campaign to promote literacy at the kentucky moonlight schools a call to arms for those studying the heritage and culture of appalachia this timely collection provides fresh perspectives on the region its people and their literacy beliefs and practices

over the last few decades and from across a spectrum of centrist political thought a variety of academic disciplines and numerous public intellectuals the claim has been that we need to empathize more with marginalized people as a way to alleviate social inequalities if we all had more skill with empathy so the claim goes we would all be better citizens but what does it mean to empathize with others how do we develop this skill and what does it offer that older models of solidarity don t why empathy and why now rereading empathy takes up these questions examining the uses to which calls for empathy are put in the face of ever expanding economic and social precarity the contributors draw on a variety of historical and contemporary literary and cultural archives to illustrate the work that empathy is supposed to enable and to query alternative models of building collective futures

in one of the few women s diaries from civil war era texas a northerner trapped in the confederacy at the outbreak of war recounts her experience lucy pier stevens a twenty one year old woman from ohio came to visit her aunt s family near bellville texas on christmas day 1859 little did she know how drastically her life would change on april 4 1861 when the outbreak of the civil war made returning home impossible stranded in enemy territory for the duration of the war how would she reconcile her northern upbringing with the southern sentiments surrounding her lucy stevens s diary offers a unique perspective on daily life

at the fringes of america s bloodiest conflict an educated and keen observer stevens took note of everything the weather illnesses food shortages parties church attendance chores schools childbirth death the family s slaves and political and military news as stevens confided her private thoughts to her journal she revealed how her love for her texas family and the confederate soldiers she came to know blurred her loyalties showing how the ties of heritage kinship friendship and community transcended the sharpest division in us history this rare diary and vicki adams tongate s insightful historical commentary on it provide a trove of information on women s history texas history and civil war history

this book examines the imperial spectacles and startling reversals of fortune related in william h prescott s history of the conquest of mexico 1843 and history of the conquest of peru 1847 and investigates how these accounts inspired fictional adaptations by george a henty h rider haggard and george griffith the revision of history in the amerindian adventure both entertained young transatlantic audiences and was a vehicle to attract tourism and investment in countries such as mexico and peru henty haggard and griffith moreover used their tales of adventure as a platform to impart british values to their readers such values compel the characters and narrators of the novels discussed to act as cultural mediators to acquire indigenous languages and adopt native ways of being and in several of the romance adventures under consideration to marry mexican or incan noblewomen part i conquest examines george henty s by right of conquest or with cortez in mexico 1891 h rider haggard s montezuma s daughter 1893 and george griffith s virgin of the sun a tale of the conquest of peru 1898 part ii reclamation argues that english re writings of history work to eclipse the spanish in haggard s virgin the sun 1922 henty s treasure of the incas 1902 and griffith s romance of golden star 1897

the identity and nature of the holy spirit has long been a critical and often divisive topic among christians yet it is one with which we must continue to grapple if we are to grow in our understanding of the personhood of god the calling of the church and the life of the believer the seventh volume drawn from the annual conference of the africa society of evangelical theology this collection of essays addresses questions of pneumatology against the rich background of african church history african theologians explore centuries of christian understanding from the writings of augustine to the doctrine of african instituted churches and examine the impact of pneumatological belief upon the life and worship of the believer serving as a corrective on pneumatological heterodoxies while making space for both the diversity and unity of the african church this volume provides a powerful reminder of the centrality of the holy spirit to christian doctrine and praxis

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