



Listening to Nineteenth-Century America

By Mark M. Smith

Download now

Read Online 

Listening to Nineteenth-Century America By Mark M. Smith

Arguing for the importance of the aural dimension of history, Mark M. Smith contends that to understand what it meant to be northern or southern, slave or free--to understand sectionalism and the attitudes toward modernity that led to the Civil War--we must consider how antebellum Americans comprehended the sounds and silences they heard.

Smith explores how northerners and southerners perceived the sounds associated with antebellum developments including the market revolution, industrialization, westward expansion, and abolitionism. In northern modernization, southern slaveholders heard the noise of the mob, the din of industrialism, and threats to what they considered their quiet, orderly way of life; in southern slavery, northern abolitionists and capitalists heard the screams of enslaved labor, the silence of oppression, and signals of premodernity that threatened their vision of the American future. Sectional consciousness was profoundly influenced by the sounds people attributed to their regions. And as sectionalism hardened into fierce antagonism, it propelled the nation toward its most earsplitting conflict, the Civil War.

 [Download Listening to Nineteenth-Century America ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Listening to Nineteenth-Century America ...pdf](#)

Listening to Nineteenth-Century America

By Mark M. Smith

Listening to Nineteenth-Century America By Mark M. Smith

Arguing for the importance of the aural dimension of history, Mark M. Smith contends that to understand what it meant to be northern or southern, slave or free--to understand sectionalism and the attitudes toward modernity that led to the Civil War--we must consider how antebellum Americans comprehended the sounds and silences they heard.

Smith explores how northerners and southerners perceived the sounds associated with antebellum developments including the market revolution, industrialization, westward expansion, and abolitionism. In northern modernization, southern slaveholders heard the noise of the mob, the din of industrialism, and threats to what they considered their quiet, orderly way of life; in southern slavery, northern abolitionists and capitalists heard the screams of enslaved labor, the silence of oppression, and signals of premodernity that threatened their vision of the American future. Sectional consciousness was profoundly influenced by the sounds people attributed to their regions. And as sectionalism hardened into fierce antagonism, it propelled the nation toward its most earsplitting conflict, the Civil War.

Listening to Nineteenth-Century America By Mark M. Smith Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1711443 in Books
- Brand: Brand: The University of North Carolina Press
- Published on: 2001-12-09
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .80" w x 6.14" l, 1.20 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 384 pages

 [Download Listening to Nineteenth-Century America ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Listening to Nineteenth-Century America ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Review

This groundbreaking book adds a new dimension to our understanding of the roots of secession. (Eugene D. Genovese, author of "A Consuming Fire: The Fall of the Confederacy in the Mind of the White Christian South")

Mark Smith has turned up the volume on the political rhetoric, resistance tactics and soundscapes of sectional disputes, slavery, the Civil War and much more. Students of history, filmmakers and anyone interested in the sound of America will find this book indispensable. (Douglas Kahn, University of Technology, Sydney)

Review

The story of how the study of the sounds of everyday life help us to understand the coming of the Civil War, the war itself, and some of the politics of Reconstruction by giving a new dimension to a traditional historiography. . . . An exciting study that illuminates new areas of historical investigation.--*Civil War Book Review*

Listening to Nineteenth Century America is artfully written, and painstakingly researched. . . . [It] contributes to the emerging field of sound studies by pointing out that sound is a fruitful way to think about production; the study of sound can connect us as surely to the material world as the printed word or image.--*Journal of Social History*

Mark M. Smith ranks among the most original and innovative contemporary southern historians. He focuses analytically and creatively on questions virtually ignored by previous scholars, rereading long-familiar sources and forcing us to rethink basic components of the southern past. Smith consistently raises our consciousness to subtle and not-so-subtle forces that figured into the North-South dialogue.--*Georgia Historical Quarterly*

Smith not only adds to an emergent historical phenomenology of sound (and silence) but significantly advances the field by synthesizing and clarifying its conceptual and methodological lexicon.--*American Historical Review*

A fascinating attempt to explore the ways in which 'hearing' how the past sounded enriches our understanding. . . . A fine book that combines a polished account of rhetoric in the sectional crisis with a new perspective on the words that brought the United States to civil war.--*Journal of American History*

Challenging, refreshing, and fun. Read it and learn to listen with your eyes the next time you dip into the sources of a world before the Victor Talking Machine made this dimension directly recoverable.--*Technology and Culture*

What were the sounds of slavery, riots, steam-driven factories, and commerce before the Civil War? By asking such questions, Smith makes antebellum America more palpable to present-day readers.--*Doubletake*

In this fascinating study Mark M. Smith analyzes how sound and the heard world contributed to the formation of sectional identities during the antebellum period; how the Civil War and Reconstruction changed the nation's listening habits; and how postbellum Americans reinterpreted the country's soundscapes. . . . Most historians of the nineteenth century privilege the world of sight and vision both in their choice of source material and in their analysis of those sources. Smith shows the limits of such an approach. He teaches us how meaningful sound was to the people of the nineteenth century and how useful an awareness of the heard world can be for historians seeking to understand the past in a more fully textured way.--*Journal of Southern History*

Smith has pioneered the historical study of two under-appreciated analytical categories: time and sound. . . . An original and readable book. Smith has a knack for integrating detailed documentary evidence with broader narrative and analysis, so that countless fascinating examples illustrate his well-argued account. . . . A well written, thoroughly researched, and engaging entryway into the world of sound in history.--*Journal of the Early Republic*

Smith does a marvelous job describing the soundscapes of antebellum America, making skilled use of diaries, personal narratives and letters, as well as novels and political tracts. . . . His evocative descriptions of the sounds of different seasons, events, and activities turn up the volume on the entire fabric of nineteenth-century life.--*Common-place*

Before *Listening to Nineteenth-Century America*, history was still in its silent film era. Mark Smith has turned up the volume on the political rhetoric, resistance tactics and soundscapes of sectional disputes, slavery, the Civil War and much more. Students of history, filmmakers and anyone interested in the sound of America will find this book indispensable.--Douglas Kahn, University of Technology, Sydney

Is it possible to hear the sounds and silences of history? These are the questions at the heart of Mark M. Smith's innovative new work, *Listening to Nineteenth-Century America*, one of the first historical studies to make aural experience its analytical centerpiece. . . . [Smith] offers rich sources and insights for scholars of literature, philosophy, and cultural studies. . . . A richly suggestive book that. . . . initiates important conversations about the larger relationship between sound and ideology, offers fresh insights about bells and

other particular soundmarks, and pushes forward long-running scholarly debates about the roots of sectionalism. . . . There is no question that Smith's efforts will have a positive impact on a wide range of scholarship. After reading *Listening to Nineteenth-Century America*, one is forced to pay attention to questions of volume, sound, and aural control in productive new ways.--*Reviews in American History*

This groundbreaking book adds a new dimension to our understanding of the roots of secession. In *Listening to Nineteenth-Century America*, Mark Smith demonstrates with unusual concreteness the widening gap between the free-labor North and the slaveholding South and the increasing difficulty of reconciling their values and aspirations.--Eugene D. Genovese

Well written and innovative in its approach, this book complicates and enriches the discussion of why sectionalism developed in the 1830s through the 1850s and how it contributed to the Civil War.--*North Carolina Historical Review*

[*Listening to Nineteenth-Century America*] is an eye-opening--or more to the point, ear-opening--exercise in the retrieval of potentially lost knowledge. Mark Smith's wonderful study of the 'aural landscape' of nineteenth-century America deplores the historiographical privileging of the visual sense.--*Journal of American Studies*

About the Author

Mark M. Smith, author of *Mastered by the Clock: Time, Slavery, and Freedom in the American South*, is Carolina Distinguished Professor of History at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alan Dougherty:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era where everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources included can be true or not demand people to be aware of each facts they get. How people have to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Reading a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information especially this *Listening to Nineteenth-Century America* book as this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred % guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

John Ashcraft:

Often the book *Listening to Nineteenth-Century America* will bring one to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to study, this book very appropriate to you. The book *Listening to Nineteenth-Century America* is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Lavada Rowlett:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended for you is Listening to Nineteenth-Century America this guide consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented how does the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some analysis when he makes this book. That's why this book suited all of you.

Larry Tatro:

Reading a guide make you to get more knowledge from the jawhorse. You can take knowledge and information from your book. Book is published or printed or descriptive from each source this filled update of news. In this modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social such as newspaper, magazines, science book, encyclopedia, reference book, new and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Are you ready to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just trying to find the Listening to Nineteenth-Century America when you necessary it?

Download and Read Online Listening to Nineteenth-Century America By Mark M. Smith #CR3H2MN6VI9

Read Listening to Nineteenth-Century America By Mark M. Smith for online ebook

Listening to Nineteenth-Century America By Mark M. Smith Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Listening to Nineteenth-Century America By Mark M. Smith books to read online.

Online Listening to Nineteenth-Century America By Mark M. Smith ebook PDF download

Listening to Nineteenth-Century America By Mark M. Smith Doc

Listening to Nineteenth-Century America By Mark M. Smith Mobipocket

Listening to Nineteenth-Century America By Mark M. Smith EPub

CR3H2MN6VI9: Listening to Nineteenth-Century America By Mark M. Smith