

BORN IN BLOOD

Born in Blood investigates one of history's most violent undertakings: the United States of America. People the world over consider violence in the United States as measurably different than that which troubles the rest of the globe, citing reasons including gun culture, the American West, Hollywood, the death penalty, economic inequality, rampant individualism, and more. This compelling examination of American violence explains a political culture of violence from the American Revolution to the Gilded Age, illustrating how physical force, often centered on racial hierarchy, sustained the central tenets of American liberal government. It offers an important story of nationhood, told through the experiences and choices of civilians, Indians, politicians, soldiers, and the enslaved, providing historical context for understanding how violence has shaped the United States from its inception.

Scott Gac is Director of American Studies and Professor of American Studies and History at Trinity College and the author of *Singing for Freedom: The Hutchinson Family Singers and the Nineteenth-Century Culture of Reform* (2007).

BORN IN BLOOD

VIOLENCE AND THE
MAKING OF AMERICA

SCOTT GAC



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In memory of Edward A. Gac, 1938–2018

A society is always eager to cover misdeeds with a cloak of forgetfulness, but no society can fully repress an ugly past when the ravages persist into the present. America owes a debt of justice which it has only begun to pay.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1968

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