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978-0-521-87564-6 - The Young America Movement and the Transformation of the Democratic Party, 1828-1861

Yonatan Eyal

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## The Young America Movement and the Transformation of the Democratic Party, 1828-1861

The phrase “Young America” connoted territorial and commercial expansion in the antebellum United States. During the years leading up to the Civil War, it permeated various parts of the Democratic Party, producing new perspectives in the realms of economics, foreign policy, and constitutionalism. Led by figures such as Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois and editor John L. O’Sullivan of New York, Young America Democrats gained power during the late 1840s and early 1850s. They challenged a variety of orthodox Jacksonian assumptions, influencing both the nation’s foreign policy and its domestic politics. This is the first book to offer an exclusively political history of Young America’s impact on the Democratic Party, complementing existing studies of the literary and cultural dimensions of this group. This close look at the Young America Democracy sheds light on the political realignments of the 1850s and the coming of the Civil War, in addition to showcasing the origins of America’s longest existing political party.

Yonatan Eyal received his A.B. in history from Stanford University and his A.M. and Ph.D. in history from Harvard University. Eyal has been the recipient of the Dissertation Writing Fellowship at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University, the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History Fellowship, the Richard A. Berenson Graduate Fellowship at Harvard University, the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, and the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Education. His articles have been published in *Civil War History*, *American Nineteenth Century History*, and the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. This is Eyal’s first book.

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*For my parents, Hanna and Chaim Eyal*

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