

TO SET —THIS— WORLD RIGHT

THE ANTISLAVERY MOVEMENT
IN THOREAU'S CONCORD



Sandra Harbert Petrulionis

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To Set This World Right Sandra Harbert Petrulionis, 2018-07-05 In the decade before the Civil War Concord Massachusetts was a center of abolitionist sentiment and activism To Set this World Right is the first book to recover and examine the voices events and influence of the antebellum antislavery movement in Concord In addressing fundamental questions about the origin and nature of radical abolitionism in this most American of towns Sandra Harbert Petrulionis frames the antislavery ideology of Henry Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson two of Concord s most famous residents as a product of family and community activism and presents the civic context in which their outspoken abolitionism evolved In this historic locale radical abolitionism crossed racial class and gender lines as a confederation of neighbors fomented a radical consciousness and Petrulionis documents how the Thoreaus Emersons and Alcotts worked in tandem with others in their community including a slaveowner s daughter and a former slave Additionally she examines the basis on which Henry Thoreau who cherished nothing more than solitary tramps through his beloved woods and bogs has achieved lasting fame as a militant abolitionist This book marshals rich archival evidence of the diverse tactics exploited by a small coterie of committed activists largely women who provoked their famous neighbors to action In Concord the fugitive slave Shadrach Minkins was clothed and fed as he made his way to freedom In Concord the adolescent daughters of John Brown attended school and recovered from their emotional distress after their father s notorious public hanging Although most residents of the town maintained a practiced detachment from the plight of the enslaved women and men whose sole objective was the moral urgency of abolishing slavery at last prevailed on the philosophers of self culture to accept the responsibility of their reputations

Thoreau's Religion Alda Balthrop-Lewis, 2021-01-21 Thoreau s Religion presents a ground breaking interpretation of Henry David Thoreau s most famous book Walden Rather than treating Walden Woods as a lonely wilderness Balthrop Lewis demonstrates that Thoreau s ascetic life was a form of religious practice dedicated to cultivating a just multispecies community The book makes an important contribution to scholarship in religious studies political theory English environmental studies and critical theory by offering the first sustained reading of Thoreau s religiously motivated politics In Balthrop Lewis s vision practices of renunciation like Thoreau s can contribute to the reformation of social and political life In this the book transforms Thoreau s image making him a vital source for a world beset by inequality and climate change Balthrop Lewis argues for an environmental politics in which ecological flourishing is impossible without economic and social justice

The Routledge Guidebook to Thoreau's Civil Disobedience Bob Pepperman Taylor, 2014-12-17 Since its publication in 1849 Henry David Thoreau s Civil Disobedience has influenced protestors activists and political thinkers all over the world Including the full text of Thoreau s essay The Routledge Guidebook to Thoreau s Civil Disobedience explores the context of his writing analyses different interpretations of the text and considers how posthumous edits to Civil Disobedience have altered its intended meaning It introduces the reader to the context of Thoreau s work and

the background to his writing the significance of the references and allusions the contemporary reception of Thoreau's essay the ongoing relevance of the work and a discussion of different perspectives on the work Providing a detailed analysis which closely examines Thoreau's original work this is an essential introduction for students of politics philosophy and history and all those seeking a full appreciation of this classic work [A Hell of a Storm](#) David S. Brown, 2025-11-25 Insightful The Wall Street Journal Noteworthy readers will come away better informed about antebellum history and how it mirrors current events Booklist The fascinating story of how a new law in 1854 the Kansas Nebraska Act unexpectedly became the greatest miscalculation in American history dividing North and South creating the Republican party and paving the way for the Civil War The history of the United States was shaped by a series of sectional compromises the Constitutional Convention the Missouri Compromise in 1820 and the Compromise of 1850 While these accords formed an imperfect republic or a house divided as Abraham Lincoln put it the country nevertheless remained united But then in 1854 this three generations system suddenly blew up with the passage of the Kansas Nebraska Act leading to a nearly fatal rupture in the union described here by David S Brown in riveting detail The act declared that planters if permitted by territorial laws could bring their enslaved people to the land extending from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains the core of Thomas Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase which had formerly been reserved for free labor Northerners were shocked that free soil might now be turned over to slavery and they responded defiantly In the bill's wake the conservative Whig Party winners of multiple presidential elections gave way to the radical Republican Party which within six years would take control of the central government provoking Southern secession In *A Hell of a Storm* Brown brings history to life in a way that resonates with contemporary events Through chapters on Lincoln Ralph Waldo Emerson Harriet Beecher Stowe Henry David Thoreau and Harriet Tubman along with a cast of presidents poets abolitionists and black emigrationists Brown weaves a political cultural and literary history that chronicles the rise of the Republican Party the collapse of antebellum compromises and the coming of the Civil War all topics that mirror current discussions about polarization in our nation today By illuminating the personalities and the platforms the writings and ideas that upended an older America and left space for its successor *A Hell of a Storm* reminds us that American history is always being made and it can be both dynamic and dangerous both then and now **Little Women**

Louisa May Alcott, 2013-05-13 Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth century New England in an annotated edition that looks at the work in biographical social and historical contexts

Nineteenth Century Prose, 2019 **The Oxford Handbook of Transcendentalism** Joel Myerson, Sandra Harbert Petrulionis, Laura Dassow Walls, 2010-04-16 The Oxford Handbook of Transcendentalism offers an eclectic comprehensive interdisciplinary approach to the immense cultural impact of the movement that encompassed literature art architecture science and politics *The Most Absolute Abolition* Jesse Olsavsky, 2022-08-17 Jesse Olsavsky's *The Most Absolute Abolition* tells the dramatic story of how vigilance committees organized the Underground Railroad and revolutionized the abolitionist

movement These groups based primarily in northeastern cities defended Black neighborhoods from police and slave catchers As the urban wing of the Underground Railroad they helped as many as ten thousand refugees building an elaborate network of like minded sympathizers across boundaries of nation gender race and class Olsavsky reveals how the committees cultivated a movement of ideas animated by a motley assortment of agitators and intellectuals including famous figures such as Frederick Douglass Harriet Tubman and Henry David Thoreau who shared critical information with one another Formerly enslaved runaways who grasped the economy of slavery developed their own political imaginations and communicated strategies of resistance to abolitionists serve as the book s central focus The dialogues between fugitives and abolitionists further radicalized the latter s tactics and inspired novel forms of feminism prison reform and utopian constructs These notions transformed abolitionism into a revolutionary movement one at the heart of the crises that culminated in the Civil War

Provocative Eloquence Laura L. Mielke,2019-02-26 In the mid 19th century rhetoric surrounding slavery was permeated by violence Slavery s defenders often used brute force to suppress opponents and even those abolitionists dedicated to pacifism drew upon visions of widespread destruction *Provocative Eloquence* recounts how the theater long an arena for heightened eloquence and physical contest proved terribly relevant in the lead up to the Civil War As antislavery speech and open conflict intertwined the nation became a stage The book brings together notions of intertextuality and interperformativity to understand how the confluence of oratorical and theatrical practices in the antebellum period reflected the conflict over slavery and deeply influenced the language that barely contained that conflict The book draws on a wide range of work in performance studies theater history black performance theory oratorical studies and literature and law to provide a new narrative of the interaction of oratorical theatrical and literary histories of the nineteenth century U S

Fighting for the Higher Law Peter Wirzbicki,2021-03-26 How important black abolitionists joined famous Transcendentalists to create a political philosophy to fight slavery In *Fighting for the Higher Law* Peter Wirzbicki explores how important black abolitionists joined famous Transcendentalists to create a political philosophy that fired the radical struggle against American slavery In the cauldron of the antislavery movement antislavery activists such as William C Nell Thomas Sidney and Charlotte Forten and Transcendentalist intellectuals including Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau developed a Higher Law ethos a unique set of romantic political sensibilities marked by moral enthusiasms democratic idealism and a vision of the self that could judge political questions from higher standards of morality and reason The Transcendentalism that emerges here is not simply the dreamy philosophy of privileged white New Englanders but a more populist movement one that encouraged an uncompromising form of politics among a wide range of Northerners black as well as white working class as well as wealthy Invented to fight slavery it would influence later labor feminist civil rights and environmentalist activism African American thinkers and activists have long engaged with American Transcendentalist ideas about double consciousness nonconformity and civil disobedience When thinkers like Martin Luther King Jr or W E B

Du Bois invoked Transcendentalist ideas they were putting to use an intellectual movement that black radicals had participated in since the 1830s

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