

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910810330803321
Autore	McGinty Brian
Titolo	The body of John Merryman [[electronic resource]] : Abraham Lincoln and the suspension of habeas corpus // Brian McGinty
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : Harvard University Press, 2011
ISBN	0-674-06325-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (272 p.)
Classificazione	PL 732
Disciplina	347.73/5
Soggetti	War and emergency powers - United States Habeas corpus - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [229]-242) and index.
Nota di contenuto	The challenge -- Conflicted ground -- The squire of Hayfields -- The writ and the suspension -- All the laws but one -- Weighing in -- The courts -- A gentleman still -- The great tribunal.
Sommario/riassunto	In April 1861, President Abraham Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus along the military line between Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. This allowed army officers to arrest and indefinitely detain persons who were interfering with military operations in the area. When John Merryman, a wealthy Marylander suspected of burning bridges to prevent the passage of U.S. troops to Washington, was detained in Fort McHenry, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Roger Taney, declared the suspension of habeas corpus unconstitutional and demanded Merryman's immediate release. Lincoln defied Taney's order, offering his own forceful counter-argument for the constitutionality of his actions. Thus the stage was set for one of the most dramatic personal and legal confrontations the country has ever witnessed. The Body of John Merryman is the first book-length examination of this much-misunderstood chapter in American history. Brian McGinty captures the tension and uncertainty that surrounded the early months of the Civil War, explaining how Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus was first and foremost a military action that only subsequently became a crucial constitutional battle. McGinty's narrative brings to life the personalities that drove this uneasy standoff and expands our understanding of the war as a legal-and not just a military, political, and social-conflict. The

Body of John Merryman is an extraordinarily readable book that illuminates the contours of one of the most significant cases in American legal history-a case that continues to resonate in our own time.
