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Titolo Disunion!: the coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859 / /

Elizabeth R. Varon

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Soggetti Sectionalism (United States) - History

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United States Politics and government 1783-1865 Sources

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Nota di contenuto The language of terrifying prophecy : disunion debates in the early

republic -- We claim our rights: the advent of abolitionism -- Ruinous tendencies: the anti-abolition backlash -- The idea will become familiar: disunion in the era of mass party politics -- Oh for a man who is a man: debating slavery's expansion -- That is revolution!: the crisis of 1850 -- Beneath the iron heel: fugitive slaves and bleeding Kansas -- To consummate its boldest designs: the slave power confronts the republicans -- War to the knife: images of the coming fight -- Epilogue: The Rubicon is passed: the war and beyond.

Sommario/riassunto In the decades of the early republic, Americans debating the fate of

slavery often invoked the specter of disunion to frighten their opponents. As Elizabeth Varon shows, ""disunion" connoted the dissolution of the republic--the failure of the founders' effort to

establish a stable and lasting representative government. For many Americans in both the North and the South, disunion was a nightmare, a cataclysm that would plunge the nation into the kind of fear and misery that seemed to pervade the rest of the world. For many others, however, disunion was seen as the main instrument by which they