Taxation Without Representation In Contemporary Rural China | 215004c789d57abd55559459ee2b6db3


Americans have always put the past to political ends. The Union laid claim to the Revolution—so did the Confederacy. Civil rights leaders said they were the true sons of liberty—so did Southern segregationists. This book tells the story of the centuries-long struggle over the meaning of the nation's founding, including the battle waged by the Tea Party, Glenn Beck, Sarah Palin, and evangelical Christians to "take back America." Jill Lepore, Harvard historian and New Yorker staff writer, offers a careful and concerned look at the Tea Party's core economic message, its relationship to the Tea Party of 1773, and its place in the story of American history. The book places the right's fight for free-market, free-trade principles in the context of the overt and subtle shift in historical consciousness that has taken place over the past generation. This is a compelling and original narrative of the right's rise and fall, a story that sheds new light on the dynamics of American politics and the role of the Tea Party in the ongoing political struggle over the meaning of American history. The book confronts the Tea Party's charge that we are losing our freedom to the federal government, and shows how American freedom—both political and economic—has been eroded by the right's campaign to roll back the state. It reveals how the Tea Party's opponents have used the rhetoric and symbolism of the American Revolution to push their own agenda of tax cuts, deregulation, and privatization. The result is a polarized view of history, in which the Founding Fathers are reimagined as champions of freedom, and the tolerant and inclusive vision of the Revolution is obscured. Lepore offers a thoughtful and nuanced account of how the Tea Party has crafted a narrative that resonates with a wide audience, and how the Tea Party's opponents have responded with a compelling alternative story. The book is a clarion call to more accurately historicize the present moment, and to reclaim the narrative for the future.