



Abraham Lincolns Gettysburg Address: The Rhetoric of American Civil Religion

By Katharina E. Thomas

Grin Verlag. Paperback. Condition: New. 40 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.1in. Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject Rhetoric Elocution Oratory, grade: 1, 3, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, course: Allgemeine Rhetorik, language: English, abstract: Abraham Lincolns Gettysburg Address has played a powerful role in shaping American public discourse over the centuries. It has become one of the central documents in the evolution of American civil religion - imbued with religious and biblical language and imagery, backed by the ethos of its orator, its rhetoric sanctifies the founding documents and itself becomes part of the canon of holy writ of American civil religion. This is all the more remarkable considering the fact that Lincoln was originally only supposed to deliver a few appropriate remarks at the dedication of the Gettysburg battlefield as a cemetery for the fallen soldiers. The main speaker, Edward Everett, had already given a long speech when Lincolns turn came. The situation which thus presented itself to the orator posed a considerable challenge, as the audience was already weary. It is therefore all the more fascinating to see how Lincoln succeeded in his short, dense speech - which did not even...

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