



Fire and Light: How the Enlightenment Transformed Our World

By Burns, James MacGregor.

Thomas Dunne. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. The Pulitzer Prize and National Book Awardwinning author of *Roosevelt: The Soldier of Freedom*, among more than 20 other books, James MacGregor Burns here illuminates what he deems "the 200-year conflagration" of the Enlightenment, when audacious questions and ideas tore across Europe and the New World, transforming thought, overturning governments, and inspiring visionary political experiments. Burns discovers the origins of a distinctive American Enlightenment in men like Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison, and their early encounters with incendiary European ideas about liberty and equality. Today the same questions that Enlightenment thinkers grappled with have taken on renewed urgency around the world in the turmoil of the Arab Spring, in the former Soviet Union, and China, as well as in the United States itself: What should a nation be? What should citizens expect from their government? Who should lead and how can leadership be made both effective and accountable? What is happiness, and what can the state contribute to it? "As a 21st-century philosopher, [Burns] brings to vivid life the incandescent personalities and ideas that embody the best in Western civilization and shows us how understanding them is...



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