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By M. Keith Booker

ABC-CLIO, United States, 2008. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.America has always attempted to define itself through a network of invented myths and national narratives. Historically, this national mythmaking has focused on the building of the nation itself as a sort of grand adventure, as in the notion of manifest destiny, or the taming of the western frontier. This project has also naturally led to a focus on individual heroes, often playing the role of savior and redeemer in ways with clear religious resonances: Christ and Shane and Superman, for instance, all share key characteristics. At the same time, these superheroes have often been adolescents, designed to appeal to younger audiences as well. Other hero myths have been more down-to-earth, focusing on heroes who fight against evil, but in a more modest way, as in the case of the hardboiled detective. Red, White, and Spooked details the development of our national myths in an effort to try and see what these fantasies can reveal about what it means to be American today, and what we want it to mean. Beginning with John Winthrop's city upon a hill sermon in 1630, American...



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