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The Imperfect Revolution: Anthony Burns and the Landscape of Race in Antebellum America

*By Gordon S.
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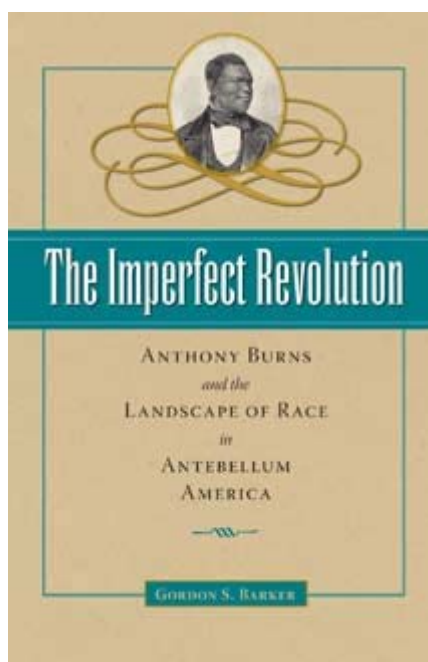
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"This well-researched and clearly written study gets a new series off to a promising start. The chapter on anti-slavery life in St. Catharines, Ontario, is especially valuable." —**Lewis Perry, author of Radical Abolitionism**

On June 2, 1854, crowds lined the streets of Boston, hissing and shouting at federal authorities as they escorted the fugitive slave Anthony Burns to the ship that would return him to his slaveholders in Virginia. Days earlier, handbills had littered the streets decrying Burns's arrest, and abolitionists, intent on freeing Burns, had attacked with a battering ram the courthouse in which he was detained, leaving one dead, several wounded, and thirteen in custody. In

the end it would take federal officials nearly 2,000 troops and \$40,000 to send Burns back to Virginia.

Author Gordon Barker challenges the traditionally held notion that the rendition of Anthony Burns fueled an antislavery groundswell in the North. He exposes the diverse beliefs—many of which were less than noble—held by Bostonians struggling to make sense of the racial, class, and ethnic conflicts arising in the city. o fugitive slave would be captured in Boston again.