

the purge law in illinois 2023

the purge law in illinois 2023 has been a topic of significant interest and debate throughout Illinois and across the United States. This legislation, officially known as the Illinois SAFE-T Act, introduced sweeping changes to the state's criminal justice system, particularly concerning cash bail reform. The law's nickname, "the purge law," sparked public curiosity and concern, leading to widespread discussions about its impact on crime, law enforcement, and community safety. In this comprehensive article, we will explore the origins and main provisions of the purge law in Illinois 2023, clarify misconceptions, examine its effects on the legal landscape, and analyze the broader implications for residents and the criminal justice system. Whether you are a concerned citizen, legal professional, or simply interested in understanding this pivotal law, this guide will provide an authoritative and detailed overview of everything you need to know about the purge law in Illinois 2023.

- Overview of the Purge Law in Illinois 2023
- Origins and Legislative Background
- Main Provisions and Changes Introduced
- Impact on Cash Bail and Pretrial Detention
- Law Enforcement and Judicial Response
- Public Reaction and Common Misconceptions
- Implications for Illinois Residents
- Frequently Asked Questions

Overview of the Purge Law in Illinois 2023

The purge law in Illinois 2023 refers to the Illinois SAFE-T Act, a landmark criminal justice reform bill signed into law in the state. While the law's official name is the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today Act, it gained the nickname "the purge law" due to social media rumors and public misunderstanding. The primary objective of the law is to address systemic inequities in the criminal justice system, especially those related to cash bail and pretrial detention. The purge law in Illinois 2023 marks a significant shift in how courts handle arrests, detentions, and releases prior to trial, emphasizing fairness and due process for all individuals regardless of financial status. This section provides a foundational understanding of the law's intent and scope, setting the stage for a deeper exploration of its key elements and impact on Illinois communities.

Origins and Legislative Background

Development of the SAFE-T Act

The Illinois SAFE-T Act was developed in response to longstanding concerns about the fairness of the state's criminal justice system. Lawmakers, advocates, and activists worked together to craft legislation aimed at reducing disparities caused by cash bail, ensuring that individuals are not detained solely because they cannot afford to pay for their release. The act was signed into law by Governor J.B. Pritzker in February 2021, with major reforms scheduled to take effect in January 2023. The legislative process included extensive hearings, debate, and amendments to address concerns from various stakeholders, including law enforcement and community organizations.

Motivations Behind the Reform

The primary motivations for the purge law in Illinois 2023 centered on equity and public safety. Supporters argued that cash bail disproportionately affected low-income and minority communities, leading to unnecessary pretrial detention and contributing to cycles of poverty and incarceration. The law aimed to prioritize release decisions based on risk rather than financial resources, promote transparency, and modernize policing standards. The reform was also part of a broader national movement advocating for criminal justice changes, with Illinois emerging as a leading state in bail reform.

Main Provisions and Changes Introduced

Elimination of Cash Bail

One of the most significant changes introduced by the purge law in Illinois 2023 is the elimination of cash bail for most offenses. Under the SAFE-T Act, judges are required to assess whether a defendant poses a risk to public safety or is likely to flee before trial, rather than relying on their ability to pay bail. This change means that individuals arrested for certain non-violent offenses can be released without posting bail, ensuring that detention decisions are based on risk rather than wealth.

Revamped Pretrial Release Procedures

The law establishes new procedures for pretrial release, requiring courts to conduct hearings within strict timeframes and document the reasoning behind detention decisions. Judges retain discretion to detain individuals accused of violent or serious crimes if there is clear evidence of risk. The SAFE-T Act also mandates regular reviews of detention orders to prevent prolonged incarceration without trial.

Additional Criminal Justice Reforms

- Improved standards for police accountability and transparency
- Expanded use of body cameras for law enforcement agencies
- Limits on police use of force and requirements for reporting incidents
- Creation of a statewide database for police misconduct
- New training requirements for officers on de-escalation and cultural competency

These provisions reflect the SAFE-T Act's broad approach to reform, targeting multiple aspects of the justice system beyond bail.

Impact on Cash Bail and Pretrial Detention

How Bail Has Changed in Illinois

Prior to the purge law in Illinois 2023, cash bail was a common practice, frequently resulting in defendants remaining in jail simply because they could not afford to pay for their release. The elimination of cash bail fundamentally alters this process, shifting the focus to individualized risk assessments. Judges now evaluate factors such as the nature of the alleged offense, the defendant's criminal history, likelihood of appearing at trial, and potential threat to public safety when making release decisions.

Benefits and Challenges of the New System

- Reduces unnecessary pretrial detention for low-level, nonviolent offenders
- Promotes fairness by ensuring detention is not based on wealth
- Challenges include increased administrative workload for courts
- Concerns about community safety and monitoring defendants released pretrial
- Potential increases in demand for resources to support risk assessment and supervision

While the new system is designed to be more equitable, it requires significant adjustments and investments in court infrastructure to ensure effective implementation.

Law Enforcement and Judicial Response

Adjustments for Police and Prosecutors

Law enforcement agencies and prosecutors have had to adapt to the requirements of the purge law in Illinois 2023. Police are required to provide more thorough documentation at the time of arrest, and prosecutors must present evidence supporting pretrial detention when seeking to detain individuals accused of serious or violent offenses. These changes have led to enhanced collaboration between agencies and greater emphasis on training and compliance with the new law.

Judicial Challenges and Training

Judges and court personnel have undergone extensive training to implement the new bail and pretrial release procedures. The law requires clear documentation of detention decisions and regular reviews, placing additional responsibilities on the judicial system. Despite initial concerns about case backlogs and administrative burdens, many courts have reported improvements in efficiency and fairness over time.

Public Reaction and Common Misconceptions

Understanding the “Purge Law” Nickname

The nickname “purge law” gained traction online due to misconceptions about the law’s effects. Contrary to some rumors, the SAFE-T Act does not permit widespread release of dangerous criminals or eliminate accountability for serious offenses. The law’s focus is on nonviolent and low-level offenses, with strict safeguards in place for those accused of violent crimes. Public education efforts have been crucial in dispelling myths and clarifying the intent of the legislation.

Community Concerns and Support

Community responses to the purge law in Illinois 2023 have been mixed. Some residents express concerns about public safety and potential increases in crime, while others welcome the reforms as a step toward greater justice and equality. Advocacy groups continue to monitor the law’s effects and advocate for further improvements, emphasizing the importance of transparency and ongoing evaluation.

Implications for Illinois Residents

What Residents Can Expect

For Illinois residents, the purge law in Illinois 2023 means a new approach to pretrial detention and criminal justice. Individuals arrested for nonviolent offenses are less likely to be detained solely due

to financial constraints, and communities can expect more consistent standards for law enforcement and judicial decisions. Residents should stay informed about changes and engage with local officials to voice concerns or seek clarification about the law's implementation.

Long-Term Effects on Justice and Safety

The long-term effects of the purge law in Illinois 2023 are still unfolding. Early data indicate reductions in pretrial jail populations and increased fairness in release decisions. However, ongoing evaluation is necessary to address challenges and ensure that reforms achieve their intended outcomes. Residents, policymakers, and law enforcement must work together to balance equity, accountability, and public safety as the law continues to shape the state's criminal justice landscape.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the purge law in Illinois 2023?

A: The purge law in Illinois 2023 refers to the Illinois SAFE-T Act, which eliminates cash bail for most offenses and reforms pretrial detention procedures to prioritize risk assessments over financial ability.

Q: Why is it called the “purge law”?

A: The nickname “purge law” originated from social media rumors and misunderstandings about the law's impact, suggesting mass releases of criminals. In reality, the law focuses on fair pretrial detention and does not allow indiscriminate releases.

Q: What offenses qualify for release without bail under the new law?

A: Most nonviolent and low-level offenses qualify for release without cash bail. Judges retain discretion to detain individuals accused of violent or serious crimes if there is sufficient evidence of risk.

Q: Does the purge law in Illinois 2023 make communities less safe?

A: The law includes safeguards to protect public safety, allowing judges to detain defendants who pose a significant risk. Early data does not indicate a widespread increase in crime due to the reforms.

Q: How does the law affect police and prosecutors?

A: Law enforcement and prosecutors must adhere to new documentation and evidence standards when seeking pretrial detention, and police are required to follow updated accountability and transparency measures.

Q: Are there exceptions to the elimination of cash bail?

A: Yes, exceptions exist for certain violent offenses and cases where the defendant is deemed a flight risk or a danger to the community. Judges assess each case individually.

Q: How can residents learn more about the law's impact?

A: Residents can attend community forums, review official court documents, and engage with local officials to stay informed about the law's implementation and effects.

Q: What are the main goals of the purge law in Illinois 2023?

A: The main goals are to promote fairness in pretrial detention, reduce reliance on cash bail, and improve transparency and accountability in the criminal justice system.

Q: Has the law faced legal challenges?

A: Yes, the law encountered legal and political challenges prior to its implementation, but it was ultimately upheld and took effect in January 2023.

Q: Will other states adopt similar reforms?

A: Several states are considering or have implemented similar bail reform measures, with Illinois serving as a model for comprehensive criminal justice reform.

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The Purge Law in Illinois 2023: Dispelling Myths and

Understanding the Reality

The internet is rife with misinformation, and the term "purge law" often conjures up images of lawless chaos. In Illinois, as in many other states, the term is frequently misused and misunderstood. This blog post aims to clarify the reality surrounding what's often wrongly termed the "purge law in Illinois 2023," examining the actual legal processes and dispelling common myths. We'll delve into the relevant legislation, explain its practical implications, and provide you with accurate information to navigate this complex topic.

What is Commonly Misunderstood as the "Purge Law"?

The term "purge law" is not an official legal term in Illinois or anywhere else. The confusion stems from periodic efforts to clear out old records, particularly within the court system. These efforts, however, are far from a "purge" in the sensationalized sense often depicted online. They involve specific, legally mandated processes designed to streamline the judicial system and manage data efficiently, not to grant blanket amnesty or erase criminal records indiscriminately.

Understanding Illinois' Record-Keeping Practices

Illinois, like many states, regularly reviews and manages its judicial records. This involves various processes including:

Case File Management: Courts regularly review old cases, particularly those that are concluded and no longer require active management. This might involve transferring physical files to archives or moving digital data to long-term storage. This is not a "purge" - it's standard record-keeping practice designed to maintain efficiency and organization within the court system.

Expungement and Sealing of Records: Illinois does have laws that allow for the expungement or sealing of certain criminal records under specific circumstances. These are not automatic; individuals must meet stringent requirements, demonstrate rehabilitation, and often go through a formal legal process to have their records expunged or sealed. This is a far cry from a general "purge" and requires individual applications and judicial approval.

Data Retention Policies: Government agencies, including courts and law enforcement, follow specific data retention policies. These policies determine how long certain types of data are kept before being archived or deleted. This is a standard practice in data management and is not intended to conceal or destroy evidence related to ongoing investigations or active cases.

Mythbusting: What the "Purge Law" is NOT

It's crucial to address the misinformation surrounding this issue. The supposed "purge law" is not:

A blanket pardon for all past crimes: No law in Illinois, or any other state, offers a blanket pardon for all past criminal activity.

A way to erase serious felonies: Expungement and sealing of records are subject to strict eligibility criteria and are generally not applicable to serious violent or sex-related felonies.

A secret government initiative: All record-keeping practices within the Illinois judicial system are subject to public records laws, with limitations for ongoing investigations or cases involving minors.

Finding Accurate Information

To understand the true nature of record-keeping practices in Illinois, it is vital to refer to official government websites and legal resources. Searching for specific terms like "Illinois expungement laws," "Illinois record sealing," or "Illinois court record management" will yield far more accurate and reliable results than searching for the ambiguous "purge law."

The Importance of Fact-Checking

The proliferation of misinformation online underscores the importance of critical thinking and fact-checking. Always verify information from reputable sources before accepting it as truth. Relying on sensationalized headlines or unverified claims can lead to significant misunderstandings and potentially harmful conclusions.

Conclusion

The idea of a "purge law in Illinois 2023" is a misrepresentation of the actual legal processes concerning record management within the state's judicial system. Illinois, like many other states, follows established procedures for managing case files, expunging records, and adhering to data retention policies. These processes are far from a chaotic "purge" and are governed by strict legal frameworks. Always consult official sources for accurate information and avoid relying on unsubstantiated claims circulating online.

FAQs

1. Can I have my entire criminal record erased under Illinois law? No, Illinois law does not allow for the complete erasure of all criminal records. Expungement and sealing are available only under specific circumstances and for certain types of offenses.

2. What types of offenses are eligible for expungement in Illinois? Eligibility depends on the specific offense, your criminal history, and other factors. Consult with an attorney specializing in expungement to determine your eligibility.
3. How do I initiate the expungement process in Illinois? The process involves filing a petition with the court and meeting specific requirements. Legal assistance is strongly recommended.
4. What is the difference between expungement and sealing of records? Expungement removes the record from public view, while sealing keeps the record in existence but limits its accessibility.
5. Where can I find official information about Illinois' record-keeping practices? Consult the Illinois State Courts website, the Illinois Attorney General's office, and other official government resources.

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the purge law in illinois 2023: The Deportation Machine Adam Goodman, 2021-09-14 By most accounts, the United States has deported around five million people since 1882-but this includes only what the federal government calls formal deportations. Voluntary departures, where undocumented immigrants who have been detained agree to leave within a specified time period, and self-deportations, where undocumented immigrants leave because legal structures in the United States have made their lives too difficult and frightening, together constitute 90% of the undocumented immigrants who have been expelled by the federal government. This brings the number of deportees to fifty-six million. These forms of deportation rely on threats and coercion created at the federal, state, and local levels, using large-scale publicity campaigns, the fear of immigration raids, and detentions to cost-effectively push people out of the country. Here, Adam Goodman traces a comprehensive history of American deportation policies from 1882 to the present and near future. He shows that one of the country's largest deportation operations expelled

hundreds of thousands of people almost exclusively through the use of voluntary departures and through carefully-planned fear campaigns that terrified undocumented immigrants through newspaper, radio, and television publicity. These deportation efforts have disproportionately targeted Mexican immigrants, who make up half of non-citizens but 90% of deportees. Goodman examines the political economy of these deportation operations, arguing that they run on private transportation companies, corrupt public-private relations, and the creation of fear-based internal borders for long-term undocumented residents. He grounds his conclusions in over four years of research in English- and Spanish-language archives and twenty-five oral histories conducted with both immigration officials and immigrants-revealing for the first time the true magnitude and deep historical roots of anti-immigrant policy in the United States that s

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ugly aspect of American racism by the bestselling author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, reissued with a new preface by the author. In this groundbreaking work, sociologist James W. Loewen, author of the classic bestseller *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, brings to light decades of hidden racial exclusion in America. In a provocative, sweeping analysis of American residential patterns, Loewen uncovers the thousands of sundown towns—almost exclusively white towns where it was an unspoken rule that blacks weren't welcome—that cropped up throughout the twentieth century, most of them located outside of the South. Written with Loewen's trademark honesty and thoroughness, *Sundown Towns* won the Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award, received starred reviews in *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist*, and launched a nationwide online effort to track down and catalog sundown towns across America. In a new preface, Loewen puts this history in the context of current controversies around white supremacy and the Black Lives Matter movement. He revisits sundown towns and finds the number way down, but with notable exceptions in exclusive all-white suburbs such as Kenilworth, Illinois, which as of 2010 had not a single black household. And, although many former sundown towns are now integrated, they often face second-generation sundown town issues, such as in Ferguson, Missouri, a former sundown town that is now majority black, but with a majority-white police force.

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race, immigration, and cities under the Trump administration and has been fully updated with new scholarship on early urbanization, mass incarceration and cities, the Great Society, the diversification of the suburbs, and environmental justice. The United States is one of the most heavily urbanized places in the world, and its urban history is essential to understanding the fundamental narrative of American history. This book is an accessible overview of the history of American cities, including Indigenous settlements, colonial America, the American West, the postwar metropolis, and the present-day landscape of suburban sprawl and an urbanized population. It examines the ways in which urbanization is connected to divisions of society along the lines of race, class, and gender, but it also studies how cities have been sources of opportunity, hope, and success for individuals and the nation. Images, maps, tables, and a guide to further reading provide engaging accompaniment to illustrate key concepts and themes. Spanning centuries of America's urban past, this book's depth and insight make it an ideal text for students and scholars in urban studies and American history.

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the purge law in illinois 2023: *Ghosts in the Schoolyard* Eve L. Ewing, 2020-04-10 “Failing schools. Underprivileged schools. Just plain bad schools.” That’s how Eve L. Ewing opens *Ghosts in the Schoolyard*: describing Chicago Public Schools from the outside. The way politicians and pundits and parents of kids who attend other schools talk about them, with a mix of pity and contempt. But Ewing knows Chicago Public Schools from the inside: as a student, then a teacher, and now a scholar who studies them. And that perspective has shown her that public schools are not buildings full of failures—they’re an integral part of their neighborhoods, at the heart of their communities, storehouses of history and memory that bring people together. Never was that role more apparent than in 2013 when Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced an unprecedented wave of school closings.

Pitched simultaneously as a solution to a budget problem, a response to declining enrollments, and a chance to purge bad schools that were dragging down the whole system, the plan was met with a roar of protest from parents, students, and teachers. But if these schools were so bad, why did people care so much about keeping them open, to the point that some would even go on a hunger strike? Ewing's answer begins with a story of systemic racism, inequality, bad faith, and distrust that stretches deep into Chicago history. Rooting her exploration in the historic African American neighborhood of Bronzeville, Ewing reveals that this issue is about much more than just schools. Black communities see the closing of their schools—schools that are certainly less than perfect but that are theirs—as one more in a long line of racist policies. The fight to keep them open is yet another front in the ongoing struggle of black people in America to build successful lives and achieve true self-determination.

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the purge law in illinois 2023: Males With Eating Disorders Arnold E. Andersen, 2014-06-17 First published in 1990. The subject of anorexia nervosa and, more recently, bulimia nervosa in males has been a source of interest and controversy in the fields of psychiatry and medicine for more than 300 years. These disorders, sometimes called eating disorders, raise basic questions concerning the nature of abnormalities of the motivated behaviors: Are they subsets of more widely recognized illnesses such as mood disorders? Are they understandable by reference to underlying abnormalities of biochemistry or brain function? In what ways are they similar to and in what ways do they differ from anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa in females? This book will be of interest to a wide variety of people—physicians, psychologists, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, nutritionists, educators, and all others who may be interested for personal or professional reasons.

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and sophisticated look at the current debate between gun laws and gun rights in America. Contemporary gun controversies are deeply rooted in our history, yet much of that history is unknown, ignored, or distorted. This is all the more important because a new gun rights movement is pressing to expand the definition of gun rights well beyond the standard set by the Supreme Court in its landmark, controversial Heller ruling from 2008. These activists' efforts have found a receptive audience among a new generation of very conservative federal judges cultivated in part for their professed adherence to the doctrine of constitutional Originalism and fealty to an expansive reading of gun rights. In *The Gun Dilemma*, Robert J. Spitzer examines this gun rights 2.0 movement in the light of a host of gun controversies: assault weapons, ammunition magazines, silencers, public gun brandishing and display, and the emergent Second Amendment sanctuary movement. Given the importance of actual gun law history to this debate, Spitzer draws from the historical record to illuminate several contemporary and emergent gun controversies that may well make their way to the Supreme Court. Revealing and illuminating as that history is, he argues that we should not be straitjacketed by that history, but rather informed by it as the nation struggles with how to frame its gun policies. By utilizing novel information sources to explore both gun law history and current debates, *The Gun Dilemma* provides an informed and sophisticated challenge to the ascendant originalists who appear to be set on enshrining in law a radical libertarian vision of gun rights.

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the purge law in illinois 2023: Illinois Notary Public Handbook Illinois Secretary of State, 2019-04-06 This handbook outlines the important duties of a notary public. The Illinois Notary Public Act, effective July 1, 1986, was passed to better meet the needs of the modern business world. Effective in June 2000, under certain conditions, residents of states bordering Illinois may be commissioned as Illinois notaries. Following are basic rules for proper and safe notarization: 1) Keep your notary seal in a safe place; 2) Do not notarize a signature unless the signer is present at the time of notarization; 3) Do not lend your stamp to anyone, including your employer; 4) Do not identify a document signer on the word of a friend or employer who is not willing to take an oath; 5) Sign your name on notarial certificates exactly as it appears on your commission and affix your seal.

the purge law in illinois 2023: Report of the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident DIANE Publishing Company, Southgate Publishers, 1995-07

the purge law in illinois 2023: Bend in the Road Sara Biren, 2021-09-28 A teen rock star returns home to Minnesota and finds himself falling for a local farm girl in this electric YA romance. Seventeen-year-old Gabe's life is a mess. His debut album—produced by his rock star dad—made him an overnight sensation, but his second album tanked, he just got dumped by his on-again, off-again girlfriend, and he's desperate to come up with the money he needs to fix a major screwup. The only place he can be free from the paparazzi and rumors is the family farm—the farm that seventeen-year-old Juniper's family has managed since before she was born. When Juniper learns that Gabe's about to inherit the farm, she worries that he'll sell it. She comes up with a plan to get close to him and stop that from happening. At first, Juniper and Gabe couldn't be more at odds, but the more time they spend with each other, the more they grow to like each other. Can they set aside their differences to do what's best for the farm—and each other? Or will all the drama and secrets tear them apart? A beautiful and tenderhearted exploration of the meaning of home, Sara Biren's *Bend in the Road* will stick with you like a favorite song that instantly transports you to a place and time you always want to remember. --Marisa Reichardt, author of *Aftershocks* and *A Shot at Normal* A pitch-perfect, slow-burn romance combined with loveably complex characters and the most charming farm setting, Sara Biren's *Bend in the Road* made my heart soar. ~ Katy Upperman, author of *Kissing Max Holden*, *The Impossibility of Us*, and *How the Light Gets In*

the purge law in illinois 2023: The Turner Diaries Andrew MacDonald, 2019-04-17 A futuristic action-adventure novel, has been an underground bestseller for more than four decades. It chronicles a future America wracked by government oppression, revolutionary violence, and guerrilla war.

the purge law in illinois 2023: The Manchurian Candidate Richard Condon, 2013-11-25 The

classic thriller about a hostile foreign power infiltrating American politics: “Brilliant . . . wild and exhilarating.” —The New Yorker A war hero and the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Sgt. Raymond Shaw is keeping a deadly secret—even from himself. During his time as a prisoner of war in North Korea, he was brainwashed by his Communist captors and transformed into a deadly weapon—a sleeper assassin, programmed to kill without question or mercy at his captors’ signal. Now he’s been returned to the United States with a covert mission: to kill a candidate running for US president . . . This “shocking, tense” and sharply satirical novel has become a modern classic, and was the basis for two film adaptations (San Francisco Chronicle). “Crammed with suspense.” —Chicago Tribune “Condon is wickedly skillful.” —Time

the purge law in illinois 2023: Crime Analysis Steven Gottlieb, Sheldon I. Arenberg, 1991

the purge law in illinois 2023: The Broken Constitution Noah Feldman, 2021-11-02 A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice An innovative account of Abraham Lincoln, constitutional thinker and doer Abraham Lincoln is justly revered for his brilliance, compassion, humor, and rededication of the United States to achieving liberty and justice for all. He led the nation into a bloody civil war to uphold the system of government established by the US Constitution—a system he regarded as the “last best hope of mankind.” But how did Lincoln understand the Constitution? In this groundbreaking study, Noah Feldman argues that Lincoln deliberately and recurrently violated the United States’ founding arrangements. When he came to power, it was widely believed that the federal government could not use armed force to prevent a state from seceding. It was also assumed that basic civil liberties could be suspended in a rebellion by Congress but not by the president, and that the federal government had no authority over slavery in states where it existed. As president, Lincoln broke decisively with all these precedents, and effectively rewrote the Constitution’s place in the American system. Before the Civil War, the Constitution was best understood as a compromise pact—a rough and ready deal between states that allowed the Union to form and function. After Lincoln, the Constitution came to be seen as a sacred text—a transcendent statement of the nation’s highest ideals. The Broken Constitution is the first book to tell the story of how Lincoln broke the Constitution in order to remake it. To do so, it offers a riveting narrative of his constitutional choices and how he made them—and places Lincoln in the rich context of thinking of the time, from African American abolitionists to Lincoln’s Republican rivals and Secessionist ideologues. Includes 8 Pages of Black-and-White Illustrations

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