



The Unpredictable Past: Explorations in American Cultural History (Paperback)

By Lawrence W. Levine

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 1993. Paperback. Condition: New. New.. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. The future is certain, according to an old Soviet joke, it is only the past that is unpredictable. But it is not solely in totalitarian societies that the past is contested terrain. Disagreements about the meaning and significance of past events and people have been part of the landscape in our own society from its inception. To the historian, therefore, the unpredictability of the past is no laughing matter. Indeed, so protracted have historical disputes become in recent years that there has been a growing conviction among many that the venerable craft of history is in a state of crisis. In this brilliant new collection of essays, Lawrence W. Levine, one of our premier writers of history and President-Elect of the Organization of American Historians, offers an incisive response to the controversy which rages in the academy today. This debate among historians does not concern, as one might think, conflicting interpretations of the past, but rather concentrates upon which past events, peoples, and cultures are significant enough to deserve our attention. Taking issue with those who desire synthesis...

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