



# Prigg v. Pennsylvania: Slavery, the Supreme Court, and the Ambivalent Constitution (Paperback)

By H. Robert Baker

University Press of Kansas, United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Margaret Morgan was born in freedom s shadow. Her parents were slaves of John Ashmore, a prosperous Maryland mill owner who freed many of his slaves in the last years of his life. Ashmore never laid claim to Margaret, who eventually married a free black man and moved to Pennsylvania. Then, John Ashmore s widow sent Edward Prigg to Pennsylvania to claim Margaret as a runaway. Prigg seized Margaret and her children - one of them born in Pennsylvania - and forcibly removed them to Maryland in violation of Pennsylvania law. In the ensuing uproar, Prigg was indicted for kidnapping under Pennsylvania s personal liberty law. Maryland, however, blocked his extradition, setting the stage for a remarkable Supreme Court case in 1842. In Prigg v. Pennsylvania, the Supreme Court considered more than just the fate of a single slavecatcher. The Court's majority struck down the free states personal liberty laws and reaffirmed federal supremacy in determining the procedures for fugitive slave rendition. H. Robert Baker has written the first and only booklength treatment of this landmark case that became a pivot point for antebellum...



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