

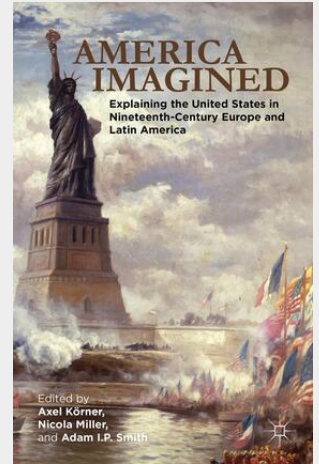
## America Imagined

Explaining the United States in Nineteenth-Century Europe and Latin America

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Why has "America" - that is, the United States of America - become so much more than simply a place in the imagination of so many people around the world? In both Europe and Latin America, the United States has often been a site of multiple possible futures, a screen onto which could be projected utopian dreams and dystopian nightmares. Whether castigated as a threat to civilized order or championed as a promise of earthly paradise, America has invariably been treated as a cipher for modernity. It has functioned as an inescapable reference point for both European and Latin American societies, not only as a model of social and political organization - one to reject as much one to emulate - but also as the prime example of a society emerging from a dramatic diversity of cultural and social backgrounds.

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**53,49 €**

49,99 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

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**Artikelnummer:** 9781137018977

**Medium:** Buch

**ISBN:** 978-1-137-01897-7

**Verlag:** Springer Nature Singapore

**Erscheinungstermin:** 16.08.2012

**Sprache(n):** Englisch

**Auflage:** 2012. Auflage 2012

**Produktform:** Gebunden

**Gewicht:** 454 g

**Seiten:** 268

**Format (B x H):** 142 x 218 mm

