



# Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time

*Ira Katznelson*

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**“A powerful argument, swept along by Katznelson’s robust prose and the imposing scholarship that lies behind it.”?Kevin Boyle, *New York Times Book Review***

A work that “deeply reconceptualizes the New Deal and raises countless provocative questions” (David Kennedy), *Fear Itself* changes the ground rules for our understanding of this pivotal era in American history. Ira Katznelson examines the New Deal through the lens of a pervasive, almost existential fear that gripped a world defined by the collapse of capitalism and the rise of competing dictatorships, as well as a fear created by the ruinous racial divisions in American society. Katznelson argues that American democracy was both saved and distorted by a Faustian collaboration that guarded racial segregation as it built a new national state to manage capitalism and assert global power. *Fear Itself* charts the creation of the modern American state and “how a belief in the common good gave way to a central government dominated by interest-group politics and obsessed with national security” (Louis Menand, *The New Yorker*). 24 illustrations

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