

At the **EDGE**
of the **PRECIPICE** **ROBERT V. REMINI**

READ BY **WILLIAM HUGHES**

It has been said that if Henry Clay had been alive in 1860, there would have been no Civil War. Based on his performance in 1850, it may well be true. In that year, the United States faced one of the most dangerous crises in its history, having just acquired a huge parcel of land from the war with Mexico. Northern and Southern politicians fought over whether slavery should be legal on the new American soil. After a Northern congressman introduced a proviso to forbid slavery in any territory acquired from Mexico, Southerners threatened to secede from the Union. Only Henry Clay, America's great compromiser, could keep the Union together, saving it from dissolution for ten crucial years.

In this masterful contribution to American history, Remini explores Henry Clay's final and most important act of bipartisanship.

"[A]n informed and lively recounting of the (in)famous Compromise of 1850....showing how the 'great men' like Henry Clay tried to manage sectional reconciliation and their own ambitions." —*Library Journal*

ROBERT V. REMINI, historian of the U.S. House of Representatives, has written more than twenty books and won the National Book Award in 1984. His honors include the Carl Sandburg Award for Nonfiction, the University Scholar Award from the University of Illinois, and the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation Award.



WILLIAM HUGHES is a professor of political science at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon. He received his doctorate in American politics from the University of California, Davis. Bill has done voice-over work for radio and film and is also an accomplished jazz guitarist.

Running Time: 4½ Hours • Unabridged



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LIGHT

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