



The Dual Historical Context of Arthur Millers The Crucible

By Kristin Hammer

GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 44 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.3in. x 0.4in. Seminar paper from the year 2000 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1, 7 (A-), University of Mnster (Anglistics American Studies), course: Advanced Seminar Modern American Drama, 13 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: As Arthur Miller states in his autobiography, 1 The Crucible has become his most frequently produced play. This great success of a conventional drama can certainly not be explained without regard to its political message. When the play was first performed in 1953, its audiences were quick to recognize the connections between the witch craze in 17th century Massachusetts and the American anti-communist hysteria of their own time. Like any literary text, The Crucible reflects the conditions under which it was produced, and Miller himself says that he could not have written it at any other time. 2 Since in this case parallels between the events in both times are extremely striking, it seems necessary for the understanding and interpretation of the play to explain its dual historical context. At the same time, it would be wrong to interpret Millers drama against this background only. Or, as Reitz puts...



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