About the author

David Von Drehle is a senior writer for the Washington Post, having served the paper previously as a national politics writer and New York Bureau Chief. Educated at the University of Denver and Oxford University, he began his newspaper career as a sportswriter at the Denver Post. It was as a general assignments reporter at the Miami Herald that he began reporting on the death penalty. He is also the author of the award-winning Triangle: The Fire that Changed America.