

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910139564603321
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Titolo	Exotic Moscow under western eyes [[electronic resource] /] / Irene Masing-Delic
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boston, : Academic Studies Press, 2009
ISBN	1-61811-851-X 1-61811-136-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (245 pages) : illustrations; digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cultural revolutions : Russia in the twentieth century
Disciplina	891.709/35847
Soggetti	Russian literature - History and criticism National characteristics, Russian, in literature Russia In literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 231-240) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Dialogue -- 2. Inner Divisions -- 3. Saving the Heritage -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	This collection of essays on Turgenev, Goncharov, Conrad, Dostoevsky, Blok, Briusov, Gor'kii, Pasternak and Nabokov represents diverse voices but is also unified. One invariant is the recurring distinction between "culture" and "civilization" and the vision of Russia as the bearer of culture because it is "barbaric." Another stance advocates the synthesis of "sense and sensibility" and the vision of "Apollo" and "Dionysus" creating a "civilized culture" together. Those voices that delight in the artificiality of civilization are complemented by those apprehensive of the dangers inherent in barbarism. This collection thus adds new perspectives to the much-debated opposition of vital Russia and a declining West, offering novel interpretations of classics from Oblomov to Lolita and The Idiot to Doctor Zhivago.